



# **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**  
**COASTAL HEARING ROOM**

Copies of the resolutions and water quality/water rights orders can be obtained by calling (916) 341-5600 or downloading from our website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/).

The video of the Board Meeting is available to view on our website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/video.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/video.shtml)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joaquin Esquivel called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with both a physical meeting location and remote location.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel; Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo; Member Sean Maguire; Member Laurel Firestone; Member Nichole Morgan

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

### **EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director  
Michael Lauffer, Chief Counsel  
Karen Mogus, Chief Deputy Director  
Erik Ekdahl, Chief Deputy Director  
Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board  
Marji Arjil, Assistant Clerk to the Board  
Elizabeth Carrillo, AGPA

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Instructions were given in regard to participating in the Remote Meeting.
- The Board meeting is being webcasted and recorded.

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

### **BOARD MEETING**

***Public comments on agenda items will be limited to 5 minutes  
or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair***

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

***(Approximately 30 minutes at the beginning of Board Meeting and any remaining speakers at the call of the Chair)***

Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the State Water Resources Control Board's jurisdiction provided the matter is not on the agenda or pending before the State Water Board or any California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

### **No Action Taken**

### **Commenters**

*None*

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. The Board will consider adoption of the January 6, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Board Member Morgan moved to adopt the January 6, 2026 Board Meeting minutes

**Seconded by:** Board Member Firestone

**MOTION CARRIED** (January 21, 2026)

**Aye:** Chair Esquivel  
Vice Chair D'Adamo  
Member Maguire  
Member Firestone  
Member Morgan

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

### **UNCONTESTED ITEM**

2. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to adopt Emergency Regulations to administer the Budget Act of 2025 appropriation of Proposition 4 water recycling funding.

*Staff Presenting: Sunny Kals, Michael Downey, Helen Wuellner*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Proposed Emergency Regulation Text](#)
- Written comments were due by noon on January 9, 2026

**Motion:** Vice Chair D’Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Resolution

**Seconded by:** Board Member Morgan

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0002)

**Aye:** Chair Esquivel  
Vice Chair D’Adamo  
Member Maguire  
Member Firestone  
Member Morgan

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Commenters**

*None*

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

3. Office of the Delta Watermaster: Periodic Report.

*Staff Presenting: Jay Ziegler, Will Anderson*

- [Agenda Item](#)

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*None*

4. Quarterly Delta Stewardship Council Lead Scientist’s Report: Review of current Delta science research, activities, and initiatives.

*Staff Presenting: Jay Ziegler, Will Anderson, Lisamarie Windham-Myers*

- [Agenda Item](#)

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*None*

**DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

5. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to amend the Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines.

*Staff Presenting: Parmdeep “Eric” Uppal, Jasmine Oaxaca, Jean Fung*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- Draft Guidelines ([Clean](#)) | ([Redline](#))
- Written comments were due by noon on December 19, 2025
- [Response to Comments](#)

**Motion:** Board Member Firestone moved to adopt the proposed Resolution

**Seconded by:** Board Member Morgan

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0003)

**Aye:** Chair Esquivel  
Vice Chair D'Adamo  
Member Maguire  
Member Firestone  
Member Morgan

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Commenters**

*None*

**ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE**

6. Consideration and potential adoption of a proposed Order in the matter of the petition for long-term transfer filed by Yuba County Water Agency for Permit 15026 (Application 5632).

*Staff Presenting: Nicole Kuenzi, Sam Boland-Brien*

- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Proposed Order](#)
- [Change Sheet #1](#)
- Final Proposed Order ([Clean](#) | [Redline](#))

**Motion:** Vice Chair D'Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Order with Change Sheet #1, editorial corrections, and the clarification to footnote 8 as read into the record by Nicole Kuenzi

**Seconded by:** Board Member Maguire

**MOTION CARRIED** (Order WR 2026-0001)

**Aye:** Chair Esquivel  
Vice Chair D'Adamo  
Member Maguire  
Member Firestone  
Member Morgan

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Commenters**

*Willie Whittlesey, Yuba Water Agency*

*Ryan Bezerra, BKS Law Firm*

*Eric Buescher, San Francisco Baykeeper*

*Chuck Seidler, General Public*

*Erick Soderlund, Department of Water Resources*

*Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance*

*Keiko Mertz, Friends of the River*

*Megan Murphy, California Municipal Utilities Association*

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

7. Board Member Reports.

For full details on each Board Member report, please review the video at [Board Videos | California State Water Resources Control Board](#). It begins at 4:06:00 on the video for the January 21, 2026 Board Meeting.

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*None*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Sessions are not open to the Public

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE/ DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

The Board may meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the water right change petition filed by the California Department of Water Resources to add two new points of diversion and rediversion to water right permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, and 17512, respectively) for the State Water Project associated with the Delta Conveyance Project. (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

**The Board did not meet in Closed Session on the above item.**

The Board may meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the petition for partial assignment of state-filed Application 25517, accompanying water right Application 25517X01, and petitions for release from priority of state-filed Applications 25513, 25514, 25517 (unassigned portion), 22235, 23780, and 23781 in favor of water right Application 25517X01 filed by the Sites Project Authority. (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

**The Board met in Closed Session on the above item.**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE**

The Board will also meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the Petition for Long-Term Transfer filed by Yuba County Water Agency for Permit 15026 (Application 5632). (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

**The Board did not meet in Closed Session on the above item.**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!**

Unless otherwise specified, submittal of written comments **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on January 15, 2026 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittal of electronic PowerPoint presentations **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on January 15, 2026 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittals are to be sent via e-mail to the Clerk to the Board at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov). Please indicate in the subject line, **01/21/2026 BOARD MEETING – ITEM # (fill in bolded subject from appropriate item).**

If you have questions about the agenda, or if you do not have internet access and need a telephone number to participate in the meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Board at (916) 341-5600 prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to request a copy of public comments submitted on an agenda item, please send a request to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov), identifying the Board meeting date, and agenda item by name and number.

Agenda and items will be available electronically at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/calendar/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/index.shtml)

\*Items on the uncontested items calendar may be removed at the request of any Board Member or person. If an item is removed from the uncontested items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda item. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent board meeting to allow input by interested persons.

Video broadcast of meetings will be available at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.  
An alternate live-stream broadcast will also be available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/>

## **LANGUAGE SERVICES**

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of written documents, interpretation services in another language, or sign language services, please use one of the following options at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit a [Language Services Request](#) online
- Contact the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA) at: 916-341-5254 or at: [LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov)

## **ACCESSIBILITY AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

The State Water Board is committed to making its meetings accessible consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations.

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. In addition, persons requiring reasonable modification or accommodation for disabilities should promptly (preferably at least 7 days before the meeting) email [contact@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:contact@waterboards.ca.gov) to initiate a request for reasonable modification or accommodation.