

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 11, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Celeste Cantú called the meeting to order on December 11, 2024 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., Board Vice Chair, Gary Strawn, Yen Tu, and Stefanie Warren. Ms. Warren left the meeting at approximately 11:45 a.m., and Chair Cantú left the meeting at approximately 12:15 p.m., ceding the gavel to Dr. Olson.

**Board Members absent:**

Megan Blair

**Staff present:**

David Gibson, Roger Mitchell, Chris Blank, Jeremy Haas, Laurie Walsh, Chiara Clemente, Amy Grove, Wayne Chiu, Sarah Mearon, Brandon Bushnell, Gabe Haro, Ella Knight, Frank Melbourn, Riley Nolan, Cynthia Gorham, Michelle Santillan, Jody Ebsen, Kate Buckley, Cailynn Smith, Jessica Taylor, Joann Lim, Nick White, Mireille Lecourtois, Tony Felix, Debbie Woodward, Maher Zaher, Brian Covellone, Melissa Corona

**Staff remote attendance:**

Kelly Dorsey, Ben Neill, Fisayo Osibodu, James Chhor, Melissa Corona, Chris Means, Lauren Kim, Erin Schmitt, Sean McClain, Lalitha Thotakura, Alan Monji, Christina Arias, Carey Kowalski, Jimmy Smith

**Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board**

Nichole Morgan (remote), for the State Water Resources Control Board; Jennifer Fordyce, Alex Sauerwein, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Vinty Siev, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Elise Hicks, California Reporting.

**Public Attendance:**

Present:

Michael Welch

*Michael Welch Consultants*

Duane Cave, Joons Lopez, Matt Collins,  
Rod Woods

*Moulton Niguel Water District*

Mariah Mills, Annica Ly

*City of San Diego*

Karen Holman, Stephanie Bauer

*Port of San Diego*

Bryn Evans

*Craftwater*

Heather Jidkov

*State Water Board, Office of Enforcement*

Jesse J. Perez

*Fallbrook PUD*

Christine Tolchin, Paige Copenhaver  
*County of San Diego*

Sally Spener

*USIBWC*

Doug Liden

*USEPA*

Courtney Brown

*SD Coastkeeper*

Chris Helmer

*City of Imperial Beach*

Remote attendance:

Diane Fleck

*USEPA*

Mark Kennedy

*Lakeside Land Company*

Robert Sanchez

*Fire Prevention Services*

Kerri Denhalter

*Bureau of Reclamation*

Makrom Shatila

*Michael Baker International*

Jennifer Pena, Rebecca Rizzuti

*USIBWC*

**BOARD MEETING**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Robert Sanchez, President of Fire Prevention Services, addressed the Board regarding the discharge of pollutants from fire suppression sprinkler systems.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**Item 1** – Minutes of Board Meeting: November 13, 2024

**Motion to adopt the November 13, 2024 minutes:**

- Ms. Warren

**Second:**

- Mr. Strawn

**Aye:**

- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Tu
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

**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.*

Nichole Morgan (remote) provided updates on recent State Board actions and upcoming priorities.

Ms. Warren provided an update on the most recent meeting of the Chollas Creek Blue Green Initiative, stating that they are doing a “fantastic job of bringing in stakeholders.” She also invited Canyonlands to present an informational item to the Board sometime next summer.

Mr. Gibson responded to Board Member questions and provided updates that were not in the written Executive Officer’s Report. He also welcomed new employees: Ella Knight, Water Resource Control Engineer, and Gabriel (Gabe) Haro, Engineering Geologist.

**Item 3** – Transboundary Flows

Mr. Gibson responded to Board Member questions and provided updates that did not appear in the written Report.

**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 persons.*

**Item 4** – NPDES Permit Amendment: Amendment to Order No. R9-2022-0006, NPDES No. CA0107611, Waste Discharge Requirements for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0144). Written comments on this item were due on November 14, 2024. (*Brandon Bushnell*)

Dr. Olson recused herself from this item, as she had a conflict of interest.

**Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0144:**

- Ms. Warren

**Second:**

- Mr. Strawn

**Aye:**

- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Tu
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

**Nay:**

- None

**Absent:**

- Ms. Blair

**Recused:**

- Dr. Olson

Chair Cantú asked for comments from the South Orange County Wastewater Authority, and Amber Boone thanked the Board staff for their work on the permit. In addition, Duane Cave, President of the Board, Moulton Niguel Water District, thanked the Board and Board staff for moving the permit forward.

**ITEM 5** – Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements: Rescission of Order No. 92-14, Waste Discharge Requirements for the Lakeside Land Company, Woodward Sand Pit Reclamation Project, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0173). Written comments on this item were due on October 30, 2024. (*Amy Grove*)

**Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0173:**

- Ms. Warren

**Second:**

- Mr. Strawn

**Aye:**

- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Tu
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

**Nay:**

- None

**Absent:**

- Ms. Blair

**Abstain:**

- None

**ACTION ITEMS**

Chair Cantú took the following item out of order:

**Item 7** – Complaint No. R9-2024-0090 for Administrative Civil Liability Failure to Comply with Cleanup and Abatement and Water Code Section 13267 Order No. R9-2021-0165. *(Alex Sauerwein, David Gibson)*

The Board resumed consideration of this matter from the October 9, 2024 meeting. Chair Cantú gave an opening statement and invited the Prosecution Team and the Discharger to present comments to the Board on the Discharger's submittal. The Prosecution Team declined, and the Discharger was not in attendance. No interested persons requested to speak.

Chair Cantú adjourned to closed session to continue the Board's deliberations on a decision in this matter at 9:46 a.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 10:19 a.m.

When the Board returned from closed session, Chair Cantú stated that the Board had deliberated on the evidence presented and reached a decision.

**Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0205:**

- Dr. Olson

**Second:**

- Mr. Strawn

**Aye:**

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

**Nay:**

- None

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Tu

**Absent:**

- Ms. Blair

**Item 6** – Tentative Resolution: Consideration of a Resolution Approving Lower Tijuana River Indicator Bacteria and Trash Advance Restoration Plan (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2024-0155). (*Riley Nolan*)

Riley Nolan gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions. Melissa Corona also responded to Board Member questions. Diane Fleck, TMDL Liaison, USEPA, and Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary/Foreign Affairs Office, USIBWC, addressed the Board regarding the Tentative Resolution.

Chair Cantú requested public comments on the item, and the following stakeholders offered comments on the item:

- Karen Holman, Port of San Diego
- Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach
- Courtney Brown, San Diego Coastkeeper

**Motion to approve Tentative Resolution No. R9-2024-0131:**

- Dr. Olson

**Second:**

- Mr. Strawn

**Aye:**

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

**Nay:**

- None

**Absent:**

- Ms. Warren

**Abstain:**

- None

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Item 8** – State of the Ocean Report from the City of Oceanside, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and Fallbrook Public Utility District. A report on the status and trends of water quality in the vicinity of the Oceanside Ocean Outfall. (*Joann Lim*)

Joann Lim introduced the item. Lindsay Leahy from the City of Oceanside introduced the presentation, and Michael Welch presented on behalf of the agencies and responded to Board Member questions. Also responding to Board Member questions were Ms. Leahy and Commander Steve Ramsey, Public Works Officer, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Acting Chair Olson requested public comments on the item; no public comments were offered.

There being no further business, Acting Chair Olson 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