

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Celeste Cantú called the meeting to order on December 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Celeste Cantú, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Henry Abarbanel; Eric Anderson, Megan Blair, and Gary Strawn.

Ms. Blair arrived at 9:01 a.m.

Board Members absent:

Stefanie Warren

Staff present:

Jeremy Haas, Chris Blank, Erin Schmitt, Josh Hufferd, Wayne Chiu, Amy Grove, Lalitha Thotakura, David Barker, Abby Pashina, Sarah Mearon, Ben Neill, Cynthia Gorham, Fisayo Osibodu, Joann Lim, Sean McClain, Jody Ebsen, Brandi Outwin-Beals.

Remote attendance:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Roger Mitchell, Sherrie Komeylyan, Laurie Walsh, Cailynn Smith, Regan Morey, Jessica Taylor, Mahsa Izadmehr, Cleo Muñoz, Christopher Means, Frank Melbourn, Chiara Clemente, Melissa Corona, Vicente Rodriguez, Brandon Bushnell.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board:

Vincent Vu, Alex Sauerwein, Office of Chief Counsel; Nichole Morgan, State Water Board Liaison.

Public Attendance:

Michael Welch <i>On behalf of San Elijo Joint Powers Authority and the City of Escondido</i>	Barbara Ovelo, Raymond Loe <i>Enthalpy Analytical</i>
Alicia Appel <i>Encina Wastewater</i>	Lydia Poncé (Remote) <i>Society of Native Nations</i>
Phillip Musegaas (Remote) <i>San Diego Coastkeeper</i>	Michael Thornton <i>San Elijo Joint Powers Authority</i>

BOARD MEETING

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

Chair Cantú thanked David Barker for his 47 years of service to the Board and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

PUBLIC FORUM

Phillip Musegaas, the new Executive Director of San Diego Coastkeeper, introduced himself to the Board, and he asked that the Board initiate a public input process for the Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit reissuance.

Lydia Ponce, speaking on behalf of the Society of Native Nations, asked that the Board and staff to make sure tribal nations are included in discussions regarding the permitting of smaller desalination plants up and down the coast.

BOARD BUSINESS

Item 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: November 9, 2022

Motion to adopt the November 9, 2022 minutes:

- Mr. Strawn

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Warren

Abstain:

- Ms. Blair

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, provided an update on recent State Board actions and priorities. She also responded to Board member questions and comments.

Mr. Abarbanel, Mr. Strawn, and Dr. Olson reported on a meeting they attended with Executive Officer David Gibson, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA), the Southern California Association of Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (SCAP), and the Port of San Diego on December 8, 2022. Mr. Gibson responded to Board Member questions and comments regarding the meeting.

Mr. Gibson provided updates on border water quality projects, and he and Chair Cantú thanked Mr. David Barker for his 47 years of service and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 3 – Underground Storage Tank Program Update. *(Amy Grove)*

Amy Grove gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions and comments. Lalitha Thotakura also responded to Board Member questions.

Item 4 – State of the Ocean Report by the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) and City of Escondido, Status and Trends of Water Quality Conditions in the Vicinity of the San Elijo Ocean Outfall. *(Joann Lim)*

SEJPA and City of Escondido are required to provide this report on the state of the ocean and the status and trends of water quality conditions in the vicinity of the San Elijo Ocean Outfall in the Monitoring and Reporting Program of the NPDES permits for discharges through the San Elijo Ocean Outfall to the Pacific Ocean (SEJPA, San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility, Order No. R9-2018-0003, NPDES Permit No. CA0107099 and City of Escondido, Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility, Order No. R9-2018-0002, NPDES No. CA0107981).

Joann Lim provided an overview of the item, and Michael Thornton, General Manager of the SEJPA, introduced Michael Welch, who gave the main presentation. Mr. Welch responded to Board Member questions and comments.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

Item 8 – Future Agenda Items: Recommended Course of Action and Estimated Staff Hours to Address Action Items from the November 2022 Board Meeting. In addition, Board Members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. *(Kelly Dorsey)*

Chair Cantú asked for a subcommittee of Board Member volunteers to conduct the annual performance review for Executive Officer David Gibson.

There being no further business, Chair Cantú adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer

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