

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Friday, February 21, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Board Business

1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum
[Mary Hamilton, Clerk to the Board, 805/542-4768]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, and Member Harlan. Note, Member Harlan was present virtually via zoom and read a statement regarding her physical disability “that affects my ability to travel to the Board meeting in person, and makes it necessary for me to participate remotely. I have consulted with legal counsel to determine that my disability meets the definition of a “physical disability” that limits major life activities under Government Code section 12926, subdivision (m). I request that the Board accept my remote presence as counting towards a quorum as allowed by the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act, Government Code section 11123.2, subdivision (j). Chair Gray requested confirmation that all other Board Members accept Member Harlan’s presence virtually. All Board members confirmed acceptance.”

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting including three members in person and one member virtually.

2. Introductions
[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140]
Executive Officer Lodge made the following introductions:

- Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer; Sophie Froelich legal counsel; section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton who is also clerk to the Board today.

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | RYAN E. LODGE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Staff introduction - Ally Mortensen, new Environmental scientist in the 401 program.
- Staff introduction – Harvey Packard in a new role as a Senior technical Water Resource Control Engineer position to work on complex permit development.

3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, December 12-13, 2024

Motion: Member Harlan moved to approve the December 12-13, 2024, Board meeting minutes.

Second: Member Hoskins

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

4. Reports by Regional Board Members

Vice Chair Wolff:

- January 30, 2025 – Hosted Cal Poly field trip for Ag Food and Environmental Science programs.
- January 5th – Attended Cal Poly field trip for Ag Food and Science Department– focus on regulatory compliance associated with environmental protection.
- February 7, 2025 – Attended the Central Coast farmer gathering at City Farm of San Luis Obispo bringing together small farmers and various environmental organizations.
- February 18, 2025 – Attended a Board briefing.

Member Hoskins:

- Feb 11th – Attended a board briefing.

Member Harlan:

- Feb 18th – Attended a board briefing.

Chair Gray:

- February 7th - Attended the Central Coast farmer gathering at City Farm of San Luis Obispo bringing together small farmers and various environmental organizations.

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Public Comments: none

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

Minutes: State Water Board Member Maguire did not provide an update.

6. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair [Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140, Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Minutes:

Nomination of the Board's Vice Chair – Chair Gray nominated Vice Chair Wolff as Vice Chair. Vice Chair Wolff accepted the nomination.

Motion: Member Harlan

Second: Member Hoskins

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Nomination of the Board's Chair – Member Harlan nominated Chair Gray.

Motion: Member Harlan

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

7. Public Forum

Public Comments: NONE.

8. Consideration of a proposed order to terminate waste discharge requirements for Uni-Kool Partners Salinas Packing Facility Wastewater Treatment Plant, Salinas, Monterey County [Sarah Crable, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3706, sarah.crable@waterboards.ca.gov]

Public Comments: NONE.

Motion: Member Hoskins moved to adopt Order R3-2025-0006.

Second: Member Harlan

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

9. Consideration of a settlement agreement and stipulation for entry of an administrative civil liability order in the matter of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Men's Colony; unauthorized discharges of waste and effluent limitation violations.
[Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, 805/542-4776,

Thea.Tryon@waterboards.ca.gov, Tamara Anderson, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3334, Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov, and Paul Ciccarelli, Attorney IV, State Water Board Office of Enforcement, 916/322- 3227, Paul.Ciccarelli@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Minutes:

Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, introduced the item.

Prosecution Team members Tamara Anderson, Technical Senior Water Resource Engineer and Enforcement Coordinator, and Paul Ciccarelli, Office of Enforcement, presented the facts of the case and the recommendation to adopt Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order R3-2025-0005.

Staff engaged with the Board members regarding actions the facility is taking to correct repeated violations and asked to hear from the facility staff regarding specific actions taken or planned to prevent this from happening again. Vice Chair Wolff expressed concern that there appears to be no evidence of changes in behavior at the facility and that paying repeated fines does not result in improvements at the facility and environmental protection. Vice Chair Wolff expressed the need for funding allocated to projects (via Supplemental Environmental Projects) to have a direct benefit to the local environment and address the direct harm done to the creek and downstream estuary and beaches.

