

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

February 25th, 2026, 2:00 pm  
Via Teleconference Zoom Webinar

The meeting was called to order on **February 25th, 2026**, at **2:08 pm** by Jennie Munster. Roll call was taken of the voting committee members signed on to Zoom.

**Participants – Voting Members: Present:**

Jennie Munster, Laboratory Manager: City of Santa Cruz  
Patrick Treanor, District Engineer: CAWD  
Mohammed Serageldin, Laboratory Manager: CAWD  
Olivia Woolery, Laboratory Supervisor: Monterey One Water (M1W)  
Mike Crane, Water Quality Chemist: City of Watsonville  
Connie Machuca, Laboratory Manager: City of Watsonville  
Laura Dale, EH&S Manager: Vistra Corp (Moss Landing Power Plant)

**Voting Members: Absent:**

Anne Hogan, Wastewater System Manager: City of Santa Cruz  
Dave Martin, Environmental Compliance Inspector: City of Santa Cruz  
Jeremy Long, Wastewater Division Manager: City of Scotts Valley  
Jose Guzman, Operations Manager: Monterey One Water  
Sarah Stevens, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Supervisor: Monterey One Water

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

**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:**

Because Laura Dale from Vistra Corp. was present, the group briefly introduced themselves.

## B. Chair's Report by Santa Cruz Representative

<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Jennie Munster reported that the City of Santa Cruz is continuing coordination with Greg from Integral to bring the 30-day composite sampler online at the updated Santa Cruz CCLEAN sampling location.</p> <p>Key updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wiring has been configured so the sampler can receive flow data from combined effluent location 001B.</li><li>• Santa Cruz staff plan to test the sampler for a day or two prior to beginning routine operation.</li><li>• If testing proceeds smoothly, the sampler may begin operation by Friday or the following Monday.</li><li>• Santa Cruz also expects to begin SPMD sampling around the same timeframe.</li></ul>
<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <p>Continue coordination and startup of the Santa Cruz 001B sampler and SPMD deployment.</p>

## C. Review of Prior Meeting Minutes

<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Patrick Treanor summarized the January 28, 2026 CCLEAN meeting minutes, including approval of contingency funds for the neonicotinoid side-by-side study, selection of 001B as the Santa Cruz CCLEAN effluent monitoring location, the tabling of Soquel Creek Water District membership, and AMS updates regarding Phase 4 analysis and the annual report.</p> <p>Patrick also noted that, while preparing the minutes, he had questions about the meaning of the power analysis referenced in the technical memo. Aaron indicated this would be addressed further during the Program Director's Report.</p>
<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>Mike Crane motioned to approve the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jennie Munster. Approved unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <p>None.</p>

**D. Lead Agency Remarks**

Patrick Treanor stated he had no additional remarks from the Lead Agency.

**E. DMR Reporting on CIWQS**

<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Jennie Munster asked Sarah Bragg-Flavan for an update on the CIWQS DMR reporting outage.</p> <p>Sarah reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The DMR reporting system remains down.</li><li>• She recently requested an update but has not yet received a response.</li><li>• The CIWQS login page includes a note about how reporting will be linked once the system is restored.</li><li>• Agencies should monitor the site and Sarah will share updates if they become available.</li></ul>
<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <p>Sarah Bragg-Flavan to share any updates regarding the CIWQS reporting system when available.</p>

**F. Discuss Addition of Soquel Creek Water District as Member of CCLEAN**

<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Jennie suggested tabling the item because Soquel Creek Water District representatives were not present for the meeting. Committee members agreed that discussion should occur when Soquel Creek Water District can participate.</p>
<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>Item tabled.</p>
<p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <p>Re-agendize the Soquel Creek Water District membership discussion for a future meeting.</p>

## G. Program Director's Report

### **Discussion:**

#### **Wet Season Sampling Update**

Aroon Melwani reported that wet season monitoring has begun for participating agencies, the ocean buoys have been deployed, and sampling activities are underway for most agencies. Santa Cruz monitoring will begin once the 001B sampler becomes operational.

#### **PHYSIS Accreditation Issue / CEC Analytical Options**

Aroon reviewed the issue previously circulated by email regarding Physis, the laboratory currently used for CCLEAN CEC analyses (including fipronils, neonicotinoids, and pyrethroids). Physis has had its ELAP accreditation suspended due to recordkeeping issues rather than analytical performance concerns. AMS evaluated alternative laboratories in case the committee chooses not to use Physis.

Aroon presented a comparison of three options:

- Physis: current CCLEAN laboratory; very low reporting limits; approximately \$900 per sample.
- SGS: approximately twice the cost of Physis; reporting limits roughly 10 times higher.
- Weck: identified previously for LC-MS neonicotinoid side-by-side work; reporting limits significantly higher, in some cases up to 50 times higher.

