CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on May 13, 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., Vice Chair; Celeste Cantú, Yen Tu, and Emily Wier. Ms. Tu left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and returned at 10:41 a.m.

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Laurie Walsh, Chris Blank, Eric Becker, Melissa Corona, Amy Grove, Adrian Hinkle, Lauren Kim, Mireille Lecourtois, Sean McClain, Alan Monji, Ben Neill, Riley Nolan, Federick Pinongcos, Kaylee Popovich, Michelle Santillan, Ahlyssa Santillana, James Smith, Nicholas White.

Staff remote attendance:

Jody Ebsen, Mahsa Izadmehr, Frank Melbourn, Erin Schmitt, Joe Whearty.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan, State Water Board; Alex Sauerwein, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Jennifer Toney, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Division of Financial Assistance, Storm Water Grant Program; Vinty Siev, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Maher Zaher, Victor Gonzalez, Region 8.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Heidi Whitman
Escondido Resident
Bailey Tailor, Jesus Torres
Republic Services
Stephanie Bauer
Port of San Diego
Tiffany Curry
Outdoor Outreach
Nancy Torres
San Diego Foundation

Gilbert Anaya, Ramon Macias, Emily Allen
USIBWC
Yamilett Carn

Sarah Davidson
Surfrider Foundation
Patrick McDonough
San Diego Coastkeeper

Remote:

Natasha Dulik Ortiz
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
Charles Rilli
Deputy Director, Sierra Club San Diego

Judith George
Senior Counsel, Republic Services

Mario Ordonez-Calderon
Executive Director, Un Mar de Colores

BOARD MEETING

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Heidi Whitman, a resident of Escondido, addressed the Board regarding the Hamilton Lane Development Appeal. Sean McClain, Senior Engineering Geologist of the Petroleum & Military Site Restoration Unit, responded to Ms. Whitman's comments.

BOARD BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: May 13, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2026:
- Ms. Cantú

Second:
- Ms. Wier

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.

Dr. Olson noted a bill that is under consideration at the State Legislature, AB2739, the *Water: Affordability and System Stabilization Act,* which would provide grants for water infrastructure and safety projects and establish a trust fund to support water affordability.

Mr. Gibson welcomed Federick (Fed) Pinongcos, Water Resource Control Engineer in the Site Restoration Military Facilities and Petroleum Unit, and he congratulated Eric Becker, who has accepted a promotion to Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer of the Surface Water Branch. Mr. Gibson 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 provided information and updates that did not appear in the written Border Water Quality Update and responded to Board Member questions.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM 4 – Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for the Closed Ramona Landfill (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0003). Written comments for this item were due on February 16, 2026. *(Erin Schmitt))*

- Erin Schmitt gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.
- Amy Grove, Senior Engineering Geologist, and Jesus Torres, General Manager of Republic Services, also responded to Board Member questions.
- Chair Strawn asked for public comment, both in person and on Zoom. There were no public comments on this item

Motion to adopt Order No. R9-2026-0003:
- Ms. Wier

Second:
- Dr. Olson

Aye:
- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson

- Ms. Tu
- Ms. Wier
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 5 – Cannabis Cultivation Program Update. *(Maher Zaher, Victor Gonzalez)*

- Dave Gibson introduced the item.
- Victor Gonzalez and Maher Zaher 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.

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

ITEM 6 – CalTrans Mapping Ecosystems. *(Lauren Kim)*

- Lauren Kim gave introduced Tracey D'Aoust Roberts from CalTrans
- Tracey D'Aoust Roberts from CalTrans 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.

ITEM 7 – United States International Boundary and Water Commission Oral Report. *(Riley Nolan)*

- Riley Nolan introduced Ramon Macias from USIBWC
- Ramon Macias, Emily Allen, and Gilbert Anaya from USIBWC gave the presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn called a recess at 12:37 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
    - The following stakeholders provided comments on the item:

  - Sarah Davidson, Clean Border Water Now Manager, Surfrider Foundation
  - Tiffany Curry, Public Policy Associate Manager, Outdoor Outreach
  - Patrick McDonough, Attorney, San Diego Coastkeeper
  - Mr. Macias, Ms. Allen, and Dr. Anaya responded to stakeholder questions

ITEM 8 – Division of Financial Assistance Update on Proposition 4 U.S.-Mexico Border Grant Program. *(Riley Nolan and Jennifer Toney)*

- Riley Nolan introduced Jennifer Toney from the Division of Financial Assistance
- Jennifer Toney 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.

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:	Signed by:
Christina A. Blank Executive Assistant	David W. Gibson Executive Officer