

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Weds., December 4, 2024 &
9:00 A.M., Thurs., December 5, 2024
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](https://cal-span.org/) (https://cal-span.org/)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board Member Sundberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Greg Giusti, Alex Hart, Ryan
Sundberg, Jake Mackenzie; Hector
Bedolla (present only for Item 3)

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen,
Deidre Wilkerson, Claudia Villacorta,
Chris Watt, David Kuszmar, Brenna
Sullivan, Kason Grady, Michelle Fuller,
Shannon Strong, Matt St. John, Josh
Curtis

Via Zoom: Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Mona
Dougherty

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 3-4, 2024

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt October 3-4, 2024 Board meeting minutes; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Vice Chair Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla absent
- Giusti aye
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item

2. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0056 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Vineyards in the North Coast Region and Proposed Resolution No. R1-2024-0057, Certification of Environmental Impact Report for Proposed Order and Statement of Overriding Consideration (Brenna Sullivan, Chris Watt, David Kuszmar)

Vice Chair Giusti introduced the item and read the hearing procedures. David Kuszmar, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, started the staff presentation by introducing the Vineyard Order Team, which includes Mr. Kuszmar, Brenna Sullivan, Engineering Geologist, and Chris Watt, Senior Engineering Geologist (Specialist). The presentation included background information, written comments and public engagement, Proposed Order and important revisions, Environmental Impact Report, and staff's recommendation.

After the presentation, the Vineyard Order Team answered clarifying questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
- Noelle Cremers, Wine Institute
- Kimberly Burr, Green Valley Creek Restoration
- Andrew Smith, Sonoma County Ag Department
- Adam Gaska, Mendocino County Farm Bureau
- Dayna Ghiradelli, Sonoma County Farm Bureau
- Michael Martini, Taft Street Winery
- Cecilia Rodriguez, North Bay Jobs with Justice
- Anabel Garcia, North Bay Jobs with Justice
- Aura Aguilar, North Bay Jobs with Justice
- Gail Yamamoto Seymour, TAC
- Rue Furch, TAC

- Joe Dillon, National Marine Fisheries Service
- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper
- Jaime Neary, Russian Riverkeeper
- Mel Sanchiatti, Farmer
- Angela Godwin, County of Mendocino Department Agriculture/Weights and Measures
- Kari Fisher, CA Farm Bureau Federation
- Michael Miiller, CA Association of Wine Growers
- David Koball, Grower/Viticulturist
- Susan Ryan, Russian Riverkeeper

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Following Public Comment, the Vineyard Order Team responded to comments and additional questions from the Board. Board Members shared their feedback and made the decision to not take action on the Proposed Order at this meeting. Board Members agreed that they would like to see a plain-language summary of requirements and a timeline of how Order implementation will roll out.

Information Item

3. Informational Workshop Presenting Draft Racial Equity Action Plan and call for Public Comments (Michelle Fuller)

The workshop opened with a presentation on the Draft Racial Equity Action Plan from Michelle Fuller, Environmental Scientist, and Shannon Strong, Environmental Scientist. After the presentation, Ms. Fuller and Ms. Strong, along with Kason Grady, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, answered questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Gail Yamamoto Seymour, NAACP Santa Rosa – Sonoma County Branch

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

After comments and questions from staff and Board Members, the workshop concluded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 5, 2024

- i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present: Greg Giusti, Alex Hart, Ryan Sundberg, Jake Mackenzie, Hector Bedolla

Regional Water Board staff present: Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen, Deidre Wilkerson, Claudia Villacorta, Josh Curtis, Matt Herman, Kason Grady, Jeremiah Puget

iii. **Board Member Reports:** Board Members did not share any reports at this time.

iv. **State Board Liaison’s and Executive Officer’s Reports:** State Board Liaison and Vice Chair Dorene D’Adamo gave a comprehensive report that included updates from a community meeting in Mendocino, the Klamath Dam removal project and water quality, targeted efforts in the Scott and Shasta watershed, the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and lastly, an update on workshops, hearings, and timelines for a number of ongoing and upcoming items.

Vice Chair D’Adamo responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto reported on recent staffing changes in the Regional Board office, and she also highlighted the new NPDES Wastewater newsletter for permittees.

v. **Board Chair’s Report:** Chair Bedolla shared his experience with the recent storms and the impacts of climate change. One of those impacts being higher utility rates, and how it affects families. Chair Bedolla emphasized the importance of fighting food insecurity.

vi. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span’s Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Uncontested Item

4. Public Hearing on proposed Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0052 to consider the amendment of Order No. R1-2020-0012, Waste Discharge Requirements for the

City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa Water Reuse System, Laguna Treatment Plant, WDID No. 1B83099OSON, NPDES No. CA0022764 (Matt Herman)

Motion: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0052; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items

5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0055 Rescinding Waste Discharge Requirements and Associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs For Willits Environmental Remediation Trust Former Abex Corporation - Remco Hydraulics Facility Order No. R1-2009-0001 (Cody Walker)

This item was scheduled as an Action Item but determined to be Uncontested. Vice Chair Giusti acknowledged this milestone achievement and thanked staff for their work.

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Order No. R1-2024-0055; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

6. Public Hearing on proposed Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0030 to consider the amendment of Order No. R1-2021-0002, Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Recycling Permit for the Russian River County Sanitation District and Sonoma Water, Russian River Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B82045OSON, NPDES No. CA0024058 (Matt Herman)

Matt Herman, Water Resource Control Engineer with the NPDES Unit, presented to the Board. The presentation included background information on the Russian River Wastewater Treatment Plant, enforcement action, amendment order, public comments, and recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Herman responded to questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Motion: Board Member Sundberg moved to adopt Order No. R1-2024-0030; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Hart aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

7. Informational Item to Present Staff's Cannabis Enforcement Strategy (Kason Grady)

Kason Grady, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer of the Agriculture and Enforcement Division, presented to the Board. The presentation included background information the Cannabis Program-specific enforcement strategy, challenges, proposed process changes, and progress assessment.

Mr. Grady and Yvonne West, Director of the Office of Enforcement of the State Water Board, responded to questions and comments from the Board.

8. **Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted the written Executive Officer's Report, focusing on Gualala River Sediment TMDL and the Russian River Pathogen TMDL.
9. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Others Items of Interest:** Board Members did not make any new requests.
10. **Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in Closed Session.
11. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 5, 2025,
9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 6, 2025, and
9:00 a.m., Friday, February 7, 2025
Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.