

Minutes of Meeting

1:00 P.M., Thursday, August 3, 2023,
And 9:00 A.M., Friday, August 4, 2023
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thursday, August 3, 2023

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:** Chair Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto indicated that the Land Acknowledgement has been removed from the agenda at this time, so the Regional Water Board has the opportunity to consult with tribes in the region.

- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Alex Hart,
Bill Matsubu

Regional Water Board staff present: Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen,
Bayley Toft-Dupuy (via Zoom), Deidre
Wilkerson, Jeremiah Puget, Matt St.
John, Charles Reed, Kason Grady,
Brian Fuller, Shannon Utley, Jordan
Filak

- iii. **Board member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** Board Member Matsubu noted that he and Board Member Hart attended a tour of Shone

Farm earlier in the day. Board Member Matsubu also reported on a tribal information sharing training that took place earlier in the week. The training focused on freshwater harmful algal blooms, and Mike Thomas, Environmental Scientist with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, assisted with the training.

- iv. **State Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison and Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive report that focused primarily on the California Water Supply Strategy. The report also included updates on the upcoming package on outdoor water use efficiency, proposed hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level regulations, annual stakeholder fee meetings, and the Scott and Shasta Rivers. Ms. D'Adamo thanked Executive Officer Valerie Quinto for joining a tour in Siskiyou County to see firsthand possible impacts on water quality and finished her report with information about the State Board's role in regard to the draft vineyards permit that the Regional Water Quality Control Board is holding a workshop on tomorrow, Friday, August 4.

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto did not provide a report at this time.

- v. **Board Chair's Report:** Chair Bedolla stated that it is a privilege to be here and to serve the region.
- vi. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:
 - Sean White
 - Robert Klamt

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

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 15-16, 2023

Motion: Board Member Matsubu moved to adopt June 15-16, 2023, Board meeting minutes; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu aye
- Hart aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item

2. ~~Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2023-0022 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements for the City of Rio Dell Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B83134OHUM, NPDES No. CA0022748 (Sabrina Cegielski)~~

Item 2 has been postponed to a future board meeting agenda at the request of the permittee.

Information Item

3. Enforcement Update: Discussion of Regional Enforcement Priorities and Strategies for 2023-2024 (*Jeremiah Puget*)

Senior Environmental Scientist and Enforcement Coordinator Jeremiah Puget presented an Enforcement Update from the Regional Water Board. The presentation can be viewed on [Cal-Span](https://cal-span.org/meeting/rwqcb-nc_20230803/) (https://cal-span.org/meeting/rwqcb-nc_20230803/). Topics included the importance of enforcement, policy background, overview of the unit (including staff and partnerships), existing priorities and case screening criteria, life cycle of an enforcement case, performance targets, challenges and success stories, and a final overview of enforcement priorities and strategies.

Yvonne West, Director of the Office of Enforcement expressed how valuable it is for her to be able to hear the Board's direction and interests. Ms. West highlighted the efforts of regional staff and touched on the importance of this discussion as it ensures the Office of Enforcement can help the Regional Board forward their priorities and advance their goals for water quality.

Members of the Board asked questions, which Mr. Puget and Ms. West answered.

Closed Session: The Board met in closed session to discuss item 7.d.vii. from the agenda:

State Water Resources Control Board's Consideration of Own Motion Review of Order No. R1-2023-0043 For Administrative Civil Liability In the Matter of Daniel Maldonado Suarez; Issued by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. (July 18, 2023).

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Friday, August 4, 2023

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited the previous day.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present: Greg Giusti, Alex Hart, Bill Matsubu
Regional Water Boards staff present: Valerie Quinto, Bayley Toft-Dupuy (via Zoom), Nathan Jacobsen, Deidre Wilkerson, Chris Watt, Brenna Sullivan, Shannon Utley, Jeremiah Puget, Matt St. John

Vice Chair Giusti noted that Chair Bedolla has recused himself from today's item due to his association with the vineyard industry. He noted that the board members present do not constitute a quorum of the Board.

Board Member Hart disclosed that she went on a tour last week with the Mendocino County Farm Bureau.

Board Member Matsubu disclosed that he and Board Member Hart went on a tour of Shone Farm with members of the agricultural industry.

iii. **Public Forum:** No public comments.

Workshop

4. Public Workshop on DRAFT General Waste Discharge Requirements for Vineyard Properties and DRAFT Environmental Impact Report (*Chris Watt, Brenna Sullivan, Shannon Utley*)

Chris Watt, Groundwater Specialist and Senior Engineering Geologist, and Brenna Sullivan, Engineering Geologist, presented on the draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Vineyards. The presentation began with background, findings, and engagement, and continued with detailed information on draft order components (requirements and MRP), followed by statewide precedential requirements. The presentation concluded with a timeline of the next steps. The full presentation is available on [Cal-Span](https://cal-span.org/meeting/rwqcb-nc_20230804/) (https://cal-span.org/meeting/rwqcb-nc_20230804/).

Board Members asked clarifying questions and staff answered.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
- Frost Pauli, self/farmer
- Noelle Cremers, Wine Institute
- Michael Miller, California Association of Wine Grape Growers
- Andrew Smith, Sonoma and Mendocino County Agricultural Departments

- Susanne Zechiel, Jackson Family Wines, TAG
- Kari Fisher, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Kimberly Burr, Self/Green Valley Creek, Forestville
- Brittany Jensen, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- David Koball, K2 Farming
- Michael Pecherer, Self/Mendocino Wine Growers
- Robin Bartholow, Sonoma County Farm Bureau
- David Huebel, Hafner Vineyard
- Madeline Cline, Mendocino County Farm Bureau
- Adam Gaska, Golden Vineyards
- Janet King, Self/Mendocino County farmer
- Lorenzo Pacini, Pacini Vineyards, Mendocino Wine Growers Association
- Fred Peterson, Peterson Vineyards
- Laurel Marcus, California Land Stewardship Institute
- Gail Seymour, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Alexandra Graziano, Self/Grape Grower and Winemaker
- Brenda Tomaras, Lytton Rancheria
- Rue Furch, SC, CAFF, SCWC
- Jaimy Neary, Russian Riverkeeper

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

Board Members thanked staff and members of the public and shared the following comments:

- Recommend adjusting the current timeline and postponing this item to a later agenda (instead of the original December meeting). Board Members emphasized the importance of engaging with the industry, including in the field.
- Overall streamlining and simplifying to gain efficiencies in the permit.
- Acknowledgement of vineyards in this region as part of a very complex landscape matrix. The Board is dedicated to ensuring water quality is protected and will continue working with staff and legal counsel to move forward with input from the public.

Information Items

5. **Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted the written Executive Officer's Report.
6. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest:** No requests were made, and no other items of interest were reported.

14. **Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in closed session today. Please see page 3 for information about Thursday's closed session.

15. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 5, 2023, and

9:00 a.m., Friday, October 6, 2023

Eureka City Hall

531 K Street, Room 208

Eureka, CA 95501

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.