

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

March 12-13, 2014

Regular Meeting

Hampton Inn Suites Barstow
2710 Lenwood Road
Barstow, CA 92311

Board Members Present

Amy Horne, Ph.D., Chair, Truckee
Kimberly Cox, Helendale
Keith Dyas, Rosamond
Don Jardine, Markleeville
Peter C. Pumphrey, Bishop

Board Member Absent

Eric Sandel, Truckee

Legal Counsel

Kimberly Niemeyer, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board

State Board Staff Present

Gita Kapahi, Director, Office of Public Participation
Estair Tracy, Office of Public Participation
Frances McChesney, Office of Chief Counsel

Regional Board Staff Present

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer
Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer
Mike Plaziak, Sup. Engineering Geologist
Douglas Smith, Sup. Engineering Geologist
Cindi Mitton, Senior WRCE
Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist

Alan Miller, Senior WRCE
Richard Booth, Senior Engineering Geologist
Anne Holden, Engineering Geologist
Shannon Utley, Engineering Geologist
Jan Zimmerman, Engineering Geologist
Sue Genera, Executive Assistant, Board Clerk

REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 12, 2014- 7:00 p.m.

To view the full Agenda and listen to the audio file of this meeting [CLICK HERE](#)

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Horne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 12, 2014, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Water Board and Water Board staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12-13, 2013, held in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

This Item was postponed until April.

2. **ADOPTION OF UNCONTESTED CALENDAR**

Note: An (*) appears next to items adopted by the Board on the uncontested calendar.

- **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pumphrey, seconded by Mr. Jardine, and **unanimously carried** to approve the Uncontested Calendar as presented.
3. *Exemption to a Waste Discharge Prohibition Contained in the Water Quality Control Plan, El Dorado County Department of Transportation, Sawmill 2B Bike Path and Erosion Control Project, El Dorado County

*See Item 2

Click here to view adopted [Resolution R6T-2014-0022](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

4. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Pacific Gas and Electric Company Agricultural Treatment Units, San Bernardino County

Ms. Holden gave a Power Point presentation outlining the proposed WDRs to allow expansion of agricultural treatment units in the Hinkley Valley, and responded to Advisory Team and Board Member questions. In her presentation Ms. Holden highlighted these three late revisions not included in the Board Packet:

- a. Bates page 4-32, bottom of page:
Receiving Water Limitation #4, first sentence:
➤ “ . . . (if below above 10 mg/L) . . . ”
- b. Bates page 4-33, mid-page:
Receiving Water Limitation #5, first sentence:
➤ “ . . . (if below above 20 pCi/L) . . . ”
- c. Bates page 4-66, Monitoring Program section 2.b.v:
➤ “ . . . (if below above 20 pCi/L) . . . ”

Public Comment:

- Mr. Daron Banks asked how the pumping will affect the natural water baseline. Ms. Holden responded that the permit requires that a baseline is established.
- Mr. Lester White expressed his concern over the plume drawdown causing domestic wells to go dry and also over the possibility of standing water in the divots created by the wheels of the drag-drip system. Ms. Holden responded that the permit does not allow excessive ponding of water and if that were to occur, PG&E would have to address that. Regarding drawdown, the permit has established buffer zones and monitoring to detect any impacts of the pumping. Mr. Sullivan stated that PG&E is currently researching mitigation measures for divots created by the tires. He also stated that any impacts on domestic wells would take years to occur and that they will take proactive measures to prevent.

- **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pumphrey, seconded by Mr. Jardine, and **unanimously carried** to approve the WDRs as presented with late additions and revisions.

Click here to view adopted [Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023](#)

Note: The Board took a break from 7:43-8:03 p.m.

5. **Status Report on Activities Concerning Chromium Contamination from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Hinkley Compressor Station**

Ms. Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer, Ian Webster, IRP Manager, and Mr. Kevin Sullivan representing PG&E, presented status updates on recent efforts and activities in the Hinkley community and answered Board questions. Ms. Kemper submitted a public comment letter received from Carmela Spasojevich and a staff contact list for areas of concern in the Hinkley valley.

