

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thurs., August 14, 2025 &
9:00 A.M., Fri., August 15, 2025
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thursday, August 14, 2025

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.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Jake Mackenzie, Alex Hart (via Zoom),
Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Ryan
Sundberg

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen, Josh
Curtis, Claudia Villacorta, Deidre
Wilkerson, Charles Reed, Lance Le,
Devon Rabellino, Matt Graves, Lisa
Bernard, Justin McSmith, Kelsey Cody,
Jordan Filak, Jeremiah Puget, Mona
Dougherty, Kason Grady, Ermias
Berhe

iii. **Board Member Reports:** There were no Board Member Reports.

- 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 water measurement and reporting, the Russian River Telemetry Study, Tribal Affairs Program, Annual Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan, Safer Drinking Water Program, Delta Conveyance Project, and the Agricultural Expert Panel.

Ms. D'Adamo responded to questions and comments from the Board.

- v. **Board Chair's Report:** Chair Bedolla encouraged people to support local food banks.
- vi. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:
- Jaime 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/>).

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 12-13, 2025

This item took place before Public Forum.

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt the June 12-13, 2025 Board Meeting minutes; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Mackenzie aye
- Sundberg aye
- Hart aye
- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Uncontested Item

2. Public Hearing on Rescission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (Rescission Order R1-2025-0024), Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-0017 for State of California Department of Fish and Game and Pacificorp Iron Gate Hatchery (*Justin McSmith*)

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Rescission Order R1-2025-0024; Vice Chair Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Mackenzie aye
- Sundberg aye
- Hart aye
- Bedolla aye

- Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Workshop Item

3. Workshop for Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Incorporate an Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (*Lance Le*)

Dr. Lance Le, Water Resource Control Engineer in the Watershed Assessment and Recovery Unit within the Planning and Watershed Division, presented to the Board. Dr. Le's presentation was divided into three sections: Background, US EPA Total Maximum Daily Load, and Action Plan.

After the presentation, Dr. Le and other Regional Board staff responded to questions and comments from the Board.

Action Item

4. Public Hearing on Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2025-0022 issued to Michael Harding (*Ermias Berhe, Heather Jidkov, Kason Grady, Claudia Villacorta*)

This item took place after agenda item 2 due to Board Member schedule limitations.

Chair Bedolla opened the hearing by reading the hearing procedures, confirmed that the Respondent (Mr. Harding or his representation) was not present, and administered the oath to those planning to give testimony.

The Prosecution Team's presentation began with an opening statement from Kason Grady, Supervisor of the Agricultural and Enforcement Division. Following the opening statement, Ermias Berhe, Lead Technical Staff Geologist for this case, continued the presentation, which included an overview of the enforcement case, background information, chronology, alleged violations, and liability adjustments and calculations.

Following the presentation, the Prosecution and Advisory Teams responded to questions and comments from the Board.

There were no comments from members of the public.

Motion: Board Member Sundberg moved to adopt Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R1-2025-0031; Board Member Mackenzie seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Mackenzie aye
- Sundberg aye

- Hart aye
- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Item

5. Enforcement Update – Regional Priorities and Plans (*Jeremiah Puget*)

Jeremiah Puget, Senior Environmental Scientist and Supervisor of the Enforcement Unit, presented to the Board. The presentation covered Enforcement policy background information, Enforcement Unit and partnerships, existing Enforcement priorities and proposed revisions, Enforcement program performance targets and summary of actions, case updates and success stories, regional priorities and plans for FY 25/26.

After the presentation, Mr. Puget welcomed Board discussion, feedback, and questions.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Friday, August 15, 2025

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:	Jake Mackenzie, Alex Hart (via Zoom), Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Ryan Sundberg
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Regional Water Board staff present:	Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen, Josh Curtis, Claudia Villacorta, Deidre Wilkerson, Charles Reed, Kelsey Cody, Lisa Bernard, Prachi Kulkarni, Kason Grady, Lance Le, Tina Low, Katharine Carter
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Action Item

6. Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Establish a Total Maximum Daily Load and Fecal Waste Discharge Prohibition and Incorporate the Action Plan for Pathogens in the Russian River Watershed (*Lisa Bernard*)

Lisa Bernard, Supervisor of the Planning and TMDL Development Unit, presented to the Board. The presentation covered the timeline and process for this item, staff report overview, public engagement, 2025 comments, project summary, implementation, and key takeaways.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Todd Hunsdorfer, County of Sonoma
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

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

Regional Board staff and Board Members responded to comments and questions from members of the public. Ms. Bernard and other staff responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Resolution No. R1-2025-0030; Vice Chair Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Hart aye
- Giusti aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

7. Recycled Wastewater in the North Coast Region (*Tina Low*)

Tina Low, Recycled Water Engineer in the NPDES and Water Recycling Unit, presented to the Board. The presentation covered statewide plans and policies, regulatory landscape and Regional Water Board's role, recycled water in the Regional Board's climate change initiatives, regional drivers and challenges to recycled water, specifics around recycled water in the North Coast Region, future projects and opportunities to expand, and key takeaways.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

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

Ms. Low and other Regional Board staff responded to questions and comments from the Board and public.

Laura McClellan, Senior Environmental Scientist in the Recycled Water and Brackish Groundwater Desalination Unit in the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality, provided additional insight and provided responses to Board questions.

8. **Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted the content in the written Executive Officer's Report.
9. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Others Items of Interest:** Vice Chair Hart requested a future presentation from Counsel on the definition of public trust resources, the legal authorities of the Regional Board, and staff responsibilities. Board Member Mackenzie requested a future update on the status of the State Water Board's Safe Drinking Water Act, specifically information on contaminant identification and biological significance.
10. **Closed Session:** The Board met in Closed Session on Thursday, August 14 to discuss the following item:
 10. b. Consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public employee. (Gov. Code, § 11126, subd. (a)(1))

There were no actions to report.

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

6:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2025
Crescent City, CA; specific location to be determined

9:00 a.m., Friday, October 10, 2025
Yreka, CA; specific location to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.