

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on August 13, 2025 at 10:03 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108. He stated that Agenda Items would be taken out of order

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

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

Board Members absent:

Stefanie Warren

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Jeremy Haas, Roger Mitchell, Laurie Walsh, Ben Neill, Nicholas White, Martin Pham, Eric Becker, Fisayo Osibodu, Kate Buckley, Jody Ebsen, Michelle Santillan, Adrian Hinkle, Lauren Kim, Chad Loflen, Brandie White, Cynthia Gorham, Riley Nolan, Lauren Kim, Brandon Bushnell, James Smith, Christina Arias, Kaylee Popovich

Staff remote attendance:

Melissa Corona, Cole Rodriguez, Wayne Chiu, Mahsa Izadmehr, Amy Grove, James Chhor

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan, State Water Resources Control Board; Alex Sauerwein, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Omid Rabbani (remote), Division of Drinking Water; Vinty Siev, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Chris Caplan (remote), California Court Reporting.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Michael A. Welch
Michael Welch Consultants
 Frank Fisher, Gilbert Anaya, Isela Canava, Ramon Macias
U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)
 Josh F.W. Cook
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
 Lina Rodriguez, Paul Hartman
Larry Walker Associates
 Neil Searing
County of San Diego
 Mariah Mills
City of San Diego
 Raimon Chairez
Un Mar de Colores

Waylon Matson
4 Walls International
 Michael Bailey, Shen Huang
Ramona Water

Grant Sharp
Orange County Public Works

Patrick McDonough
San Diego Coastkeeper
 Kelly Tait
Port of San Diego
 Judy Collins
Coronado
 Toby Roy
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

Remote attendance:

Gail Patton, Loisa Burton
San Diego Water Authority
 Commissioner Chad McIntosh
USIBWC
 Artemis Hodoyan
Office of Steve Padilla

Roarke Shanley
City of San Diego
 Tara Flint-Silva, Tom Konner
USEPA

BOARD MEETING

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Laurie Walsh presented a success story about providing safe drinking water to The Acres community in Ramona. The following people spoke during the presentation:

- Michael Bailey
- Shen Huang
- Toby Roy, Small Utility Engineering Consultant, RCAC
- Loisa Burton, IRWM Grants Administrator, San Diego Water Authority
- Omid Rabbani, Water Resource Control Engineer, DDW

The following items were taken out of order:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 4 – Update from the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). An update on the status and progress of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) upgrades and other infrastructure improvements to prevent pollution from Mexico from entering into the San Diego Region.

Melissa Corona introduced Commissioner Chad McIntosh, who provided some background information and introduced his team: Ramon Macias, Principal Engineer of the Engineering Department; Isela Canava, Principal Engineer of the Operations Department; and Gilbert Anaya, Division Chief of the Environmental Management Division.

Mr. Macias gave the presentation and responded to Board Member questions. Commissioner McIntosh also responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn requested public comments on this item. The following stakeholders offered comments:

- Waylon Matson, 4 Walls International
- Patrick McDonough, Coastkeeper
- Judith Collins. Ocean Swimmer
- Raimon Chaivez, Director of Education & Environmental Advocacy, Un Mar de Colores

ITEM 4a – Staff from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) will give a presentation on Phase One of their Pathogen Forecast Model, released in July 2025. Phase One of the Pathogen Forecast Model includes an online, five-day prediction of ocean sewage and swimming-related illness risk for beaches in the San Diego and Tijuana border region, from Coronado to Playas de Tijuana.

Riley Nolan introduced Falk Feddersen from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who gave the presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn requested public comments on this item, but there were no public comments.

Chair Strawn called a recess at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Dr. Olson left the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

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

Chair Strawn took the following item out of order:

ACTION ITEM

Item 5 – Resolution Endorsing the Workplan from the 2024/2025 Triennial Basin Plan Review (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0086).

Jody Ebsen gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn requested public comments on this item. The following stakeholders offered comments:

- Grant Sharp, Manager, South Orange County Watershed Management Area
- Neil Searing, County of San Diego, Watershed Protection

Motion to approve Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0086:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Ms. Cantú

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Warren

Abstain:

- None

The Agenda resumed in order

BOARD BUSINESS

Item 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: June 11, 2025

Motion to adopt the June 11, 2025, minutes:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Tu

Aye:

- Ms. Blair

- Ms. Cantú
- Ms. Tu
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Dr. Olson
- 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 Water Resource Control Engineer, Brandon Bushnell, with a Superior Accomplishment Award for his work as the San Diego Water Board's American Disability Act (ADA) liaison.

Item 3 – Transboundary Flows

Mr. Gibson introduced Eduardo Sanchez, Board Member of the Tijuana Initiative, who gave a presentation regarding the citizen-led initiative, the Cross-Border Agenda. The following stakeholders provided comments on this topic:

- Hernando Duran, Director of Tijuana Verde

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer