
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 8, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

**Central Coast Water Board Offices
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo**

Friday, December 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Kompogas® SLO facility as noted below

And via Video and Teleconference (Thursday, December 8th only)

Video and teleconference recordings of the meeting are currently available on the following website: <https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Thursday, December 8, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Thursday, December 8, 2022, 8:02 a.m. at the Central Coast Water Board Offices, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo

Board Business

1. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

Absent: none

Chair Gray noted for the record that she and Vice Chair Wolff were present in the room and Member Hunter and Member Harlan were virtual on Zoom

2. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling made the following introductions and announcements:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu, legal counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer, and section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton, and Water Board staff, Aaron Katona, providing audio-visual support for the meeting.
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire.

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Audio Visual Assistance: AGP Staff

Announcements:

Staff Introductions and Recognitions:

- Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, introduced Sarah Hewawitharana, the new Administrative Supervisor, Sarah has a background in training, management, health and safety, finance, accounting, payroll, insurance, and legal documentation across multiple industries. She has worked for two other state agencies which include Caltrans and CalFire.
- Daniel Ellis, program manager for our Total Maximum Daily Loads program introduced Levi Fry, a new student intern for the grants program. Levi started interning for the water boards around the beginning of August, assisting Katie McNeil, assimilating past grants projects into the Excel dashboard.
- Daniel Ellis presented Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards to the TMDL and Integrated Report team members, Larry Harlan, Pete Osmolovsky, Peter Meertens, and Shanta Keeling. The board acknowledged their contributions to the Central Coast Water Board and thanked them for their work.

3. Approval of October 13-14, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve the minutes of October 13-14, 2022

Second: Member Harlan

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolf, Member Harlan, Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

4. Reports by Regional Board Members

Member Harlan:

- October 27-28, 2022, attended Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) in Sacramento
- December 1, 2022, attended board meeting briefing

Member Hunter:

- October 27-28, 2022, attended WQCC in Sacramento
- December 1, 2022, attended board meeting briefing
- Announced the December 14, 2022, listening session to receive input on the draft racial equity resolution

Vice Chair Wolff:

- October 15, 2022, participated in a meeting with a representative of Creek Lands regarding Central Coast projects associated with instream flow monitoring
- October 26, 2022, meeting with San Luis Obispo County developer, Mr. John King, regarding the Chevron Avila tank farm cleanup project
- October 27-28, 2022, attended WQCC in Sacramento
- November 4, 2022, attended a meeting for the San Luis Obispo Edna Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- November 11, 2022, attended San Luis Obispo County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) meeting
- November 15, 2022, attended San Luis Obispo City Council meeting regarding recycled water plan
- November 16, 2022, attended City of San Luis Obispo outreach meeting regarding the ongoing PCE contamination investigation. Noted Water Board financial assistance through a grant for well testing.
- December 6, 2022, attended board meeting briefing
- Vice Chair Wolff noted the recent rainfall in the context of the ongoing drought and the implementation of water conservation as a way of life

Chair Gray:

- Attended weekly meetings with the Executive Officer
- Attended monthly State Board Chairs meetings
- Attended monthly phone calls with State Water Resources Control Board member and Central Coast Liaison Sean Maguire and the Executive Officer
- October 26, 2022, attended meetings in Sacramento with the Executive Officer
 - Representatives from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies
 - Christine Birdsong, California Department of Food and Agriculture
 - Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Member
 - Susana De Anda, Executive Director, Community Water Center
 - Ari Neumann, RCAC Community & Environmental Services
 - Ivy Brittain, Senior Regulatory Advocate, Association of California Water Agencies
- October 27-28, 2022, attended WQCC in Sacramento
- November 3, 2022, met with Ms. Chelsea, Tu, executive director of the Monterey Waterkeeper
- November 3, 2022, meeting, with Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, 3rd District, San Luis Obispo, to discuss, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) projects.
- November 17, 2022, discussion with Ms. Sarah Lopez of Preservation, Inc.
- December 4, 2022, attended board meeting briefing
- December 7, 2022, attended a press conference for the San Juan Bautista and Hollister Wastewater Treatment Consolidation

5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison
[Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877, Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov]

State Water Board Member, Sean Maguire, provided updates by Zoom on the following: the State Board release of draft racial equity action plan this year to receive public comment and forthcoming release of the proposed plan early next year; recent approval of SAFER Fund expenditure plan and State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan including approximately \$2.7 billion of committed funding and efforts underway to increase technical assistance and improve financial assistance program implementation efficiencies to accelerate the funding process and project implementation; Division of Water Quality adoption of the revised statewide Sanitary Sewer System general order; Once Through Cooling Policy workshop regarding power plant operating extensions to facilitate energy grid reliability and the related statutory extension of Diablo Canyon Power Plant operation; acknowledgment of recent storm event, the snow pack, low reservoir levels, and need to stay focused on conservation to meet the Governor's statewide voluntary conservation goal (recent reports indicate 12.5% statewide conservation for October); State Water Board reapproval of wasteful water use prohibitions for another year and adoption of water loss performance standards for water systems; proposed Department of Water Resources recommended water use efficiency standards for indoor and outdoor water use and supporting technical memorandums analyzing different aspects of water use efficiency currently under review by the State Water Board as part of the coordinated implementation of the Governor's Water Supply Strategy to issue the standards by the end of 2023; recent WQCC focus on Water Supply Strategy and prioritization of funding and implementation of recycling and other water supply resiliency projects.

Chair Gray commented on the importance of providing technical assistance to small communities – for both funding application assistance and engineering solution assistance - in coordination with other entities and conveyed appreciation of State Board's efforts in this arena. She also expressed appreciation of the water conservation update and State Board efforts to develop and implement meaningful drought related requirements and implement the Water Supply Strategy.

6. Public forum

Speakers: none

Uncontested Items

7. Consideration of Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2022-0035, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Discharges with Limited Threat to Water Quality (NPDES No. CA993004)

Mr. Keeling provided a brief overview of the proposed general permit and the Board adopted it with no comments from the Board or public.

Motion: Member Harlan moved to approve Order No. R3-2022-0035
Second: Member Hunter
Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolf, Member Harlan, Member Hunter
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Public Commenters: None

Discussion/Informational Items

8. Update – Site Cleanup Program

[Greg Bishop, 805/549-3132, Greg.Bishop@waterboards.ca.gov]

Matthew Keeling introduced the item. Greg Bishop, Central Coast Water Board Senior Engineering Geologist, presented a comprehensive overview of the Site Cleanup Program, including common contaminants of concern, investigation and remediation techniques, and applicable policies and regulatory tools. Board members engaged with Mr. Bishop and other staff regarding vapor mitigation and the use of various remediation techniques, coordination with Air Pollution Control Districts and county health departments, county versus Water Board authority as it relates to soil and groundwater contamination, programmatic implementation funding sources, interactions and relationships between Department of Defense and Site Cleanup programs, contaminants of emerging concern and discovery of new sites, and the Olin perchlorate case in Santa Clara County.

9. Update – Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Central Coast Region

[Greg Bishop, 805/549-3132, Greg.Bishop@waterboards.ca.gov]

Matthew Keeling introduced the item. Wendy Linck, Senior Engineering Geologist, Division of Water Quality, presented an overview of California's inter-agency approach to addressing PFAS and provided background on the wide range of current and historical uses of PFAS, and known adverse health effects of exposure to PFAS. Wendy Linck also discussed the orders issued by State Water Board to investigate PFAS at airports, landfills, bulk fuel terminals/refineries, wastewater treatment plants, and public water systems. Dan Newton, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, presented information on the advisory levels for PFAS in drinking water, as well as recent general orders to monitor drinking water wells adjacent to specific land uses. Greg Bishop, Senior Engineering Geologist, presented a summary of PFAS-related investigation work conducted in the Central Coast Region, including a more detailed update on the status of investigations at the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo airports. Greg Bishop also discussed the status of the TCE investigation in the Buckley area near the San Luis Obispo airport. Item 9 also included public comments from Beth Reinke.

Board members engaged with State and Regional Board staff regarding primary and secondary sources of PFAS, California prohibitions on various products, product manufacturing and retail disclosures, global database and coordination, fast moving science and imperative for action, emerging treatment methods, identification of fire training centers, home use fire extinguishers as source of PFAS, disadvantaged communities and small water system well and domestic well testing assistance, outreach and education efforts, PFAS in wastewater treatment biosolids and compost,

Invited Guest Speakers:

- Wendy Linck, Senior Engineering Geologist, and Annalisa Kihara, Assistant Deputy Director, Groundwater Quality Branch, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board
- Dan Newton, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board.

Public Commenters: Beth Reinke, Los Osos resident, commented on septic systems being a potential source of PFAS discharges to groundwater and the need for assessment as compared to municipal wastewater discharges.

