

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

574th BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, 22 APRIL 2021, 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Zoom Teleconference and Webcast

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Longley, Dr. Karl	Kadara, Denise	Brar, Raji	Avdis, Nick
Ramirez, Carmen	Bradford, Mark	Yang, Sean	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STATE WATER BOARD OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL AND ENFORCEMENT STAFF PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:

Jahr, Jessica	Lancaster, David	Toft-Dupuy, Bayley
Moskal, Chris		

REGIONAL BOARD STAFF PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:

Pulupa, Patrick	Sholes, David	Flower, Christopher
Laputz, Adam	Asami, Rebecca	Garver, Kelli
Baum, John "JJ"	Holmes, Kari	Coughlin, Gene
Snyder, Clint	Maxwell, Mindy	Chow, Bob
Rogers, Clay	Goode, Danielle	Brown, Janelle
Armstrong, Scott	Warren, Eric	Croyle, Christine
McConnell, Sue	Fuller, Jennifer	Palmer, Joshua
Chintamaneni, Vaneeta	Marshall, James	Rubin, Naomi
Martinez, Armondo	Gamon, Daniel	Sanders, Paul
Coster, Lynn	Scroggins, Matt	Pelkofer, Tyson
Hold, Howard	Braidman, Brett	

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT WHO WERE IDENTIFIED:

Doduc, Tam	Beverly
Wackman, Michael	Debi Ores
Cory, David	Laurenson, Brian
Dunham, Tess	Seyfried, Robert
Johnson, Brittany	Altevogt, Andrew
Hicks, Elise	Houdesheldt, Bruce

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Longley called the 574th Board meeting to order and made introductions. Executive Officer (EO) Pulupa introduced staff. Board Member Kadara led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Longley submitted the following communications:

- 18 March 2021 – Participated in Central Valley Water Board Tribal Summit with a focus on Tribal Beneficial Uses (TBUs) in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basins – Video (Zoom) Meeting.
- 19 March 2021 – Participated in Central Valley Water Board Strategic Planning Workshop – Video (Zoom) Meeting.
- 25 March 2021 – Participated in Central Valley Water Board Tribal Summit with a focus on TBUs in the Tulare Lake Basin – Video (Zoom) Meeting.
- 5 April 2021 – Participated in Monthly Regional Boards Chairs Meeting – Video (MS Teams) Meeting.
- 8 April 2021 – Participated in CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting – Video Meeting.
- 22 April 2021 – Participated in meeting with CSU Fresno’s California Water Institute, Center for Irrigation Technology & Development Office regarding developing white paper leading to possible pilot process development for treating produced water for beneficial uses in cooperation with oil industry – Video (Zoom) Meeting.

Board Member Kadara submitted the following communications:

- 5 March 2021 – Participated in the Northern CA Water Management Annual Meeting.
- 19 March 2021 – Participated in the Central Valley Water Board's Strategic Plan Workshop on YouTube.
- 19 March 2021 – Zoom meeting for Sara Glade who presented her dissertation on her research of the Electro Chemical Arsenic Remediation (ECAR) project, and pilot project was done in the community of Allensworth in summer 2019. Dr. Sara Glade completed her research at Gadgil Lab at UC Berkeley where she received her Ph.D.
- 6 April 2021 – Zoom meeting with Tri-County Water Authority. At our February Waterboard meeting, I reported that the Tri-County Water Authority (TCWA) applied for Proposition 68 funding to address flooding issues in the community of

Allensworth. TCWA was notified in March that funding was not awarded and missed receiving the grant by two points. Specifically, the application didn't address more direct benefit to the disadvantaged community of Allensworth. TCWA met with representatives again to discuss water needs assessment for Allensworth. Priority items discussed included water quality, water contamination, wastewater treatment, capturing and storing flood waters, and recharge and recycling of water. These items discussed are imperative to maintaining safe drinking water in Allensworth and mitigating many of the water issues that negatively impact disadvantaged communities like Allensworth. TCWA, Self Help Enterprises, and several other agencies and resources are now collaborating on best approach to address water problems identified.

- Environmental Justice (EJ) Element – Have been serving as community representative on the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, a formal body created to advise the Tulare County Resource Management Agency as it updates the EJ Element in the County General Plan. We meet monthly on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.

Member Bradford submitted the following communications:

- 24 February 2021 – Strategic Planning Call with the Central Valley Water Board's Strategic Planning Committee.
- 5 March 2021 – Participated in the Northern CA Water Management Annual Meeting via Zoom.
- 18 March 2021 – Participated in Central Valley Water Board Tribal Summit with a focus on TBUs in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basins – Video (Zoom) Meeting.
- 19 March 2021 – Participated in Central Valley Water Board Strategic Planning Workshop – Video (Zoom) Meeting.
- 25 March 2021 – Participated in Central Valley Water Board Tribal Summit with a focus on TBUs in the Tulare Lake Basin – Video (Zoom) Meeting.

Member Yang submitted the following communications:

- Board Member Yang reached out to EO Pulupa and staff to get a better understanding of the irrigation programs to share with the Southeast Asian Community in the Central Valley. Board Member Yang had an opportunity to speak to the Executive Director of the Asian Business Institute Resource Center in Fresno, who shared concerns and needs of smaller farmers. Board Member Yang expressed interest in working with this organization to develop a template on ways to reach out to these various groups. Chair Longley thanked Board Member Yang for his interest and work in this area. Vice Chair Ramirez commented she would like to collaborate with Board Member Yang and the

Asian Business Institute since Merced has a large population of people who have small family farms.

Member Brar submitted the following communications:

- Board Member Brar commented she met with EO Pulupa and Board Member Yang and discussed community engagement ideas. Member Brar indicated the group came up with some robust ideas and she will be reaching out to organizations in Kern County to ensure collaboration with the Central Valley Water Board. Member Brar echoed the sentiments of Member Yang in that the goal is to reach communities to ensure the Water Board is part of the dialogue happening in the communities when it comes to water quality. Member Brar identified several groups she reached out to. Member Brar will have more to report at the June 2021 Board Meeting. Member Brar summarized by indicating the goal is to ensure the Water Board is part of the conversation, so communities feel connected to the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – STATE WATER BOARD LIAISON UPDATE

State Water Board Member Tam Doduc gave an update to the Board as follows:

- Ms. Doduc indicated the State Water Board was quite busy at its recent Board Meeting, where much of the focus was on drought related issues for the State of California. The meeting began with a workshop focusing on Sacramento River temperature management for the protection of Chinook salmon and other species. She further indicated the State Water Board received a hydrology report indicating greater than 70% of the State is under severe or critical drought conditions. The Sierra precipitation this year was the third driest on record. Ms. Doduc stated there will be a great deal of discussion and attention focused on drought related issues. She indicated the State Water Board is working diligently to coordinate with other state agencies to ensure appropriate information and preparation occurs if drought conditions continue to worsen. Ms. Doduc concluded by indicating the State is poised to provide support and resources.
- Ms. Doduc also discussed a recent needs assessment that was conducted under the SB 200 Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program. She explained one of the required components of the legislation is the request for agencies to develop an early warning approach to identify water systems at risk of failing. Ms. Doduc encouraged the Board to schedule this as an item for discussion at an upcoming Board Meeting. Ms. Doduc indicated State Water Board staff would be happy to provide a thorough presentation. Specifically, State Water Board Member Firestone is particularly interested in this significant legislation which calls for a need's assessment, cost assessment and affordability assessment. Ms. Doduc then showed a risk matrix specifically of the Central Valley Water Board that detailed areas designated as at risk, potentially at risk, and not at risk. The map showed there are 454 out of 617 systems that

are determined to be at risk. She further explained the analysis was conducted using 19 water quality risk indicators (some of which included accessibility, affordability, technical, managerial, and financial capacity). The 19 risk indicators were analyzed and, of those, 74% of the systems determined to be at risk statewide are located within the Central Valley Region. Ms. Doduc explained this is the beginning of a tool that staff can use in the presentation to the Board. She noted this tool was a substantial undertaking and a tremendous accomplishment for Californians to have a system to begin looking at potential at risk systems and working proactively through various mechanisms (financial as well as technical) in the years to come.

- Executive Officer (EO) Pulupa thanked Ms. Doduc for her update and for highlighting the important issues facing the Central Valley Region. EO Pulupa stated this work was a tremendous undertaking and shows the needs of the communities, particularly underserved communities within the Central Valley Region. He also indicated this showed it is not an issue confined to certain areas only, that this was a collective issue on a statewide level. These are issues the State will need to work to address collectively as it moves forward to provide safe, affordable, and clean drinking water for Californians. EO Pulupa also thanked Andrew Altevogt (former Central Valley Water Board Assistant Executive Officer) for his tremendous work in getting this exercise done. EO Pulupa indicated this work is the first of its kind in the Country and is an honest assessment of where we are and where we need to be.
- Chair Longley joined Patrick in giving his thanks to State Water Board staff. Chair Longley indicated there may be benefit to a workshop that delves further into these issues and starts looking at sources of pollution and possible fixes. He indicated he is very interested in legislation that may be forthcoming to address these issues (management, technical, personnel, and financial). Chair Longley indicated these types of issues are important and impactful for many of these communities. He indicated it was important how these issues are addressed so these communities can be effective in operating their systems. Chair Longley felt it would be important (and beneficial) to form a Special District that would have similar powers as a Community Services District in that it would also have wastewater and treatment capability. These communities have impacts from agriculture, but also from individual septic tanks that are in tightly packed communities. Chair Longley felt it was important to find ways to address these issues and allow communities access to fresh and affordable water.
- Board Member Bradford questioned how many of these water districts were already at risk prior to any drought conditions. He further stated that because a lot of these districts in the Central Valley are groundwater dependent, how would a drought condition affect future risk, particularly in those districts. Board Member Bradford felt those issues would be worthwhile to explore further.

- Vice Chair Ramirez agreed with the previous conversation and noted especially in the Central Valley where finances are an issue, knowing things in advance to prepare is important. She stated she was pleased these conversations were occurring and voiced her support on a presentation from the State Water Board.
- Board Member Yang thanked Tam Doduc for her update and added he would be very interested in a workshop.
- Board Member Kadara felt we are certainly on the path to doing what is most appropriate to address many of the issues and with drought upon us, we will need all hands-on deck to begin to tackle some of these critical issues.
- Board Member Brar echoed the comments of her fellow Board Members and concluded by stating this is a concern for so many individuals up and down the state and especially in the Southern Valley, Bakersfield, and Kern County. She is looking forward to organizing something to help address these issues.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PUBLIC FORUM

- None

AGENDA ITEM 5 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Chair Longley commented this was a very informative report. EO Pulupa expressed his appreciation to Mindy Maxwell and Janelle Brown for their efforts to compile this information from the units throughout the region. EO Pulupa updated the Board on the impending changes to the workforce as the Governor has indicated he will soon be opening the State. EO Pulupa explained if state worker safety remains a priority, he believes we are planning on a dynamic, flexible work environment for the foreseeable future. That said, EO Pulupa feels we will face many challenges with respect to working in a hybrid approach (where many staffers will be working remotely for at least part of the week). EO Pulupa further indicated as a management team, they realized many benefits, but recognize there are challenges. EO Pulupa is hoping to have in person Board Meetings soon, but the Executive Team is waiting for clear direction from the State’s control agencies. EO Pulupa confirmed the Water Board is ensuring there are protocols in place to make sure people can continue to participate remotely and confirmed he would be in close communication with the Board as more information becomes available. EO Pulupa indicated staff is continuing collaboration with the State Water Board on employee engagement concerns and racial equity issues. Updates on these issues will be provided to the Board later and EO Pulupa hopes to have a Resolution that can soon be adopted by the Board.

Comments from Board Members:

Chair Longley felt it was important to maintain the ability for individuals to participate virtually and mentioned Chairs in other Regions have expressed the same desire. Chair Longley stated concerns that if the virtual tool was no longer available, there was a risk of losing public participation.

Member Avdis commented the Executive Officer's Report was very helpful in providing an overview of current issues and work. He felt the report was thorough and provided a comprehensive snapshot of the Water Board's activities. He further indicated an organization is only as strong as its employees and expressed his appreciation to EO Pulupa and his team for going above and beyond and providing such a comprehensive report.

Member Yang commented his preference is in person meetings but felt a hybrid approach is best to allow others to participate. Member Yang is looking forward to meeting everyone in person soon.

Chair Longley agreed keeping the option for virtual as well as in person was important. EO Pulupa explained aspects of the Bagley Keene Act and indicated as we moved closer to the Governor's Executive Order being lifted, the Board will be kept apprised of options.

Chair Longley congratulated the Employee Recognition Award recipients and specifically highlighted Janelle Brown during the time that she was in the primary role of working with the Board. He indicated she made the transition seamless with respect to servicing the Board Members.

Chair Longley questioned the graphic on page 17 of the Executive Officer's report that showed monetary penalties assessed 1 July 2020 through 20 February 2021. Chair Longley commented he was pleased to see not all funds were going into the abatement account. 71% is being used for projects to accomplish established goals. Specifically, Chair Longley indicated staff was doing a tremendous job on the Delta Mercury Program and CV-SALTS.

Board Member Kadara noted there were 269.7 positions with a total of 27.5 vacant positions. Board Member Kadara was interested in knowing what positions were vacant, and if there were any significant impacts to carrying out staff duties as a result of the vacancies. EO Pulupa indicated there were relatively significant impacts due to the vacancies. Part of the issue stemmed from the way the State Water Board assessed its fees last year. He explained there are two components: one is the amount of positions authorized by the legislature to the Regional Boards and the other is the amount of authorized positions funded through the waste discharge permit fees. In normal years, those are equivalent (the legislature authorizes a certain number of positions and the Regional Board works with the State Water Board to collect fees to fund those positions). This past year, due to the pandemic, the State Water Board didn't fund all of the positions statewide because it wanted to keep fees lower under the expectation that fees wouldn't be coming in the way they normally would for a variety of different reasons. EO Pulupa indicated as a management team they were doing their best to look at the Mission and Vision Statement and deploy the resources as wisely as possible. The priority is ensuring the protection of drinking water and the satisfaction of legal obligations. EO Pulupa stated he hopes to see those positions filled within the next fiscal year. Thankfully, the State Water Board has been receptive to the disproportionate share of vacancies in the Central Valley and are aware of the need to service those areas with disadvantaged communities that need good regulators doing

good work. EO Pulupa also stated our staff is still working under a personal leave program that reduces salaries by almost 10% in exchange for 2 personal leave days per month. Although this has allowed staff to be a little bit more flexible with their time, it harms their personal income. The hope is that will be restored as we move into the next fiscal year. Board Member Kadara indicated she empathized deeply for the staff that have had those impacts to their paycheck for the past year but recognized we're working through it.

Board Member Kadara also had a question on page 41 of the Executive Officer's report (notice of violations for failure to submit the nitrogen management plan summary reports by the Board approved deadlines) and wanted to know if staff received any responses from the submissions of those management report summaries for those discharges that had not submitted, or if there were any monetary penalties dispersed. EO Pulupa explained those are large numbers managed by the prosecution unit and like any prosecutor before they bring a prosecution, they will not let the judge know what they're thinking. But they have heard from the Board this is a priority issue. EO Pulupa further explained he understood through outreach activities that many of these were individuals who couldn't get out in the field and couldn't engage contractors due to the pandemic. Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) Adam Laputz indicated he was not aware of any monetary penalties at this point. However, if we do not get a response, staff would move forward with enforcement activities. AEO Laputz confirmed the highest focus of staff's efforts remained the enrollment issues. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Manager Sue McConnell stated staff was working closely with the coalitions and directly reaching out to the members. Although there are still some members out of compliance, staff is working diligently on getting compliance on the notice of violations.

AEO Laputz indicated the drinking water well monitoring that's being implemented in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program will be discussed at the June 2021 meeting. AEO Laputz further explained the petition order by the State Water Board released a requirement that all drinking water wells associated with irrigated lands parcels be monitored. Staff has been at the forefront of getting this implemented and getting the information into Geo tracker. Additionally, staff has been responding to where there are high levels of nitrate and making sure that notifications go out. AEO Laputz indicated staff has had reasonably good response but have sent out several reminders for individuals to make sure they do the notifications or provide the data to the Geo tracker system.

EO Pulupa further indicated the plan for the June 2021 Board Meeting is the presentation on drinking water compliance numbers. Additionally, on 1 June 2021, staff will be presenting to the State Water Board. The link will be shared with all Board Members once calendared. Additionally, not just the CV-SALTS Basin Plan Amendments, but also the annual update on CV-SALTS compliance numbers will be presented. Then, in October 2021, there will be the enforcement report that will be the holistic view of all the compliance numbers in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Dairy Program, and other program areas throughout the State.

Staff Recognition

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

At the February 18, 2021 Board Meeting, Executive Officer Pulupa presented Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards to the following staff:

Employee: Carlos Cervantez

UNIT: Title 27 Unit

LOCATION: Fresno Office

TITLE: Engineering Geologist

SUPERVISOR: Scott Hatton, Supervising Engineer

Carlos Cervantez is an Engineering Geologist in the Fresno office and has worked in the Title 27 Unit for 1.5 years. He began working full time in August 2015. He has been working very hard and has been hands on and eager to learn about all the construction requirements for Title 27 facilities. He recently reviewed the closure design plans for a landfill. He also finished reviewing the design and geologic reports for a different landfill and discovered a potential release after excessive data review and has reviewed their alternative demonstration report.

He assisted with the review of a 2,000-page Construction Quality Assurance report, which includes the slope failure at the site from last summer, all while learning the applicable regulations for his job.

He always has a great attitude, is easy to work with, and is eager to learn and help on other staff's projects. He has been a great help to the unit when it comes to "filling-in" for staff to conduct site inspections.

Carlos has also helped with some of his former position's industrial stormwater activities until that vacancy can be filled. Carlos is a team player and very worthy of this award. Congratulations Carlos. Enter Normal Paragraph Text>

Employee: Janelle Brown

UNIT: NPDES Permitting/Administration

LOCATION: Rancho Cordova Office

TITLE: Associate Governmental Program Analyst

SUPERVISOR: Brett Braidman, Staff Services Manager I

This Superior Accomplishment Award (SAA) is to be awarded to Janelle Brown, whose tireless dedication in so many areas has helped the Central Valley Water Board maintain excellence in Board Meeting preparation, the production of multiple Virtual Board Meetings in 2020, the production of the Executive Officer's Report, compliance to ADA specifications for applicable documents, and her coordinating of many lab sampling events for the Rancho Cordova office.

The truth is that Janelle can receive the SAA based on her incredible work ethic and high capacity to achieve alone. But Janelle's excels at so much more. Her work product is superior, her sense of pride and dedication to her work is off the charts, and Janelle is continually searching for ways to improve her work product in every area. I believe I can speak for Kelli Garver, Patrick Pulupa and EMG when I state that Janelle has been an incredibly asset for the Central Valley Water Board during this challenging year of 2020. It often gets over-stated, but the phrase we wouldn't have been as successful without Janelle speaks volumes of truth. The virtual Board meeting success would be less so without Janelle's valuable contributions in this area.

Additionally, the value Janelle has brought to being a guru of ADA compliance has been enormously beneficial to Region 5's Rancho Cordova office. She has trained multiple staff on how to make their documents ADA complaint. Also, Janelle's incredible lab background has enabled her to continue to be an asset to Region 5 program areas, who use this valuable lab contract to test on a routine basis. Moreover, much of Janelle's work over the last year has meant doing new tasks and stepping into help Region 5 function smoothly. Without Janelle's ability to do this, Region 5 would not have enjoyed the same success. In conclusion, Janelle's incredible work effort, work ethic, and positive attitude has been critical to the success of Virtual Board Meetings, EO Reports, ADA work and lab sampling events for Region 5. We are very fortunate to have Janelle working at the Central Valley Water Board and she is well deserving of this award.

Employee: Mike Nilsen

UNIT: NPDES Unit

LOCATION: Redding Office

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer

SUPERVISOR: Jeremy Pagan, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

Mike Nilsen is a Water Resource Control Engineer working in the NPDES Unit of the Central Valley Water Board's Redding Office. Mike manages a complex and demanding case load of wastewater treatment plants. The Central Valley Water Board is happy to select Mike for the Superior Accomplishment Award for his excellent work. Specifically, his efforts in resolving a longstanding enforcement case, overseeing multiple wastewater treatment plant upgrade projects, and his contributions to high level programmatic work.

Mike spent more than a year working with a small city through settlement negotiations to resolve permit violations including a substantial 2+ million-gallon sewage spill from their collection system as well as numerous effluent limitations subject to mandatory minimum penalties. The result of Mike's effort was a settlement package with total liability exceeding \$1 million dollars, with some money going towards repairs of the City's collection system, some to upgrades of their wastewater treatment plant, and some to the State Water Board's water pollution cleanup and abatement account. The settlement was issued in October 2020.

Additionally, Mike is doing a tremendous job ushering along several wastewater treatment plant upgrade projects. One particular example is another small city that

unexpectedly faced a significant construction funding shortfall in 2020, but thanks to Mike's persistence, quick action, and good working relationship with the City and State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance, the City received an additional \$2 million in grant funding and a reduction in the interest rate on their loan to zero percent. The City should now be on track to begin construction in 2021.

Mike is also playing an instrumental role in revamping the NPDES Program's Permit Writer's "Matrix" – which is our programmatic tool to help promote consistent implementation of regulatory approaches in NPDES permits throughout the region. For these reasons and so much more, we're happy to provide Mike with this well-earned recognition, his efforts are very much appreciated!

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT (TEAM) AWARD

The Superior Accomplishment (Team) Award was presented to the following staff:

Employee: Walt Plachta, Cindy Au-Yeung, True Khang, Jennie Fuller, Eric Warren

UNIT: CV-SALTS

LOCATION: Rancho Cordova Office

TITLE: Various

SUPERVISOR: Various

Last year, Basin Plan Amendments became effective and implementation commenced on a region-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program. As a condition of their approval, State Water Board also directed staff to develop a basin plan amendment to revise certain portions of the program within 12 months of the program's effective date. These simultaneous efforts have impacted almost every Board program and have required a tremendous amount of coordination and oversight by the staff members receiving this award today. Staff working on the implementation effort poured through thousands of permittee records from CIWQS to create a database that could be used for generating the Notice to Comply letters for both the Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. In addition, they developed a variety of protocols, permit revisions, templates and procedures to ensure a consistent and efficient roll-out of the CV-SALTS program. Staff also participated in a multitude of meetings and provided timely follow-up to hundreds of phone calls and emails from both internal and external stakeholders. At the December 2020 Board Hearing, revisions to the CV-SALTS program were adopted by the Central Valley Water Board, thus meeting the deadline set by State Water Board. Walt, Cindy, True, Jennie and Warren are valued staff members of the Central Valley Water Board and have been critical to the success of the CV-SALTS program. The CV-SALTS program could not have met its goals and milestones without their hard work and dedication. We are fortunate to have them working at the Central Valley Water Board and they are well deserving of this award.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2021

Employee: Yared Kebede

UNIT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

LOCATION: Rancho Cordova Office

TITLE: Environmental Scientist

SUPERVISOR: Susan Fregien, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Yared Kebede is being recognized for his superior work in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Recently, Yared performed detailed statistical analyses of nitrogen data submitted by Central Valley farmers via the coalition groups. His evaluation and results were important to verify the accuracy and completeness of the nitrogen applied and removed data. Yared's work identified data quality concerns that were shared with Coalitions to improve the quality of future data sets. Yared's work also provides an understanding of the large variability in nitrogen fertilizer applications and nitrogen uptake among crops. This will help the ILRP to prioritize crops with the highest potential for leaching nitrate to groundwater.

Additionally, Yared developed a map-based GIS dashboard for the ILRP's surface water quality monitoring data. Users can interactively view summary information across the Central Valley Region or a Coalition group. Users can also drill down to view site-specific monitoring results, including exceedances of water quality trigger limits. This tool will be useful for a variety of users.

Yared very much deserves this award for all his excellent work in support of the ILRP.

Employee: Micaela Bush

UNIT: Pesticide TMDL

LOCATION: Rancho Cordova Office

TITLE: Water Resource Control Engineer (WRCE)

SUPERVISOR: Danny McClure, Senior WRCE

Micaela is a Water Resource Control Engineer in the Pesticide TMDL Unit in the Planning Section. Since joining the Board in January 2020, her main project has been working with Janis Cooke on the Delta Nutrient Research Plan, constructing a nutrient mass balance for the Delta.

Starting in July 2020, Micaela has also assisted the Integrated Report Team on the 2020/2022 Integrated Report. She developed an R script that automated Lines of Evidence based on thousands of rows of data assessed according to Region 5 Basin Plan objectives. Without Micaela's knowledge and expertise associated with the R program, Integrated Report staff would have had to write hundreds of Lines of Evidence by hand. Not only did Micaela save staff time on the current cycle, but she also has created a script that can be utilized during future Integrated Report cycles.

Micaela takes on her projects with enthusiasm, maintains great working relationships with team members and external collaborators, and applies innovative solutions which

make the Board's work more efficient. For these reasons Micaela is well deserving of the February Employee of the Month Award.

Employee: Greg Issinghoff

UNIT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

LOCATION: Fresno Office

TITLE: Engineering Geologist

SUPERVISOR: David A. Sholes, Senior Engineering Geologist Supervisor

Greg is always professional when interacting with consultants, coalition leads, other staff, and responsible parties for his projects. He has an excellent attitude and has taken on additional projects for multiple grower coalitions when two staff vacancies have required flexibility in work assignments. Greg is a productive and professional employee. During the previous month Greg completed the following, with multiple other works in progress:

- Reviewed the Kern Coalition's annual monitoring report for completeness.
- Prepared a letter discussing the Kern Coalition's metrics to identify outliers in its evaluation of nitrogen applications.
- Reviewed a letter regarding the occurrence of copper in Chanac Creek.
- Drafted a response to a request for reducing monitoring along the Kern River.
- Drafted a response to a source identification study for inorganic constituents that are naturally occurring in surface waters.
- Drafted a response to the Westlands Coalition's surface water and groundwater management plan updates.

Greg also contributed to programmatic discussions related to CV-SALTS revisions to Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Orders, groundwater protection formula review, and a quarterly update with the Westlands Coalition.

Greg is deserving of the Employee Recognition Award based on his work, attitude, and willingness to adapt during these unusual times.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR BOARD MEETING

Motion to adopt previous Board meeting minutes from 18/19 February 2021 Board Meeting as amended.

Board Member Kadara made two editorial changes (page 37 change "or" to "are" and page 39 change "Chair Kadara" to "Board Member Kadara"). Chair Longley commented they were the most thorough minutes he had ever seen, and the Board appreciated the level of detail provided. Vice Chair Ramirez also expressed her gratitude to the level of detail provided in the minutes.