Public Comment

- Ms. Barbara Ray stated that she currently has a whole house replacement water system which will be very expensive to maintain once PG&E no longer covers the cost. She asked that PG&E be required to pay the cost for the system to remove Chromium 6 that belongs to them and she further asked that Section 3(a) being reinserted into Board Order No. R6V-2011-0005A1A3. Kim Niemeyer, Board Legal Counsel, stated that the Board does not have to authority to require PG&E to provide water to residents if the Chromium levels detected in domestic wells is below that of the Maximum Contamination Level established by the California Department of Public Health(CDPH).
- Mr. Daron Banks raised concern with the Water Board staff taking action on an issue regarding PG&E Hinkley without discussing it first with the Technical Working Group. Ms. Kemper stated that staff has an obligation to act on data as it becomes available but that the Water Board will be as transparent as possible. Mr. Banks also asked that Section 3(a) being reinserted into Board Order No. R6V-2011-0005A1A3. Legal Counsel reiterated that the Board does not have to authority to require PG&E to provide water to residents if the Chromium levels detected in domestic wells is below that of the Maximum Contamination Level established by the CDPH.
- Mr. David Cheney raised concern about well fowling and heterotrophic bacteria detected in domestic wells and the risks associated with it. Ms. Kemper stated that she is currently reaching out to Dr. Webster for assistance.
- Mr. Lester White gave an update on his nonprofit's (Hinkley Partership for Health Living) progress on grant funding from CDPH for a feasibility study for a clean water pipeline. Mr. White raised concern about heifer ranch water being used for dust control. Mr. Sullivan stated that the water drawn from the heifer ranch would be tested and if necessary, treated before use. He will know more about the use of the water in three months and will report back to the Board.
- Ian Webster stated that the USGS will compile data on the background study which may be used on a yearly (or more often) basis to make decisions.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments.

Note: The Board Meeting recessed at 9:33 p.m.

Regular Meeting Continued: Thursday, March 13, 2014 - 8:30 a.m.**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. on March 13, 2014, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Water Board and Water Board staff.

REPORTS

7. Reports by Water Board Chair and Board Members

Mr. Pumphrey stated that the [3rd Annual Sierra Summit](#) will be held in Kings Beach June 12-13, 2014.

Ms. Cox commented that the previous evening's meeting was a success and that she appreciated all of the public outreach staff are doing.

Chair Horne reported that the next Chair Meeting will be held in Sacramento on April 11. The focus of this meeting will be Climate Change and Environmental Justice. The next WQCC Meeting will be held in Sacramento on October 2-3. Tom Howard provided an update on the drought and state water projects.

8. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, presented the [March Written Report](#) and gave additional updates on:

- Drought efforts throughout the state;
- Senate Bill 103 and Senate Bill 104;
- Lake Tahoe Marina Association;
- George AFB;
- City of Barstow cleanup efforts; and
- Grazing Regulatory Action Program.

Mr. Pumphrey asked if the \$4 M in funding for emergency drinking supplies is related to the drought. The Executive Officer stated that the funding is not limited to the drought but that criteria is being established.

The Chair asked that while staff participate in Workgroups developing policy that they incorporate the advantage the policy has for the regional Board and the State Board.

Note: The Board took a break from 9:20-9:30 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) – Update on Status and A Discussion of Processes for Review of the SNMPs and to Grant Extensions to Submittal Deadline

Ms. Cindy Wise, Environmental Scientist, presented a Power Point presentation and answered Board member questions.

The Board's recommendations included: granting extensions to the priority groundwater basin groups that have not completed their SNMPs, taking the team approach to the review process, having presentation by each group as their Plan is completed, and the two pronged approach to accepting the Plan, first by a letter from the Executive Officer with a follow up by the Board.

10. **CLOSED SESSION****

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m. on March 13, 2014.

Prepared by: _____ Adopted: _____
Sue Genera, Executive Assistant