

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

**Minutes of Meeting**

9:00 A.M., Weds., February 18, 2026  
9:00 A.M., Thurs., February 19, 2026  
Elk Valley Rancheria, Sam Lopez  
Community Room  
2332 Howland Hill Road,  
Crescent City, CA 95531

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

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

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Hector Bedolla, Gregory Giusti, Jake Mackenzie, Dale Romanini, Alex Hart (via Zoom)

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen Bayley Toft- Dupuy, Claudia Villacorta, Emma Cianfichi, Deidre Wilkerson, Lisa Bernard, Jonathan Warmerdam, Kason Grady, Charles Reed, Jake Shannon, Joel Bisson, David Kuszmar, Brenna Sullivan, Ben Zabinsky, Chris Watt

Via Zoom: Devon Rabellino, Kelsey Cody, Mona Dougherty, Tina Low, Rachel Prat, Matt Graves

iii. **Board Member Reports:** Board member Mackenzie thanked staff for providing him information about PFAS-related work in the North Coast Region and asked that it be made available to other board members and the general public.

iv. **Board Chair's Report:** Chair Bedolla acknowledged the recent passing of former Board Member John Corbett, shared his life accomplishments and expressed appreciation for his service.

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

- Theodora Johnson
- Donna Westfall

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

#### 1. Election of Board Officers

**Motion:** Board Member Giusti moved to nominate Board member Hart to serve as Board Chair. Board Member Mackenzie seconded the motion. Board Members initiated a roll-call vote:

- Mackenzie aye
- Guisti aye
- Romanini aye
- Hart aye
- Bedolla aye

#### **Motion passed unanimously**

**Motion:** Board Member Giusti moved to nominate Board Member Mackenzie to serve as Vice Chair for one full term. Board Member Hart seconded the motion. Board Members initiated a roll-call vote:

- Mackenzie aye
- Guisti aye
- Romanini aye
- Hart aye

- Bedolla aye

**Motion passed unanimously**

Vice Chair Mackenzie led the rest of the meeting, due to Chair Hart’s remote participation.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 8, 2025 and October 9-10, 2025

**Motion:** Board Member Bedolla moved to adopt the October 8, 2025 and October 9-10, 2025 Board Meeting minutes; Board Member Guisti seconded the motion; Vice Chair Mackenzie initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Guisti aye
- Romanini abstained
- Mackenzie aye
- Hart aye

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Uncontested Items**

3. Order No. R1-2025-0021 Rescinding Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-122 and associated Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-122 for the Heritage House Resort (*Rachel Prat*)
4. Order No. R1-2026-0003 Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order R1-2019-0007 for Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility (*Tina Low*)
5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2026-0002 to consider for Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for AVUSD and Best Cleaners (*Heidi Bauer*)
9. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2026-0001 to consider for Renewal of Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Wine, Beverage, and Food Processor Waste to Land in the North Coast Region (*Rachel Prat*)

**Motion:** Board Member Bedolla moved to adopt all uncontested items. Board Chair Hart seconded the motion; Vice Chair Mackenzie initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Guisti aye

- Romanini aye
- Mackenzie aye
- Hart aye

**Motion passed unanimously**

After the vote, comments were received from the following members of the public for item 9:

- Noelle Cremers, Wine Institute

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

**Action Item**

6. Public Hearing to consider adoption of Resolution No. R1-2025-0055 amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) to incorporate the Action Plan for the Gualala River Sediment TMDL (*Joel Bisson, Lisa Bernard*)

Joel Bisson, Environmental Scientist and Lisa Bernard, Senior Environmental Scientist, presented to the board. The presentation included an overview of the recent timeline, watershed setting, action plan components, TMDL and Load allocations, program implementation, and key takeaways. The presentation ended with staff recommendations to adopt resolution R1-2026-0011, including the Errata Sheet, adopting the CEQA substitute environmental documentation for this project, amending the Basin Plan to add Action Plan and forwarding the Basin Plan amendment to the State Water Board to consider approval.

Staff responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Michael Lozeau, Lozeau Drury LLP on behalf of Friends of the Gualala River
- Alan Levine, Coast Action Group
- Craig Bell, Fisherman.
- Elicia Goldsworthy, Green Diamond Resource Co.
- Charity Epperson
- George Gentry, California Forestry Association
- Jesse Weaver, Gualala Redwood Timber
- Mike Miles, Mendocino/ Humboldt Redwood Companies

- Mike Lommori, Sierra Pacific Industries
- Chris Poehlmann, Friends of the Gualala River
- Jeannie Fulton, Humboldt County Farm Bureau
- Matt Greene, Matt Greene Forestry & Biological Consulting

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

Staff responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Nathan Jacosen presented New Finding 16

New finding 16:

The Action Plan does not include the specific requirements, conditions, or scope of the yet-to-be-developed order(s) referenced in finding 15. Instead, it acknowledges that the development of such order(s) is part of the general program of implementation and will be considered by the Board following the appropriate authorities and processes, which will include an extensive public process and necessary environmental analysis, economic considerations, and other factors relevant to achieving water quality goals in the Gualala watershed.

**Motion:** Board Member Bedolla moved to adopt resolution R1-2026-0011. Board member Romanini seconded the motion; Vice Chair Mackenzie initiated a roll-call vote:

- |             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| • Bedolla   | aye |
| • Guisti    | aye |
| • Romanini  | aye |
| • Mackenzie | aye |
| • Hart      | nay |

**Motion passed**

## Information Item

7. North Coast Water Board Restoration Program Update, Accomplishments, and Outlook (*Jake Shannon*)

Jake Shannon, Restoration Specialist, presented to the Board Item 7: Restoration Program Updates, Accomplishments and Outlook. The presentation included a background on the restoration program, supporters of restoration work in the North Coast, restoration project profiles, water quality improvement projects, and upcoming plans for the restoration program.

Board members thanked Jake Shannon for his presentation

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Alan Levine, Coast Action Group

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

### **4:00 p.m. Workshop**

8. Public Workshop on DRAFT General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Lily Bulb Operations in the Smith River Plain and DRAFT Environmental Impact Report (*David Kuszmar, Chris Watt, Brenna Sullivan, Ben Zabinsky*)

David Kuzmar, Brenna Sullivan, and Chris Watt presented to the board. The Board presentation included an introduction to the board item, review of the Draft Lily Bulb Order, and review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Staff responded to questions from the board

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Rachel McCain, Tolowa Dee ni' Nation
- Monica Hiner, Tolowa Dee ni' Nation
- Alicia Williams
- Linda Sutter
- Carl Page
- Craig Strong, Friends of Del Norte
- Donna Westfall, Crescent City Times
- Wendy Ring

- Josefina Barrantes, Environmental Protection Information Center
- Regina Chichizola, Save California Salmon
- Greg King, Siskiyou Land Conservancy
- Katie Rian, CDFW
- Jennifer Jacobs

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

After Board discussion, staff added 15 days to the comment period making the deadline March 30<sup>th</sup>. This extension is not anticipated to delay the adoption hearing from its planned date in August.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.**

**Thursday, February 19, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.**

**i. Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Hector Bedolla, Alex Hart (via Zoom), Gregory Giusti, Jake Mackenzie, Dale Romanini

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Claudia Villacorta Nathan Jacobsen, Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Emma Cianfichi, Deidre Wilkerson, Justin McSmith, Charles Reed, Mona Dougherty

**ii. State Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:**

State Board Liaison and Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo provided a comprehensive report that included updates on the Water Quality Certification Program for the Potter Valley Project, the Sacramento/ San Joaquin Bay- Delta Plan, and the Water Recycling Funding Program. She noted that the State Board recently approved two exceptions to the North Coast Instream Flow Policy, the Yellowjacket Creek water right change related to a Safe Harbor Agreement, and diversions to a reservoir tributary to the Petaluma River. Both exceptions include restoration components. Vice Chair D'Adamo also provided updated reviews of the Irrigated Lands Program and the Agricultural Expert Panel. Additional updates included the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the

Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program, Delta Conveyance, and conditions in the Scott and Shasta Rivers. She reported that the Scott and Shasta Emergency Flow Regulations will remain in place until 2031 or until permanent regulations are adopted, with annual updates and opportunities for public comment continuing in the meantime.

Vice Chair D'Adamo responded to questions from the Board.

## **Action Items**

10. Public Hearing for Resolution No. R1-2026-0005 for Project Criteria for an Exception to the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy Prohibiting Waste Discharges to Humboldt Bay (*Justin McSmith*)

Justin McSmith presented to the Board. The presentation included a description of the facility and location, the history of discharge and receiving water determination, resolution criteria, public comments, resulting changes and a recommendation.

Staff responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Representatives from City of Eureka, including Kelly Allen, Director of Public Works; Jesse Willor, City Engineer; and Katie Marsolan, Project Manager, gave their presentation to the Board. The presentation included staff recognition, the health of Humboldt Bay, background, purpose, framework and outcomes.

Permittees responded to questions and comments from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Sylvia Van Royen, Humboldt Waterkeeper
- Rachel Hernandez, City of Arcata
- Terrence Williams, Humboldt Community Services District

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 Bedolla moved to adopt Resolution No. R1-2026-0005. Board member Romanini seconded the motion; Vice Chair Mackenzie initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Guisti aye
- Romanini aye
- Mackenzie aye
- Hart aye

**Motion passed unanimously**

## **Information Items**

### **11. Executive Officers Report:**

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted some aspects of the written report provided, including Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms and the Native American Culture Beneficial Uses update.

Valerie Quinto responded to questions and comments.

### **12. Board member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest:**

Vice Chair Mackenzie requested an informational item on PFAS-related work in the North Coast Region.

### **13. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 15, 2026, and  
9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 16, 2026  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Ste A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.**