

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on June 11, 2025 at 9:01 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Gary Strawn, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Board Vice Chair, Megan Blair, Celeste Cantú (remote), and Yen Tu.

Board Members absent:

Stefanie Warren

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Adrian Hinkle, Eric Becker, Wayne Chiu, Christina Arias, Fisayo Osibodu, Jeremy Haas, Michelle Santillan, Chiara Clemente, Riley Nolan, Laurie Walsh, Frank Melbourn, Ben Neill, Melissa Corona, Roger Mitchell, Mireille Lecourtois, Chad Loflen, Cynthia Gorham, Brandon Bushnell, Kate Buckley, Nic White, Jimmy Smith, Carolina Guia, Heidi Fletcher, Kaylee Popovich, Martin Pham.

Staff remote attendance:

Brian Covellone (Region 8), Cailynn Smith, Ella Knight, Cleo Muñoz, Jody Ebsen, Jessica Taylor, Mahsa Izadmehr, Christopher Means, Hiram Sarabia.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan (remote), State Water Resources Control Board; Alex Sauerwein, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Yvonne West (remote), Office of Enforcement; Vinty Siev, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Elise Hicks (remote), California Court Reporting.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Michael A. Welch
Michael Welch Consultants

Juan Guerrero, Lisa Celaya, Doug Campbell, Keli Balo
City of San Diego

Remote attendance:
Lindy Lewis'
Western Municipal Water District

BOARD MEETING

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Manuel Belmonte, Outdoor Outreach Operations Manager, and Tiffany Curry, Public Policy Coordinator, introduced their organization and mission. They discussed how pollution and water quality issues affect their activities.

Item 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: April 9, 2025

Motion to adopt the April 9, 2025, minutes:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Ms. Blair
- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Tu
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Warren

Abstain:

- None

Item 2 – Chair's, Board Members', State Water Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports. *These items were for Board discussion only. No public testimony was allowed, and the Board took no formal action.*

Chair Strawn presented Environmental Scientist, Kate Buckley, with a Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award for her initiative in creating tableau dashboards for the REC-1 work groups data subcommittee.

State Board Member Nichole Morgan (remote) provided updates on recent State Board actions and upcoming priorities and responded to Board Member questions and comments.

Mr. Gibson welcomed the following new employees:

- Kaylee Popovich, Environmental Scientist, Agriculture & Waste Management
- Brandy White, Environmental Scientist, Restoration & Protection Planning
- Martin Pham, Water Resource Control Engineer, Water Sustainability & Protection
- Carolina Guia, Scientific Aide, Mission Support
- Thanh Do, Student Assistant, Agriculture & Waste Management

In addition, Mr. Gibson congratulated Water Resource Control Engineer, Mireille Lecourtois, for her receiving the Outstanding Civil Engineer in Community Service Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Diego Section.

He also responded to Board Member questions and provided updates that were not in the written Executive Officer's Report. Brian Covellone, Senior Engineering Geologist for the Cannabis Unit, also responded to Board Member questions.

Item 3 – Transboundary Flows

Mr. Gibson responded to Board Member questions and provided updates that did not appear in the written Border Water Quality Update.

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 consent items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda items. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent Board meeting to allow input by interested persons.*

Item 4 – Rescission of Water Reclamation Requirements: Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0048, *An Order Rescinding Order Nos. 86-41, 93-124, 94-23, and R9-2009-0051, Water Reclamation Requirements for the California Department of Transportation, La Costa Hotel and Spa, Vista Irrigation District, and Western Municipal Water District-Murrieta Division* (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0048). (Brandon Bushnell)

Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0048:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Ms. Tu

Aye:

- Ms. Blair
- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Tu
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Warren

Abstain:

- None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) in the Matter of City of San Diego January 2023 Sanitary Sewer Spill to San Diego Bay and San Diego River (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0010). Written comments were due on April 21, 2025. (*Christina Arias*)

6. Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) in the Matter of City of San Diego March 2023 Sanitary Sewer Spill to Lake Hodges Reservoir (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0053). Written comments were due on April 21, 2025. (*Christina Arias*)

Chair Strawn announced that the Board would discuss both items together but vote on them separately. No oath was administered as no testimony or evidence would be considered.

Christina Arias gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Juan Guerrero, Director of San Diego's Public Utilities Department, delivered his remarks and answered Board Member questions. Assistant Directors Doug Campbell and Lisa Celaya also responded to questions from the Board Members.

Chair Strawn asked for questions, both in person and on Zoom. There were no public comments.

Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0010:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Ms. Blair
- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Tu
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Warren

Abstain:

- None

Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0053:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Ms. Blair
- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Tu
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Warren

Abstain:

- None

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer