



**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 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 Tuesday, April 21, 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 (arrived at 9:14 a.m.)  
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 21, 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**

- *Joe Karkoski and Adrian Perez, with the Division of Financial Assistance, presented a Superior Accomplishment Award to the Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks (RUST) team, consisting of: McLean Reich, Robert Smith, Grant Kuroko, Keega Odumosu-Barrow, Lai Saephan, and Julie Osborn. He also presented an award to the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) Team, consisting of: Chris Hammond, Isabella Mariano, and Matthew Pavelchik.*

### **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**

*Barry Nelson, Golden State Salmon Association*

*Christie Ralston, San Francisco Baykeeper*

*Peter Drekmeier, Yosemite Rivers Alliance*

*Julie Freitas, General Public*

*Doug Freitas, General Public*

*Martin Gothberg, General Public*

*Nikcole Whipple, Save California Salmon*

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. The Board will consider adoption of the April 7-8, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Board Member Maguire moved to adopt the April 7-8, 2026 Board Meeting minutes

**Seconded by:** Vice Chair D'Adamo

**MOTION CARRIED** (April 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 adopting amendments to the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook.

*Staff Presenting: Darrin Polhemus, Anna Gard, David Rice*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- Written comments were due by noon on April 14, 2026

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

**Seconded by:** Board Member Morgan

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0013)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

### **Commenters**

*Megan Murphy, California Municipal Utilities Association*

*Prasanth S Ramakrishnan, International Accreditation Service Inc.*

## **DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

3. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to adopt the guidelines to administer Proposition 4 funding to address water quality in the rivers that come across the border from Mexico.

*Staff Presenting: Jennifer Toney, Bridget Chase, Helen Wuellner, Joe Karkoski*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- Draft Guidelines ([Clean](#) | [Redline](#))
- Written Comments were due by noon on March 13, 2026
- [Response to Comments](#)
- [Change Sheet #1](#)

**Motion:** Board Member Firestone moved to adopt the proposed Resolution with Change Sheet #1 and new footnote 2 to Guidelines as read into the record and shown on screen by Michael Lauffer

**Seconded by:** Vice Chair D'Adamo

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0014)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

### **Commenters**

*Jonathan Clay, County of San Diego*

## **ITEM 4 WILL NOT BEGIN BEFORE 12:00 P.M.**

## **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

4. Consideration of a proposed Resolution denying requests for exclusion from probationary reporting and fees to eight groundwater sustainability agencies in the Tule Subbasin.

*Staff Presenting: Natalie Stork, Brianna St. Pierre, Ameneh Tavakol, John Hurley, Jonathan Bishop, Amanda Pearson, Jason Grimm, Anona Dutton (Tule Subbasin GSA), Andrew Francis (Tule Subbasin GSA)*

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Staff Report](#)
- Written comments were due by noon on April 20, 2026

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

**Seconded by:** Board Member Firestone

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution No. 2026-0015)

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Commenters**

*Deanna Jackson, Tri-County Water Authority*

*Jennifer Spaletta, Stoel Rives LLP*

*Travis Millwee, Lower Tule River Irrigation District (ID), Pixley ID, Tea Pot Dome Water District (WD), & Vandalia WD Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)*

*Michael Knight, Porterville ID GSA*

*Alex Peltzer, Tea Pot Dome WD GSA & Vandalia WD GSA*

*Mathew Kidder, Barcellos Farms*

*Roger Everett, General Public*

*Mike Faria, Farmer in Lower Tule River ID*

*Louie Tristao, Lower Tule Grower*

*Pam Sola, Farmer Lower Tule*

*Josh Pitigliano, Pitigliano Farms*

*Vincent Sola, Farmer Lower Tule*

*Frank Junio, Pixley ID*

*Jim Morehead, Morehead Farms*

*Todd Turley, Farmland Reserve, Inc.*

*Jason Morehead, Morehead Farms*

*Erick Orellana, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability*

*Seth Merritt, Merritt Farms*

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

5. 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 8:19:22 on the video for the April 21, 2026 Board Meeting.

**No Action Taken**

**Commenters**

*None*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned on April 21, 2026 at 4:45 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 met 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 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 16, 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 16, 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, **04/21/2026 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 an online request: [bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm](http://bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm)
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email [languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov)

Contact us to request information in your language.  
Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.  
Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

## **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.