
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, September 11, 2026

Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

And via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code, § 11123.2)

Archived audio and video webcasts of Board meetings are available at the following link: <https://cal-span.org/meetings/RWQCB-SA/>

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scandura called the meeting to order with a quorum on Friday, September 11, 2026 at 9:04 a.m.

DEPARTURE FROM OUR USUAL AGENDA

Chair Scandura commemorated the 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on United States soil. A moment of silence was observed to honor and remember those who were lost.

ITEM 1. INTRODUCTION AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

***Indicates that attendance was virtual.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair John Scandura
Vice Chair Gloria Alvarado
Board Member William "Bill" Ruh***
Board Member Letitia Clark
Board Member Sixto "Al" Lopez
Board Member Kris Murray

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Eric Lindberg, Executive Officer
Brian Covellone, Assistant Executive Officer
Vanessa Fuerte, Clerk to the Board
Dan Mefford, Information Technology Specialist I

JOHN SCANDURA, CHAIR | ERIC LINDBERG, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Don Nguyen, Information Technology Associate
Nick Amini, Branch Manager, Surface Water and Agriculture Branch
Alan Kuoch, Branch Manager, Groundwater Protection Branch
Hero Alexander, Water Resource Control Engineer
Adam Fischer, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
Jessica Law, Senior Engineering Geologist (Supervisor)
Adriana Godinez, Water Resource Control Engineer

STATE WATER BOARD PRESENT

Heraclio Pimentel, Regional Board Counsel
Desta Matsuda, Regional Board Counsel
Jennifer Fordyce, Regional Board Assistant Chief Counsel
Nicole Morgan, State Water Board Liaison

COURT REPORTER PRESENT

Marlene Nelson***

SPANISH INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Brenda Tamez
Vicki Lundberg
Pepe Aguirre

ITEM 2. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

Items have been reordered: Items 8 and 4 were presented before the State Water Board Liaison update and Executive Officer report.

ITEM 8. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIATION AT THE FORMER FORD AERONUTRONICS SITE IN NEWPORT BEACH

Santa Ana Water Board staff provided an update on the status of environmental investigation, mitigation and remediation, and regulatory oversight activities at the Former Ford Aeronutronics Site in Newport Beach. Detailed presentation was presented.

Break: 9:49 a.m. – 10:03 a.m.

ITEM 4. UPDATE ON QUAIL VALLEY SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION

Board staff and Eastern Municipal Water District staff presented an overview of achievements in the initiative to provide sewer connections to certain subareas of the Quail Valley community. The initiative is intended to minimize wastewater discharges to the subsurface from septic systems. This was an information item. Presentation was presented.

ITEM 3. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

State Water Board Member Nicole Morgan provided updates on recent activities, including Dan Newton's appointment as deputy director of the Division of Financial Assistance, the release of the final Delta Plan draft and 13th amended hearing notice, and the postponement of the utility wildfire order hearing to October 20. The Board also updated the California Environmental Data Exchange Network to version 2.0, released its inaugural Safer Newsletter, adopted fiscal year 2026–27 State Revolving Fund intended use plans on August 18, and announced an October 1 celebration of California Open and Transparent Water Data's 10th anniversary.

ITEM 5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Eric Lindberg, Executive Officer, gave a verbal report on the integrated report, recent responses to two harmful algal bloom events and the importance of statewide funding, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project "Super El Niño", EcoFlight over the watershed and will be attending the desalination tour at the Eastern Municipal Water District.

ITEM 6. BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATION

None.

ITEM 7. REGIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF July 24 and August 21, 2026

Motion: Chair Scandura moved to adopt the July 24 and August 21, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Alvarado

MOTION PASSED

Aye: Board Member Lopez
Board Member Clark
Board Member Ruh
Board Member Murray
Vice Chair Alvarado
Chair Scandura

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Break 11:07 a.m. – 11:23 a.m.

Note that Board Members Ruh and Clark recused themselves from Item 9 previously and left the meeting prior to commencement of that item.

ITEM 9. NPDES PERMIT AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OF POLLUTANTS IN URBAN RUNOFF FROM MS4S IN ORANGE, RIVERSIDE, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

The Santa Ana Water Board considered adoption of tentative Order R8-2026-0034, NPDES No. CAS618000, regulating discharges of pollutants in urban runoff from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties on a regionwide basis.

The Board previously held a hearing on the tentative Order on July 24, 2026, and August 21, 2026. The deadline for written comments was July 20, 2026. Oral comments were accepted on July 24, 2026, and August 21, 2026.

The Chair denied a procedural request submitted on September 10, 2026, by the City of Riverside to reopen the hearing. In response to board direction given on August 21, 2026, staff made a presentation regarding compliance with the tentative Order once compliance deadlines have passed. Following the staff presentation, board members proceeded to ask questions of staff, counsel, and the Principal Permittees.

Order: Order R8-2026-0034

Motion: Board Member Lopez moved to adopt Order R8-2026-0034 with the errata sheet and the following direction to staff:

Work collaboratively with permittees to address compliance with bacterial limitations before considering discretionary enforcement. Staff should consider discretionary penalties as a last resort. The Board directs staff to provide an annual presentation to the Board on the implementation of the regional MS4 Permit. This direction shall remain in effect until modified by this or a future Board. The Board directs staff to develop revisions to the Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator TMDL and the Newport Bay Fecal Coliform TMDL and bring proposed revisions before the Santa Ana Board by December 31st, 2029.

Seconded by: Chair Scandura

MOTION PASSED

Aye: Board Member Lopez
Vice Chair Alvarado
Chair Scandura

Nay: Board Member Murray

Absent: Board Member Clark
Board Member Ruh

Abstain: None

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Scandura adjourned the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric T. Lindberg', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

ERIC T. LINDBERG, PG CHG
Executive Officer

/vf