
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Central Coast Water Board Office
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo

Friday, June 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Beaver Brigade Field Visit

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Board Business

1. Roll call and declaration of quorum
[Mary Hamilton, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, Member Rodriguez, Member Hoskins – note that Vice Chair Wolff stepped away during item 7 between 9:45 and noon.

Absent: none

Chair Gray declared a quorum present for the meeting

2. Introductions
[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Angela Schroeter introduced Tamara Anderson in her new role as the section manager of the permitting section.

Leah Lemoine introduced Laurel Werner, new staff in the Stormwater Program.

Jennifer Epp introduced Julie Avanto and Lauren Sipich, new staff in the WDR Program.

Mary Hamilton introduced Kathleen Gonzalez in her new role as the Program Manager of the Cannabis Regulatory Program.

Mary Hamilton also introduced two new TMDL and Integrated Report team members: Rikke Jeppesen and Keara Tusso.

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | RYAN E. LODGE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3. Approval of Board meeting minutes, April 17-18, 2025

Motion: Member Rodriguez motioned to approve the minutes.

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

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

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

4. Board member 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 Harlan

- May 1 – 2, 2025 – Attended the Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting remotely on Zoom.
- June 17, 2025 – Attended board briefing.

Member Hoskins:

- May 1 -2, 2025 – Attended the Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting in Sacramento.
- June 13, 2025 – Attended board briefing.

Vice Chair, Wolff:

- May 1–2, 2025 – Attended Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting.
- June 17, 2025 – Attended board briefing.

Member Rodriguez:

- April 22, 2025 – Attended webinar on financing wastewater projects for small and rural California communities.
- May 1–2, 2025 – Attended Water Quality Coordinating Committee remotely.
- May 5, 2025 – Attended webinar titled “Preparing for 2029 – Meeting EPA’s PFAS Standards with Smart Infrastructure.”
- May 20, 2025 – Met with Morgan Carvajal at Governor’s Appointments Office to discuss reappointment; confirmed name was submitted.
- June 13, 2025 – Attended webinar on environmental injustices in food and water systems.
- June 13, 2025 – Attended board briefing.

- June 18, 2025 – Participated in WELL webinar on Recycled Water through Water Education for Latino Leaders.

Chair Gray:

- April 25, 2025 – Participated in call with Community Water Center staff members John Erickson and Vida Sanchez.
- April 28, 2025 – Met with Morgan Carvajal in the Governor's Appointments Office.
- April 29, 2025 – Met virtually with Christine Birdsong from California Department of Food and Agriculture along with Executive Officer Lodge to discuss collaboration and coordination.
- May 1–2, 2025 – Attended Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting in Sacramento.
- May 2, 2025 – Met with Executive Officer Lodge and Community Water Center staff Kiya Rivers.
- May 2, 2025 – Met with Executive Officer Lodge and State Water Resources Control Board member Laurel Firestone.
- May 5, 2025 – Met with San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson along with Executive Officer Lodge.
- May 7, 2025 – Conducted outreach conversation with D'Arrigo employee from northern portion of the region.
- May 9, 2025 – Attended groundbreaking ceremony for Springfield Road Water System with Executive Officer Ryan Lodge and Assistant Executive Officer Schroeter.
- May 13, 2025 – Met with Kara Woodruff from Senator Laird's office.
- May 13, 2025 – Attended Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for San Luis Obispo County Airport Voluntary Settlement Agreement.
- May 15, 2025 – Participated in meeting with Anna Namark from CalEPA.
- May 19, 2025 – Had conversation with Sarah Lopez of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc.
- May 20, 2025 – Held discussion with Abilene Runyan and Vasquez Rodriguez from RCAC regarding San Lucas project.
- June 2, 2025 – Met with Brandon Bollinger from Community Water Center.
- June 2, 2025 – Had a conversation with Natalie Horrendine of Monterey Coastkeeper about environmental justice in the Salinas Valley.
- June 4, 2025 – Presented, alongside Executive Officer Lodge, to San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee.
- June 9, 2025 – Met with Senator Laird and his staff.
- June 9, 2025 – Met with State Water Board liaison Sean McGuire.
- June 9, 2025 – Met with State Water Board Chair Esquivel.
- June 13, 2025 – Attended board briefing.

