

**CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
NETWORK (CCLEAN) Steering Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

June 26, 2024

2:00 pm- 3:30 pm

*Via Teleconference Zoom Webinar*

The meeting was called to order on May 22, 2024, at 2:05 pm by Barbara Buikema and no verbal roll call was taken. Roll Call Was taken by Barbara Buikema as voting committee members signed on to Zoom.

**Participants:**

**Present:**

Barbara Buikema, General Manager: Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD)

Carla James, Laboratory Supervisor (CAWD)

Ray De Ocampo, Laboratory Analyst II, Environmental Compliance (CAWD)

Sara Stevens, Compliance Analyst: Monterey One Water

Bryan Condy, Laboratory Manager: City of Watsonville

Kati King, Wastewater Lab/Compliance Manager: City of Scotts Valley

**Absent:**

Akin Babatola, Laboratory/Environmental Compliance Manager (Chair) | City of Santa Cruz

Jennie Munster, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Chemist | City of Santa Cruz

Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager | Central Coast Water Board

Jose Guzman, Operations Manager | 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:**

Cameron Kostigen Mumper, Associate Manager | Pure Water Soquel

Aroon Melwani, Senior Scientist, Central Coast Managing Principal Partner: Applied Marine Sciences,

Dane Hardin, Senior Marine Scientist, Principal: Applied Marine Sciences

Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board, (title)

**Virtual Public Attendees:** None

**1. Appearances/Public Comments:** None

**2. Agenda Changes:** None

### 3. Agenda Items:

➤ **Introductions: None were needed**

➤ **Review of Last Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from May 22, 2024, were presented to the CCLEAN participants as posted on the CAWD website. The draft minutes going forward will be emailed to Akin Babatola (Committee Member), and Aroon Melwani and Dane Hardin (Participants – Not Committee Members & with No Voting rights) for review prior to the meeting, with the understanding that all request to edit the minutes will be done in open session per the Brown Act.

Barbara requested from all participants that the meeting minutes be moved to the next committee meeting for review. Aroon Melwani requested that he have time to review the minutes.

➤ **Lead Agency Report/Remarks Barbara Buikema:**

Barbara has received the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from everyone except for City of Scotts Valley and Kati King state that she will be follow up.

➤ **Financial Report by, CAWD, General Manager, Barbara Buikema-Inform stakeholders; for financial planning and answer questions**

Barbara Buikema reported on the financials through June 20, 2024, it has not been closed out for the year. Dane Hardin stated there are outstanding invoices. Barbara Buikema stated that the Agricultural Grant has two payments outstanding. Dane Hardin stated the grant will conclude by year end. Barbara Buikema stated that all participants are paid up with respect to the quarterly billing.

**Budget Review & Approval Location of the vote should be by the discussion:**

➤

Aroon Melwani presented a few slides to summarize the proposed budget Program Year 24 distributed last month. This included a breakdown of components of costs for (Applied Marine Sciences) AMS costs verses laboratory costs and subcontractors costs.

This is a status quo design it will be what we have been doing in last program year. The only addition of sampling cost is Contaminants of Emerging Concerns (CEC) analysis in Mussels. This was based upon some of the outcomes in the annual report from Dane Hardin's analysis that identified CEC of potential concerns.

This would provide new information about whether CEC's are getting into Mussels. The site traditionally has been the highest for legacy compounds at "The Hook," that is where we would propose to collect that additional sample. This is one question left open for the steering committee to decide whether you wanted to go ahead on that site.

There were some comments in the monitoring plan that relate to this, which is the Watsonville Influent sampling. This has been part of the CCLEAN scope for years and is included and is exclusive paid by the City of Watsonville. It also brings up the fact that there was monitoring on the San Lorenzo River paid exclusively by City of Santa Cruz that is not in this budget. That is a separate suggestion and there were comments made in the monitoring plan about the importance of including it or not including it. So, in the scope as it is drafted, it is not included as part of this scope and would have to be a separate contract.

The program management task is the effort of Aroon Melwani and Dane Hardin to direct the program and the level effort is the same as last year. The field sampling and analysis is status quo, except for a \$2K increase for "The Hook" sampling. As this budget was drafted the San Lorenzo River monitoring is not included in this budget. The Mussels were increased only by the additional \$2K for the "The Hook" CEC sampling, which \$12K covered by Kinnetic Environment, Inc (KEI) and the other \$15K is covered by Lab costs. The wastewater monitoring costs are covered by KEI's monitoring of \$67K and Lab costs of \$67K. The lab costs are split evenly split by KEI costs and the lab. Ocean sample is split between KEI of \$54K and Lab Costs of \$24K. Watsonville Influent costs are split between KEI of \$4K and Lab Costs of \$6K and is covered exclusively by the City of Watsonville, which is only done in the dry season. The Rivers: Nutrient, CEC's is allocated as \$2K for AMS labor, \$10K from KEI, and \$16K for Lab Costs. Ocean sediment task during the dry season AMS does the field monitoring and contract with Moss landing to secure the boat vessels and the cost allocation is \$13K for AMS, MLML Costs of \$3K, Lab Costs of \$38K. The data assembly costs is consistent with previous years costs and is estimated at \$41K. The annual report costs is estimated at \$53K. There are miscellaneous task costs of time spent externally in coordination of the program approximately \$20K.

In order for CAWD to put together an allocation to all discharges, Dane Hardin requested that all members provide the total relay flow to the ocean for 2023-24. Then the 5 year running average can be generated. Dan Hardin will send out an email to everyone.

Bryan Condy asked if there was a vote at the last meeting to approve this budget. Barbara Buikema stated no.

Barbara Buikema suggested that the vote include the request for the additional \$2K for "The Hook" CEC sampling. Barbara Buikema did a roll call vote per agency to obtain the vote only for the additional \$2K. The result of the vote is listed below:

AYES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BARBARA BUIKEMA, SARAH STEVENS, BRYAN  
CONDY, KATI KING (*Maybe*)  
NOES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: AKIN BABATOLA, JENNIE MUNSTER, , JOSE  
GUZMAN, VISTRA ZERO LANDING ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY  
ABSTAIN: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

*Did not pass and will be brought back to the 7-24-24 committee meeting*

Barbara Buikema did a roll call vote per agency to obtain the vote for the acceptance of the Budget with the \$2K add for "The Hook" sampling. The result of the vote is listed below:

AYES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BARBARA BUIKEMA, SARAH STEVENS,  
BRYAN CONDY, KATI KING  
NOES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: AKIN BABATOLA, JENNIE MUNSTER, , JOSE  
GUZMAN, VISTRA ZERO LANDING ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY  
ABSTAIN: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

*The Committee Approved the Budget.*

Bryan Condy requested that we can change this program and if there are any modifications can be changed as we enter into a new phase instead of doing the same old thing. Sarah Stevens would second the request from Monterey One and is looking for an adaptive management program of the CCLEAN program.

Aroon Melwani asked what that change would look like. Bryan Condy suggested that a subcommittee be formed.

Barbara Buikema asked if the group wanted to agendize a subcommittee. Ms. Buikema explained what an ad hoc committee is and asked if there was consensus to form such a committee for budget year 2025-26.

AYES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BARBARA BUIKEMA , SARAH STEVENS,  
BRYAN CONDY,

NOES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: AKIN BABATOLA, JENNIE MUNSTER, JOSE  
GUZMAN, VISTRA ZERO LANDING ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

ABSTAIN: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

*Did not pass a subcommittee discussion was not on the original agenda. This item will be brought back to the 7-24-24 committee meeting*

The following participants agreed to volunteer for the Ad Hoc Committee: Bryan Condy, Sarah Stevens, Aroon Melwani, and Ray DeOcampo all agreed to volunteer.

*Barbara Buikema also stated that at the next meeting this discussion would be brought back to request the City of Santa Cruz's participation at the July 24,2024 committee meeting.*

- CCLEAN lay out any topics or questions that the participants would like the Water Board to provide updates
  - Sarah Bragg-Flavan reported out that the Water Board is not a voting member and did not sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- **Director's Program Report, Applied Marine Sciences (AMS), Aroon Melwani – Senior Scientist – Central Coast Managing Principal & Dane Hardin – Senior Scientist – Principal:**
  - CCLEAN Quality Assurance Project Plan Update
  - Program Year 2024 Monitoring Plan and Budget
  - CCLEAN Website
- **Sampling Update and Coordination- Kinnetic Environment, Inc.** – An explanation of sampling was provided and how data is provided
- **Data Management Update-**  
Aroon wanted to talk about the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that everyone has reviewed and the comments that were made and Aroon Melwani was sharing his feedback.

The table referenced in the meeting regarding the QAPP provided clarification on sampling and elements in monitoring part of the individuals discharge permit that encompass as being

part of CCLEAN. CCLEAN does not collect the samples and does not send them to the laboratory, it provides the data.

Those fall into the bacteria analyses that are done, as well as the nutrient grab sampling that the dischargers do themselves. This is the data that is provided to you.

Should these be part of the QAPP? Should the bacteria sampling be included, part of the that is the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) sampling that is done. Can these be removed? Should these results be removed since they are not being (quality assured) QA'd by the CCLEAN QA officer at AMS. There are some inconsistencies in our objectives and the way the data is accessed. This data is not consistent with those samples; those samples have their own protocols that are being done by the individual dischargers that differ from the contract labs that CCLEAN uses. Is it acceptable to remove those from the QAPP? You would still rely on your own individual permits, but they would not be part of the QAPP with CCLEAN going forward.

Bryan Condy asked what is the data being used for or in the last 5 years. Aroon Melwani stated it is not being used recently but was used in the past. Dane Hardin stated as of the last analysis we have never shown anything different, that is that the wet season concentrations in the ocean are much higher than dry season concentrations. We have never seen a spatial gradient that suggest that high concentrations are coming from the dischargers. It is related to storm runoff and river discharge and we don't expect that to change unless there are population changes or different regulatory thresholds are set. Unless changes are made a lot of effort will not be put into interpreting those types of data going forward. Bryan Condy stated it should be removed. Aroon Melwani asked if anyone in the group had an opposing view to Mr. Condy's statement to remove this data from the QAPP. There was no opposing views. The decision was to remove from the QAPP.

Aroon Melwani, asked if it is correct to include the City of Watsonville Influent Dry Season sampling. Should it be included in the QAPP? These samples are collected as part of CCLEAN effluent and influent monitoring. It is assessed with the same data quality objectives for the effluent samples. Aroon Melwani stated it would be appropriate to include it and it is paid by the City of Watsonville. Aroon Melwani asked if there were any objections to continue to include it the QAPP. There were no objections from the committee. The decision was to continue to include the City of Watsonville sampling in the QAPP. Aroon Melwani added that since City of Santa Cruz is not present and for note purposes he wanted to mention that San Lorenzo River POP sampling was contracted separately in program year 2023 along the same lines as City of Watsonville's Influent sampling. It would make sense to keep that as part CCLEAN's QAPP because the samples are assessed and collected in the same way, and it is exclusively paid by the City of Santa Cruz. Mr. Melwani suggested that it is a topic to revisit when they (City of Santa Cruz) are present to comment. Mr. Melwani is proposing that it be kept in the QAPP.

Mr. Melwani stated that there are samples collected by the dischargers themselves and analyzed by the dischargers. This differs from the objectives of CCLEAN samples collected and that are collected by KEI and sent out to the contract laboratory.

Monterey One Water found inconsistencies in the tables in the report with methods and lab analysis done with nutrient analysis monitoring differ from what the contract labs do . These are not samples that are part of the QAPP process in CCLEAN. So , should they be part of the QAPP? If we do want to keep them in it necessitates separate tables that these are specifically going to say these are the objectives for that monitoring, because it is currently not consistent with what is currently being done. In the rivers and oceans, we do the nutrient analysis, but what is happening in the effluent is slightly different.

