

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Celeste Cantú called the meeting to order on September 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Rancho California Water District Board Meeting Room, 42135 Winchester Road, Temecula, California 92590

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Celeste Cantú, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Henry Abarbanel; Eric Anderson, Gary Strawn, and Stefanie Warren. Board Member Warren left the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Roger Mitchell, Chris Blank, Cynthia Gorham, Brandon Bushnell, Cailynn Smith, Abby Pashina, Lark Starkey, Brian Covellone (Region 8), Mahsa Izadmehr

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board:

Vincent Vu, Alex Sauerwein, Office of Chief Counsel.

Public Attendance:

John Houghland, Wendy Neie <i>Rancho California Water District</i>	Derek Davis, Tasha Ardalan, Enrico Ferro, Ed Embly, Andy Lyall <i>San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group</i>
Oggie Watson <i>Ty Nursery</i>	Allison Sharpe <i>City of San Diego PUD</i>
Dan Mathson <i>Farmer, Escondido</i>	Alfred Javier, Dottie Torres <i>Eastern Municipal Water District</i>
Michael R. Welch <i>Michael Welch Consultants</i>	Rebekah Guill, Samuel Bogadir, Matt Yeager, Darcy Kuenzi <i>Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District</i>
Troy Frasure <i>Contech</i>	Carlos Quintero <i>Sweetwater Authority</i>
Garth Engelhorn <i>NV5</i>	Paula Jewell <i>USMC Camp Pendleton</i>

Katie Byrne <i>San Diego Farm Bureau</i>	Jim Leach <i>Santa Margarita Water District</i>
Brionna Martin <i>County of San Diego</i>	Jeff Wiens <i>Wiens Family Cellars</i>

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 speakers for the Public Forum

BOARD BUSINESS

Item 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: August 10, 2022

Motion to adopt the August 10, 2022 minutes:

- Ms. Warren

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Mr. Abarbanel
- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- Mr. Anderson
- Mr. Strawn

Item 2 – Chairman's, Board Members', State Water Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports. *These items were for Board discussion only. Public testimony was not allowed, and the Board took no formal action.*

Nichole Morgan, the State Board liaison, was unable to join the meeting today, so she sent a written version of her report, which is available here: [State Board Liaison's Report - September 2022 \(ca.gov\)](#)

Chair Cantú updated the Board on the monthly Chairs' discussion that took place on September 12, at which time the nine Regional Board Chairs plan the annual Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting.

Mr. Gibson first thanked Lark Starkey for her work with the Board, and he extended his good wishes to her, as she is leaving State service; he also welcomed several new staff members. Mr. Gibson went on to state that he had been awarded the Michelle White award from the Port of San Diego for his work on the Tijuana River and San Diego Bay. In addition, he updated the Board on several recent and upcoming actions to address water quality in the San Diego Region. Mr. Gibson also responded to Board Member questions and comments.

ACTION ITEM

Item 3 – Waste Discharge Requirement Rescission: Rescission of Order No. R9-2009-0009, Waste Discharge Requirements for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Rainbow Conservation Camp (Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0049). *(Brandon Bushnell)*

Chair Cantú gave an opening statement and Brandon Bushnell gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Motion to adopt Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0049:

- Mr. Anderson

Second:

- Mr. Abarbanel

Aye:

- Mr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 4 – Update on Agricultural Monitoring Program. *(Cailynn Smith)*

Cailynn Smith gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions and comments. Hannah Gbeh, former Executive Director of the San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group and Steve Corona from the Upper Santa Margarita Irrigated Lands Group also gave a presentation and responded to Board Member questions and comments.

The following stakeholders commented on the item:

- Derek Davis, San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group
- Dan Mathson, Escondido Farmer
- Enrico Ferro, San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group

Item 5 – Update on Santa Margarita River Water Quality Restoration Plan for Nutrients. *(Lark Starkey)*

Lark Starkey gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions and comments.

The following stakeholders commented on the item:

- Matt Yeager, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Item 6 – Rancho California Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District Update. *(David Gibson)*

Item 7 – Rancho California Water District Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Update. *(Brandon Bushnell)*

Items 6 and 7 were presented together. Mr. Gibson introduced the items, and Mr. Bushnell gave the staff presentation and introduced Robert Graham, General Manager, Jeff Kirshberg, Water Resources Manager, from Rancho California Water District, and Alfred Javier from Eastern Municipal Water District, who gave presentations and responded to Board Member questions.

Item 8 - Cannabis Program Update. *(Brian Covellone)*

Brian Covellone gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions and comments.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

Item 9 – Future Agenda Items: Recommended Course of Action and Estimated Staff Hours to Address Action Items from the August 2022 Board Meeting. In addition, Board Members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. *(Kelly Dorsey)*

Mr. Abarbanel asked that Staff hold an Agriculture Workshop to include the farm bureaus, regulating agencies, third party groups, and the growers.

There being no further business, Chair Cantú adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer