
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Friday, April 22, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Central Coast Water Board Offices
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo

And via Video and Teleconference

Video and teleconference recordings of the meeting are currently available on the following website: <https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 21, 2022, 9:01 a.m.

Aldo Renteria read a prepared statement in Spanish regarding the online translation services.

Board Business

1. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

Absent: none

2. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling introduced:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu, legal counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer; and section managers Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton
- Audio Visual Assistance: AGP Staff, Aaron Katona, and Bob Chow from the State Water Board Division of Information Technology
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Announcements

- Mary Hamilton: introduced Daniel Ellis, the newly hired senior environmental scientist managing our Standards, Planning and Assessment, Grants, and Nonpoint Source programs

Discussion/Informational Items

3. Racial Equity / Environmental Justice Update – Progress Towards a Racial Equity Resolution for the Central Coast Region
[Angela Schroeter, Environmental Justice Coordinator, 805/542-4644, Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov]
[Kathy Truong, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3293, Kathy.Truong@waterboards.ca.gov]
[Katie McNeill, Environmental Scientist, 805/542-3336, Katie.McNeill@waterboards.ca.gov]
[Sarah Treadwell, Engineering Geologist 805/549-3695, Sarah.Treadwell@waterboards.ca.gov]

Item 3 was an informational item to provide the Central Coast Water Board's Annual Environmental Justice (EJ) Update, which focused on the organization's efforts to advance racial equity. Board Chair Gray and Board Member Hunter provided opening remarks supporting the Central Coast Water Board's efforts to acknowledge the effects of institutional racism that have systematically impacted Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and to affirm the organization's role to prioritize racial equity. Board Member Hunter introduced the following three invited guest speakers who made presentations to the Board: Bidtah N. Becker (California Environmental Protection Agency) discussed CalEPA's perspective on environmental justice and racial equity; Dr. David Pellow (University of California, Santa Barbara) discussed environmental and climate justice initiatives in neighborhoods and carceral spaces, and: Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino (Central Coast Climate Justice Network) discussed the importance of creating an inclusive time and space for effective community engagement, so that communities can share their stories and participate in decision making.

Central Coast Water Board staff member, Kathy Truong, described the historical contributions of Native American tribes, Asian Americans, and Hispanic and Latino/ Latina/ Latine communities to the Central Coast Region and the environmental and racial inequities they have experienced. Ms. Truong also presented data about the organization's demographics in comparison to the demographics of communities in the Central Coast Region, concluding that the Central Coast Water Board's workforce does not reflect the diverse communities in the region, especially Hispanic or Latino/ Latina/ Latine communities. Staff member, Sarah Treadwell, described the recent internal engagement activities conducted by the Central Coast Water Board, to enable staff to provide input regarding racial equity in the organization's work

culture and implementation of regulatory programs, and the upcoming opportunities for external engagement. Staff member, Katie McNeill, provided an update on the Central Coast Water Board's progress towards preparing a draft Racial Equity Resolution and invited the Board and the public to provide input on a preliminary draft resolution. Board Members expressed their support for the preliminary draft resolution and encouraged staff to be creative and consider nontraditional external engagement methods to maximize opportunities for public input. Board Members also suggested that staff consider improvements to shorten and simplify the resolution to maximize the readability of the resolution for all community members. Board Members described the importance of effective external engagement and encouraged staff to take the necessary time to meet people where they are, so that individuals and communities can participate in a way that feels inclusive and safe. Board Member Harlan presented several interesting historical references, including a painting titled "The First People of Capitola Fishing and Foraging at the Beach and Lagoon (2022)", by local artist Ann Thiermann, a book titled *The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region – A Brief History* (1997), by author Sandy Lydon, and a book titled *Chinese Gold – the Chinese in the Monterey Bay Region* (1997), also by author Sandy Lydon.

Guest Speakers:

- Biddah N. Becker, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations, California Environmental Protection Agency
- David N. Pellow, Dehlsen Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program, UC Santa Barbara
- Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino, Executive Committee Member, Central Coast Climate Justice Network

Speakers: none

Public Forum

4. Public forum

Speakers: none

The Executive Officers Report was heard following this item (see item number 14 below for minutes for this item).

Friday, April 22, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Friday, April 22, 2022, 9:00 a.m. and gave introductory remarks commemorating Earth Day.

Aldo Renteria read a prepared statement in Spanish regarding the online translation services.

Prior to Roll Call a statement was read regarding Earth Day by Chair Gray

5. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

Absent: none

6. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling introduced:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu, legal counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer; and section managers Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton
- Audio Visual Assistance: AGP Video, Aaron Katona, and State water board division information and technology of Bob Chow from Sacramento
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire

Announcements

- Jennifer Epp WDR program manager: introduced new student assistant Corinne Watson, joined the NPDS and WDR program.

7. Approval of February 17-18, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

Stephanie Harlan requested the following two corrections to the minutes: she abstained on approving the prior meeting minutes and the public speaker, Ms. Becky Steinbruner, lives in Aptos.

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve the minutes of February

Second: Member Harlan seconded it with corrections

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

8. Reports by Regional Board Members

Chair Gray

- Attended weekly meetings with the executive officer
- Attended monthly State Board Chairs meeting the first Monday of each month.
- March 11, 2022, participated in PGE settlement funding plan subcommittee meeting with Vice Chair Wolff and the executive officer.
- April 15, 2022, had a conversation with Angela Schroeter related to the environmental justice and racial equity item
- April 19, 2022, had a meeting with Sarah Lopez, Executive Director of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

Vice Chair Wolff

- March 7, 2022, attended Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) meeting
- March 11, 2022, hosted a tour at Wolff Vineyard, for Cuesta College students organized by Cuesta College on water use, water conservation and how it relates to irrigation
- March 11, 2022, participated in PGE funding plan subcommittee meeting with Chair Gray and the executive officer.
- March 25, 2022, attended meeting with California Department of Food and Agriculture and Resource Conservation Districts to discuss irrigation efficiency and water conservation as strategy to combat climate change
- March 29, 2022, hosted a tour at Wolff Vineyard for the UC Cooperative Extension to discuss use of weather stations to inform irrigation management practices, and integrated pest management
- March 29, 2022, toured Kompogas organic waste digester and compost generation facility in San Luis Obispo
- April 4, 2022, attended a meeting with the Executive Officer, Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, and other stakeholders regarding wastewater consolidation opportunities in the Avila Valley
- April 7, 2022, hosted a tour at Wolff Vineyard for The Chamber of Commerce regarding sustainability

Member Harlan

- Announcement: There will a conference tomorrow called World Class Science and Community Climate Action

Member Hunter

- April 18, 2022, attended a briefing with Angela Schroeter and Matt Keeling, to coordinate on environmental justice and racial equity item for this meeting
- April 19, 2022, attended staff briefing for this meeting
- Provided personal remarks acknowledging Earth Day

9. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison
[Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877, Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Maguire gave a detailed presentation on the drought and associated State Water Board efforts with additional updates on the State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan development process, release of an administrative draft hexavalent chrome maximum contaminant level, and the statewide construction stormwater general permit development process.

Public Forum

10. Public forum

Speakers: none

Discussion/Informational Items

11. Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program - Groundwater Assessment and Protection Funds Status and History
[Julia Dyer, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, 805/542-4624, Julia.Dyer@waterboards.ca.gov]

Item 11 was an informational item to provide an update of the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program - Groundwater Assessment and Protection (CCAMP-GAP). Environmental Scientist Julia Dyer provided an overview of the CCAMP-GAP Funds status and history since inception. The overview included the purpose of CCAMP-GAP, funding priorities, status of funds in the endowment and operational accounts, CCAMP-GAP funded projects, and next steps.

Ms. Dyer clarified that the funds for the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP), which implements surface water monitoring, and CCAMP-GAP are managed separately. Executive Officer Matthew Keeling clarified that Central Coast Water Board staff do not manage the funds; the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay manages the funds. Vice Chair Wolff stated that Item 11 is a good example of government transparency and described that the CCAMP-GAP endowment has been very fiscally prudent, and the projects have a very good technical foundation. Board Chair Gray stated that the staff report was very clear, and the program is well managed, and that CCAMP-GAP underscores the unique characteristics of our hydrologic region and the primacy of groundwater for communities in our area. Board Members expressed their support for prioritizing CCAMP-GAP resources to address environmental justice and the human right to water and implement the free Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program. Additionally, Board Members

recognized the opportunity for CCAMP-GAP projects and data to support Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Speakers:

