

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, October 15, 2020
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Video Conference

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

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings.](#)

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

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](#)

- i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board member McCovey led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, Shaunna McCovey, and Valerie Quinto.

Regional Water Board staff present: Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Mona Dougherty, Jordan Filak, Kason Grady, Diana Henrioulle, Nathan Jacobsen, David Kuszmar, Matt St. John, and Claudia Villacorta.
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** No Board member reports or Ex Parte Communication disclosures.
- iv. **State Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive update on recent State Water Board actions, and Matt St. John, Executive Officer, gave an update on the North Coast Regional Board's return to office planning efforts, highlighted the impacts that much of the North Coast as well as much of California has experienced during this year's fire season and emphasized actions Regional Water Board staff plan to take to address fire recovery efforts.

Board member Giusti requested the Executive Officer invite the Executive Director of the Board of Forestry to address the Regional Water Board at a future Board meeting regarding Forest Practice Rule requirements for fire salvage operations.
- v. **Public Forum:**
Comments were taken from:
 - Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 20, 2020

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt August 20, 2020 Meeting minutes, Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye
Gant aye
Quinto aye
McCovey aye
Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

- 2. Resolution of Appreciation for John Corbett.** Chairwoman Quinto read the Resolution expressing appreciation to Mr. Corbett for his 18 years of dedicated service as a Board member on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and to the people of the State of California. Additional comments received expressing appreciation to John were shown in a short PowerPoint presentation.

Uncontested Item

- 3. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2020-0024 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A83052OTRI (Roy O'Connor)**

Motion: Board member Gant moved to adopt Order No. R1-2020-0024, Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye
Gant aye
Quinto aye
McCovey aye
Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

- 6. Update on SB 200 and the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water program.** Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, gave the history and background and introduced Michelle Frederick, Supervising Engineer, State Water Board Division of

Drinking Water, who gave an update on SB 200 and the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water program. Board member Bedolla asked about financial assistance for upgrading water systems, financial help to small disadvantaged communities, and the impacts from the Sonoma County fires to the individual water systems. Chair Quinto asked if there will be financial support for individual and domestic well owners impacted by fires. Staff provided responses.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club

- 4. Update on Cannabis Cultivation Waste Discharge Regulatory Program Activities in the North Coast Region.** Kason Grady, Division Chief, Cannabis & Enforcement Division, introduced Mona Dougherty, Senior, Northern Cannabis Unit; David Kuszmar, Senior, Southern Cannabis Unit; and Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Board. Ms. Dougherty updated the Board on the scale of cannabis cultivation in California, the North Coast region, and the water quality threats from cannabis cultivation. Chief Deputy Director Bishop updated the Board on the Statewide Cannabis funding shortfalls, staffing reductions, and the Executive guidance and planning efforts at the State Water Board. Mr. Kuszmar updated the Board on the North Coast Cannabis Program with a review of the performance reports for Fiscal Years 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the Work Plan revisions for Fiscal year 2020/21. Board member Giusti inquired about a possible “amnesty program” or “fix-it ticket program” to promote compliance while avoiding costly and lengthy enforcement actions, as a way to incentivize enrollment into the Cannabis Cultivation Waste Discharge Regulatory Program. Board members Bedolla, Gant, and Chair Quinto each expressed support for staff’s efforts and emphasized the need for more Program funding and staff in order to effectively manage the program. Nate Jacobsen, Counsel to the Board, Kason Grady, Division Chief, and Chief Deputy Director Bishop all responded.

Comments were taken from:

- Thomas Coulston, Public

- 5. Enforcement Update: Discussion of Regional Enforcement Priorities for 2020-2021.** Diana Henriouille, Senior, Enforcement Unit, gave the background of the Enforcement Unit’s 2019 enforcement priorities and highlights, the current conditions, priorities for the upcoming year, with a review of the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP), and introduced Jordan Filak, Environmental Scientist Enforcement Unit, who gave an update on the Enforcement program performance and the Water Board’s Environmental Complaint submission and tracking system.

Comments were taken from:

- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club
- David Webb, Public

Board member Giusti noted that the two commenters for this item identified concerns with the staff recommendation to remove non-Cannabis agriculture related violations from the list of priorities and their related concern for lack of enforcement actions

within Siskiyou County. Mr. Giusti reiterated that the Regional Water Board's regulatory and stewardship programs should be implemented uniformly and if a discharger fails to comply, they should face regulatory consequences, including progressive enforcement. Board member Bedolla thanked the two commenters and expressed support for Board member Giusti's comments. Ms. Henriouille and Mr. St. John responded to the Board's concerns and said that staff would consider the public and Board member comments in making a final determination of the enforcement priorities for the coming year.

7. **Executive Officer's Report.** See Item iv.
8. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items.** Board member Giusti reiterated his request made under Item iv. and further suggested that a future information item could address fire recovery efforts in the region.
9. **Other Items of Interest.** No Board requests made.
10. **Closed Session:** The Board met in Closed Session for: 1) Executive Officer's Evaluation, and to discuss initiated litigation list (Item 10 d.) items 2 & 4. There were no Board actions to report.
11. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment:** 9:00 a.m., Thursday December 10, 2020 and Friday December 11, 2020 online Zoom meetings.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:30 p.m.

Chairperson _____

Date _____