Discussion occurred regarding whether CCLEAN should proceed with CEC sampling this season. Jennie suggested that Aroon first confirm whether the other monitoring program conducting side-by-side testing will proceed with their analysis. If necessary, the Steering Committee could conduct a follow-up email vote regarding whether to proceed with CEC sampling this season.

#### **Phase 4 Technical Memo Update**

Aroon reviewed the Phase 4 technical memo distributed approximately 10 days before the meeting. The memo evaluates potential program optimization opportunities, including influent versus effluent monitoring, nutrients, TSS, and FIB monitoring, and a statistical power analysis.

Key conclusions included:

- Biannual effluent monitoring is not supported because reducing frequency would reduce statistical power and increase the likelihood of missing meaningful trends.
- Potential optimization areas include re-evaluating offshore buoy monitoring locations, considering nearshore monitoring where discharge influence may be more detectable, increasing wet-season river grab sampling to better capture highly variable TSS events, and adjusting benthic monitoring from a 5-year cycle to a 3- or 4-year cycle.

Jennie summarized that next steps include stakeholders reviewing the memo and submitting comments, reconvening the ad hoc committee to consider comments and prepare a proposal, and then bringing proposed changes back to the Steering Committee. Aroon added that AMS

is continuing work on the annual report and hopes to share a near-final draft by the next meeting.

**Decision:**

Jennie proposed the committee vote over email at a future date on whether committee would approve noenicitinoids, fipronils and pyrethroids testing during this wet season sampling.

**Action Item:**

- Stakeholders to review the Phase 4 technical memo and provide comments.
- Jennie Munster to circulate follow-up communication regarding ad hoc committee participation.
- AMS to continue development of the annual report.

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

**Discussion:**

Discussion focused on how Phase 4 recommendations could intersect with upcoming permit renewals.

Sarah noted the Water Board is evaluating whether CCLEAN could eventually transition to its own Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) rather than remaining embedded in individual NPDES permits. Even if that does not happen immediately, this permit cycle is an important opportunity for recommended changes to be put forward.

Olivia asked if the desalination brine combined with MIW would be subject to CCLEAN monitoring or as a separate waste stream. Sarah thought it would have separate monitoring requirements because brine discharge has its own requirements in the Ocean Plan.

Dane asked about uncertainty about having CCLEAN monitor constituents that aren't in the Ocean Plan. It was an open question. Sarah mentioned that CCLEAN is an "adaptive program".

Jennie also noted that Santa Cruz is preparing an updated outfall monitoring proposal that would include dual boat fluorometry surveys, ROV inspection of the diffuser, and improved detection and quantification of any leaks. The proposal is expected to be submitted in March.

**Decision:**

None.

**Action Item:**

Santa Cruz to submit the outfall monitoring proposal to the Water Board when completed.

## I. Water Board's Report

### Discussion:

Sarah Bragg-Flavan reported:

- Monterey One Water and CAWD permit actions are expected to go before the Board around August.
- Scotts Valley permit updates may follow around October.
- Draft permits are typically released 60 days prior to Board hearings.

Sarah also shared that a State Board survey related to the Wastewater Needs Assessment is expected in April. The survey will collect wastewater and sewer rate data as part of a broader assessment of wastewater funding needs statewide, and agencies were encouraged to participate.

### Decision:

None.

### Action Item:

Sarah Bragg-Flavan to look into whether prior Wastewater Needs Assessment survey results were published and whether new survey data will be shared back out.

## J. General Announcements

### Lab Manager Coordination

Connie Machuca confirmed that the lab manager meet-and-greet / working session is scheduled for March 24, 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the WRC facility.

### ELAP Listening Event

Jennie summarized a recent ELAP listening session indicating that labs may soon have the option to pursue full TNI through ELAP, but full TNI certification would likely not be mandatory.

### CWEA Conference

Olivia Woolery reported that she presented at the CWEA P3S conference on laboratory topics including microbiology analyses and metals analysis methods.

## K. Financial Report

### Discussion:

Patrick Treanor reviewed the current financial status.

Highlights included:

- CAWD recently received an AMS invoice of approximately \$45,000.
- Agencies have been billed through Quarter 3.
- AMS remains below half of its annual budget at this point in the fiscal year.

Aroon noted that several laboratory invoices are typically received near the end of the monitoring cycle, so costs tend to accumulate later in the year.

**Decision:**

None.

**Action Item:**

None.

**L. Next Meeting Date:**

March 25th at 2:00 PM was the next scheduled meeting for the steering committee.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** Jennie Munster adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.