
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Friday, April 17, 2026, 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, April 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Board Business

1. Roll call and declaration of quorum

[Kai Johnson, Clerk to the Board, Kai.Johnson@waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Rodriguez, Member Roques, Member Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Harlan participated remotely.

Absent: None

Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting.

2. Introductions

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Patrick Wagner was introduced as an analyst II in the Administrative Program.

3. Approval of Board meeting minutes, February 26-27, 2026

Motion: Member Harlan

Second: Vice Chair Rodriguez

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

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

4. Central Coast Water Board Members (Board Members) communications, including ex parte disclosures and Board member reports. Board members will identify any ex parte discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40, and Board members may discuss communications, correspondence, or other items of general interest relating to matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

Member Roques

- April 9, 2026 - Attended Board briefing meeting.

Member Wolff

- March 4, 2026 – Held a Cal Poly tour at Wolff Vineyards for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences on environmental projects associated with water and air quality.
- April 14, 2026 – Attended Board briefing meeting.

Vice Chair Rodriguez:

- April 9, 2026 - Attended Board briefing meeting.
- March 27, 2026 – Attended Chair and Vice Chair meeting with Executive Officer and Attorney.

Member Hoskins:

- March 4, 2026 – Spoke at a water law class at Cal Poly; provided an overview of the Central Coast Water Board’s work.
- March 11, 2026 – Participated in a lunch panel at Monterey College of Law regarding careers in law, energy and environmental issues.
- March 29, 2026 – Call with Community Water Center representatives, joined by Martha Guzman Aceves and representatives from agencies including the Natural Resources Defense Council and Leadership Counsel.
- April 15, 2026 – Attended Board briefing meeting.

Chair Gray:

- March 19, 2026 – Discussion with the Goleta Slough Management Committee facilitator related to the Goleta West Sanitary District.
- April 6, 2026 – Call with Brandon Bollinger of the Community Water Center.
- April 8, 2026 – Call with Third District Supervisor, Joan Hartmann of Santa Barbara County, regarding the community of Los Olivos and the Gaviota Marine Terminal.
- April 10, 2026 – Attended Board briefing meeting.

Member Harlan:

- April 9, 2026 - Attended Board briefing meeting.

5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison. Sean Maguire did not provide an update.

6. Public Forum

Any person may orally address the Board regarding a matter within the Board's jurisdiction that is not related to an item on this meeting agenda.

No Public Comments

Waste Discharge Requirements

7. Consideration of Proposed Order R3-2026-0014, Waste Discharge

Requirements for South County Regional Wastewater Authority Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CA0049964 [Arwen Wyatt-Mair, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer]

Central Coast Water Board staff members Arwen Wyatt-Mair, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer and Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer presented the proposed NPDES permit for South County Regional Wastewater Authority Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility. Staff provided an overview of the Facility's treatment process, permitting history, and planned permitting actions and explained that the proposed permit would only provide regulatory coverage for the Facility's potential wet weather discharge. Recycled water distribution and use will be covered by a statewide general permit, WQ-2016-0068. The Facility's discharge to land and the production of recycled water will be covered by the general permit R3-2020-0020.

Presenting staff provided an overview of the public comment period and responses to comments and Board members asked about the disinfection process, salt and nutrient management planning, biosolids management, and the condition of the outfall. Bret Swain, Senior Engineer at the Facility, provided clarification on how the Facility manages biosolids and that the outfall remains in good condition. Board members identified a minor typographical error in standard provision 1.4 and staff agreed with the proposed correction.

Motion: Member Roques moved to approve proposed Order R3-2026-0014 with amendment to reference in standard provision 1.4.