- Melodie Grubbs, Bay Foundation of Morro Bay

Action Items

12. Pacific Gas and Electric Company Settlement - Proposed Funding Allocation Plan [Julia Dyer, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, 805/542-4624, Julia.Dyer@waterboards.ca.gov]

Item 12 was an action item for the Central Coast Water Board to consider Central Coast Water Board staff's recommendation to approve proposed Resolution No. R3-2022-0015 to allocate \$5.9 million in PG&E Settlement Funds. Environmental Scientist Julia Dyer provided an overview of the PG&E Settlement - Proposed Funding Allocation Plan including the proposed Resolution No. R3-2022-0015, draft Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program – Draft Project Ranking and Selection Criteria, and public comments and staff responses to written comments received during the 30-day public comment period. Central Coast Water Board staff recommended distributing the \$5.9 million PG&E settlement funds over three allocation categories: 1) CCAMP-GAP Endowment (\$4.1 million), 2) Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program (\$600K), and 3) public solicitation for individual grant projects (\$1.2 million).

Board Members discussed how the recommended increase in funds would support the Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing program. Ms. Dyer explained that Central Coast Water Board staff estimates the \$600K would support the program for an additional three years (approximately 200 wells/year), and then the program would be supported by the endowment's annual revenue starting in year four. Ms. Dyer also confirmed that the funding would support outreach and education, and that the program is implemented in coordination with Community Water Center and other partners. Ms. Dyer further clarified that the plan is for the well testing program to extend to the southern part of the region in the near future. Vice Chair Wolff reminded staff that the Irrigated Lands Program will also require testing of approximately four thousand drinking water wells over the next two months through Ag Order 4.0

Board Members asked for clarification on the goals of the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program. Ms. Dyer explained that the grants program would reflect the goals of the CCAMP-GAP program and the Water Boards' Supplemental Environmental Project Policy, such as human right to water and environmental justice. Board Members expressed their support for partnering with the Rose Foundation and asked for more information on the proposed Funding Advisory Board (FAB) and selection process for members. Ms. Dyer stated that this process is the responsibility of the Rose Foundation. Jodene Isaacs of the Rose

Foundation explained that the FAB would be based on an existing network of contacts in the central coast region that have a good track record. Additionally, the Rose Foundation is open to recommendations from the Central Coast Water Board. Board Members also asked how the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program will support underrepresented communities. Jodene Isaacs explained that this is standard to their grant making process, for example projects including environmental justice will receive priority ranking. Tim Little, Director of the Rose Foundation, further clarified that the projects won't just benefit disadvantaged communities (DACs) but, they'll come from DACs and involve DACs. Additionally, the Rose Foundation staff is equipped to work with and support DACs. Board Members expressed their appreciation to the team for their work to develop the funding allocation plan.

Speakers:

- Jodene Isaacs, The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
- Tim Little, The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
- Brandon Bollinger, Community Water Center

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to approve Resolution No. R3-2022-0015

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Harlan, and Member Hunter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Enforcement Items

13. Enforcement Report and Supplemental Environmental and Enhanced Compliance Action Project Update

[Tamara Anderson, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer Specialist, 805/549-3334, Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov]

Central Coast Water Board Enforcement Coordinator, Tamara Anderson, provided a brief overview of the enforcement report and summary of the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) and Enhanced Compliance Actions (ECAs) that are in progress or completed since May 2021. Board members asked questions related to recent cannabis notices of violation, in-progress SEPs, and measures to prevent future unauthorized discharges from Monterey One Water's wastewater facilities.

Administrative Items

14. Executive Officer's Report

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Note: this report was given on Thursday, April 21. Mr. Keeling gave an overview of the agricultural order implementation updates included in the report. Sarah Lopez, Executive Director of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., also provided an update on the development and implementation of the third-party program in coordination with staff and other partners to provide compliance assistance for the agricultural order requirements. Board members and Mr. Keeling engaged with Ms. Lopez regarding fee challenges facing small and economically disadvantaged farmers, well testing implementation and associated timing constraints, and outreach, education regarding 1,2,3-trichloropropane testing and results, and third-party program enrollment.

Speakers:

- Sarah Lopez, Executive Director of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Jane Gray, Chair