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Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 10, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

**Video and Teleconference Meeting Only**

**No Physical Meeting Location**

(Authorized by Government Code section 11133)

Video and teleconference recordings of the meeting are currently available on the following website: <https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

**Friday, December 10, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

Chair Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff called the meeting to order on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 9:10 a.m. (the meeting started late due to technical difficulties). He welcomed new Board Member Stephanie Harlan.

**Board Business**

1. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board]

**Present:** Chair Wolff, Vice Chair Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

**Absent:** None

2. Introductions, Staff Recognition, and Awards

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,

[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu and Chris Moskal, legal counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer; and section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire

**Announcements**

- Arwen Wyatt-Mair – New employee Ryan Lee joined the Cannabis Program, and Sarah Bragg-Flavan transferred from the Irrigated Lands Program to the Cannabis Program.
- Harvey Packard – Michael Godwin in our Stormwater Program has volunteered to be deployed to Chico with Cal Recycle for a statewide task force working on

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DR. JEAN-PIERRE WOLFF, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

removal and management of fire-related debris. His title is deputy debris group supervisor. He will be gone for a month.

3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: Vice Chair Gray moved to approve minutes of October 14, 2021

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Wolff, Vice Chair Gray, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: Member Harlan

Motioned Carried: 3 to 0

4. Reports by Regional Board Members

**Chair Wolff:**

- October 21-22, 2021, attended Water Quality Coordination Committee meeting
- October 27-28, 2021, attended Fertilizer Research and Education Program conference in collaboration with Western Plant Health, hosted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- November 1, 2021, attended monthly chairs' call
- November 3, 2021, hosted seminar at his winery for climate change with UC Cooperative Extension and Cuesta College
- December 1, 2021, attended Preservation Inc. Ag Order 4.0 workshop regarding third-party program development
- December 6, 2021, attended monthly chairs' call

**Vice Chair Gray,**

- October 21-22, 2021, attended Water Quality Coordination Committee meeting
- October 27-28, 2021, attended Fertilizer Research and Education Program conference in collaboration with Western Plant Health hosted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- November 2, 2021, attended Central Coastal Climate Collaborative meeting
- December 7, 2021, attended Central Coastal Climate Collaborative meeting

**Member Hunter**

- October 21-22, 2021, attended Water Quality Coordination Committee meeting
- October 27-28, 2021, attended Fertilizer Research and Education Program conference in collaboration with Western Plant Health hosted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture

5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison [Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877]

Mr. Maguire gave a report touching on the following issues of statewide significance: drought conditions, water conservation, and draft wasteful water use prohibitions; Bay Delta Watershed workshop; forthcoming microplastics criteria and monitoring

standards for drinking water; infrastructure and emerging contaminants funding opportunities; drinking water and wastewater arrears funding program implementation, and; State Water Board adoption of its racial equity resolution. Board members thanked State Board Member Maguire for his report and inquired about and commented on the water conservation evaluation process and associated baseline; the importance of public education and understanding of drought conditions, watersheds and source of supply; urban versus rural funding priorities and coordination; Central Coast Region dependence on groundwater supply; and, chemicals of emerging concern.

## **Waste Discharge Requirements**

6. Consideration of Proposed Order No. R3-2021-0076, Waste Discharge Requirements for the Chevron Guadalupe Landfill for the Chevron Environmental Management Company, San Luis Obispo County  
[Jordan Haserot, 805/542-4781, [Jordan.Haserot@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jordan.Haserot@waterboards.ca.gov) and Ryan Lodge, 805/549-3506, [Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Engineering Geologist Jordan Haserot provided an overview of the proposed waste discharge requirements for the proposed Chevron Guadalupe Landfill, including land disposal program regulatory framework, project background, proposed landfill design, and public outreach efforts.

