

---

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Friday, February 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

**Video and Teleconference Meeting Only**

**No Physical Meeting Location**

(Authorized by Government Code section 11133)

Video and teleconference recordings of the meeting are currently available on the following website: <https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

### **Thursday, February 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

Chair Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff called the meeting to order on Thursday, February 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

#### **Board Business**

1. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,  
[Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov)]

**Present:** Chair Wolff, Vice Chair Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

**Absent:** none

2. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu and Chris Moskal, legal counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer; and section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton

#### **Announcements**

- Thea Tryon: Kimberly Chandler promoted to Administrative Unit Supervisor, Staff Services Manager 1
- Arwen Wyatt-Mair: New employee Sarah Crable joined the NPDS program

3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: Vice Chair Gray moved to approve minutes of December 10, 2021

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Wolff, Vice Chair Gray, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: Member Harlan

Motioned Carried: 3 to 0

#### 4. Reports by Regional Board Members

##### **Chair Wolff**

- December 14, 2021, attended San Luis Obispo and Edna Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting with local elected officials, utility division staff, and engineering firms
- January 6, 2022, participated in PGE settlement conference with Vice Chair Gray and the executive officer
- January 18, 2022, attended meeting with San Luis Obispo County District 3 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg and John King (King Ventures) to discuss Avila Valley wastewater consolidation and water resiliency
- January 21, 2022, attended San Luis Obispo and Edna Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting at the Farm Bureau
- January 26, 2022, Cal Poly agriculture policy class visiting lecturer on surface water and groundwater quality regulations
- February 9, 2022, attended San Luis Obispo and Edna Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting
- February 15, 2022, attended board meeting briefing

##### **Vice Chair Gray**

- February 6, 2022, attended monthly Water Board chair's call for Chair Wolff
- February 15, 2022, attended board meeting briefing
- **Statement:** disclosed that she is employed by DUDEK, the consulting firm working on the coastal hazards resource plan referenced in item 7 on the agenda for the San Simeon Community Services District NPDES permit update. However, she is not personally working on that project.

##### **Member Harlan**

- Expressed her gratitude being on the board

##### **Member Hunter**

- February 15, 2022, attended board meeting briefing

#### 5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison [Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877, [Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Note: this report was given Friday morning. Mr. Maguire congratulated Chair Gray and Vice Chair Wolff on their new appointments. He then provided an overview of the State Water Board's 2022 Strategic Plan that was recently released and updates

regarding various statewide efforts including: Covid-19 drinking water and wastewater ratepayer arrearages funding program; hexavalent chrome drinking water standard; drought water supply curtailments; revised construction stormwater and sanitary sewer general permits; and water and wastewater infrastructure funding. Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff and Member Hunter engaged with Mr. Maguire regarding the following issues: wastewater recycling and associated funding; homelessness; SB 1215 septic-to-sewer disadvantaged community focused outreach strategy; consolidation project long-term ratepayer affordability for disadvantaged communities/households, and project application prioritization; indirect and direct potable reuse guidance and project streamlining; and microplastics.

6. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair  
[\[Matthew Keeling\]](#), Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)

Motion: Member Hunter nominated Member Gray to serve as chair for 2022

Second: Member Harlan

Third: Chair Wolff

Aye: Chair Wolff, Vice Chair Gray, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motioned Carried: 4 to 0

Motion: Member Gray nominated Member Wolff to serve as vice chair for 2022

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Member Wolff, Member Gray, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motioned Carried: 4 to 0

### **Uncontested Items**

7. Consideration of Proposed Order No. R3-2022-0003, Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit for San Simeon Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Luis Obispo County  
[Leah Lemoine, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3159,  
[Leah.Lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Leah.Lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item and noted the issuance of a supplemental sheet for this item on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in response to several late comments received between Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and noon Wednesday that were accepted into the record by former Chair Wolff and as affirmed by newly appointed Chair Gray. Chair Gray removed the item from the uncontested items calendar in response to several interested persons wishing to provide oral public comment.

Leah Lemoine gave a presentation summarizing the staff report and the late public comments received after the close of the written public comment period. Two residents from Cambria provided public comments regarding not hearing about the proposed permit until shortly before the board meeting and their concerns about potential impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed optional hauled saline waste provisions included in the permit.

Board members asked for additional information about the Cambria Community Services District's (CSD's) involvement in the review process for the proposed permit, the proposed saline waste disposal study technical advisory group public process, the status of recycled water use in San Simeon, the San Simeon CSD's awareness and approval of the proposed optional saline waste provisions, saline waste discharge volumes and the potential associated impacts and controls, and statewide studies regarding the allowable discharge of saline wastes through ocean outfalls. Ms. Lemoine, Mr. Keeling, staff counsel, Ms. Yu, staff member Peter von Langen, and Charley Grace, the general manager for the San Simeon CSD, provided responses to the board member's questions.

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve Order No. R3-2022-0003

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

#### Speakers

- Charles Grace, Grace Environmental, San Simeon CSD
- Tina Dickason, resident of Cambria
- Elizabeth Bettenhausen, resident of Cambria

### **Public Forum**

#### 8. Public forum

##### Speakers

- Becky Steinbruner, resident of Aptos: commented on the Pure Water Soquel project and the integrity of the City of Santa Cruz's wastewater ocean outfall.

### **Waste Discharge Requirements**

#### 9. Consideration of Proposed Order No. R3-2022-0004, Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit No. CA0048127, and Draft Time Schedule Order No. R3-2022-0005 for City of Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant, Santa Barbara County

[Peter von Langen, Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3688,  
[Peter.vonLangen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.vonLangen@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Peter von Langen gave a presentation summarizing the proposed permit and proposing two minor clarification changes to the proposed permit. Board members asked questions regarding how the proposed time schedule order would affect disadvantaged communities. Mr. von Langen responded that the time schedule order will shield the city from mandatory minimum penalties while the city develops plans to meet new limits and seek grant funding for upgrades. Board members asked if financial implications were part of what is looked at during the permit renewal. Mr. von Langen responded these are looked at by the State Water Board when developing standards. Board members asked whether the city was pursuing funding opportunities. The City of Lompoc utilities director Charles Berry responded the city spent \$100 million on previous upgrades and that it was currently unknown what the scope of the work and associated cost would be to comply with the time schedule order.

Speakers

- Charles Berry, City of Lompoc utilities director

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to approve Order No. R3-2022-0004 with the two proposed changes

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

**Discussion/Informational Items**

10. Overview of Wastewater Consolidation Program established by Senate Bill 1215 [Leah Lemoine, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3159, [Leah.Lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Leah.Lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov) and Kathy Truong, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3293, [Kathy.Truong@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kathy.Truong@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Central Coast Water Board staff Kathy Truong and Leah Lemoine, and Senior Water Resource Control Engineer James Garcia, from the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), gave a three-part presentation summarizing the staff report and providing a statewide programmatic funding overview. Ms. Truong provided information on the background of the Wastewater Consolidation Program, including the details of Senate Bill 1215. Ms. Lemoine provided an overview of the program implementation status in the Central Coast Region. Mr. Garcia provided information on wastewater consolidation related grant funding program opportunities.

Board members engaged in discussion with staff regarding the following: risk assessment methodology of the project plan; prioritization of funding for small non-disadvantaged communities; availability of grant program funding for project related

legal and planning costs; individual resident affordability of sewer fees, per-connection funding limits and potential funding wastewater facility expansion to handle additional flows; DFA review and prioritization of project proposals; the map (Figure 1) attached to the staff report; and opportunity to consolidate large number of homes and septic systems in the Santa Cruz mountains destroyed or damaged by the CZU lightning fire.

Becky Steinbruner from Aptos commented on the opportunity to prioritize program funding for the CZU fire area, to address failing septic systems in the San Lorenzo Valley, and to help address high sewer rates in Davenport and other county service areas.

Speakers

- Becky Steinbruner, Aptos resident

**Friday, February 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

Chair Jane Gray, called the meeting to order on Friday, February 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

11. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,  
[Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov)]

**Present:** Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

**Absent:** none

12. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu and Chris Moskal, legal counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer; and section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire

**Announcements**

- Phillip Hammer: Ali Coblentz, environmental scientist, transferred from the stormwater program to the wildfire vegetation management position, and new student, Brianna Muirhead, for the stormwater program.