Motioned: Board Member Kadara
Seconded: Vice Chair Ramirez

Roll Call Vote:

Member Bradford Yes
Member Yang Yes
Member Avdis Yes
Member Kadara Yes
Member Brar Yes
Vice Chair Ramirez Yes
Chair Longley Yes

Approved by Roll Call Vote of 7-0-0

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – ADOPTION OF UNCONTESTED CALENDAR
AGENDA ITEMS 10, and 13 THROUGH 17**

UNCONTESTED CALENDAR

(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, section 647.2, subd. (f).) Uncontested items are those items that are not being contested at the Board Meeting and will be acted on without discussion. If any person or Board Member requests discussion, the item may be removed from the Uncontested Calendar.

AEO Laputz requested to add item 10 to the Uncontested Calendar:

NPDES PERMITS

10. Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sacramento County – Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0077682) [Tyson Pelkofer (916) 464-4853]

EO Pulupa indicated Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District will be coming back to the Board to provide an update on compliance. EO Pulupa indicated the facility is performing incredible work and is a success story in that staff can work with the discharger where we have an uncontested permit on major infrastructure improvements at their facility (to the benefit of the ratepayers and to the benefit of water quality in the Delta and Sacramento River). A presentation will be made to the Board during the June 2021 Meeting. Member Avdis commented on the tremendous effort that went into this project and is looking forward to being briefed on the status of the water project in June.

ENFORCEMENT

13. Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc., Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility, Altamont County – Stipulation for Entry of Cease and Desist Order R5-2021-0502 and Proposed Cease and Desist Order

NPDES PERMITS (AGENDA ITEM 14)

- a. Bell-Carter Olive Company, Inc. and City of Corning, Bell-Carter Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tehama County – Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0083721)
- b. Chester Public Utility District, Chester Sewage Treatment Plant, Plumas County – Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0077747)
- c. Donner Summit Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County – Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Issuance of Time Schedule Order (NPDES Permit CA0081621)
- d. Olivehurst Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Yuba County – Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0077836)

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 15)

- a. City of Corcoran, Corcoran Wastewater Treatment Facility, Kings County – Consideration of Revisions to Order 91-138
- b. City of Los Banos, Los Banos Wastewater Treatment Facility, Merced County – Consideration of Revisions to Order 92-014
- c. County of Kern, Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) Sanitary Landfill, Kern County – Consideration of Revisions to Orders R5-2013-0110, R5-2012-0065, and R5-2007-0092
- d. FC Tracy Holdings, Tracy Holdings Facility, San Joaquin County – Consideration of New Order
- e. Grimmway Enterprises, Inc. and Minter Field Airport District; Shafter Carrot Packing Plant, Kern County – Consideration of Revisions to Orders R5-2015-0057 and 86-159
- f. Menefee River Ranch & Synagro West, LLC, El Nido Composting Facility, Merced County – Consideration of Revisions to Order R5-2003-0180
- g. R&G Schatz Farms Inc., Peltier Winery, San Joaquin County – Consideration of Revisions to Order R5-2004-0035

RESCISSIONS (AGENDA ITEM 16)

- a. Former Baltimore Aircoil Company Facility, Inc., Track Four, Inc., A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Amsted Industries Inc., and a former owner, Merck & Co., Inc., Merced County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2008-0047
- b. Jerry and Erika Wright Living Trust. Villa Toscano Winery, Amador County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2012-0126

- c. Mariposa Public Utility District, Mariposa Wastewater Treatment Facility, Mariposa County – Waste Discharge Requirements Orders R5-2014-0042, R5-2014-0042-01 and Time Schedule Order R5-2017-0105 (NPDES Permit CA0079430)
- d. Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Cascade Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2015-0031 (NPDES Permit CA0083241)
- e. Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Cascade Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County – Time Schedule Order R5-2019-1001 (NPDES Permit CA0083241)
- f. Paul Hoker, Triple E Produce, San Joaquin County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order 99-123
- g. Santa Fe Aggregates, Inc. and Walter John Seaborn, Sand and Gravel Plant, Tulare County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0048 (NPDES Permit CA0082201)
- h. The Oaks Community Association, the Oaks Community Association Wastewater Treatment Facility, Amador County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order 92-080

CHANGE OF NAME AND/OR OWNERSHIP (AGENDA ITEM 17)

- a. Carol Fulton Trust, Fulton Reclamation Facility, LLC, Glenn County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2019-0057
- b. Cemex Construction Materials Pacific, Patterson Sand and Gravel, Placer County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order 87-106
- c. Constellation Brands U.S. Operations, Inc., Turner Road Vintners, San Joaquin County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order 99-103
- d. Touchstone Pistachio Company, LLC, Touchstone Pistachio Co. Facility, Tulare County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0052
- e. Weststeyn 2015 Irrevocable Trust, JG Weststeyn Dairy, Glenn County – Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2009-0082

LATE REVISIONS

David Lancaster informed the Board there were late revisions:

- Item 13 Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc., Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility, Altamont County – Stipulation for Entry of Cease and Desist Order R5-2021-0502. Clerical errors, clarifications, and the restoration of the agreed upon CDO.

David Lancaster indicated staff spoke with representatives of Waste Management of Alameda County and Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility and all concurred with the revisions.

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA ITEM 7 (UNCONTESTED CALENDAR ITEMS 10, AND 13 THROUGH 17 WITH LATE REVISIONS)

Motioned: Member Avdis
Seconded: Member Bradford

Roll Call Vote:

Member Bradford	Yes
Member Brar	Yes
Member Kadara	Yes
Member Yang	Yes
Member Avdis	Yes
Vice Chair Ramirez	Yes
Chair Longley	Yes

Approved by Roll Call Vote of 7-0-0

AGENDA ITEM 8 – IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PRORAM – Resolution certifying a Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program – Consideration of a Resolution

Chair Longley indicated there were no individuals present to contest the hearing and proceeded with the alternate procedure based on the agenda materials in the record.

Comments from Interested Parties

Tess Dunham thanked staff and the Board for all the work on revising the irrigated lands orders to incorporate the CV-SALTS requirements. She further stated as it related to Member Yang and others that spoke about efforts to reach out to different ethnic organizations in the farming community, she offered her assistance in connecting the Board to some of the minority farming organizations. She further mentioned the considerable amount of work performed by the University of California Cooperative Extension to assist small farmers (small minority Asian farmers) in the Hmong community and others. Ms. Dunham wanted to ensure the newer Board Members were aware of these resources and her desire to help connect them. Chair Longley thanked Ms. Dunham for the offer and Member Yang requested more information via email.

