

Minutes of Meeting

8:30 A.M., Thursday, December 19, 2019
Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings.](#)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](#)

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board member Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, and Valerie Quinto.

Regional Water Board staff present: Lisa Bernard, Katharine Carter, Clayton Creager, Josh Curtis, Nathan Jacobsen, Jeremiah Puget, Lynette Shipsey, Matt St. John, Claudia Villacorta, Maurice Washington, and Ben Zabinsky.

iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** No Board member reports or Ex Parte Communication disclosures.

iv. **State Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo updated the Board on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), also known as "Forever Chemicals" and the State Water Board's new [PFAS Interactive Map](#) that targeted Airports, Landfills, Chrome-plating facilities, and nearby water wells, throughout the state, along with several priority issues and upcoming actions of the State Water Board. Matt St. John, Executive Officer spoke about 1) The Kincade Fire (October 23, 2019); 2) The written E.O. Report article on the *Update on the Federal Lands Permit Development*; 3) Update on a Federal, State Inter-Agency Workgroup focusing on on-farm composting; and 4) Heidi Bauer, Engineering Geologist, has been promoted to Senior of the Cleanup Unit, Point Source Control & Groundwater Protection Division.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, Project to Reform Public Land Grazing

v. Public Forum:

Comments were taken from:

- Laura Waldbaum, Public
- Kimberly Burr, Public

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 17, 2019.

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes, Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye
Gant aye
Minton aye
Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

- 2. Resolution of Appreciation for David Noren.** Chairwoman Quinto read the Resolution expressing appreciation to David for his 11 years of dedicated service as a Board member on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and to the people of the State of California.

Uncontested Items

- 3. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2019-0047 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for University of California - Davis, Bodega Marine Laboratory, WDID No. 1B84035OSON, NPDES No. CA0024333 (Cathleen Goodwin)**
- 4. Public Hearing on Amendment Order No. R1-2019-0054 to extend deadlines in Cease and Desist Order R1-2015-0008 for Loleta Community Services District, WDID No. 1B80081OHUM (Justin McSmith).**

Motion: Board member Gant moved to adopt Uncontested Items 3 & 4, Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye
Gant aye
Minton aye
Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

Following adoption, Board member Giusti expressed appreciation to the Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory for their thoughtful comments on the draft Order.

Information Items

- 5. The 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report and Total Maximum Daily Loads Programs Overview.** Katharine Carter, Senior Environmental Scientist, Adaptive Management Unit, introduced her co-presenter, Lisa Bernard, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit, and the newly hired lead staff for the Integrated Report Program, Mary Bartholomew, Environmental Scientist, Adaptive Management Unit. Ms. Carter then gave an overview of the Integrated Report, including the history of the 305(b) report and 303(d) List updates, discussed a recent lawsuit against the State Water Board regarding timeliness on the Integrated Report, and related alterations in the adoption process for the 2020 Integrated Report cycle for Regions 1, 3, & 7. Ms. Carter provided an update on this altered process and timeline including the shift from Regional Water Board public review and adoption to a State Water Board public review and adoption process for the North Coast Region's Integrated Report. The planned State Water Board adoption is scheduled for the Fall of 2020. Lisa Bernard, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit, gave a presentation on the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Programs, starting with the Basin Plan Triennial Review process that identifies and helps select TMDL Projects, with a review of the key purposes, the components, and the development of processes, plans and implementation of a TMDL, along with the Region's current high priority TMDL projects, and the next steps to the 2021 Regional Water Board adoption of the Triennial Review. Various Board members expressed concerns with the removal of a Regional Board hearing from the Integrated Report process and the subsequent reduction in opportunities for the public and stakeholders to participate in the development of the Integrated Report.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club
- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper

- 6. Update on the status of Vineyard Permit Development.** Jeremiah Puget, Senior Environmental Scientist, Groundwater Permitting Unit, presented an overview of the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program's Vineyard Permit development, the reasons for prioritization of this project including board direction, addressing potential water quality impacts and 303(d) list impairments, aligning with the Anti-degradation Policy and other State and Regional Policies, as well as complementing the Statewide Winery Order currently under development at the State Water Board. Lynette Shipsey, Water Resources Control Engineer, Groundwater Permitting Unit, spoke about the need of a Vineyard Permit considering the potential impacts to water quality, chemical applications and storage, sediment and erosion controls, and riparian area management. Ms. Shipsey reviewed the Vineyard Permit development timeline to date, stakeholder feedback, permit applicability, farm water quality management plans, monitoring and reporting, third-party programs, outreach and education, implementation, and the next steps in the Vineyard Permit development with Regional Water Board adoption scheduled for Winter of 2021.

Comments were taken from:

- Kimberly Burr, Public
- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper
- Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation

- Devon Jones, Mendocino Farm Bureau

7. Update on development of Smith River Plain Water Quality Management Plan
Clayton Creager, Environmental Program Manager, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, introduced Ben Zabinsky, Water Resource Control Engineer, Adaptive Management Unit, and Maurice Washington, Water Resource Control Engineer, Southern Cannabis Regulatory Unit. Mr. Creager acknowledged the numerous participants and reviewed the timeline in the development of the Smith River Plain Water Quality Management Plan (SRPWQMP). Mr. Zabinsky gave a presentation on the Smith River's geographic setting, cultural and biological resources, Lily bulb operations on 1500-1600 acres in the Smith River Plain with a 3 to 5-year field rotation with forage crops. Mr. Washington presented the risks to water quality from surface runoff during storm events, groundwater risks with soluble pesticides leaching, the infiltration and delivery to nearby streams, nitrates from fertilizer and manure, and spray drift during application. Mr. Zabinsky reviewed the water quality management practices in the SRPWQMP that are or can be implemented by growers based on individual field conditions and the draft tracking and reporting system for water quality management practices and field rotations. Mr. Zabinsky also addressed the adaptive management monitoring program to be led by Regional Water Board staff for 2019 – 2021, in order to obtain the data necessary to model the toxicity of copper. Lastly the next steps in development of the Smith River Plain Water Management Plan were presented.

Comments were taken from:

- Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation
- Felice Pace, Project to Reform Public Land Grazing

8. Executive Officer's Report. See iv. No further report given.

9. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda and Items Other Items of Interest. No requests from Board Members.

10. Closed Session: The Board did not meet in closed session.

11. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

8:30 a.m., Thursday February 6, 2020
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Meeting Room
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Meeting adjourned at: 2:25 p.m.

Chairperson _____

Date _____