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

No report was given.

No Public Comments.

Public Forum

6. 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. Comments will generally be limited to three minutes, unless otherwise approved by the Chair. See instructions at the beginning of this agenda notice for submitting a request for extra time. Comments regarding pending adjudicatory matters will not be permitted.

No Public Comments.

Discussion/Informational Items

7. Department of Defense Program Update
[Karyn Steckling, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3465, Karyn.Steckling@waterboards.ca.gov, Bryan Little, Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3887, Bryan.Little@waterboards.ca.gov; Amber Sellinger, Senior Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3866, Amber.Sellinger@waterboards.ca.gov]

Central Coast Water Board Department of Defense (DoD) Program manager, Amber Sellinger, along with DoD Program staff, Karyn Steckling and Bryan Little, provided Central Coast Water Board Members (Board Members) with an update of recent DoD program activities and current priorities. Staff discussed the cleanup process and funding sources for DoD work, provided an update on per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) investigations at DoD facilities, and provided an overview of DoD facilities, Former Fort Ord in Monterey County and Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) in Santa Barbara County. Board Members engaged with staff on various topics, including:

- Community outreach and accessibility for non-English speakers regarding notification for potential environmental concerns proximal to DoD facilities;
- Rocket launch activities at VSFB and the potential environmental impacts from proposed launch cadence increase and hypothetical launch failures (rocket explosions);
- DoD Program staff's role in working with government contractors and the reason for a recent contract change at VSFB; and
- Additional details on PFAS investigations and the beneficial use of property transfers at Former Fort Ord.

DoD Program staff agreed with the Board Members regarding community outreach and their specific concerns for the non-English speaking communities' awareness of DoD environmental activities and will continue to communicate this with DoD partners. Staff explained how water discharges related to rocket launches at VSFB are currently managed, noting that additional evaluation is underway to ensure the increase in launches do not pose a threat to surface

waters or groundwater. Staff elaborated on the contractor change at VSFB, explaining that it was not unexpected, but due to the end of the previous 10-year contract (which is Air Force procedure), and noted that staff have been supporting onboarding of the new contractor. Regarding the Board Member's questions on PFAS investigation timing at Former Fort Ord, staff explained that at the time of the initial limited groundwater sampling (2015), PFAS was an emerging class of contaminants and was sampled as part of a pending site closure (Operable Unit 1). Staff noted that since then, the DoD developed a PFAS task force (2019) and implemented a prioritization process (2024) for PFAS investigations, which Former Fort Ord is following.

No Public Comments.

No action was taken as this is an informational item.

8. Active Oilfield Program Update

[Megan Mortimer-Lamb, Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3395, Megan.Mortimer-Lamb@Waterboards.ca.gov; Joey Sisk, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/542-4638, Joey.Sisk@waterboards.ca.gov]

Central Coast Water Board staff Megan Mortimer-Lamb provided an overview of the program activities and priorities with support from supervisor Joey Sisk. The Board Members engaged with staff on topics regarding the aquifer exemption process, orphaned wells and assets, and Class II underground injection control (UIC) projects. The primary questions around the aquifer exemption (AE) process were related to the example of the Cat Canyon AE expansion application, and whether surface water data was evaluated during the expansion evaluation due to proximity of the Sisquoc River to the Cat Canyon oilfield. Staff explained that water well survey is one of the primary steps in the AE application and the injection and production zone have 3D geologic isolation from surface water and underground sources of drinking water.

No Public Comments.

No action was taken as this is an informational item.

