



**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 7-8, 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 Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 9:02 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.

# **TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026**

## **BOARD MEETING**

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

### **PRESENTATION OF SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARDS**

- *Erik Ekdahl introduced the SB88 award and passed it over to Juliet Christian-Smith, with the Division of Water Rights, who presented a Superior Accomplishment Award to: Conny Mitterhofer. Conny Mitterhofer then presented the award to the rest of the SB88 team, consisting of: Lindsay Kammeier, Sierra Kennison, Pablo Ortiz, Sean Stout, Abbey Warner, David Rose, Samantha, Olson, and Pedro Aratanha.*

### **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**

*Aaron Brieno, Office of Senator Hurtado*

*Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental*

*Doug Verboon, Kings County Board of Supervisors, Mid Kings GSA*

*Julie Freitas, Doug & Julie Freitas Farms*

*Johnny Gailey, South Fork Kings GSA*

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. The Board will consider adoption of the March 17, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Board Member Morgan moved to adopt the March 17, 2026 Board Meeting minutes

**Seconded by:** Board Member Maguire

**MOTION CARRIED** (April 7, 2026)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

2. Current Hydrologic Conditions and Response.

*Staff Presenting: Juliet Christian-Smith, Karla Nemeth (DWR), Mike Anderson (DWR), Levi Johnson (USBR)*

**No Action Taken**

### **Commenters**

*None*

## **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

3. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to return the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin to the Department of Water Resources consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

*Staff Presenting: Natalie Stork, John Coburn, Hannah Dailey, Brianna St. Pierre, Allison Rabe, Noah Lesko-Kanowitz*

- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Draft Letter to the Department of Water Resources](#)
- [Staff Assessment](#)
- [Staff Assessment Executive Summary](#)
- Written comments were due by noon on April 1, 2026

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

**Seconded by:** Board Member Morgan

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0010)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Commenters**

*Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation*

*Ellen Wehr, Grassland Water District*

*Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District*

4. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to adopt an Exclusion of small pumpers in the Tule Subbasin from the requirement for reporting in basins designated probationary pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

*Staff Presenting: Natalie Stork, Hannah Dailey, Brianna St. Pierre, Aaron Feldhaus, Amanda Pearson, Jason Grimm*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- Written comments were due by noon on March 30, 2026

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

**Seconded by:** Board Member Maguire

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0011)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Commenters**

*Luis Paniagua, General Public*

*Ashley Walker, Nossaman*

*Catherine Van Dyke, Community Alliance with Family Farmers*

5. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to adopt an Exclusion of small pumpers in the Tulare Lake Subbasin from the requirement for reporting in basins designated probationary pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

*Staff Presenting: Natalie Stork, Aaron Feldhaus, Hannah Dailey, Brianna St. Pierre, Amanda Pearson*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- Written comments were due by noon on March 30, 2026

**Motion:** Vice Chair D'Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Resolution with changes read into the record by Amanda Pearson

**Seconded by:** Board Member Morgan

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0012)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

### **Commenters**

*Luis Paniagua, General Public*

*Johnny Gailey, South Fork Kings GSA*

*Doug Verboon, Kings County Board of Supervisors, Mid Kings GSA*

*Garrett Gilcrease, Mid Kings River GSA Grower Advisory Board*

*Dusty Ference, Kings County Farm Bureau*

*Catherine Van Dyke, Community Alliance with Family Farmers*

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

6. Recycled Water Research Program Updates.

*Staff Presenting: Laura McLellan, Cindy Figueroa, Darrin Polhemus, Peter Fiske (National Alliance for Water Innovation), Peter Grevatt (The Water Research Foundation), Jason Dadakis (CalVal), Jesus Gonzalez (CalVal), Mike McCullough (CalVal)*

- [Agenda Item](#)

### **No Action Taken**

### **Commenters**

*Masheika Allgood, AllAI Consulting, LLC*

*Heather Collins, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

*Brenley McKenna, WaterReuse California*  
*Jared Voskuhl, California Association of Sanitation Agencies*  
*Sarah Brower, City of San Diego*  
*Joshua Golka, Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)*

7. Discussion on yearly Board Priorities.

*Staff Presenting: Eric Oppenheimer, Karen Mogus, Erik Ekdahl,  
James Nachbaur, Charlotte Ely*

- [Draft State Water Board 2026 Strategic Work Plan](#)

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*Carmel Brown, California Stormwater Quality Association*  
*Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation*  
*Marty Farrell, California Coastkeeper Alliance*  
*Jared Voskuhl, California Association of Sanitation Agencies*

8. 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 6:26:52 on the video for the April 7, 2026 Board Meeting.

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*None*

9. [Executive Director's Report](#).

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*None*

**The Board recessed at 3:32 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, until 10:00 a.m. on April 8 for Closed Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned on April 8, 2026 at 12:01 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Sessions are not open to the Public.

*Closed Session may be held on Tuesday, April 7, Wednesday, April 8, or both days. No open meeting agenda items will be heard on Wednesday, April 8.*

### **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 met in Closed Session on the above item on April 8.**

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 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 April 2, 2026 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittal of electronic PowerPoint presentations **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on April 2, 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, **04/07/2026 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.