10. Update – State Water Board’s Department of Financial Assistance
[Sandeep Kals, 916/324-8404, Sandeep.Kals@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item and State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff, Sunny Kals and Mike Downey. Mr. Kals provided an overview of various DFA programs and the funding application submittal, review and prioritization process. Board members engaged with Mr. Kals and Mr. Downey regarding load/grant capacity versus demand and how these are calculated over time, importance of technical assistance, significance of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, loan principle forgiveness, etc.

Invited Guest Speakers:

- Sunny Kals, Senior Engineer, Division of Financial Assistance, State Water Resources Control Board
- Mike Downey, Supervising Engineer, Division of Financial Assistance, State Water Resources Control Board.

Public Commenters: None

11. Update – Grants Program
[Katie McNeill, 805/549-3336, Katie.Mcneill@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item and staff Environmental Scientist, Katie McNeill. Ms. McNeill provided overview of Central Coast Water Board funding priorities and functions and a summary of the types of projects awarded in the past twenty years in

the region. The item included a panel of invited external speakers representing five grant funded Projects, including the following:

- Adrienne Carter, Civil Engineer and Paul Robins, Executive Director, Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC); Paul Frank, Principal Ecological Engineer, Flow West; and John DeCarli, Tanimura and Antle Produce. Project title: Nutrient load reductions in the Blanco Drainage using a woodchip bioreactor
- Hallie Richard, Conservation Programs Manager, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD), and John Swift, landowner, and owner of Swift Subtropicals.
Project title: Riparian, streambank, floodplain, and wetland restoration in the Morro Bay watershed
- Mauricio Gómez, Director and Jason White, Project Manager, South Coast Habitat Restoration (SCHR).
Project title: Riparian vegetation enhancement, streambank stabilization, and aquatic habitat improvements following the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow in Santa Barbara County
- Will Clemens, General Manager, Oceano Community Services District (OCSD), Andy Rowe, Design Engineer and Larry Kraemer, Director of Public Infrastructure, Cannon.
Project title: Stormwater capture and groundwater recharge in Oceano, a severely disadvantaged area
- Amy Woodrow, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA).
Project title: Destruction of abandoned and dormant wells to prevent the vertical migration of seawater and nitrate in the 180/400 Foot Aquifer of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

Board Members asked questions, expressed their appreciation for, and engaged in dialogue with the panelists about their grant projects. In response to the various panelist presentations, Board Members generally provided positive feedback that the Central Coast Water Board Grants Program is aligned with the priorities to collaborate with stakeholders, integrate the grants program with other water board programs, support Environmental Justice, provide compliance assistance, leverage resources, measure pollutant reductions and performance metrics, demonstrate outcomes, and transfer technology to staff and stakeholders.

Public Commenters: None

Administrative Items

12. Executive Officer's Report

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling asked if anyone had questions about the programmatic performance metric tables in the report and there were none.

Chair Gray Adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Friday, December 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Friday, December 9, 2022, at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Kompogas® SLO facility located at 4300 Old Santa Fe Road, San Luis Obispo.

Board Business

13. Roll Call (Note: Mr. Keeling conducted roll call in Ms. Olson's absence)
[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray and Vice Chair Wolff

Absent: Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

14. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

A round of introductions were made by the parties present, including Water Board members and staff, Kompogas facility staff, San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority, and members of the public as noted below.

Educational Field Trip

15. Field Trip - Tour of the Kompogas® San Luis Obispo LLC organic waste recycling facility and Wolff Vineyards
[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

The following participated in the tours with exceptions as noted:

Chair Gray and Vice Chair Wolff

Thomas Gratz, Hitachi Zosen Inova U.S.A. LLC (along with various Kompogas operations staff)

Peter Cron, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority

Jordan Lane, Deputy Director, San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority

Water Board staff:

- Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer
- Harvey Packard, Supervising Engineer
- Angela Schroeter, Supervising Engineering Geologist
- Rachel Hohn, Engineering Geologist, Oil and Gas Program
- Nick Smaira, Engineering Geologist, Oil and Gas Program
- Caroline Webster, Environmental Scientist, Irrigated Lands Program
- Amanda Christophe, Civic Spark Fellow
- Trent Buchanan, Environmental Scientist, Stormwater Program
- Alyssa Bucci, Environmental Scientist, Cannabis Program

Members of the public, Libbie Agran, Diane Moroski and Sandy Lee

Note: Kompogas/Hitachi personnel, Angela Schroeter, and members of the public did not attend the Wolff Vineyards portion of the tour.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at Wolff Vineyards at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Jane Gray, Chair

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