9. Enforcement Report, Enforcement Program Update, and Settlement Project Priorities and Considerations [Tamara Anderson, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3334, Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov, Angela Schroeter, Assistant Executive Officer, 805/542-4644, Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov]

Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer, Ryan Lodge, introduced the item. Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer filling in as the Central Coast Water Board Enforcement Coordinator, Tamara Anderson, introduced the following team members available to answer questions: Central Coast Water

Board Assistant Executive Officer, Angela Schroeter, State Water Board Assistant Chief Counsel, David Boyers, and State Water Board Attorney IV, Paul Cicarelli. Tamara Anderson then presented the item.

The first part of the two-part item included an enforcement program overview, the enforcement report, enforcement program priorities, a summary of administrative civil liabilities (ACLs) from the past five years, and a summary of in-progress and completed projects funded by suspended ACLs from the past year.

Board members asked for a status update regarding the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) progress on implementation of actions to prevent recurring violations at the California Men's Colony (CMC) facilities. Paul Cicarelli explained that the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Administrative Orders on Consent for the CMC facilities do not include any major milestones until July 2026. Executive Officer, Ryan Lodge, asked board members for clarification on when board members request an update on CMC and board members discussed CDCR providing an update at the February 2026 board meeting on CDCR's progress at addressing compliance issues at the CMC facilities and requested Central Coast Water Board staff to continue to closely track CDCR's compliance. Board members asked questions regarding the enforcement actions in the enforcement report associated with Carmel Area Wastewater District, San Lucas County Water District Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dutch Maid Dry Cleaners, and the City of Guadalupe Wastewater Treatment Plant. Board members asked questions and provided support for the progress on the San Juan Bautista Sewer Force Main Compliance Project.

The second part of the two-part item included a discussion of enforcement program priorities and priorities and considerations of projects funded by suspended ACLs.

For the enforcement program priorities, board members confirmed that the priority regarding "impacts to human health" applies to all that are impacted, not strictly underrepresented communities. The board also confirmed definitions of terms associated with underrepresented communities such as disadvantaged communities, fringe community, etc., and enforcement staff clarified that these definitions are provided in attachment 3 to the item. Based on board member comments, enforcement staff modified the enforcement priorities language regarding competitive economic advantage over compliant members of the regulated public.

Next, board members discussed the proposed priorities and considerations of projects funded by suspended ACLs. Board members discussed the process of determining which enforcement actions and settlements are brought before the board and authorities delegated to the Executive Officer. Board members discussed the merits of requiring settlement projects to meet at least two of the listed priorities instead of one. Board members discussed the criteria and process for determining a project's readiness to proceed. Board members

confirmed that Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) are required to have a geographical nexus to the violation per the SEP policy. Board members discussed circumstances when a SEP involves the development of new technology or intellectual property and subsequently becomes profitable to an organization. The enforcement teams clarified that there is language in the SEP Policy prohibiting projects that are expected to become profitable to a party within the first few years. Ultimately, board members did not recommend any changes to the priorities and considerations of projects funded by suspended ACLs included in attachment 4 to the item. Board members provided support for seeking board member input on the enforcement program priorities and priorities and considerations of projects funded by suspended ACLs.

No Public Comments.

No action was taken as this is an informational item.

Administrative Items

10. Executive Officer's Report
[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Executive Officer Ryan Lodge summarized the contents of the report.

No Public Comments.

No action was taken as this is an informational item.

11. Board Calendar 2026
[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Board members commented on the value of hosting meetings in multiple locations to engage with the local community and have opportunities to visit sites in various geographic areas but also recognize the need to try and schedule items at meetings that are geographically similar and convenient. Board Members agreed that two meetings outside of San Luis Obispo is ideal.

Motion to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule – Member Harlan
Second – Member Hoskins
Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, Member Hoskins, and
Member Rodriguez

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 15:51

Friday, June 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Board Business

12. Roll Call

[Mary Hamilton, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov]

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, and Member Rodriguez

Absent: Member Harlan and Member Hoskins

Chair Gray announced that there was not a quorum present at this meeting.

Educational Field Trip

13. Field Trip – Beaver Brigade site visit Atascadero

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:43.

Jane Gray, Chair