

North Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

February 7, 2025| 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Novato Sanitary District
500 Davidson Street, Novato, CA 94945

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

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

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| Michael Boorstein – Central Marin Sanitation Agency | Andy Rodgers – NBWA |
| Pierre Washington – City of American Canyon | Sabrina Marson – NBWA |
| Kate Hagemann – City of San Rafael | Andrew Reyes, CARB – Guest Presenter |
| Pat Eklund – City of Novato | Dylan Seidner, CARB – Guest Presenter |
| John Shribbs – City of Petaluma | Brent Johnson, Clean Transportation NV5 – Guest Presenter |
| Ron Wellander – City of Sonoma | Dean Kunes, Clean Energy Transportation – Guest Presenter |
| Amber Manfree – County of Napa | Stephen Keese – Public |
| Megan Clark – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District | Oriana Hart – Public |
| Larry Russel – Marin Municipal Water District | Susan Stompe – Public |
| Rick Fraites – North Marin Water District | Anthony Poggi – Public |
| Jean Mariani (Chair) – Novato Sanitary District | Mark Hedeem – Public |
| Pamela Meigs – Ross Valley Sanitary District | |
| Elizabeth Patterson – Solano County Water Agency | |
| Brad Sherwood – Sonoma Water | |

Fourteen NBWA board members attended the meeting comprised of 25-member agency staff, stakeholders, partners, and interested members of the public. Meeting participants attended in-person and remotely via Zoom.

Chair Mariani called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and took roll call.

2. **Election of Board Officers**

Andy announced that the Board needed to either reappoint the current Chair and Vice Chair or reselect both positions.

Director Patterson moved to have Chair Mariani continue. Director Eklund seconded.

Brad Sherwood nominated himself for Vice Chair. Andy took roll call. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

3. **General Public Comment** – Stephen Keese announced a TV program called "Wildfire Watch" happening on Monday. Experts from Marin County who know a lot about the fires in Los Angeles—it's about lessons learned and will be on Zoom and Facebook.

4. **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. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Chair Mariani asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for the December Board meeting. Edits were provided to staff. No additional comments. None opposed—Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

No comments on the Treasurer's Report. The organization is roughly mid-way through its work plan and had created operating reserves. Director Patterson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Director Boorstein seconded—Unanimously accepted.

5. Guest Panel Presentations—Air Quality Protection Requirements and Potential Implications & Resources for NBWA Agencies

Presentation and discussions included the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, the Clean Truck Check program, the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to clean transportation, and the potential impact of current administration's policies on the electric vehicle industry.

The full presentations are available in PDF format here

<https://www.nbwatershed.org/event/nbwa-board-meeting-26/>

Guest—Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation - State and Local Government Agency Fleet Requirements

Andrew Reyes, Air Resource Engineer, California Air Resources Board

Andrew, from the California Air Resources Board, discussed the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, which applies to medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The regulation has four main components, including a 100% zero-emission vehicle sales requirement for manufacturers starting in 2036. The regulation is phased in over two decades, ensuring that all combustion-powered vehicles are guaranteed their full useful life. The regulation also includes a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) purchase schedule for state and local government fleets, with a default option of a 50% ZEV purchase schedule from 2024 to 2026, increasing to 100% in 2027. Near-zero emission vehicles can be purchased equally to full zero-emission vehicles to provide more flexibility. The regulation also includes exemptions and extensions for certain vehicle types or duty cycles.

Board members raised concerns about the cost and feasibility of transitioning to electric or near-electric heavy fleet vehicles, particularly in the context of wildfires and emergency response.

Director Russell shared a positive experience with a client who successfully transitioned to electric vehicles with funding support from the county.

Guest—Clean Truck Check Program

Dylan Seidner, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board

Dylan presented a detailed overview of the Clean Truck Check program, explaining its three-step process, the types of vehicles it applies to, and the compliance fees. He also clarified that the program does not apply to emergency vehicles, gasoline heavy-duty vehicles, or zero-emission vehicles. Dylan confirmed that the program is still in effect despite changes in California's emission standards. Director Russell expressed relief that the Clean Truck Check program is still in effect.

Guest—ZEV Fleet Considerations for Public Agencies

Brent Johnson, PE, Vice President, Clean Transportation NV5

Brent, a former water engineer and now Vice President of Clean Transportation at NV5, discussed the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to clean transportation. He highlighted the importance of early utility coordination, infrastructure planning, and the use of charging management software. Brent also explained the different funding options available, including the Make Ready Program and the Rule 29 program. He emphasized the need for public agencies to plan carefully for their transition, considering factors such as vehicle usage, charging infrastructure, and power needs. Brent also mentioned the potential for private entities to provide capital for charging infrastructure projects.

Brent expressed concerns about the potential impact of the current administration's policies on the electric vehicle (EV) industry, particularly the possibility of cutting federal assistance for EV programs. He also discussed the ongoing legal battle over California's emissions regulations and the potential for the federal government to overturn the state's waiver. Brent also highlighted the challenges of transitioning to clean energy, citing the need for more exemptions for vehicles and the difficulty of meeting the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) with current infrastructure.

Guest—PG&E EV Fleet Resources

Dean Kunesch, EV Fleet Advisor, Clean Energy Transportation

Dean, a fleet advisor with six years of experience working with various fleets, presented the EV Fleet program. The program, which has already signed 318 contracts, aims to electrify 6,500 vehicles over five years, with a commitment of electrifying two or more vehicles. The program offers incentives to offset infrastructure costs and provides charger rebates for disadvantaged communities. Dean also introduced the new Derms platform, which allows for more efficient use of renewable energy resources. He also mentioned the Fleet Advisory Service, a new service that provides guidance for electrifying fleets. The service is currently in its beta phase and plans to launch fully in March.

6. Executive Director Report

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director

Andy provided updates and solicited board input on activities since the November 8 Board meeting, including association administration updates, and other activities, programs, and communications.

High level updates Andy provided are:

- NBWA Board meeting and walking tour of headquarters and facilities on December 6. Thank you, Point Blue Conservation Science!
- Attend coordinated Napa-Sonoma GSAs meeting with DWR on Dec 16
- Attend CASQA legislation subcommittee meeting on January 22

Administrative Activities

- Develop FY 2025/26 workplan
- Coordinate February board meeting panel
- Calendar scheduling
- Coordinate with Board Chair and Treasurer
- AR – Membership dues
- AP – Subconsultants
- Updated website and meeting packet information

Communications

- Manage/progress NBWA social media program
- Meet with SSU CEI faculty on January 14 to progress workforce development initiatives borne from 2024 NBWA conference
- Research, outreach, and communications with members and subject matter experts regarding development for future Board topics

Committees

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FY 2024-25 Board Meetings

First Friday of every month - Except of course for holidays!

- February 7
- March 7
- April 4

Andy discussed the upcoming 25th anniversary of the organization and suggested potential dates for a celebratory event in April, May, or June.

7. Small Grants and Scholarship Programs

The board approved a new small grants program for NBWA with a \$60,000 budget for the current fiscal year, including \$50,000 for small grants and \$10,000 for scholarships. The program aims to advance NBWA's mission and provide regional benefits, focusing on youth engagement, workforce development, and innovative projects. A grant program committee will review applications and make recommendations to the board for final decisions. The timeline involves a "soft launch" with potential awards by the end of the fiscal year for implementation in the next fiscal year.

Director Boorstein moved to approve the Small Grants and Scholarship Programs. Director Patterson seconded— Director Hagemann abstained. Unanimously accepted otherwise. The motion passes with a two-thirds majority vote after discussion and recognition of the staff's hard work in developing the program.

8. NBWA FY 2025/26 Draft Workplan Overview—Due to time constraints, the Board was unable to discuss this agenda item. This item has been held over for discussion at the next Board meeting, scheduled for March 7.

9. Board Information Exchange and Updates

Director Shribbs: They experienced some flooding in town recently, but it was less than 24 hours and it got worked out. That's a major improvement over past flooding that they've had

along the river. There has been a lot of discussion about artificial turf and PFAS. Petaluma approved it. But putting in, they're going to have a bioswale and test runoff. They're collecting everything that can be collected, because studies are showing lots of particles are coming out and going into our streams.

Director Meigs: They received the Small Collection Systems of the year Award from the 2024 CWEA Redwood Empire Section. RVSD staff recently provided mutual aid to the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) at their San Geronimo Treatment Plant in Woodacre. Staff assisted MMWD by helping to dewater a tank from a rotary press used in their water treatment activities.

Director Patterson: UC Davis is offering a webinar course over several weeks on groundwater and watershed management issues and you get a discount at \$70 for the entire course https://groundwater.ucanr.edu/Short_Course/. SFEI has noted that they have lost funding because it's not coming through for their programs. Check into that because they're a partner for our regional Bayshore resilience. At the last meeting, she mentioned Valero's \$84 million fine for a violation in Venetia. Normally, these fines go to the air district's general fund, but due to policy changes, about \$62 million will benefit Benicia. She believes this is perfect for a fleet changeover to EVs. Lake Berryessa is spilling in to the glory hole, that is, contract water that is stored water that people have paid for, and that just went through the hole. The State does not store water in Oroville. That's why you try to get water down to San Luis Reservoir, and when San Luis Reservoir spills it's the same thing. You don't have any water in your contract.

Director Manfree: [Addressing Director Patterson] Yes, the glory hole is spilling. That's my district. Late last year the Board of Supervisors voted to move forward with a solar array. The communities, mostly the city, but the community and flood district are working on river trail and expanding the Napa River flood project right now, so that is moving forward into the last phases of agreements and then construction. Our flooding is activated in this last storm, which is also exciting for the locals

Director Eklund: She is on the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission, and wanted to inform that the agency now requires local governments to develop a regional shoreline adaptation plan to address sea level rise. Collaboration is essential, and there's an open invitation to work with both city and county officials, particularly in the sanitary districts within city limits. One unified plan is preferred, and discussions with county representatives emphasize this approach.

Additionally, exploring fleet sharing between jurisdictions is recommended to save costs and support electrification requirements. Coordination with the city manager and other counties is necessary to evaluate the feasibility and benefits of such an initiative.

Director Fraites: Headquarters is almost complete. First meeting is on the 18th; the public isn't invited yet.

Director Sherwood: Our reservoirs are currently at 100-113% capacity. Budget setting season is upon us, so expect news on proposed water transmission rates. We're in ongoing negotiations, with sewer connection rates hovering around 9-10% and fees varying from

8-12% depending on the zone. We manage nine different sanitation zones in the county. For a future meeting, our director of engineering has provided a comprehensive capital improvement project update, detailing our system's current state and future major projects, which should be of interest to the board

10. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

11. Announcements/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

Next Board Meeting: March 7

SUBMITTED BY: Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, NBWA