

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, October 5, 2023,
Eureka City Hall
Council Chambers
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Thursday, October 5, 2023

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, Greg Giusti, Alex Hart,
Bill Matsubu

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen,
Claudia Villacorta, Deidre Wilkerson,
Justin McSmith, Matthew Herman,
Sabrina Cegielski, Heaven Moore,
Charles Reed, Brendan Thompson

iii. **Board member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** Board members did not report any ex parte communication. Chair Bedolla gave a brief report that included thanking members of the public for attending the meeting. Chair Bedolla also shared that there are currently three vacancies on the board and encouraged interested members of the public to apply.

- 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 on urban water use efficiency, outdoor use standards, direct potable reuse, standardized reporting in permissible stormwater units, public input on flow regulations for the Scott and Shasta watersheds, and the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Ms. D’Adamo’s report also included updates from recent State Board Meetings that included the Board’s adoption of the Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, guidelines for the new Extended Arrearage Program, and an order remanding Agricultural Order 4.0 back to Region 3.

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto did not provide a report at this time.

- v. **Board Chair’s Report:** Chair Bedolla gave a brief report as stated above (see item iii).
- vi. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:
- Jane Hartford, self
 - Regina Chichizola, Save California Salmon
 - Josefina Barrantes, Environmental Protection Information Center

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

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 3-4, 2023

Motion: Board Member Hart moved to adopt August 3-4, 2023, Board meeting minutes; Board Member Matsubu seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu aye
- Hart aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items

2. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2023-0022 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements for the City of Rio Dell

Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B83134OHUM, NPDES No. CA0022748 (Sabrina Cegielski)

This item was scheduled as an action item but was determined to be uncontested. Sabrina Cegielski, Water Resource Control Engineer, provided a staff recommendation and answered a question from Vice Chair Giusti.

Motion: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Order No. R1-2023-0022, Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Recycling Requirements for the City of Rio Dell Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B83134OHUM, NPDES No. CA0022748; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu aye
- Hart aye

Motion passed unanimously

3. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2023-0019 to consider for adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC, and Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District WDID No. 1B20161NHUM (Justin McSmith)

Water Resource Control Engineer Justin McSmith gave a presentation that included a summary of the aquaculture and fish processing facility, the Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District’s role in the NPDES permit, permit requirements in the Proposed Permit, significant comments received during the public comment period, and changes made to the permit in response to those comments. David Noyce of Nordic Aquafarms presented as well.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Jasmine Iniguez, College of the Redwoods
- Regina Chichizola, Save California Salmon
- Carla Avila-Martinez, Surfrider Foundation
- Sarah Griffin, Surfrider Foundation
- Jennifer Kalt, Humboldt Waterkeeper
- Aaron Newman, Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District
- John McBeth, Self
- Nancy Olson, Greater Eureka Chamber
- Cody Freitas, Operating Engineers Local 3
- Ken Hamik, Self

- Shannon Wilhite, Citizens Protecting Humboldt Bay

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

After Board members responded to public comments, staff conferred to prepare responses to public comments and answered questions from Board members. In addition to Mr. McSmith, Water Boards staff members Heaven Moore, Charles Reed, Claudia Villacorta, and Nathan Jacobsen answered questions as well. The Executive Director of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, Larry Oetker, also provided responses. After further comments and questions from Board Members, staff conferred again to modify the permit to allow for Board review and approval of certain monitoring work plan products included in the permit's Monitoring and Reporting Plan. Staff also recommended a change to nitrogen monitoring frequency. After these changes were presented, a motion was made to adopt the permit.

Motion: Board Member Matsubu moved to adopt Order No. R1-2023-0019, proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the Nordic Aquafarms California, LLC, and Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District WDID No. 1B20161NHUM with changes as presented by staff; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu aye
- Hart aye

Motion passed unanimously

4. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2023-0016 to consider for adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Eureka, Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant, WDID NO. 1B82151OHUM, NPDES NO. CA0024449 (Justin McSmith)

Water Resource Control Engineer Matthew Herman gave a presentation that included background information on the City of Eureka's Wastewater Treatment Plant, an overview of updates being made to the proposed NPDES permit, a discussion of the public comments received, changes made in response to the comments, and staff's recommendation to the Board including a change sheet. Brian Gerving, Director of Public Works for the City of Eureka, presented as well. Water Boards staff answered questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Sarah Griffin, Surfrider Foundation
- Carla Avila-Martinez, Surfrider Foundation
- Jennifer Kalt, Humboldt Waterkeeper

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

Water Boards staff responded to public comments and questions from the Board.

Motion: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Order No. R1-2023-0016, proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Eureka, Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant, WDID NO. 1B82151OHUM, NPDES NO. CA0024449, including the changes presented in the change sheet; Board Member Matsubu seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu aye
- Hart aye

Motion passed unanimously

5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2023-0021 to consider Rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0012 as modified by Order No. R1-2020-0020 for the City of Eureka, Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant, WDID NO. 1B82151OHUM, NPDES NO. CA0024449 (Justin McSmith)

Executive Officer Valerie Quinto indicated that there was no staff presentation for this item as it was covered in the presentation for agenda item 4.

Motion: Vice Chair Giusti moved to adopt Order No. R1-2023-0021, Rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0012 as modified by Order No. R1-2020-0020 for the City of Eureka, Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant, WDID NO. 1B82151OHUM, NPDES NO. CA0024449; Board Member Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Giusti aye
- Matsubu aye
- Hart aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

6. **Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted the written Executive Officer's Report and answered questions from the Board regarding content in the Enforcement Report and its availability on the website.
7. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest:** Board Members requested brief updates on the following:
 - Klamath Dam Removal
 - Potential and ongoing projects from Matt St. John, Climate Specialist
8. **Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in closed session.
9. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2023, and
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2023
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.