

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thurs., February 8, 2024,
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skyland Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thursday, February 8, 2024

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

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](https://cal-span.org/) (https://cal-span.org/)

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

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board Member Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Alex Hart,
Ryan Sundberg

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen,
Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Claudia Villacorta,
Josh Curtis, Deidre Wilkerson, Justin
Fitt, Jonathan Warmerdam, Charles
Reed, Kelsey Cody, Jim Burke, Jake
Shannon

iii. **Board member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** Vice Chair Giusti reported that he has had conversations with members of the public regarding the following topics: the progression of the vineyard order, dam removal at Lake Pillsbury, and recent storms in the region. Board Member Hart reported that members of the public have asked about an update on Klamath dam removals.

Chair Bedolla shared that he has addressed misinformation around dam removals on social media.

- iv. **State Board Liaison’s and Executive Officer’s Reports:** State Board Liaison and Vice Chair Dorene D’Adamo gave a comprehensive report that included updates on the Potter Valley project, the Governor’s Budget and spending plan, wastewater needs assessment and advisory group, and the Safer Drinking Water Advisory Program. Ms. D’Adamo also provided updates from the State Board Meeting, including updates on the 2024 Clean Water Act and the Board’s strategic work plan. Ms. D’Adamo then provided an update on some key initiatives from the Governor’s Water Supply Strategy, including desalination and storm water capture. Ms. D’Adamo concluded with updates on direct potable reuse regulation, chromium-6, and emergency regulations in the Clear Lake and Scott/Shasta Watersheds.

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto reported that there will be an information item on the Potter Valley project at a future meeting. Ms. Quinto shared that the vineyard order will be brought before the Board after this year’s harvest. Ms. Quinto provided an update on the Klamath Dam removal, highlighting progress since the last meeting, where there was a detailed information item on this project. She expressed that water quality impacts of drawdown were anticipated in the environmental analysis for the dam removal project, and that the Regional Board’s Restoration Policy acknowledges that restoration projects such as dam removals may result in temporary exceedances of water quality objectives, and that these short-term impacts are part of the process of long-term net benefit to water quality. Ms. Quinto concluded with a note that links will be added to the Regional Water Board’s website to assist the public in accessing updates on the Klamath Dam removal project.

- v. **Board Chair’s Report:** Chair Bedolla noted that he did not have a report but thanked everyone for attending the meeting and mentioned the recent storm and climate change.
- vi. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:
 - Duane DeWitt, self

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span’s Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

1. Election of Board Officers

Board Member Hart nominated both Chair Hector Bedolla and Vice Chair Greg Giusti to continue serving in their current roles. Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion.

Chair Bedolla initiated a roll call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu absent
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye

2. Presentation of Executive Officer’s 2023 Water Quality Stewardship Award (Valerie Quinto)

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto provided some background information on the Water Quality Stewardship Award and presented this year’s award to Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, and the Denner and Lafranchi families. A contingent from Sonoma County Ag + Open Space accepted the award, and Misti Arias, General Manager, was asked to share what is involved in the organization’s work, and she answered questions from the Board.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 12-13, 2023

Motion: Board Member Hart moved to adopt December 12-13, 2023, Board meeting minutes; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu absent
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye

Motion passed unanimously

Uncontested Items

4. Public Hearing to consider adoption of Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0003, General Waste Discharge Requirements and General Water Quality Certification for the Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program, and the associated Monitoring and Reporting Program (Jake Shannon)
5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0005 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Willow Creek Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID. No. 1B1410RHUM (Mike Reese)

Board Member Sundberg reported ex parte communication with Susan O’Gorman from Willow Creek Community Services District. His questions were answered, which confirmed his support for this proposed order.

Motion: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Agenda Item 4 – Order No. R1-2024-0003 and Item 5 – Order No. R1-2024-0005; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu absent
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items

6. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0001 to consider the adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Forest Management Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region (Justin Fitt)

Justin Fitt, Environmental Scientist with the Southern Timber Unit at the Regional Water Board, gave a presentation that included an overview of general timber permits, proposed new forest management permit, and emergency notice rules update. Jonathan Warmerdam, Division Supervisor of the Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division, presented on the response to public comment and provided additional discussion regarding the status of changes to the Emergency Notices of Timber Operations for post-fire timber salvage logging.

Regional Water Boards staff answered questions from the Board.

Motion: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Agenda Item 6 – Order No. R1-2024-0001; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu absent
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

7. **Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted the written Executive Officer's Report, specifically the Federal Lands Permit Watershed Assessment and Recovery Program.
8. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest:** Vice Chair Giusti requested an update on Lake Pillsbury and Scott's Dam when possible, as well as any available updates on the vineyard order before that item is brought before the Board. Chair Bedolla echoed Vice Chair Giusti's requests, as well as an update on climate change initiatives. Executive Officer Quinto shared that an update on climate change initiatives is scheduled for the next Board meeting in April.
9. **Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in closed session.
10. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 4, 2024, and
9:00 a.m., Friday, April 5, 2024
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.