

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2021**

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Order [N-08-21](#) allowing a transition to customary open meeting requirements, this meeting occurred solely via remote presence.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Celeste Cantú called the remote meeting to order on September 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The Clerk called the roll, and Roger Mitchell gave an opening statement providing information for attendees to participate in the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members present:

Celeste Cantú, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Henry Abarbanel, Eric Anderson; Megan Blair; Gary Strawn; Stefanie Warren.

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Roger Mitchell, David Barker, Jeremy Haas, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Keith Yaeger, Cynthia Gorham, Dulce Romero, Sean McClain, Jason DuMond, Ben Neill, Brandon Bushnell, Michelle Santillan, Melissa Corona, Chehreh Komeylyan, Jill Harris, Eric Becker, Vicente Rodriguez, Debbie Phan, Lark Starkey, Chad Loflen, Joann Lim, Helen Yu, Tom Alo, Lara Quetin, Sarah Mearon, Daniel Boyd, Tony Felix, Wayne Chiu, Laurie Walsh, Sasha Smirensky, Fisayo Osibodu, Hiram Sarabia, Cleo Muñoz, Elizabeth Nguyen, Sheila Christine McQuaid-Moran, Alan Monji, Christopher Means, Debbie Woodward, Christina Arias, Lisa Honma, Chiara Clemente, Jody Ebsen, Mireille Garcia, Whitney Ghoram, Tanya Clark, Erica Ryan.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board:

Nichole Morgan, State Water Resources Control Board; Catherine Hagan, Vincent Vu, Lori Okun, Office of Chief Counsel.

Public Attendance:

Summer Light, Luke Benham, St <i>Concerned Citizens</i>	Sandra Jacobson <i>California Trout</i>
Alex Garcia, Abi Palaseyed, Elham Lotfi, William Meredith, Mayra Medel, Drew Kleis, Sumer Hasenin, Sara Dastgheibi, Maya Mason, James Arnhart <i>City of San Diego</i>	Nick Dorner, Brendan Hastie, Shavger Rekani <i>Ricken Engineering</i>
Derek Langsford <i>Tierra Data</i>	Julia Richards <i>San Diego River Conservancy</i>
Mike Beanan <i>Laguna Bluebelt Coalition</i>	

BOARD MEETING

Public comments on agenda items were limited to 3 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair

PUBLIC FORUM

Summer Light, a resident of Elfin Forest, stated that organic grow owners had consulted the management of the San Marcos landfill regarding the placement of reclaimed asphalt on the buffer zone area of the San Marcos landfill near residential properties. County of San Diego workers placed asphalt in the buffer zone in May 2021, which Ms. Light believes caused significant environmental damage. Board Member Eric Anderson stated that Ms. Light had spoken to him, and he had suggested that she address the Board. In response to the Chair’s question, David Gibson stated that he and Roger Mitchell would follow up on Ms. Light’s comments and report back in the Executive Officer’s Report in November.

Mike Beanan of the Laguna Bluebelt Coalition thanked Mr. Gibson and other staff for visiting the Aliso Creek berm and for working with the Coalition to address urban runoff to the outfall. He further stated that, under the direction of Orange County Coastkeeper, the Coalition has started a monitoring program to collect data on the berm, and they have found that there is no data on the water quality of the pond at the beach, which is impeding enforcement efforts. Thus, they need water quality in the pond and when it is released to the ocean, as the Coalition is concerned about pollution affecting water quality. He also congratulated Dr. Olson for her leadership in promoting zero liquid discharge to the ocean.

BOARD BUSINESS:

1. **Minutes of Board Meeting: August 11, 2021.**

Motion to adopt the August 11, 2021 minutes:

- Mr. Anderson

Second:

- Dr. Olson

MOTION CARRIED:

Aye:

- Dr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- None

2. Chairman's, Board Members', State Water Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports. *These items were for Board discussion only. Public testimony was not allowed, and the Board took no formal action.*

Ms. Morgan provided an update on recent actions taken by the State Board and upcoming priorities. She updated the Board regarding legislative actions that would have an impact on the Regional Water Boards.

Chair Cantú presented Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards to the Border Water Quality Protection Team, David Barker, Jeremy Haas, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Vicente Rodriguez, Keith Yaeger, Melissa Corona, Joann Lim, Cynthia Gorham, and Vincent Vu for their work on permitting, enforcement, monitoring, and Basin Planning actions to address transboundary flows in the disadvantaged community of San Ysidro.

