

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on September 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Moulton Niguel Water District Board Room, 26161 Gordon Road, Laguna Niguel, California 92653.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Gary Strawn, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Celeste Cantú, and Yen Tu.

Board Members attending remotely:

Emily Wier

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Jeremy Haas, Chris Blank, Roger Mitchell, Eric Becker, Amy Grove, Sarah Mearon, Catherine Brennan.

Staff remote attendance:

Tom Alo, Christina Arias, Kate Becker, Brandon Bushnell, Wayne Chiu, Melissa Corona, Marielle Decker, Jody Ebsen, Carolina Guia, Gabriel Haro, Adrian Hinkle, Mahsa Izadmehr, Aayush Khurana, Joann Lim, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Frank Melbourn, Celo Muñoz, Riley Nolan, Fisayo Osibodu, Frederick Piñongcos, Kaylee Popovich, Michelle Santillan, Erin Schmitt, James Smith, Brandie White, Emily Yagi.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Board (remote); Alex Sauerwein, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Sherry Wanninger, Ron Wood, Matt Brown, Matt Collings, Sara Boyer
Moulton Niguel Water District

Commander Matt Pine
U.S. Navy

Remote:

Brian Dazey
Ladera Health

Rachel Stewart
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation (CERF)

Vanessa Gonzalez

BOARD MEETING

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Brian Dazey, an Environmental Researcher with Ladera Health, addressed the Board regarding a pending written complaint regarding Amendment #4 to Order No. 97-52, and reconsideration of specific language and requirements.

Rachel Stewart, Programs Manager for the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, submitted a comment, both verbally and in writing, regarding a Catamaran Resort Corporate Event involving private activities on a public beach and a fireworks display over Mission Bay.

BOARD BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: June 10, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes of June 10, 2026:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Tu

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, Dorene D'Adamo, provided an update on recent State Board actions and priorities for upcoming actions, and she responded to Board Member questions.

Mr. Gibson congratulated Eric Becker for accepting the position of Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer as Chief of the Surface Water Protection Branch, and he welcomed two new Water Resource Control Engineers in the Stormwater Management Unit, Aayush Khurana and Jordan Haserot. He also provided updates that were not in the written Executive Officer's Report and responded to Board Member questions.

ITEM 3 – Transboundary Flows

Mr. Gibson gave a presentation that included information and updates that did not appear in the written Border Water Quality Update and upcoming priorities. He also responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn called a brief recess at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 10:30 a.m.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM 4 – A Resolution Endorsing the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operational Plan (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0084). *(Dave Gibson)*

- Dave Gibson 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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. R9-2026-0084:

- Ms. 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 – Moulton Niguel Water District Update. (*Eric Becker*)

- Eric Becker introduced the item.
- General Manager Matt Collings and Regulatory Compliance Manager Sara Boyer from MNWD gave the presentation and responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
 - Grant Sharp, Manager of the South Orange County Watershed Management Area for Orange County Public Works

ITEM 6 – Vapor Intrusion Overview. (*Catherine Brennan*)

- Catherine Brennan gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions. Sarah Mearon, Senior Engineering Geologist, 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.

ITEM 7 – Las Pulgas Update. (*Erin Schmitt*)

- Erin Schmitt introduced the item and Navy Commander Matt Pine, who gave the 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.

Chair Strawn adjourned for closed session at 12:05 p.m., and Alex Sauerwein stated that the Board would discuss Item 8(h) during the closed session. Chair Strawn reconvened the public meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2026

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer

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