Chair Gray mentioned opportunities for inmate internship and asked for more clarity on actions to staff the plant operations. Member Hoskins expressed concern for discharge violations having impacts to the environment and public health.

Sophie Froelich, Office of Chief Council, advised the Board members on their options for this item including approve, approve with changes, reject the settlement, or reject with high level instructions to staff such as asking to hear the evidence in a civil liability complaint brought before the Board and noted that this action would not allow the Board to require specific actions at the facility.

Thea Tryon clarified that bringing in USEPA was strategic because they have additional tools to compel compliance, and they were brought in to address these serious violations. If improvements are not made, USEPA can take additional actions.

Warden Samules explained CDCR's commitment to stop violations and work with Water Boards and USEPA.

Public Comments: NONE

Motion: Member Harlan moved to adopt Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order R3-2025-0005

Second: Hoskins

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

10. Environmental Justice, Racial Equity, and Tribal Affairs – Annual Update

[Angela Schroeter, Supervising Engineering Geologist, 805/542-4644, Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov; Daniel Ellis, Senior Environmental Scientist, 805/549-3889, Daniel.Ellis@waterboards.ca.gov; Kathy Truong, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3293, Kathy.Truong@waterboards.ca.gov]

Minutes: This is an informational item.

Central Coast Water Board staff presented the Environmental Justice, Racial Equity, and Tribal Affairs annual update. The update included the background and context for the Central Coast Water Board's Race Equity Action plan and associated work. Board Members asked questions and engaged in discussion with staff regarding the item. Board Members noted and appreciated the thoroughness and dedication of staff to this work.

Item 10 guest speakers included Audrey Taub (San Luis Obispo Beaver Brigade), Sierra Ryan and Sean Abbey (Santa Cruz County - Environmental Health) and Chad Fischer (State Water Board - SAFER Program)

Item 10 had two Public Commenters included Silverio Pérez (Community Member) and Brandon Bollinger (Community Water Center)

11. Enforcement Report

[Tamara Anderson, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3334, Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov]

Minutes: *Taken out of order, before a vote on item 9 and before item 10.*

Tamara Anderson summarized information in the staff report and attached tables. Staff engaged with the Board on opportunities to facilitate collaboration between facilities that have similar violations (e.g., WWTPs).

Public Comments: None

12. Executive Officer's Report

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140, Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Minutes: No discussion

Public Comments: None

13. Staff Recognition

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140, Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Minutes: Section Managers and EO Ryan Lodge read a resolution of appreciation for Thea Tryon, Water Board staff unveiled a long list of site clean-up cases that Thea has closed.

Board members expressed appreciation for Thea's service, acknowledged her many accomplishments and complex problems she has solved or lead efforts to solve, and wished her well.

Public Comments:

Matthew T. Keeling, former Executive Officer – acknowledged Thea's many accomplishments and strong leadership.

John Robertson, former Executive Officer - acknowledged Thea's many accomplishments and strong leadership.

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to adopt The Resolution of appreciation for Thea Tryon

Second: Hoskins

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Absent: Member Rodriguez

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Friday, February 21, 2025

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 9:05 a.m.

14. Roll Call

Present: Chair Gray and Member Hoskins

Absent: Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, Member Rodriguez

15. Field Trip - Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Morro Bay.

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140, Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Staff from the Central Coast Water Board, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and Morro Bay Estuary National Estuary Program (NEP) presented an

informational update. A representative from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council Monitoring Program also presented on the Rose Foundation's Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program funded (\$200K) Northern Chumash Tribal Council Monitoring Program. Additionally, the field trip included a visit to the Morro Bay Estuary Nature Center. Board Members asked questions regarding the new sanctuary and the NEP.

Item 15 speakers included Melissa Daugherty (Central Coast Water Board, Senior Environmental Scientist), Iszy Kent (Bay Foundation, CCAMP Field Coordinator), Kirsten White (Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary), Sachiko Lamén (Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary), and Ernie Houston (Northern Chumash Tribal Council)

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Jane Gray, Chair