

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Celeste Cantú opened the meeting November 8, 2023, at approximately 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; Eric Anderson, Megan Blair, and Stefanie Warren. Gary Strawn arrived at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Chiara Clemente, Christina Arias, Brandon Bushnell, Abby Pashina, Cailynn Smith, Laurie Walsh, Tony Felix, Fisayo Osibodu, Roger Mitchell, Jeremy Haas, Ben Neill, Amy Grove, Cynthia Gorham, Sean McClain, Regina Coughlin, Wayne Chiu, Tasia Meyer, Mahsa Izadmehr, Josh Hufferd, Erin Schmitt, Melissa Liotta, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Melissa Corona

Staff remote attendance:

Frank Melbourn, Erica Ryan, Cleo Muñoz, Kristin Schwall, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Debbie Woodward, Christopher Means, Joann Lim, Jessica Taylor, Carey Kowalski, Brian McDaniels, Michelle Santillan, Mireille Lecourtois, Jody Ebsen, Tanya Clark, Nicholas White, James Chhor, Sarah Mearon, Sasha Smirensky

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Dorene (Dee Dee) D'Adamo (remote), State Water Resources Control Board; Vincent Vu, Alex Sauerwein, Office of Chief Counsel; Sean Sterchi (remote), Trevor Gresham (remote), Division of Drinking Water; Julie Macedo, Office of Enforcement; Elise Hicks, California Reporting.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Debra Steingraber, Bruce W. Steingraber, Gayle Wright, Robin Quebartin, Jasmine Supnet Rance, Zack Rance, Robert Martin, Tamra Martin, James Baine, Pamela Baine, Susanne Mattern <i>Residents of Rancho Santa Teresa</i>	Orelia Debraal, Lisa Celaya, Kelli Balo, Kris McFadden, Juan Guerrero <i>City of San Diego</i>
Rich Flammer, Alex Demler, Shannon Brown, Bryn Evans, Shawn Hagerty <i>Demler Brothers</i>	Patrick McDonough, Minna Lara <i>San Diego Coastkeeper</i>

Remote attendance:

Ricardo Lopez	Ralph Mattern <i>Rancho Santa Teresa Mutual Water Company</i>
Tim Guishard <i>Certified Operator for Rancho Santa Teresa MWC</i>	Tamra Martin, Robert Martin, Pamela Baine, James Baine, Dana Burow, Mary Meskell, Ron Matuszek, Jason Rehm, Barbara Lynch Shimek, Steve Shimek, Gerry Appleby, Cyprian Czarnocki, Kortney Weseloh, Mark Weseloh, Anthony Ciulla, Allyson Nicola, Jeffrey Hedgecock, Bradford Martin, Jennifer Lundmark, Darla Duplan, Sheryl Heyser, Colleen Galyean, Ted Bright, Holly Abeel, Deb Abeel, John Schultz <i>Residents of Rancho Santa Teresa</i>
Mia Gil <i>Viejas Tribal Government</i>	

BOARD MEETING

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

Chair Cantú named Board Member Eric Anderson as Acting Chair and ceded the gavel to Mr. Anderson.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

BOARD BUSINESS

Item 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: October 11, 2023

Motion to adopt the October 11, 2023 minutes:

- Ms. Warren

Second:

- Chair Cantú

Aye:

- Mr. Anderson
- Chair Cantú
- Ms. Warren

Nay:

- None **Absent:**
- Mr. Strawn

Abstain:

- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson

MOTION CARRIED

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 attend the meeting, but Dee Dee D'Adamo reported on her behalf. Ms. Morgan submitted a written report prior to the meeting, which can be found on our website.

Mr. Anderson thanked the Board Staff for all of their work in supporting and informing the Board Members.

Mr. Anderson ceded his role as Acting Chair and returned the gavel to Chair Cantú.

Mr. Gibson responded to Board Member questions regarding the written Executive Officer's Report, provided an update on border water quality and the status of the International Boundary and Water Commission International Wastewater Treatment Plant, welcomed new employees Salma Abd Allah and Tasia Meyer, and he welcomed Melissa Corona to the NPDES Unit.

Mr. Strawn updated the Board regarding his work to help maintain the trout population in the local river watersheds.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Item 3 – Presentation from the City of San Diego on its Asset Management Program (*Fisayo Osibodu*)

Fisayo Osibodu provided an introduction and overview of the item.

Kris McFadden, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the City of San Diego, provided a brief overview of the item, followed by Juan Guerrero, Director of Public Utilities.

Lisa Celaya, Executive Assistant Director of Public Utilities, and Kelli Balo, Interim Deputy Director of Public Utilities, gave the City of San Diego’s main presentation. Ms. Celaya, Ms. Balo, and Mr. Guerrero responded to Board Member questions.

Patrick McDonough commented on this item, and Mr. Guerrero responded to Mr. McDonough’s questions.

Chair Cantú called a brief recess at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

ACTION ITEM:

Item 4 – Cease and Desist Order for Pine Hill Egg Ranch and Demler Brothers’ Pullet Farm (Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0129). (*Jeremy Haas, Vincent Vu*)

Chair Cantú gave an opening statement and administered the oath.

Eric Anderson disclosed that he is familiar with the Demlers but would remain neutral and unbiased during the hearing.

Christina Arias gave the presentation for the Prosecution Team and responded to Board Member questions.

Alex Demler and Bryn Evans gave the presentation for the Dischargers and responded to Board Member questions.

Representatives for the Prosecution Team and Dischargers provided follow up comments and responded to Board Member questions.

The following stakeholders commented on the item:

- Pamela Baine
- Debra Steingraber
- Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
- Tamra Martin
- Robert Martin
- Gail Wright
- John Bryant
- Tim Guishard, Santa Teresa Municipal Water District
- Ralph Mattern (remote), Santa Teresa Municipal Water District
- Colleen Galyean (remote)

Motion to postpone adoption of the Tentative Order until the December Board Meeting:

- Mr. Anderson

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Mr. Anderson

Nay:

- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warre
- Chair Cantú

Absent:

- None

Abstain:

- None

MOTION FAILED

Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0129:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Mr. Strawn

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- None

Abstain:

- None

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

Item 7 – Future Agenda Items: Recommended Course of Action and Estimated Staff Hours to Address Action Items from the October 2023 Board Meeting. In addition, Board Members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. (*Kelly Dorsey*)

Board Members did not request any future agenda items.

Chair Cantú asked Board Members Blair and Strawn to prepare and conduct a performance evaluation of the Executive Officer.

There being no further business, Chair Cantú adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer