

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on May 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Gary Strawn, Board Chair; Celeste Cantú, Yen Tu, and Emily Wier.

Board Members attending remotely:

Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Board Vice Chair

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Laurie Walsh, Chris Blank, Jeremy Haas, Roger Mitchell, Tom Alo, Christina Arias, Eric Becker, Kate Becker, Wayne Chiu, Melissa Corona, Marielle Decker, Jody Ebsen, Tony Felix, Gabriel Haro, Adrian Hikle, Joann Lim, Chad Loflen, Sarah Mearon, Frank Melbourn, Alan Monji, Ben Neill, Riley Nolan, Ahlyssa Santillana, Hayley Sue, Nicholas White, Emily Yagi.

Staff remote attendance:

Brandon Bushnell, James Chhor, Amy Grove, Lauren Kim, Carey Kowalski, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Cleo Muñoz, Hiram Sarabia, Brandie White.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan, State Water Board; Jennifer Fordyce, Alex Sauerwein, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Julie Macedo, Office of Enforcement; Gerardo Rabelo, Vinty Siev, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Marlee Nelson, California Reporting.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Vicki Estrada
*Groundworks San Diego, Chollas
Blue-Green Initiative*

Chris Stransky
GEI Consulting
Bryn Evans
Craftwater

Tory Walker
Tory R. Walker Engineering, Inc.

Leslie Reynolds
Groundworks Chollas

Sara Dastgheibi, Sumer Hasenin
City of San Diego Stormwater
Kyle King, Michael Whelan
*San Diego Bay Environmental
Restoration Fund (Shipyard Trust)*

Remote:

Stephen Tee
Gatzke, Dillon & Balance LLP
Greg Mason
Alden Environmental, Inc.

Dr. Paul Rochelle
Metropolitan Water District
David Templeton
Anchor QEA, Inc.

BOARD MEETING

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments for the Public Forum

BOARD BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: April 8, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes from April 8, 2026:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

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.*

The State Board liaison, Nichole Morgan, provided an update on recent State Board actions and priorities for upcoming actions, and she responded to Board Member questions.

Ms. Wier reported that she and Chair Strawn had traveled to Imperial Beach to see the SEP by Ocean Connectors. She expressed her opinion of how great it was to see kids involved in cleaning up the beach.

Chair Strawn presented a Superior Service Award to Cleo Muñoz for her work in moving the Region 9 files to electronic media. Mr. Gibson accepted the award on Ms. Muñoz’s behalf.

Mr. Gibson provided updates that were not in the written Executive Officer’s Report and responded to Board Member questions. Cole Rodriguez also responded to Board Member questions.

ITEM 3 – Transboundary Flows

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

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 people.*

ITEM 4 – Waste Discharge Requirements for CR Questhaven LLC, Questhaven Tentative Map Project, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0012). Written comments for this item were due by 5:00 p.m. on April 17, 2026. *(Alan Monji)*

Motion to adopt consent calendar:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Ms. Wier

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

Chair Strawn called a brief recess at 9:47 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 5 – Consideration of Administrative Civil Liability Order (ACLO) against Baldwin & Sons, Inc., et al., Portola Center South Construction Site, pursuant to Peremptory Writ of Administrative Mandate. (*Wayne Chiu, Alex Sauerwein*)

- Chair Strawn gave an introductory statement.
- Frank Melbourn spoke on behalf of the Prosecution Team.
- Stephen Tee (remote) of Gatzke, Dillon, and Balance, LLC, spoke on behalf of Baldwin & Sons.
- Julie Macedo provided a rebuttal to Mr. Tee's remarks.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
- There were no public comments on this item.

Motion to adopt ACLO No. R9-2026-0063:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Wier

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 6 – San Diego Shipyards Cleanup Update. *(Gabriel Haro)*

- Gabe Haro introduced the item and the speaker(s).
- Kyle King and Michael Whelan from the San Diego Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (Shipyard Trust) gave a presentation focused on remedial performance monitoring conducted in 2018 and 2021, outlined the planned monitoring for July 2026, and responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
 - The following stakeholder provided comments on the item:
 - Julie Macedo, Office of Enforcement

ITEM 7 – Quagga and Golden Mussels. *(David Gibson)*

- Dave Gibson introduced Dr. Paul Rochelle, whose presentation focused on providing an update on the status of invasive mussel detections in the San Diego Water Project and responded to Board Member questions.
- Chad Loflen, Environmental Scientist, also responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
- There were no public comments on this item.

Chair Strawn called a brief recess at 11:29 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

ITEM 8 – Groundworks Chollas Blue-Green Infrastructure Initiative. *(Nicholas White)*

- Nic White introduced the item and the speakers.
- Vicki Estrada, President of Groundwork San Diego's Board of Directors, presented on the organization's mission, progress, and examples of successful completed projects in the watershed and responded to Board Member comments.
- Sara Dastgheibi, Senior Engineer, City of San Diego Stormwater, presented on the City's ongoing efforts in the watershed and responded to Board Member questions.
- Bryn Evans, Director of Stormwater and Operations, Craftwater, also presented information on ongoing work, with an emphasis on alternative and offsite compliance projects, and responded to Board Member questions.
- Sumer Hasenin, City of San Diego, and Mr. Gibson responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
- There were no public comments on this item.

Chair Strawn announced closed session at 12:25 p.m. Mr. Sauerwein stated that the Board would meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code §11126(a) to discuss Item 12, Personnel.

Chair Strawn reconvened the public meeting at 1:28 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer

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