



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/.

The video of the Board Meeting is available to view on our website at: 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. 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, 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

*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

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 to initiate a request for reasonable modification or accommodation.