13. Public forum

Speakers

- Becky Steinbruner, Aptos resident: commented on the Pure Water Soquel project and the redevelopment of a TCE contaminated property in the Live Oak area of Santa Cruz County.

**Watershed Management and Planning Items**

14. Consideration of a Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin to Adopt Total Maximum Daily Loads for Turbidity in the Gabilan Creek Watershed, Monterey County, California

[Peter Meertens, 805/549-3869, [Peter.Meertens@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.Meertens@waterboards.ca.gov) and Mary Hamilton, 805/542-4768, [Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Environmental Scientist, Peter Meertens, gave a presentation summarizing the proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Project Basin Plan amendment. Board members engaged in discussion with Mr. Meertens during his presentation

regarding the following: seasonal periods for the numeric targets; watershed modeling results; impacts of climate change on turbidity; implementation using Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and the Storm Water Grant Program; extent of public outreach; and some of the written public comments. Public comment was provided by two speakers as noted below following the staff presentation and board engagement.

Sarah Lopez, Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., noted the agricultural order cooperative monitoring program provided much of the monitoring data for the TMDL Project and that she analyzed the program's monitoring data up to 2020 and found declining turbidity trends at many sites but continued exceedances. She acknowledged the large amount of data analysis and technical detail included in the TMDL Project, and she supports the use of statistical power analyses to inform monitoring recommendations. Ms. Lopez noted the numeric TMDL Project interim milestones and final load allocations will need to be incorporated into the agricultural order.

Kay Mercer, Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, commented that the TMDL Project did not consider a study indicating potential turbidity exceedances associated with algae growth in nutrient rich waters, and that it should be limited to existing listings due to the absence of a tributary rule. Ms. Mercer expressed concerns regarding a lack of effective management practices to attain the TMDL allocations and requested the Central Coast Water Board host a public workshop on proposed methodologies to discuss how they will be applied regionally and to extend the TMDL Project timelines to allow time for management practice innovation.

#### Speakers

- Sarah Lopez, Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.
- Kay Mercer, Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group.

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to approve Resolution No. R3-2022-0002

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

15. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin to Improve and Clarify Waste Discharge Prohibition Language [Mary Hamilton, 805/542-4768, [Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov) and Thea Tryon, 805/542-4776, [Thea.Tryon@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Thea.Tryon@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mary Hamilton gave a presentation summarizing the proposed Basin Plan amendments and supporting justification to effectively regulate unauthorized discharges and protect water quality. Board members engaged in discussion with



Ms. Hamilton regarding the following: the need for discharge specificity (e.g., sewage discharges); the State Water Board, Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and USEPA approval process and timeline; regulatory timeline; and tribal outreach and how our efforts can be enhanced to increase engagement.

Becky Steinbruner from Aptos commented about public visibility on permitted and unpermitted discharges and asked for information on the process to report discharges of concern. Staff replied that members of the public should use the California EPA complaint system link at the bottom of the Central Coast Water Board's home page to report water quality issues. Vice Chair Wolff mentioned that counties also have toll free complaint hotlines.

Speakers

- Becky Steinbruner, Aptos resident

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve Resolution No. R3-2022-0001

Second: Member Harlan

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

**Administrative Items**

16. Executive Officer's Report

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling provided an overview of the Tajiguas Landfill post Alisal Fire response actions included in the report. Board member Hunter inquired about the nature of the Tajiguas Landfill annual non-compliance report as it relates the fire impacts versus other violations. Vice Chair Wolff commented on the incidental and damage caused by the fire fighting activities. Mr. Keeling then provided an update on staff's implementation of the racial equity initiative and responded to member Hunter's questions about the relationship between the internal and external engagement strategies, and the State Water Board's racial equity initiative effort. Chair Gray commented on the need to ensure adequate external engagement with the hard-to-reach stakeholders and the opportunity to leverage the Integrated Water Resources Management disadvantaged communities needs assessment work. Mr. Keeling then asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the standard performance tables included in the report. There were none.

Speakers

- None

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

---

Jane Gray, Chair

R:\RB3\Shared\Board Meetings\Current Agenda\2022\04\_APR\_21\Minutes\Min  
20220221 Apr.Docx