Board Member Hunter asked about the liner configuration in relation to the leachate collection sump and about leachate disposal. Ms. Haserot explained that the leachate collection system is located on top of the primary liner system and that the leachate would be treated by an existing and permitted groundwater cleanup treatment system. Board member Hunter asked about stormwater discharge locations and sampling. Water Board staff explained that stormwater will be regulated through a stormwater permit and clean stormwater that does not contact waste soils will be diverted to natural drainage areas, whereas stormwater that contacts waste soils will be sampled prior to discharge and may be subject to treatment as appropriate.

Board Member Harlan asked if Chevron considered utilizing the landfill to also dispose of municipal solid waste. Water Board staff indicated that the facility is a Class II landfill permitted to accept designated waste and not municipal solid waste. Chevron personnel added that coastal zoning requirements don't allow a municipal solid waste landfill at the site.

Board Chair Wolff asked for clarification regarding landfill excavation and waste soil volumes. Ms. Haserot discussed the phasing of landfill construction that includes the removal and staging of contaminated soil from the landfill footprint prior to installing the liner system to contain the removed material along with impacted soils from other soil cleanup areas at the former oil field. Chair Wolff asked about the capacity of the supply well(s) used for onsite dust control during landfill construction activities. Chevron personnel and their consultants indicated the current well has been used

for approximately 15 years for dust control purposes and water supply has never been an issue at the site.

Speakers:

- Owen Ranta, Chevron
- Ercan Candan, Chevron consultant
- Ted Mullen, San Luis Obispo County on site coordinator

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve Order No. R3-2021-0076

Second: Member Harlan

Aye: Chair Wolff, Vice Chair Gray, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

### **Watershed Management and Planning Items**

7. 2021 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin, Resolution No. R3-2021-0098

[John Inman, 805/542-4646, [John.Inman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:John.Inman@waterboards.ca.gov) and Mary Hamilton, 805/542-4768, [Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Executive Officer Matt Keeling introduced the item. Environmental Scientist John Inman then provided an overview of the staff report. Mr. Inman provided an overview of the triennial review process, progress made on the 2017 priority list, a strategy for transforming the Watershed and Integrated Water Resource Protection proposal into multiple proposals, the 2021 priority list, and a summary of the public process.

Four speakers presented public comments on this item. Three speakers addressed topics such as the importance of stakeholder engagement, concerns about future water recycling projects, and the need to update the Healthy Watersheds Vision. The fourth speaker discussed the collaboration with Water Board staff related to the State Water Quality Protection Areas nomination and their commitment to engage stakeholders as they develop the nomination.

Board members discussed the importance of providing the Board with updates on the development and implementation of projects that are both on and not on the priority list. Board members commented on the apparent benefits of the new prioritization process developed for the 2021 Triennial Review.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution with the following changes: 1) Board member Hunter requested that the revised table shown in the supplemental sheet be incorporated into both the resolution and the triennial review report (Attachment 1), and 2) Vice Chair Gray requested that Proposal 10 be revised to include new groundwater basin boundaries as shown in the newly released (November 2021) Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118.

Speakers:

- Norm Groot, Monterey Farm Bureau
- Heather Billing
- Becky Steinbruner
- Tyler Sullivan

Motion: Vice-Chair Gray moved to approve Resolution No. R3-2021-0098

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Wolff, Vice-Chair Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

### **Public Forum**

8. Public forum: There were no speakers.

### **Discussion/Informational Items**

9. Racial Equity Initiative Update

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,

[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov) and Angela Schroeter, 805/542-4644,

[Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Executive Officer Matthew Keeling introduced the item and acknowledged Board Member Hunter's leadership role and longstanding commitment as the Board's environmental justice (EJ) liaison. The focus of the item was to update the Board on the organization's racial equity initiative actions to date and next steps leading up to the development of a Central Coast Water Board Racial Equity Resolution and action plan. Mr. Keeling described the Government Alliance on Race and Equity's (GARE) definition of racial equity as occurring when "...race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved," and emphasized the real situation that some people or groups are better served or get better treatment and that some are underserved, creating disparities and barriers to fundamental rights and services. Board Members observed that justice can only be achieved when the causes of inequity are addressed by removing the barriers, such that there is integration of the community and everyone has access to meaningfully participate in decision making processes.

