

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 a.m., Thursday, August 6, 2026
Elk Valley Rancheria, Sam Lopez
Community Room
2332 Howland Hill Road.,
Crescent City, CA 95531

Thursday, August 6, 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 Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Alex Hart, Jake Mackenzie, Hector
Bedolla, Dale Romanini, Molli Myers,
Gregory Giusti (present for items 5
and 6 only)

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen
Bayley Toft-Dupuy, Claudia
Villacorta, Josh Curtis, Emma
Cianfichi, Kason Grady, Jeremiah
Puget, Brian Fuller, David Kuszmar,
Brenna Sullivan and Chris Watt

iii. **Board Member Reports:** No Board Member Report was made.

iv. **State Board Liaisons Report and Executive Officer Reports:** The Board received an update from the new State Board Liaison, Chair Joaquin Esquivel, who joined the meeting via Zoom and highlighted several key items. Esquivel reported that the Tribal Beneficial Uses guidance document is currently in draft form, noting that Region 1 was the first to develop definitions and expressing appreciation for Region 1 staff participation in a recent State Board workshop on the topic. He also discussed the State Board's review of all statewide permits and policies, emphasizing efforts to prioritize and move toward a three-year triennial review cycle, with a draft workplan currently out for public comment and a hearing scheduled for August 18. In addition, he provided an update on Scott and Shasta curtailments, explaining that junior water right holders are presently being curtailed and that coordination is ongoing with the watermaster.

v. **Board Chairs Report** No Chair's report was made.

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

- Nikcole Whipple – Communities United for Water Protection
- Kathy Bennett O'Connor - Forks of Salmon Shasta/Konomuhi
- Tina Bennett - Forks of Salmon Shasta/Konomuhi
- Regina Chichizola- Communities United for Water Protection
- Jeanine Pfeiffer

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

Action Items

1. Consideration of Resolution No. R1-2026-0040 Delegation of Powers and Duties to the Executive Officer (Bayley Toft-Dupuy)

Motion: Vice Chair Mackenzie moved to adopt Resolution No. R1-2026-0040 Delegation of Powers and Duties to the Executive Officer; Board Member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chair Hart initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla	aye
Giusti	(absent)
Romanini	aye
Myers	Hãã (aye)
Mackenzie	aye
Hart	aye

Motion passed unanimously

2. Consideration of Resolution No. R1-2026-0033 authorizing referral to the Office of the Attorney General for judicial civil enforcement of alleged violations of Cleanup and Abatement and Investigative Order No. R1-2024-0026 by Vern McGaughey and the Vern C. McGaughey Trust. (Brian Fuller)

Joshua Curtis, Kason Grady, Jeremiah Puget, Brian Fuller and Paul Ciccarelli presented to the board. Their presentation included, but was not limited to, an opening statement, a case overview including a site location and party subject to referral, property conditions, other agency actions, chronology of compliance assistance, public comments and a summary with recommendation.

Ken Bareilles and Ray Christie presented on behalf of Vern McGaughey highlighting historical context on the property.

Staff responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Michael Van Hattem- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ray Christie
- Jennifer Kalt- Humboldt Water Keeper
- Regina Chichizola- Communities United for Water Protection
- Mario Kalson- Humboldt County DHHS, Public Health Branch, Division of Environmental Health
- Debbie Rumberger

Motion: Vice Chair Mackenzie moved to adopt the of Resolution No. R1-2026-0033 authorizing referral to the Office of the Attorney General for judicial civil enforcement of alleged violations of Cleanup and Abatement and Investigative Order No. R1-2024-0026 by Vern McGaughey and the Vern C. McGaughey Trust; Board Member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chair Hart initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla	aye
Giusti	(absent)
Romanini	aye
Myers	Hãã (aye)
Mackenzie	(absent)
Hart	aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

3. Executive Officer's Report (*Valerie Quinto*)
4. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest (*Valerie Quinto*)

Board Member Bedolla requested an update on CDFW Hatcheries and an updated report on the sediment coming out of Lake Mendicino/ Lake Pillsbury.

Chair Hart requested an updated report on the vineyard order implementation.

4:00 p.m. Action Item

5. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Proposed Order No. R1-2026-0035, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Lily Bulb Operations in the Smith River Plain and Proposed Resolution No. R1-2026-0036, Certification of Environmental Impact Report, California Environmental Quality Act Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations (Brenna Sullivan, Chris Watt, Ben Zabinsky, David Kuszmar)

David Kuszmar, Brenna Sullivan and Chris Watt presented to the board. Their presentation included an introduction/ background, summary of comments and revisions to the Draft Lily Bulb Order, review proposed Lily Blub Order, review Final Environmental Impact Report, and staff recommendation.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Rob Miller
- Becky Crockett- Del Norte RCD
- Alicia Williams
- Greg King
- Tolowa Dee- ni' Nation (Sheryl Steinruck, Marva Jones)
- Rachel McCain- Tolowa Dee- ni' Nation
- Monica Hiner- Tolowa Dee- ni' Nation
- Regina Chichizola
- Dan Free
- Josefina Barrantes- Environmental Protection Information Center
- Linda Crockett- Del Norte Farm Bureau
- Dana Gill- The California Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church

- Kasil Willie- Save California Salmon
- Meighan O'Brien
- Nicole Long
- Sarah Kiser – California Farm Bureau

Staff responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Motion: Vice Chair Mackenzie moved to adopt Proposed Order No. R1-2026-0035, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Lily Bulb Operations in the Smith River Plain and Proposed Resolution No. R1-2026-0036, Certification of Environmental Impact Report, California Environmental Quality Act Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations; Board Member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chair Hart initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla	aye
Guisti	nay
Romanini	aye
Myers	Hãã (aye)
Mackenzie	aye
Hart	aye

Motion passed

6. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 1, 2026, and
 10:00 a.m., Friday, October 2, 2026,
 Siskiyou County, CA
 Exact Location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.