

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on April 8, 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; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Board Vice Chair, Celeste Cantú, Yen Tu, and Emily Wier. Ms. Tu left the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Laurie Walsh, Chris Blank, Christina Arias, Eric Becker, Brandon Bushnell, Wayne Chiu, Melissa Corona, Jody Ebsen, Amy Grove, Jeremy Haas, Josh Hufferd, Mahsa Izadmehr, Frank Melbourn, Roger Mitchell, Ben Neill, Fisayo Osibodu, Kaylee Popovich, Cole Rodriguez, Michelle Santillan, Ahlyssa Santillana, Brandie White, Nicholas White.

Staff remote attendance:

Lauren Kim, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Alan Monji, Erin Schmitt, Cailynn Smith, Jimmy Smith.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan (remote), State Water Board; Jennifer Fordyce, Lori Okun, Alex Sauerwein, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Kevin Heinemann, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Anaelvia Sanchez, Adriana Pope, SAFER Communications and Language Access Unit, Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA); Elise Hicks, California Reporting.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Gilbert Anaya, Sally Spencer, Emily Allen
USIBWC
Peter Vroom, Arielle Beaulieu, Ryan Kempster, Josie Meutin
City of San Diego
Michael Welch
Michael Welch Consultants
Patrick McDonough
San Diego Coastkeeper

Hector Aguirre
USEPA

Brian Farmer, John Barron
Water Workforce

Stephanie Bauer, Karen Holman
Port of San Diego

Remote:

Stephen Tee
Gatzke Dillon & Balance, LLP
Cymbre Magaña
CDFW-OSPR

Kevin Dent
USIBWC
Kristen Roberson
Resident of Imperial Beach

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: March 11, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes from March 11, 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.

Board Members:

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 – NPDES Permit Amendment: Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego South Bay Water Reclamation Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0006, NPDES No. CA90109045). *(Riley Nolan)*

Motion to adopt consent calendar:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Ms. Tu

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 5 – Recycled Water Program Overview. (Brandon Bushnell and Mahsa Izadmehr)

- Mahsa Izadmehr and Brandon Bushnell gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
 - The following stakeholders commented on this item:
 - Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
 - There were no public comments on this item on Zoom.

Chair Strawn called a recess at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

ITEM 6 – Land Disposal Program Overview (Amy Grove)

- Amy Grove gave the staff presentation and 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, either in person or on Zoom.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 7 – NPDES Permit Amendment: Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0005). (Riley Nolan)

- Riley Nolan gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.
- Gilbert Anaya presented on behalf of USIBWC and responded to Board Member questions. Emily Allen also responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
- The following stakeholders commented on this item:
 - Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
- There were no public comments on this item on Zoom.

Chair Strawn called a recess at 1:17 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Ms. Tu left the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Mr. Nolan presented additional language requiring citizen forum meetings or updates to the Water Board on a quarterly basis. A motion was made by Ms. Cantu to adopt the Order with additional language, which failed. Subsequently, a motion to adopt the Order as originally written was made by Chair Strawn, which succeeded. See below for the vote tallies of each motion.

Motion to adopt Order No. R9-2026-0005 with additional language:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Wier

Aye:

- Ms. Cantú
- Ms. Wier

Nay:

- Dr. Olson
- Chair Strawn

Absent:

- Ms. Blair
- Ms. Tu

Abstain:

- None

Chair Strawn moved to adopt the permit amendment as originally written.

Motion to adopt Order No. R9-2026-0005 as originally written:

- Chair Strawn

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Wier
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- Ms. Cantú

Absent:

- Ms. Blair
- Ms. Tu

Abstain:

- None

ITEM 8 – Administrative Civil Liability Hearing: Reconsideration of Administrative Civil Liability Order (ACLO) No. R9-2022-0094 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 opening statement and administered the oath.
- Frank Melbourn and Julie Macedo presented on behalf of the Prosecution Team and responded to Board Member questions.
- Stephen Tee (remote), of Gatzke, Dillon, and Balance, LLC, spoke on behalf of Baldwin & Sons and 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, either in person or on Zoom.

Chair Strawn announced closed session at 3:18 p.m. Mr. Sauerwein stated that the Board would meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code §11126(c)(3) to discuss Item 8 and deliberate on a decision to be reached based on evidence introduced in the hearing.

Chair Strawn reconvened the public meeting at 3:47 p.m., stating that the Board had directed the advisory team to make amendments to the Administrative Civil Liability Order (ACLO) and bring the amended ACLO to the next Board meeting on May 13, 2026.

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer