February 8, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

Item 1 - Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order on February 8, 2012, at approximately 9:00 am in the Elihu M. Harris Building, First Floor Auditorium, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland.

Board members present: Shalom Eliahu, James McGrath, Rameshwar Singh, Steve Moore, and Vice-Chair Terry Young.

Board members absent: Chair Muller

State Board Liaison Tam Doduc was present and gave the Board a brief overview of activities in Sacramento and announced that the State Board has hired Max Gromberg to work on climate change issues for the State. Ms. Doduc also discussed the Underground Storage Tank Closure Policy and the Bay-Delta Plan.

Item 2 - Public Forum

No one requested to speak.

Item 4 - Chairman’s, Board Members’ and Executive Officer’s Reports

Board Members Moore and Singh initiated a discussion on the importance of salt and nutrient management plans and water recycling. Board Member McGrath discussed the upcoming 12-year review for the Long Term Management Strategy and the need for improved sediment management. Vice-Chair Young reported on activities related to ABAG and the Joint Policy Committee. She also encouraged the Board to look at ABAG’s 2012 work plan and specifically the work plan for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership.

Mr. Wolfe gave an overview of his written report for this month and discussed the permitting process for work associated with the America’s Cup.

Item 5 - Consideration of Uncontested Items

Item 5A - General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharge of Reuse of Extracted and Treated Groundwater Resulting from the Cleanup of Groundwater Polluted by Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), Fuel Leaks, and other Related Wastes – Reissuance of General NPDES Permit
Item 5B - North San Mateo County Sanitation District, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Associated Wastewater Collection System, Daly City, San Mateo County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

Item 5D - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Modification to Ponds A16 and A17 – Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R2-2008-0078

Item 5E - Chevron Products Company, Chevron Richmond Refinery, Richmond, Contra Costa County – Issuance of Site Cleanup Requirements

Mr. Wolfe recommended adoption of items 5A, 5B including supplemental, 5D, and 5E. He noted that someone requested to speak on item 5C and suggested it be heard after Item 7.

Board Member McGrath moved; Board Member Moore seconded the motion to approve the uncontested items recommended by the Executive Officer.

Ayes: Eliahu, McGrath, Moore, Singh, Young


Mr. Wolfe stated that as advisor to the Board for this item he agreed to a request from the Board’s prosecution team and the Discharger to not hold the hearing since they were close to reaching a settlement agreement.

Item 7 - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant and Associated Wastewater Collection System, Martinez, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

Mr. Wolfe introduced Board staff Vince Christian and stated that there was a supplemental for this item that Mr. Christian will cover in his presentation. Mr. Christian gave the staff presentation. Vice-Chair Young stated that the Board will be accepting the late letters noted by Mr. Christian because all parties, including the Board, had seen the letters and had time to review them. A number of questions were directed to staff from Board Members regarding nutrient chemistry, impacts, and treatment methods, which Mr. Christian and Board staff Bill Johnson answered. Board staff Lila Tang described the Board’s approach for developing a nutrient strategy.

Jim Kelly, General Manager of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, provided testimony supporting a joint fact-finding approach and recognized staff for being proactive in addressing nutrients. Jon Rubin representing the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority addressed the Board. He discussed drinking water quality and the Water Contractors’ interpretation of some of the nutrient studies conducted in the Bay. He also noted that he supports the supplemental provided by Board staff. Frances Brewster, Santa Clara Valley Water District and representing public water agencies, discussed ammonia research. Amy Chastain representing the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) discussed the work that BACWA was funding as part of developing a nutrient strategy. Mike Connor representing East Bay Dischargers Authority testified in support of staff’s proposal and noted that there is also a flow management issue that needs to be addressed.
Mr. Wolfe recommended adoption of the Revised Tentative Order as supplemented.

Board Member Eliahu moved; Board Member McGrath seconded the motion to approve Item 7.

Ayes: Eliahu, McGrath, Moore, Singh, Young

Item 5C - Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Associated Wastewater Collection System, Vallejo, Solano County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

Board staff John Madigan gave a presentation. He noted that the Water Contractors had submitted a late comment letter containing no new information and recommended that the Board not accept the letter. Vice-Chair Young agreed to not accept the late letter. Ron Matheson with the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District testified stating that the District agreed with staff’s assessment that its outfalls are too far from Suisun Bay to be impacting water quality. Board Member McGrath commented that the sewage treatment plant appears to be running extremely well and thanked Mr. Matheson. Jon Rubin representing the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority, addressed the Board. He requested that the discussion pertaining to Item 7 be included in the record for this item. Vice-Chair Young agreed to this request. Mr. Rubin requested that the Board impose additional requirements similar to those imposed on Item 7. Amy Chastain representing the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies answered Board questions regarding dischargers’ efforts to study nutrients in the Bay and nutrient treatment technologies. Mr. Wolfe noted in response to a question by Vice-Chair Young that the Board can require studies using Water Code section 13267 authority and that we are currently requiring effluent nutrient sampling and reporting.

Mr. Wolfe recommended adoption of the Revised Tentative Order.

Board Member Singh moved; Board Member Eliahu seconded the motion to approve Item 5C.

Ayes: Eliahu, McGrath, Moore, Singh, Young

Item 12 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.