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA ITEM 8 (RESOLUTION CERTIFYING A SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM)

Motioned: Member Bradford

Seconded: Member Kadara

Roll Call Vote:

Member Bradford	Yes
Member Brar	Yes
Vice Chair Kadara	Yes
Member Yang	Yes
Member Avdis	Yes
Vice Chair Ramirez	Absent
Chair Longley	Yes

Approved by Roll Call Vote of 6-0-0

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM –
Order amending eight Waste Discharge Requirements General Orders
for growers within the Central Valley that are members of a third-party
group – Consideration of an Order**

Chair Longley indicated the Board will consider an order amending eight waste discharge requirements orders for growers within the Central Valley that are members of a third-party group to implement the CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Control Program. Chair Longley asked if Counsel had any legal issues to discuss. Counsel Jessica Jahr indicated Member Avdis is enrolled in one of the agricultural orders. However, she indicated she reviewed any potential conflict and determined that Member Avdis can participate under the Political Reform Act because it does not rise to a material conflict that would prohibit him from participating.

Eric Warren (Water Resource Control Engineer) began his presentation to the Board. Mr. Warren presented proposed revisions to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) waste discharge requirements for growers in the Central Valley. Mr. Warren provided some background on the ILRP, discussed the recent basin plan amendments prompting the proposed revisions, highlighted key elements in the tentative orders, and ended the presentation with a summary of public comments received.

The ILRP general orders were originally adopted over a three-year period from 2012 to 2015, with the purpose of regulating agricultural waste discharges to protect surface groundwater quality (with primary focus on pesticides, nitrates and salt). In May of 2018, the Board adopted amendments to multiple water quality control plans in the region, which were the result of more than a decade's worth of work by stakeholders to establish a strategy for addressing legacy and ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation issues. As part of the amendments, the ILRP general orders were specifically required to be updated to incorporate the new salt and nitrate control program by July 2021. Mr. Warren provided a brief summary of some of the key elements of the proposed revisions and highlighted some of the input received during the public comment. Under the Salt Control Program, the third party will be responsible for responding to the Notice to Comply in making the compliance pathway election. It will have the choice between either demonstrating how member discharges will comply with conservative salinity

limits or participating in the prioritization and optimization study to help research and implement long term salinity solutions. Under both options, the third party will support a new surveillance and monitoring program to assess current salinity levels and trends in the Valley. Under the Nitrate Control Program, the third party again is responsible for responding to the Notice to Comply. As mentioned previously, both pathways will require an assessment of member discharges and plans to address groundwater impacts resulting from them. Early Action Plans are a key component of this Program and are designed to address the immediate drinking water needs of impacted users while long term solutions are being developed. The tentative orders were released for public comment on 19 February 2021. The California Rice Commission provided comments, along with a second joint comment letter from Clean Water Action, Community Water Center, and Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability. With regards to compliance with the State's antidegradation policy, a complete antidegradation analysis was prepared during initial adoption of the orders in addition to a separate analysis conducted when the Salt and Nitrate Control Program was adopted into the basin plans. In consideration of available information to date, staff found the data does not indicate any new types of ILRP discharges or pollutants not contemplated and evaluated fully in the previous order's antidegradation analysis. Chair Longley asked what the concerns of the commenters were. Jessica Jahr replied they were concerned there was not another antidegradation analysis done when the orders were updated. However, Ms. Jahr counseled that another analysis was not needed because the analysis had not changed. Ms. Jahr explained staff will review those again to determine whether a new antidegradation analysis is needed at that point. However, right now the analysis previously performed is still the current best analysis. Mr. Warren indicated a third comment letter was received from Contra Costa Water District requesting the tentative orders define and require maintenance of current discharge concentrations or mass loading levels for salinity. Additionally, it opposed existing language regarding the Executive Officer's ability to make determinations that Surface Water Management Plans are not required. With regards to implementation of discharge limits for salinity, the best basin plans specified the implementation of such limits is at the discretion of the Board and staff is not making that recommendation at this time. The tentative orders require members to implement reasonable, feasible, and practical efforts to control salinity and requires coalitions to continue monitoring to evaluate water quality trends over time. To address the District's concern regarding Executive Officer determinations for Management Plans, staff added a public comment period for any determinations to be made and clarified that they will be made based on enough evidence. Mr. Warren reviewed the last comment letter from the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities on behalf of the Sacramento River Source Water Protection Program (which shared Contra Costa Water District's concern regarding Management Plan determinations). Staff has prepared the tentative order before the Board today to amend waste discharge requirements general orders for growers within the Central Valley that are members of a third-party group. The tentative order was released for public comment and staff has responded to the comments received. Mr. Warren explained staff would like to recommend adoption of the proposed order and submit this presentation, the agenda package, and associated files into the record.

Questions and Comments from Board Members

Member Avdis asked if the Board was engaged on issues related to implementation during the actual implementation phase of the adopted orders. AEO Laputz indicated he had taken the Oath and responded the Board is not engaged in the day to day implementation of the Orders in this Program. There are a number of reports and requirements because this Program is so broad, public comment periods were included where the Executive Officer considers those comments. Depending on the difficulty of the issues, staff may bring informational items before the Board for discussion. As it relates to the CV-SALTS issues, there will be more engagement in the future as these management zones develop.

Questions and Comments from Interested Parties

Tess Dunham indicated she had taken the Oath and shared the ILRP's had been heavily involved and engaged in the implementation of the CV-SALTS basin plan amendments that were adopted by the Board in 2018 and approved by the State Water Board in 2019. She further indicated they had been working diligently in the priority management zone areas developing management zones, preparing management zone proposals, and Early Action Plans, as well as heavily involved in the development of the prioritization and optimization study. Ms. Dunham voiced support of the proposed revisions, including changes that have been made in response to some of the comments received by others. Ms. Dunham concluded by stating they look forward to working with the Board as it continues to implement the programs moving forward. Chair Longley and Board Member Kadara thanked her for her comments.

Bruce Houdesheldt (NCWA) indicated he had taken the Oath and echoed what Tess Dunham stated and encouraged staff and the Board to remain active, engaged, and informed as this Program moves forward. Chair Longley thanked Bruce for his comments.

Debbie Ores (Community Water Center/Clean Water Action and Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability) indicated she had taken the Oath. Ms. Ores thanked staff for taking quite a number of their comments. However, Ms. Ores indicated they continue to disagree with the Regional Board's approach to analyzing consistency with the State's antidegradation policy. This dispute in part stems from the open question of law subject to pending litigation regarding the standard of analyzing maximum benefit to the people of the State of California to irrigate agriculture. She further indicted they disagreed with the State Water Board's guidance that the requirements for antidegradation policy and the requisite maximum benefit finding are less rigorous in the context of nitrate pollution caused by irrigated agriculture. She stated they disagree with the characterization from earlier that there is no new data that has been previously contemplated or evaluated. She feels there is significantly more data regarding impacts of drinking water than was available in 2012, including results from the on-farm domestic well testing requirement (which is showing about a third of wells in some of the coalitions are testing above the nitrate levels). The State Water Board needs analysis which also includes identification of domestic wells that are at risk for nitrate contamination. Ms. Ores stated the ask is

the Board also consider the available data and the risk to drinking water users and consider the data in the context of each order when determining whether the order is consistent with the maximum benefit of the people of the State, not just maximum benefit for irrigated agriculture. She stated we must consider the impacts of drinking water users. She further stated conducting such an analysis may not require revisions to the orders themselves, though we have no way of knowing that without seeing the analysis. This analysis would better inform the Regional Board and the public regarding the impacts to waste discharge requirements before they are advised because this fails to analyze new data in conducting site specific analysis in support of the proposed maximum benefit finding. She stated they do not comply with the State antidegradation policy. Chair Longley thanked Debbie for her comments.