Dave Gibson presented Superior Accomplishment Awards to the Mission Support Team, Dulce Romero, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Sheila Christine McQuaid-Moran, Cleo Muñoz, and Elizabeth Nguyen, for their work to maintain public and internal services during the mandatory telework order in the face of the pandemic.

Ms. Warren reported on a meeting to discuss border water quality issues with U.S. EPA Administrator Regan, which took place on August 20, 2021. The meeting was hosted by the mayors of Imperial Beach, San Diego, and Coronado, the President of the Port of San Diego, County Supervisor Nora Vargas, and the San Diego Water Board. Also present at that meeting were Congressional Representatives Scott Peters and Darrell Issa and staff of Representatives Levin, Jacobs, and Vargas. Mr. Gibson stated that that meeting had been preceded by a groundbreaking ceremony and tour of the City of San Diego's pilot Pure Water plant with USEPA Administrator Michael Regan, State Water Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel, Congressional Representative Scott Peters, State Senate President Toni Atkins, and San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria.

Dave Gibson answered Board Member questions and comments regarding the written Executive Officer's Report. Chad Loflen also responded to Board Member questions, and Sandra Jacobson of California Trout commented on aquatic species surveys performed by the South Coast Steelhead Coalition in the Santa Margarita River, including *O. mykiss* (trout) screening via environmental DNA, and she provided an update on long-term monitoring plan development for the Santa Margarita River with the aim to integrate species' survey data from various stakeholders, agencies and landowners in the watershed for a coast-to-headwaters view of aquatic and terrestrial corridor function.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Items on the consent calendar may be removed at the request of any Board member or person. If an item is removed from the uncontested items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda item. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent board meeting to allow input by interested persons.*

3. Rescission of Order No. 93-013, Waste Discharge Requirements for the Warner Springs Ranch Resort, Warner Springs Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0150). (*Chehreh Komeylyan*)

Motion to approve Order No. R9-2021-00150:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Mr. Strawn

MOTION CARRIED

Aye:

- Dr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- None.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Cantú took the following item out of order:

6. Tentative Resolution in Support of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision Update (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2021-0007). (*David Gibson*)

David Gibson gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Motion to approve Resolution No. R9-2021-0007:

- Ms. Warren

Second:

- Mr. Strawn

MOTION CARRIED

Aye:

- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- Dr. Abarbanel

Chair Cantú called a recess at 10:18 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

4. Waste Discharge Requirements Issuance: Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego Maple Canyon Project, Phase 1: Storm Drain Improvements (Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0168). (*Jill Harris*)

Jill Harris presented Items 4 and 5 together and responded to Board Member questions and comments. Drew Kleis, Deputy Director of the City of San Diego Stormwater and Transportation Division introduced William Meredith with the

City of San Diego, who presented on behalf of the City and responded to Board Member questions. Nick Dorner with Ricken Engineering also gave a presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Issuance: Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego Maple Canyon Project, Phase 2: Stream Rehabilitation and Restoration (Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0169). (*Jill Harris*)

Jill Harris presented Items 4 and 5 together and responded to Board Member questions and comments. Drew Kleis, Deputy Director of the City of San Diego Stormwater and Transportation Division introduced William Meredith with the City of San Diego, who presented on behalf of the City and responded to Board Member questions. Nick Dorner with Ricken Engineering also gave a presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Motion to approve Orders Nos. R9-2021-0168 and R9-2021-0169:

- Dr. Abarbanel

Second:

- Mr. Anderson

MOTION CARRIED

Aye:

- Dr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. Aliso Creek Mouth Restoration Project Update. **THIS ITEM HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 2021.** (*Eric Becker*)
8. Update on San Diego River Conservancy and San Diego Water Board Coordination. (*David Gibson*)

David Gibson provided an introduction for the item, followed by a presentation from Julia Richards, Executive Officer for the San Diego River Conservancy. Both Mr. Gibson and Ms. Richards responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Cantú asked Mr. Strawn to continue in his role as Board representative to the San Diego River Conservancy, and Mr. Strawn accepted.

9. Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) Discussion. *(David Gibson)*

David Gibson provided an introduction of the item, and Chair Cantú invited Board Members to contact either herself or Joaquin Esquivel, should they have items they wished to appear on the agenda for the WQCC on October 21-22.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

10. Future Agenda Items: Recommended Course of Action and Estimated Staff Hours to Address Actions from the August 2021 Board Meeting. In addition, Board Members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. *(Kelly Dorsey)*

Board Members did not identify any Future Agenda Items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Cantú adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer