

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - DRAFT Summary

February 2, 2024 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Central Marin Sanitation Agency
1301 Andersen Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901

Zoom was available for those to attend virtually
www.nbwatershed.org

1. **Welcome and Call to Order—Directors, Member Representatives Present Included:**

Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency
Cory Bytof – City of San Rafael	Andy Rodgers – NBWA
Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael	Sabrina Marson – NBWA
Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Bob Bundy - Corte Madera Flood Control Board
Mary Sacket – Marin County	Tierra Groff – Environmental Science Associates (Guest Speaker)
Larry Russell – Marin Municipal Water District	Jeanette Weisman – Metropolitan Transportation Commission (Guest Speaker)
Rick Fraithe – North Marin Water District	Ian Achimore – Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (Guest Speaker)
Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District	Susan Stompe – Public
Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District	Kate Powers – Public

Nine NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 18-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended in-person and remote via Zoom.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order – Roll Call and Introductions** – Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:32 am and took roll call.
2. **General Public Comment** – None
3. **Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes Review**– Chair Mariani asked for any Board members to speak up if there were requested changes to the agenda. No comments. Director Boorstein moved to approve the agenda. Director Patterson seconded; None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for December. No comments. Chair accepted the minutes by consensus.

Treasurer’s Report

No comments on the November Treasurer’s Report. Director Fraithe moved to approve the November Treasurer’s Report; Director Boorstein seconded—Unanimously accepted.

4. **Guest Presentation: Intro to North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)**

Jeanette Weisman, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and Environmental Science Associates

Jeanette and her team (Tierra and Ian) provided a brief overview of the draft RCIS planning sessions in preparation for a deeper dive presentation in May. Topics included the current status and timeline and the overall structure of the RCIS document review.

RCIS, the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, is a collaboration brought forth by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, CAL Trans, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, which is part of the MTC ABAG coalition, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, and Environmental Sciences Associates.

RCIS is a California Department of Fish and Wildlife document developed in order to help guide conservation regionally and also to enable a mitigation credit agreement. The regional conservation investment strategy pulls together more localized conservation information and strategies and gives them coordinated guidance and communications across more localized areas. In the North Bay there are numerous conservation efforts already underway; they are trying to pull together guidance documents that would facilitate more effective collaborations. A mitigation credit agreement is being considered.

They are focused on the North Bay because it is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges and needs concerted restoration to restore historic Baylands. They initiated this process a year ago to develop a draft that was made public last July on the CDFW website. There was a review period that ended in September. They are reviewing the comments and feedback and are now in the final stages to integrate into a final draft. (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation/RCIS>). They received a Wildlife Conservation Board grant two years ago to fund this effort and ends June 2024.

Tierra provided more detail regarding the North Bay Baylands RCIS Outline.

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-17/>

Questions/Comments:

Bundy (public): The Corte Madera wetlands are not included. Is there any agency or program looking at the erosion and loss of wetlands that we've seen there? What is the 100-year storm surge? Is that 2 feet, 2 and a half feet?

Groff: [The RCIS] is focused on the San Pablo Baylands but touches on other portions of the Bay. I see a potential need for a more Marin centric focused RCIS that addresses the Corte Madera wetlands and watershed resources in West Marin.

The 100-year storm surge is addressed in chapter two. The Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) Database is adapting to rising tides if you go on their website,

they actually have a really cool interactive web tool.

www.usgs.gov/centers/pcmssc/science/coastal-storm-modeling-system-cosmos

Director Patterson: Can you expand on the Solano connection? To what extent have you done the geology to identify areas that are good for floodwater capture and replenishing groundwater?

Groff: The portion of Solano County that is included goes up to the northern portion of the Carquinez Bridge and then extends upwards through American Canyon. No technical studies were completed. It's a compilation of plans and strategies that already exist of the best available science and is more of a guidance tool.

Powers (public): Are mitigation credit agreements the same as mitigation banking? I've heard that the concern with banking is that you concentrate the biodiversity and the ecology of little areas that might be spread out amongst the watersheds of the North Bay into one broader mitigation project and that biodiversity might be actually lost in the process.

Weisman: I do think there is a relationship to mitigation credit agreements and mitigation banks. Essentially the concept is that you approve conservation actions which have been deemed valuable and important in this case regionally and you could go to a specific geographic area to get some clarity on where within the region that would be most valuable and needed. It actually empowers and funds the work that's needed based on the conservation needs based on the ecology. I think the CDFW vision is that it creates an opportunity. To have better ecological decisions and solutions rather than just reacting project by project.

Tierra added that mitigation banks are for wetland resources and conservation banks are for a species and a mitigation credit agreement. Mitigation credit agreements allow mitigation for temporary project impacts. They can also be established on private or public lands. They can also be used for wildlife corridors, ecological processes—things that aren't covered by the typical banking process.

Both Jeanette and Tierra are available if anyone would like to talk more.

Website: <http://baylandsrcis.org> Contact: info@baylandsrcis.org

The May NBWA Board meeting will include a deeper dive on this topic.

5. **Guest Presentation - Outlook for Roundtable of Regions and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)**

Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Ian described the current activities of the Roundtable of IRWM Regions, as well as the future outlook of the IRWM at the local level. Ian also described some information the State has shared regarding the future of the IRWM Program

The following items were discussed included:

- Overview of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
- Allocation of IRWM Funding

- NBWA Members Who Have Had an IRWM-Funded Project
- Total IRWM Grant Funding to SF Bay Area to date
- Overview of the Roundtable of Regions
- Future of IRWM Program
- Funding for Watershed Resiliency Program
- Eligible Projects
- SAWPA Climate Resilience Strategy in the Santa Ana River Watershed
- Network Coordinator - Benefits to Various Regions Like North Bay

The full presentation is in PDF format and can be found at <https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-17/>

Questions/Comments:

Director Clark: Wastewater is not a sector in and of itself, only as it supplies water. Is that true? Also, what are eligible projects that can apply for grants?

Achimore: I can't speak for DWR, but I know through our comments to the California Water Plan, we advocated that DWR recognize what we called sewer sheds—the sanitation district areas. It's a big focus for us because recycled water is a big portion of our water supply in Southern California. We spend a lot of time on water quality compliance. He recommends that others also send in comments like this to DWR.

He is not an expert on eligible projects. That is a question for DWR.

Director Patterson: This topic is her wheelhouse. Regarding wastewater, DWR recognizes the water supply aspect of it. In the California Water Plan, least funded programs are education and land use. She used to be the Land Use Planner for the California Water Plan—Land use is called out in every single program yet not funded in part because DWR is not a regulatory agency. She encourages many and all to get your legislative representatives to support general funding for the program.

Bundy (public): Was there any focus on integrating or consolidating some of the multiple agencies that are dealt with such as consolidating water supply and sanitation or consolidating a neighborhood geographically?

Achimore: Not through the California water plan, not from DWR. I know there's been separate legislation on the water supply side.

6. **Executive Director Report**

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the December 1 Board meeting, April conference planning, outlook for next fiscal year's work plan and budget, association administration updates, and other activities, programs and communications.

Summary highlights include:

Updates since last meeting

- Thank you, Novato Sanitary District for hosting NBWA's December 1st Board meeting
- Attended IRWM Quarterly Roundtable of Regions meetings on December 6, 2023
- Met with US ACOE to advocate for WRDA project funding in North Bay
- Attended SFEI's First Annual Sediment Solutions Project Meeting on December 19, 2023
- Attended NBWA social gathering on January 5, 2024
- Attended CASQA Leg Subcommittee meeting on January 24, 2024

Administrative Activities

- Coordinated future Board events and speakers
- Updated NBWA website
- Coordinated with MMWD Finance Manager and NBWA staff on reporting
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants

Communications

- NBWA Q Newsletter – Winter 2024 distributed January 2024
- Met with former NBWA ED Harry Seraydarian on December 8, 2023
- Coordinated with members to host meetings and highlight programs
- Regional partners
- Subject matter experts and speakers
- Chair, Deputy Director, and staff to progress NBWA initiatives

Committees

- Conference Committee meeting on Jan 30, 2024
- Met with BAYWORK on January 24, 2024
- Congratulations to Chris Choo on new position as Assistant Director, Marin County Community Development Agency!

Andy provided an overview of the social gathering on January 5—The Board is in favor of having the event again next year. The April 19th NBWA (hybrid) Conference at Sonoma State is now accepting Sponsors. The NBWA is also utilizing the most current, eco-friendly, and cost savings technology to enhance the event. Andy briefly discussed the budget around the conference planning, marketing, and on-site materials and features.

Find more information on the conference at <https://bit.ly/NBWA2024Conference>

NBWA: 1 & 2 Quarter 2024 Outlook

- Board meetings – March 1, May 3, June 7 (field trip)
- Build on conference themes/outcomes
 - Watershed networks
 - Funding – convene JTC
 - Workforce development
- Progress Development of Scholarship and Small Grants Program
- Plan for Convening North Bay Environmental Education Roundtable
- Finalize FY2024-2025 Work Plan

NBWA: FY2024-2025 Outlook

- Eight Board meetings
- Two Field Trips/meetings
- Two skip months (Aug and Jan)
- Two Administrative Steering Committee meetings
- Launch Scholarship and Small Grants Program
- Convene North Bay Water Resiliency Workforce Development Subcommittee
- Facilitate Convening a NB Environmental Education Roundtable and Network
- Participate in & Advocate for Regional Program Support
- Position for Regional/State/Federal funding
- Update Fiscal Policies and Administrative Agency Plan

Other

- New ecology center project moves forward in American Canyon, PD 1/31/24

Mark your calendar:

- March 1 – In person/hybrid
Location: Ross Valley Sanitary District
- April 5 – In person/hybrid (possible skip)
- April 19 – Biennial Conference @ SSU
- May 3 – In person/hybrid
Location: Mare Island?, Napa?
- June 7 – Field Trip

7. **Board Information Exchange**

Director Hageman: Next Saturday is King Tide Day. Registration is encouraged.

[link in chat] <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/event/king-tide-day/>

Director Patterson: Solano County not the Water District but the county sued DWR over the Delta Tunnel EIR. The water agency renewed their 25-year contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. State route 37 announced a new approach and they're including the secretary of natural resources and federal representatives. She recently moderated a panel at an annual symposium in Davis on geological survey process for identifying areas that are suitable for groundwater recharge. [Some parts of the update were inaudible.]

Director Sackett: Marin County Fair theme for this year is going to be Make A Splash and is really focused on education around water. If anybody's interested in partnering or presenting we're working right now to bring some of those pieces together; it can be a good opportunity to get a different group of people.

[link in chat] www.marincounty.gov/news-releases/marin-county-fair-2024-theme-make-splash

Director Boorstein: [inaudible]

Director Bytof: Kate Hagemann will now be the main NBWA representative and Bytof will be the alternate.

Director Fraites: 85-90% completed with designing and building a new headquarters. When it gets built, they will host future NBWA meetings.

8. **Announcements/Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am

Next Meeting: March 1, 2024