Second: Member Wolff

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

8. Consideration of Proposed Order R3-2026-0004, Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of El Paso de Robles Annual Flood Control and Fire Fuel Load Reduction Project [Phil Hammer, Senior Environmental Scientist, Alexandra Coblentz, Engineering Geologist]

Central Coast Water Board staff member Alexandra Coblentz, Engineering Geologist, presented the proposed reissuance of waste discharge requirements for the City of El Paso de Robles Annual Flood Control and Fire Fuel Load Reduction Project. Staff explained that the proposed Order would allow the city to continue annual flood control maintenance and fire fuel load reduction activities in the Salinas River corridor and tributary drainages, including vegetation management, sediment removal, pile burning, prescribed herbivory, and associated access and staging. The previous Order was adopted in 2021, and the reissued Order does not expand the authorized work areas or activities, but strengthens environmental protections, mitigation requirements, adaptive management triggers, mapping, monitoring, and reporting. The Board provided comments on topics including mitigation progress, unsheltered populations in the river corridor, coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and fire fuel reduction methods. City of Paso Robles representatives provided public comment in support of the proposed Order and discussed reductions in riverbed fires, ongoing vegetation management, trash removal, coordination with other agencies, and continued work related to the unsheltered population. Staff recommended adoption of proposed Order R3-2026-0004.

Motion: Member Wolff moved to adopt proposed Order R3-2026-0004, Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of El Paso de Robles Annual Flood Control and Fire Fuel Load Reduction Project.

Second: Member Hoskins

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

9. General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Waste Discharges. [Amber Sellinger, Senior Engineering Geologist, Don Eley, Engineering Geologist]

Item 9a. Consideration of Proposed General Order R3-2026-0032, Modification of General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Waste Discharges.

Central Coast Water Board staff member Amber Sellinger, Senior Engineering Geologist, presented proposed General Order R3-2026-0032, which would modify the General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Waste Discharges. Staff explained that the General Waiver was first adopted in 2002 and is intended to streamline regulation of limited-threat discharges while maintaining protection of water quality. The presentations addressed the proposed 2026 revisions to modify Section D to clarify the process for enrolling

limited-threat discharges that are not already listed in the General Waiver and to remove redundant language. Staff also explained that regional tribal contacts, interested parties, and current enrollees were notified, a 30-day public comment period was provided, and no comments were received on the proposed General Waiver revisions. Staff recommended adoption of proposed General Order R3-2026-0032.

Motion: Member Roques moved to adopt proposed General Order R3-2026-0032, Modification of General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Waste Discharges.

Second: Member Harlan

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

Nay: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

Item 9b. Consideration of Proposed Resolution R3-2026-0031, Enrollment of Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX), Vandenberg Space Force Base, Space Launch Complex 4, Falcon 9 Launch Facility, in Proposed General Order R3-2026-0032

Central Coast Water Board staff member Don Eley, Engineering Geologist, presented proposed Resolution R3-2026-0031 to authorize enrollment of SpaceX's launch-related wastewater discharge to land at Space Launch Complex 4 in proposed General Order R3-2026-0032 and to adopt the associated Monitoring and Reporting Program. Staff explained how proposed enrollment applies to launch-related wastewater discharge to land, not regulation of rocket launches themselves. Staff described the discharge process including deluge water used during Falcon 9 launches, collection in a retention basin, and discharge to a spray field, and explained that staff determined the discharge to be limited threat based on wastewater and groundwater testing. The item covered the proposed monitoring and reporting requirements, including wastewater sampling every 30 launches, annual groundwater monitoring, flow tracking, annual reporting, and notification if fuel type or process changes occur. Questions and comments from the Board included topics surrounding launch cadence, water supply, monitoring frequency, enforcement options if authorized limits are exceeded, legacy contamination at Space Launch Complex 4, and coordination with other agencies. Staff recommended adoption of proposed Resolution R3-2026-0031.

Motion: Vice Chair Rodriguez moved to adopt Resolution R3-2026-0031 to authorize the Executive Officer to enroll SpaceX in proposed General Waiver Order R3-2026-0032 and adopt Monitoring and Reporting Program Order R3-2026-0011.

Second: Member Harlan

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Rodriguez, Member Wolff, Member Hoskins, Member Roques, Member Harlan.