EO Pulupa replied that fundamentally when we're talking about the antidegradation requirements of the Irrigated Lands General Orders, the Board did make antidegradation findings. The State Water Board agreed with those antidegradation findings and indicated they were appropriate for a landscape level regulatory program such as the ILRP. EO Pulupa stated our findings are sufficiently robust to meet the State Water Board's thresholds, but the Regional Board has a difference of opinion with Ms. Ores as to the appropriate legal standard to apply. The overall import is that we have a robust regulatory program that is working to reduce nitrate loading over the long term and the acknowledgement that there is going to be impacts to drinking water users and to drinking water resources while we work on that program, but that the overall trajectory of the program and the approaches taken under the CV-SALTS Program is to the maximum benefit of the people of the State. EO Pulupa stated the proposed findings that the Board is going to be making again are consistent with the Board's past regulatory approach and is consistent with the guidance provided by the State Water Board.

Chair Longley requested closing remarks and a recommendation from EO Pulupa. EO Pulupa indicated he understands there are differences of opinion as to the application of the antidegradation policy. However, the Orders before the Board today represent a significant step forward in the implementation of the CV-SALTS Regulatory Program. As we move forward towards implementation, the Orders being amended today will serve the public, protect water quality, and will significantly advance the State's interest in safe, clean, and affordable drinking water, while maintaining the integrity of the agricultural industry within the Central Valley. EO Pulupa supports staff's recommendation as presented.

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA ITEM 9 (APPROVE THE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM – ORDER AMENDING EIGHT WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS GENERAL ORDERS FOR GROWERS WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY THAT ARE MEMBERS OF A THIRD-PARTY GROUP AS PRESENTED)

Motioned: Member Kadara
Seconded: Member Brar

Roll Call Vote:
Member Bradford Yes

Member Brar	Yes
Vice Chair Kadara	Yes
Member Yang	Yes
Member Avdis	Yes
Vice Chair Ramirez	Yes
Chair Longley	Yes

Approved by Roll Call Vote of 7-0-0

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Strategic Planning: Update from the Board’s 19 March 2021 Facilitated Stakeholder Workshop

Chair Longley provided an informational summary of the 19 March 2021 strategic planning stakeholder workshop. Clint Snyder (Assistant Executive Officer, Redding) provided the Board with an overview of the workshop and noted it was well attended. Clint further noted several topics highlighted by stakeholders made for a productive conversation via the online survey circulated between January and February of 2021. The workshop planning and facilitation team included Chair Longley, Member Bradford, EO Pulupa, a facilitator and staff from Stantec (Lisa Buetler), Chris Flower, Christine Croyle, Lynn Coster, Rebecca Asami, Jonathan Muerer, and Maxine Cottrell. Clint thanked Holly Martin and Gene Coughlin from the IT Department for their assistance with the virtual workshop. Clint noted there were 59 participants actively engaged in the zoom session and 143 who participated via the YouTube live stream. Participants had an opportunity to email questions and provide comment throughout the workshop. Additionally, the chat feature was enabled to allow communication with stakeholders.

Clint further stated the goals of the workshop included exploring opportunities to increase satisfaction with the Board's decision-making process, build an enhanced understanding of stakeholder priorities, and then refine those concepts for potential inclusion into the Regional Board Strategic Plan. EO Pulupa explained the workshop also included some discussion about how the Regional Boards fit into the whole ecosystem of regulatory agencies and natural resource agencies within the State of California. Comments from stakeholders included some confusion about the State Water Board and its relation to the nine Regional Boards. EO Pulupa pointed out the Central Valley Regional Board was the largest with 42% of the landmass of California and some of the most critical water quality issues take place in the Central Valley (timber, irrigated agriculture, oil fields, disadvantage communities). EO Pulupa indicated this effort began in the Fall of 2019 to strategize about the Vision Statement and Mission Statement, which are currently on the Water Board’s website. The Committee used these planning sessions to discuss strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Despite the Covid 19 emergency, members of the strategic planning committee reached out to the 18 water quality programs to hear about what their opportunities were and how they could play a role in the development of strategic objectives. The next objectives include a discussion on a grand strategy for the June 2021 Board

Meeting. The goal is to have a finalized strategic plan by August 2021 that will provide a road map of strategic objectives for the next five to seven years.

Lynn Coster reviewed the results of the stakeholder survey that was open January 11th through February 22nd with 456 responses received from both external and internal respondents. One of the strategic planning survey questions asked respondents what water quality issues were the highest priority for the Central Valley Water Board to address in the next five to seven years and 26 proposed water quality issues were listed in the survey. Respondents were asked to rate each issue as essential, high priority, medium priority, low priority, or not a priority. 326 responses were received. Among the highest identified priorities were climate change, drought, water quality, reducing the cost of compliance, long term salinity management, trash in storm sewers, CV-SALTS Nitrate Control Program, and underserved/underrepresented communities. Lynn further reviewed other issues of concern such as zero trash and homelessness. Rebecca Asami (Engineering Geologist, Fresno) further expanded on the topic of addressing the concerns of underserved and underrepresented communities. The Committee wanted to learn from participants what the Board is doing well and where the Board could improve. Approximately 20% of respondents identified as being from disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities. Written responses to the survey included suggestions to provide more resources to decentralized communities and disadvantaged communities. Other concerns included the need for safe and affordable drinking water to disadvantaged communities. Many respondents from the environmental justice community indicated the priorities of the Board should include allocating more resources to enforcement, addressing the impacts of climate change in drought, developing ways to more effectively address the needs of the environmental justice community, and allocate more resources to preserving the Delta's water quality. Rebecca further stated survey respondents indicated the Board was doing well with communication, protecting water quality, running programs, and being transparent in the work being performed. However, engagement was identified as both something the Board was doing well and an area where the Board could improve. Some of the points and suggestions included from workshop participants was to ensure the webinars or other activities were more inclusive for those that speak other languages (particularly Spanish), and work with the disadvantaged communities more (especially in the CV-SALTS Program). Chris Flower (Engineering Geologist, Rancho Cordova) indicated the third topic discussed in detail with stakeholders revolved around climate change and drought and developing strategies to help people and resources threatened by climate change. The question was asked what water quality issues were the highest priority for the Central Valley Water Board to address in the next five to seven years. Climate change and drought impacts, as well as long term salinity management received the highest responses. Water supply and water quality were also identified as critical. The Central Valley Water Board staff anticipate increased engagement with the progressive fire resiliency plan to support combatting climate change and foresee an increase in opportunities to obtain grant funding to mitigate climate impacts. Christine Croyle (Staff Services Manager, Rancho Cordova) discussed the cost of strategic compliance options and methods for addressing those costs. Many comments were received on this issue, specifically from small farm owners and businesses. Of the 326 respondents, 55% rated working to reduce the cost of compliance for permittees as high or essential priority and it was the number one priority for permittees at 77.5%. The Committee asked