Aroon Melwani asked if there were any opinion or rational from the group? Bryan Cody asked, if we kept it as part of the QAPP all of us should standardize what they do for our quality control? Bryan Condly asked what data quality things go along with that? Aroon Melwani, responded that it is tricky because all of the data in the QAPP goes through the CCLEAN QA process by the QA officer, these data do not go through that process. Aroon Melwani explicitly stated that these samples are not part of the QAPP because they do not follow that process. It would have to be standardized QA process for all dischargers and write that up separately in a section of the QAPP. Bryan Condly asked if you will be able to use the nutrient data that we individually provide for your analyses? Or would you then not be able to do that because it is not in the QAPP? Aroon Melwani asked the water board to respond to that question- comes down to what they deem appropriate if it is not explicit to the CCLEAN QAPP?

Bryan Condly stated that if we are giving you the data we are Environmental Laboratory Accredited Program (ELAP) certified to do these analyses. Aroon Melwani stated it may be a few sentence being added to the QAPP with clarifying statement.

Dane Hardin stated that a basic question about the nutrient data are if we can image them potentially being used to make a 303D list determination. If that is on the table they have to go into CEDEN.

Dane Hardin requested a response from the Water Board requesting their opinion on this question. Sarah Bragg-Flavan stated that she is not the QAPP expert and will ask Mary Hamilton this question and asked when the information will be needed?

Aroon Melwani next steps will be to give the plan to Mary Hamilton to review and these questions can be highlighted in the review.

Bryan Condy stated that the clarify language mentioned earlier would be added to the QAPP and that the different discharges analyses it and they are ELAP certified and it is their permit data.

Along the line of using the daily load constant over 365 days, the loading calculation is using a dry season and wet season load using the flow that is occurring while CCLEAN is sampling and not a constant flow, but it is a constant concentration during the sampling.

Aroon Melwani completes the major comments on the QAPP with what was decided here and will be worked into the document. You will receive an updated version before is goes to Mary Hamilton for a final review.

Aroon Melwani asked the committee members if they were in agreement and committee responded as listed below:

*AYES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BARBARA BUIKEMA, SARAH STEVENS, BRYAN CONDY, KATI KING*

*NOES: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:*

*ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: AKIN BABATOLA, JENNIE MUNSTER, , JOSE GUZMAN, VISTRA ZERO LANDING ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY*

*ABSTAIN: COMMITTEE MEMBERS:*

Aroon Melwani also distributed the monitoring plan and stated it goes along with the scope that the committee voted on above. The monitoring plan has similar comments as addressed in the scope and both plans will reflect the comments in this meeting and will be going for a full review to Mary Hamilton.

Aroon Melwani will send out a formal request to all dischargers to send their plant effluent flow data that will be incorporated into the budget calculations.

The CCLEAN website update in this year's scope is a phased approach, currently working on the security updates. They are moving the site to Cloudways, which is a site that AMS uses and has good security features. The main update will be that data will be accessible and be more publicly available through the CCLEAN website in the next program year. Aroon Melwani completed the program updates at this time.

➤ **Water Board Report-**

Byan Condy asked about Carmel Area Wastewater District permit renewal update, specifically about the TOC and BOD analysis. Sarah Bragg-Flavan stated that the CAWD permit renewal will be contacted for a permit renewal in early 2025.

➤ **Any meeting attendance that members would like to comment on**

No comment



➤ **Set Up Next Meeting:**

July 24, 2024, at 2:00 pm is the next meeting date. There was discussion that for the fourth Wednesday of next month at 2:00pm to permanently set the meeting time.

*Barbara Buikema request a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Bryan Condy, and seconded by Sarah Stevens. There being no further business to come before the CCLEAN Committee, Barbara Buikema adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.*

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Barbara Buikema adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m. The next CCLEAN Committee meeting will occur on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 2 p.m. The teleconference webinar is hosted through Zoom and you may receive access by visiting our website homepage, [www.cawd.org](http://www.cawd.org), calling the District office at 831-624-1248 or via email at [downstream@cawd.org](mailto:downstream@cawd.org).*

**AS REPORTED TO:**

---

*Ray DeOcampo, Committee Secretary*

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Akin Babatola, Chair of the Committee*