Mr. Keeling described the ethnic makeup of Water Board employees statewide compared to the California population, noting that there is significant room for improvement to ensure equitable representation of the communities served by the agency. Mr. Keeling also described that CalEnviroScreen data demonstrates that race continues to be the strongest predictor of access to clean water and sanitation. Board Members emphasized the importance of data collection to inform Water

Board priorities and measure progress. Mr. Keeling summarized the Water Board's long history to actively prioritize environmental justice and the human right to water, despite challenges due to limited resources and capacity. Board Members remarked about the progress made and the positive impact realized from community engagement on decision making processes at the statewide and regional levels.

Section Manager Angela Schroeter discussed the State Water Board's Racial Equity Initiative and recent adoption of Resolution No. 2021-0050 – Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice, and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism. Ms. Schroeter also discussed the Central Coast Region's Racial Equity Initiative, which includes a Central Coast Region Racial Equity Working Group, led by staff members Kathy Truong and Katie McNeill. The main objectives of the Working Group are to conduct internal and external engagement, and to use the input received to prepare a draft racial equity resolution for the Central Coast Region. Board Members commended the staff level leadership for participating in this effort and also commented on the importance to coordinate with the State Water Board and leverage resources available from the Office of Public Participation. Executive Officer Matthew Keeling closed the item and described staff's plan for the Annual EJ Update at the February 2022 Board Meeting, including updating the Board on efforts to prepare a draft racial equity resolution.

Mr. Brandon Bollinger, representing the Community Water Center, provided public comments emphasizing the importance of external engagement and providing sufficient time for the public to review and provide input on a regional racial equity resolution.

Speakers:

- Brandon Bollinger, Community Water Center

### **Administrative Items**

#### 10. Executive Officer's Report

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Executive Officer Matthew Keeling provided an overview of the items discussed in the staff report regarding the implementation of Ag Order 4.0. Member Gray inquired whether staff would provide a detailed update regarding the approval of the forthcoming crop nitrogen removal coefficients at the April meeting and Mr. Keeling replied staff would not have time to prepare a detailed update in time for the April meeting, but that he could give a general update as part of the Executive Officer's report followed by a detailed report by staff as part of the forthcoming annual Ag Order 4.0 update in the summer/fall of 2022.

Mr. Keeling listed out the standard performance tables attached to the staff report and asked if there were any questions. Member Hunter asked whether the small domestic wastewater facility general order enrollments in the Santa Cruz area listed

in table 5 were associated with post-fire rebuilding. Mr. Keeling responded that some may be associated with post-fire rebuilding, but the majority were likely related to new development and repairs or upgrades to existing systems, and that the number of onsite wastewater treatment facility permits on the list for Santa Cruz County will start decreasing now that the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) is in place.

Member Gray inquired if there were any drinking water or wastewater consolidation projects underway in the region. Mr. Keeling indicated he did not know and deferred to Section Manager Angela Schoeter who indicated there were several consolidation efforts in the works in the region and that this would be a good topic of discussion as part of the forthcoming environmental justice and racial equity and inclusion item in 2022. Mr. Keeling also indicated staff would be presenting an informational item on staff's wastewater consolidation strategy associated with AB1215 during either the February or April meeting. Chair Wolff commented that 2022 would be a year of potential opportunity for underrepresented communities associated with new and streamlined infrastructure funding programs and that an update on this would be informative with respect to capitalizing on this opportunity in the region.

Vice Chair Gray inquired about post-fire response associated with Alisal Fire in Santa Barbara County. Mr. Keeling provided a general update regarding the Tajiguas Landfill and program manager Diane Kukol provided a general update regarding restoration work being implemented by the California Department of Transportation along the highway 101 corridor. Mr. Keeling indicated he would follow-up with a more detailed update regarding the landfill during the February meeting.

Chair Wolff adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

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Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair