

**CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NETWORK (CCLEAN)**  
**Steering Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
2:00 pm- 3:30 pm  
*Via Teleconference Zoom Webinar*

The meeting was called to order on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 pm by Barbara Buikema. Silent roll call was taken by Barbara Buikema of the voting committee members signed on to Zoom.

**Participants:**

**Present:**

Barbara Buikema, General Manager: Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD)  
Carla James, Laboratory Supervisor: CAWD  
Patrick Treanor, District Engineer: CAWD  
Kati King, Wastewater Lab/Compliance Manager: City of Scotts Valley  
Bryan Condy, Laboratory Manager: City of Watsonville  
Olivia Woolery, Interim Laboratory Supervisor: Monterey One Water (M1W)  
Akin Babatola, Laboratory/Environmental Compliance Manager (Chair): City of Santa Cruz  
Jennie Munster, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Chemist| City of Santa Cruz  
Jose Guzman, Operations Manager: Monterey One Water

**Absent:**

Sarah Stevens, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Supervisor: Monterey One Water  
Vistra Zero Landing Energy Storage Facility (Moss Landing Power Plant) Power Plant  
Representative: Unknown At This Time

**A quorum was present**

**Participants – Non-Voting Members: Present**

Aroon Melwani, Senior Scientist, Central Coast Managing Principal Partner: Applied Marine Sciences (AMS)  
Dane Hardin, Senior Marine Scientist, Principal: Applied Marine Sciences  
Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board

**Participants – Non-Voting Members: Absent**

Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager| Central Coast Water Board  
Cameron Kostigen Mumper, Associate Manager | Pure Water Soquel

**Virtual Public Attendees:** None

1. ***Appearances/Public Comments:*** No Public Appearances / Public Comment

2. **Agenda Changes:**

None.

3. **Agenda Items:**

**A. Introductions:**

Patrick Treanor (CAWD) introduced himself and said that Carla James (CAWD) would be the new CCLEAN representative from CAWD.

**B. Chair's Report, by Akin Babatola**

Akin Babatola reported that he received a series of notices of violations from the regional board which led to discussions with the water board which he wanted to report on here. Akin reported that there had been some loss of traction in terms of previous documented work that pertained to current practices of reporting compounds of emerging concern and nutrients. The previous studies provided a basis for the current reporting regimes, but the current questions seem to not be taking into account the information and conclusions reached as part of the previous studies, which were conducted in 2010. The new questions being raised seem to be originating from the EPA. Akin stated that if we don't resurface the previous work as the primary responses to the questions then we would be redoing work that was already done at a substantial cost. This brings to light the need to make sure that prior work is not lost, and the importance of maintaining good records of important information and studies on the CCLEAN website.

**C. Review of July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

**Discussion:**

No comments were made on the meeting minutes.

**Decision:**

Barbara Buikema called for acceptance of the meeting minutes and there were no objections.

**Action Item:**

None.

**D. Lead Agency Remarks**

**Discussion:**

Barbara Buikema reiterated Patrick Treanor's comments in the Introduction that Carla James will now be the CAWD Representative.

**Decision:**

None.

**Action Item:**

None

**E. CCLEAN Topics or Questions for Water Board Staff**

There were no questions for Water Board Staff and no discussion.

**F. Program Director's Report**

**Discussion:**

Aroon Melwani gave an update on regular CCLEAN activities:

- Sediment sampling was successfully completed on September 12th although one sample at the dredge disposal site because the sediment was too sandy and the couldn't get the grab to take.
- The dry season sampling is ongoing and should be completed in Mid October.
- Buoy sampling should be done early next week.
- Dry Season CEC sampling was completed.
- Aroon received an update from Mary Hamilton at the Regional Board saying that review of the new QAPP is anticipated end of September.

Aroon also gave a preview of the new CCLEAN website that is in development and showed some of the new pages which were a more modern design with more engaging graphics and videos of wildlife. The content is mostly the same as the existing website, but the design is modern. The new data dashboard is hosted on ESRI. The data can be downloaded and displayed as a time series. There is also a new library page that connects to One Drive and this will include the annual reports, publications and QAPP. The new website will also have modern privacy disclosures according to Aroon. Barbara asked if she could get a copy of the website privacy disclosures.

Akin asked if the website can be organized to address major themes such as climate change issues as hopefully that can help show the work that has already been done that is applicable to the new issues that the EPA and the waterboard are bringing up. And also highlight that there is existing data showing that the loads of contaminants coming from the rivers are increasing when there is extreme rainfall associated with climate change. These kind of important themes should be front and center instead of buried in reports. Akin stated that this wouldn't require additional work be developed just that the format of the presentation could be done in a way that more directly communicates important research evidence/conclusions.

**Decision:**

None.

**Action Item:**

None.

**G. Water Board's Report**

**Discussion:**

Sarah Bragg-Flavan commented that she had talked to Akin about previous studies to get the history of the work that has been done in the past 20 years so she can get up to speed as she steps into her new role.

Akin asked the group about the previous discussion about the QAPP and what is required in CCLEAN vs. the individual NPDES permits. Akin was asking because he wasn't at the last meeting. Jennie Munster and Bryan Condy had come up with an idea in the previous meeting to add a simple statement in the QAPP to clarify that items in individual permits were not covered by the CCLEAN QAPP to the extent that they are separate requirements of the individual discharger permit.

**Decision:**

None.

**Action Item:**

None.

**H. Financial Report**

**Discussion:**

Barbara went over the financial report from August and the financial report for end of fiscal year 23-24. Everyone was current on payments to CCLEAN. At the end of the last FY there was about \$49k remaining in the CCLEAN account.

**Decision:**

Akin motioned for approval of financial reports and Bryan seconded. There was a roll call vote to approve the financial reports:

**AYES: CAWD, City of Watsonville, City of Scotts Valley, Monterey One Water, City of Santa Cruz**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Vistra Zero Landing**

**ABSTAIN: None**

After a roll call vote the Financial Reports were accepted

**Action Item:**

None.

**I. General Announcements**

No comments were made.

October the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM was the next meeting day for the steering committee stated on the agenda.

**4. ADJOURNMENT:** *Barbara Buikema adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.*