Nay: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

Discussion/Informational Items

10. Environmental Justice, Racial Equity, and Tribal Affairs – Annual Update
[Angela Schroeter, Assistant Executive Officer]

Item 10 was an informational item providing the Central Coast Water Board's annual update on environmental justice, racial equity, and tribal affairs. Angela Schroeter, Assistant Executive Officer and Environmental Justice Coordinator, introduced Ismael Haile as the newest member of the Environmental Justice team and provided background and history on the Action Plan. Following, was an overview of the tools staff use to integrate environmental justice, racial equity, tribal engagement, and the Human Right to Water into regulatory programs. Staff highlighted implementation of the Human Right to Water through drinking water well testing, public access to water quality data, emergency bottled water and interim drinking water solutions, outreach, and work to address pollution affecting drinking water sources.

Community Water Center representatives Brandon Bollinger and Roxanne Reimer presented information on how the Human Right to Water is being implemented on the Central Coast. Their presentation included efforts to address drinking water challenges affecting public water systems and domestic wells, consolidation and regionalization projects, interim bottled water, and household-scale treatment pilot projects. Board discussion focused on comparisons between the Central Coast Water Board's work and other regions, integration of environmental justice practices, and the long-term implementation challenges associated with drinking water projects. Board Members also discussed the importance of continued partnership and building community trust.

No public comments were received.

No action was taken as this is an informational item.

Administrative Items

11. Executive Officer's Report.

Executive Officer Ryan Lodge presented the Executive Officer's Report, summary tables of Section 401 water quality certifications, groundwater cleanup case closures, and general order enrollments completed since the previous Board meeting.

Executive Officer Lodge introduced Central Coast Water Board staff member Jamie Pratt, Environmental Scientist in the Basin Planning program, who presented the mid-cycle update on the Basin Plan Triennial Review. Staff provided an update on staff progress since the 2024 Triennial Review and explained that the process helps identify and prioritize potential Basin Plan amendments; though any changes would require a separate amendment

process. The presentation summarized progress on the five priority proposals adopted in October 2024. Staff shared that a proposed amendment related to Maximum Contaminant Levels has been released for public comment and noted that Basin Plan amendments can take multiple years to complete because of the coordination, review, and approval process required.

No public comments were received.
No action was taken as this is an informational item.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 15:16.

Friday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Friday, April 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Board Business

12. Roll call and declaration of quorum
Kai Johnson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3686,
Kai.Johnson@waterboards.ca.gov

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Rodriguez, Member Roques, Member Wolff,
Member Hoskins, Member Harlan

Absent: None

Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting.

13. Introductions [Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer]

Discussion/Informational Item

14. Irrigated Lands Program - Background and History
[Elaine Sahl, Senior Environmental Scientist]

Executive Officer Lodge introduced Item 14 as an informational item to provide Board members with background and historical context regarding the Central Coast Water Board's Irrigated Lands Program. Central Coast Water Board staff members Elaine Sahl, Senior Environmental Scientist, and Angela Schroeter, Assistant Executive Officer, provided a high-level overview of the program's development since 2004, including the progression of agricultural waivers and orders, enrollment requirements, farm plans, management practice reporting, surface water and groundwater monitoring, nitrogen reporting, and data transparency tools. Staff discussed ongoing water quality concerns associated with irrigated agriculture, including nitrate impacts to groundwater and surface water concerns, and explained how program requirements have expanded over time based on monitoring data, State Water Board direction, petitions, litigation, expert panel recommendations, and regional priorities.

Throughout the update, Board member discussion focused on surrounding groundwater and surface water trends, enforceability following the State Water Board remand of Agricultural Order 4.0, collaboration with growers and technical experts, implementation of TMDLs and the Nonpoint Source Policy, staff resource impacts, and future revisions to the Agricultural Order, including development of an alternative water supply program. Erica Kalve, Groundwater Protection Section Manager with the State Water Board Division of Water Quality, provided an update on the Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel, and shared information on the panel process, draft recommendations, public comment period, and next steps for State Water Board review and future development. Board members shared perspectives on the opportunity for Central Coast Water Board staff to comment on the draft expert panel report, and continued Board engagement as the recommendations are considered.

Brandon Bollinger, Community Water Center, provided public comment emphasizing the need to address nitrate contamination with urgency and long-term sustainable drinking water solutions.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:48.

Jane Gray, Chair