State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

**Minutes of Meeting** 

2:00 P.M., Weds., August 14, 2024 9:00 A.M., Thurs., August 15, 2024, & 9:00 A.M., Fri., August 16, 2024 Eureka City Hall City Council Chambers 530 K Street, Room 208 Eureka, CA 95501

## Wednesday, August 14, 2024

1. Tour of Arcata Marsh

Board Members (Hector Bedolla, Jake Mackenzie, and Ryan Sundberg), Regional Board Staff, and one member of the public met at the Arcata Marsh Interpretative Center for a docent-led tour.

## Thursday, August 15, 2024

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at: <u>Prior Board Meeting Video recordings</u> (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/)

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

#### ii. Roll Call and Introductions:

Board Members present:	Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Alex Hart, Ryan Sundberg, Jake Mackenzie
Regional Water Board staff present:	Valerie Quinto, Josh Curtis, Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Nathan Jacobsen, Deidre Wilkerson, Claudia Villacorta, Jonathan

Warmerdam, Forest Fortescue, Carley Dunleavy, Devon Rabellino, Chris Watt, Katharine Carter, Charles Reed (via zoom), Matt Herman (via Zoom).

#### iii. Board Member Reports: None

- iv. **Board Chair's Report:** Chair Bedolla thanked participants for attending the meeting and shared a portion of the General Statement from the meeting agenda.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2024

**Motion**: Board Member Hart moved to adopt June 13 & 14, 2024 Board meeting minutes; Board Member Mackenzie seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

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

#### Motion passed unanimously

### Uncontested Items

3. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0016 to consider for adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Permit for the City of Ukiah, Wastewater Treatment Plant, WDID No. 1B84029OMEN, NPDES No. CA0022888 (Matt Herman)

**Motion**: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0016, Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Permit for the City of Ukiah, Wastewater Treatment Plant, WDID No. 1B84029OMEN, NPDES No. CA0022888; Board Member Mackenzie seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

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

#### Motion passed unanimously

## **Action Items**

4. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0012 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Federal Lands in the North Coast Region and Proposed Resolution No. R1-2024-0032, Certification of Environmental Impact Report for Proposed Order (Carley Dunleavy, Devon Rabellino, Forest Fortescue, Jonathan Warmerdam)

Carley Dunleavy, Engineering Geologist for the Northern Nonpoint Source & Forestry Unit at the Regional Water Board, and Jonathan Warmerdam, Supervising Environmental Program Manager for the Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division at the Regional Water Board, presented to the Board. The presentation included permitting background information, an overview of the proposed permit, public engagement, and staff recommendations.

After the staff presentation, comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Bill Wall, US Forest Service
- Tom Wheeler, Environmental Protection Information Center
- Vivian Helliwell, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations and Institute for Fisheries Resources
- Elicia Goldsworthy, Calforests
- Kimberly Baker, Klamath Forest Alliance
- Sam Flanagan, Bureau of Land Management
- Genivieve Rasmussen, California Bureau of Land Management
- Rick Hopson, USDA Forest Service
- Kirk Wilbur, California Cattlemen's Association
- Jazzmynn Randall, Mendocino County Farm Bureau
- Matt Dias, Calforests
- Kari Fisher, CA Farm Bureau

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

Following public comment, Board members shared comments and questions. Regional Board staff members Devon Rabellino, Engineering Geologist, and Forest Fortescue, Senior Engineering Geologist, both of the Northern Nonpoint Source & Forestry Unit, joined presenting staff to respond to Board member questions and comments. Board members thanked the Federal Lands Permit team for their work.

**Motion**: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Proposed Resolution No. R1-2024-0032, Certification of Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Order; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

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

#### Motion passed unanimously

**Motion**: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0012, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Federal Lands in the North Coast Region, including the change sheet presented at the meeting; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

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

### Motion passed unanimously

#### Meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

## Friday, August 16, 2024

i. **Pledge of Allegiance**: Vice Chair Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ii. Roll Call and Introductions:

Board Members present:	Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Ryan Sundberg, Alex Hart, Jake Mackenzie
Regional Water Board staff present:	Valerie Quinto, Josh Curtis, Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Nathan Jacobsen, Deidre Wilkerson, Claudia Villacorta, Jonathan Warmerdam, Jim Burke, Lance Le, Chris Watt, Katharine Carter, David Kuszmar

iii. **State Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports**: These items are for Board discussion only. No public testimony will be allowed, and the Board will take no formal action.

State Board Liaison and Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive report that included information about the Safe and Affordable Fund for Equity and Resilience, Safer Drinking Water Program, emergency regulations in the Scott and Shasta watersheds, a Russian River pilot project, and probationary hearing status updates for the Kern and Tule Subbasins.

Board members asked follow up questions and thanked Vice Chair D'Adamo for her report.

- iv. Public Forum: Comments were received from the following members of the public:
  - Greg King, Siskiyou Land Conservancy
  - Lynne Owens, Glendale Concerned Citizens
  - Claire McAdams, Glendale Concerned Citizens
  - Cindy Trobitz-Thomas, Glendale Concerned Citizens
  - Vivian Helliwell, PCFFA & IFR
  - Ken Miller, Siskiyou Land Conservancy
  - Josefina Barrantes, EPIC

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

### Information Items

 Update on implementation of Order No. R1-2019-0021, Waste Discharge Requirements for Humboldt Redwood Company in the Elk River Watershed, including harvest activity limits in high-risk areas and riparian zone protections (Jim Burke)

Board Member Hart recused herself due to appraisal work done for Humboldt Redwood Company within the past year.

Jim Burke, Senior Engineering Geologist with the Southern Timber Unit at the Regional Water Quality Control Board, presented to the Board. The presentation included an overview of the Regional Water Board's actions to address Elk River sediment impairment, discussion of requirements limiting harvest in high-risk areas and riparian zones, watershed conditions, and status of implementation and oversight.

After the presentation, Regional Board staff responded to clarifying questions from the Board before receiving comments from Humboldt Redwood Company and members of the public. Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Mike Miles, Humboldt Redwood Company
- Vivian Helliwell, PCFFA & IFR
- Kristi Wrigley, Elk River Resident
- Monte Lowe, Neighborhood
- Jesse Noell, Self
- Jerry Martien, Friends of Elk River
- Maria Morrow, Elk River Resident
- Sylvia De Rooy, Elk River Resident
- Weston Frazier, The Fraziers
- PatriciaAnne WinterSun, self

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

Board members shared additional comments and questions, which Regional Board staff responded to. Executive Officer Valerie Quinto summarized Board comments and actions requested of staff:

- Do not pursue reopening the waste discharge requirements at this time.
- Continue to examine the effectiveness of this order and Regional Board activities.
- Continue to help residents explore funding and make connections, including talking with other agencies about potential actions and looking to legislators where their involvement is needed.
- Continue to monitor high-risk harvest areas as this issue evolves and report back as needed.
- Think outside the box to look for solutions that the Regional Board might not be pursuing yet.
- 9. **Executive Officer's Report**: Vice Chair Giusti shared his appreciation for the update on commercial lily bulb farming in Del Norte County and the Enforcement Report. Both of these items can be found in the Executive Officer's written report.
- 10. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest: Board members did not make any new requests.
- 11. **Closed Session**: The Board did not meet in closed session.

#### 12. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 3, 2024, and 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 4, 2024 Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403

# Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.