respondents what other ways the Board should be considering the cost associated with compliance. The feedback received indicated the Board should be looking at the models used in the wetland's management and water quality monitoring programs and that cost should be commensurate to risk. Respondents indicated farmers have left farming because of the regulations and the politics involved and felt these issues inhibit the ability to solve these problems. Respondents also indicated the need for agencies to prioritize getting staff out in the field, specifically respondents want Board staff to understand the day-to-day struggle of the regulated community. Christine stated the topic of rethinking approaches to special water quality concerns, homeless encampments, and the goal of zero trash was also discussed. 90% of respondents stated that allocating more resources to address water quality concerns related to homeless encampments was a medium to essential priority. Christine showed a photo from the Steelhead Creek cleanup project that the Regional Board collaborated on with other agencies. The Project removed 120,000 pounds of trash from the waterway. Although the Board has some leverage with MS4 permits, the Board has limited resources, funding, and limited leverage on this issue.

Ms. Croyle also reviewed the discussion of stakeholder engagement and what the Board has learned about engagement during the pandemic. Many stakeholders shared they appreciated the additional engagement opportunities provided by staff via the option to attend meetings virtually. Stakeholders also felt it was important for staff to develop plans to address racial inequality and address environmental justice. When attendees were asked if they interacted with the Board via the option to participate virtually, 26% indicated they interacted less, 30% indicated they interacted more, and 44% indicated they interacted about the same with the Board during the pandemic.

Chris Flower further discussed the topic of engagement with the Board. Feedback from stakeholders included comments such as the realization that while virtual meetings make for more accessible environment, some components of in person meetings (like body language or other nuances) are lost in a virtual setting. Stakeholders also commented that the virtual environment allowed stakeholder participation where it would otherwise not be feasible.

EO Pulupa informed the Board the June 2021 Board meeting will preview in more detail the emerging themes as the strategic planning process continues. EO Pulupa further reviewed the draft strategic priorities as:

- Adaptive Prioritization – Tailoring permits, enforcement, and planning based on threat to water quality
- Strategic engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities
- Development of climate change dashboard/portal
- Internal process improvements to achieve greater efficiency and higher employee engagement

Lastly, EO Pulupa felt it was important to achieve greater workforce diversity with a greater emphasis on racial equity to allow the Board to operate with more validity,

genuineness, and trust in the communities it serves. EO Pulupa indicated those efforts may not be visible to the dischargers at the front end. However, moving in this direction will have positive effects for years to come. A more robust discussion will occur at the June 2021 Board Meeting and the public and other stakeholders will be invited to comment on these issues. A strategic plan will be drafted over the Summer and the Plan will be considered in August 2021.

Questions and Comments from Board Members

Chair Longley commented that staff's involvement had been outstanding, and the information gathered had been very revealing and useful. Member Bradford agreed with Chair Longley's comments and stated the Committee did excellent work despite other distractions. Member Bradford pointed out that AEO Clint Snyder and EO Pulupa were excellent leaders in this process and was amazed at the work that was completed in such a short time.

Member Avdis thought that this was a great presentation and doing some of the background reading on the strategic planning efforts focused his attention to various issues. Member Avdis pointed out we are not an organization with infinite resources. He further stated in terms of adaptive prioritization across all regulatory programs, this was an important component of any strategic plan. Member Avdis appreciated the robust stakeholder involvement.

Chair Longley commented the Water Quality Coordinating Committee is meeting in October 2021. This meeting consists of all Regional Board Members in the State and is also attended by the State Water Board. The Regional Board Members have input into the Agenda topics. Chair Longley asked the Board Members if the topic of homelessness is something they would like to see on the Agenda. Member Kadara indicated she would like to see this topic addressed at the Water Quality Coordinating Committee and noted it had been a topic prior. She would like to revisit the subject, see what has been done during the pandemic, and see if the issue can be moved forward since there is still a lot of work to be done in this area. Member Avdis agreed with Member Kadara's comments.

Member Bradford felt the topic of climate change as it relates to forest management and wildfires should be on the Agenda as well.

Chair Longley further stated there were two topics he would like on the Agenda. The first is homelessness and the Board's role, and the second is forest management in the context of wildfire prevention. Vice Chair Ramirez agreed with Chair Longley.

Member Kadara stated with the potential of Federal funds coming to California, this may provide an opportunity to work with other agencies on the issues of homelessness and its impacts on water quality. Chair Longley indicated he would include forest management, homelessness, and federal funding on his list for the October meeting.

Member Kadara felt it was important to continue to find ways to reach out and educate and engage the residents, especially the underserved population. Continuing to find

ways to involve, engage, and educate that segment of the population only strengthens our way of making sure they are inclusive in this process. Member Kadara felt we are moving in the right direction in this process. She then thanked Chair Longley, Member Bradford, and staff for their efforts.

Member Yang commented on the strategic planning efforts and thanked the staff for their work. He felt this work was critical and efforts to solicit feedback from underserved communities was essential. Member Yang offered his assistance in this area. Member Yang expressed his belief that a lot of people need us to outreach to them because they do not know how to reach out to us. Member Yang looks forward to hearing more on future strategic planning efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – Selection of Vice-Chairperson – The Board will deliberate and select a Vice-Chairperson for 2021

Chair Longley stated the selection of the Vice Chair was continued from the February 2021 Board Meeting. Vice-Chair Ramirez and Member Kadara both expressed interest in the position prior to and during the February 2021 meeting.

After some discussion, Vice Chair Ramirez indicated she had competing priorities and did not wish to continue in the position of Vice Chair. Chair Longley thanked her for her commitment and service and remained confident of her ability to remain a valuable member of the Board.

Vice Chair Ramirez indicated it would be her honor to nominate Member Kadara as Vice Chair of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5). Chair Longley seconded the nomination. Vice Chair Kadara accepted the position and indicated it was her pleasure to serve in this capacity.

MOTION TO NOMINATE BOARD MEMBER DENISE KADARA AS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD – REGION 5.

Motioned: Chair Longley
Seconded: Vice Chair Ramirez

Roll Call Vote:

Member Bradford	Yes
Member Brar	Yes
Member Kadara	Yes
Member Yang	Yes
Member Avdis	Yes
Vice Chair Ramirez	Yes
Chair Longley	Yes

Approved by Roll Call Vote of 7-0-0

Meeting Adjourned

Board meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M. to the 17/18 June 2021 Board Meeting.