

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on November 12, 2025 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., Board Vice Chair, Celeste Cantú, Yen Tu, and Stefanie Warren.

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Jeremy Haas, Roger Mitchell, Laurie Walsh, Fisayo Osibodu, Melissa Corona, Sarah Mearon, Wayne Chiu, Eric Becker, Chad Loflen, Amy Grove, Sean McClain, Kaylee Popovich, Cole Rodriguez, Michelle Santillan, Alan Monji, Lisa Honma, Brandon Bushnell, Hayley Sue, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Adrian Hinkle, Lauren Kim,

Staff remote attendance:

Cleo Muñoz, Erica Ryan, Mahsa Izadmehr, Frank Melbourn, Mireille Lecourtois, Brandie White, Joann Lim,

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan, State Water Board; Alex Sauerwein, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Vinty Siev, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Mir Ali (remote), Division of Drinking Water.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Michael A. Welch
Michael Welch Consultants

Rikki Schroeder, Eric Johnston
City of Chula Vista & Baldwin & Sons

Kevin Tanub, Alex Gostamelskiy
City of San Diego

Clayton Tootie
San Diego Canyonlands

Christina Schaefer
Schaefer Ecological Solutions

Brian Clancy
Helix Water District

Remote:

Joy Newman
City of San Diego

Armando Sepulveda
Outdoor Outreach

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 comments for the Public Forum

BOARD BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: October 8, 2025

Motion to approve the Minutes from October 8, 2025:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Ms. Tu

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- Ms. Warren

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 updates on recent State Board actions and upcoming priorities and responded to Board Member questions.

Ms. Cantu reported that the San Diego Foundation has awarded \$650,000 to grants through its Binational Resilience Initiative, funding six projects to address transboundary flows.

Mr. Gibson provided information and updates that did not appear in the written 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.

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 people.*

ITEM 4 – Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Chula Vista, Poggi Canyon Channel Maintenance Project, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0071). Written comments on this item were due on October 31, 2025. (*Lisa Honma*)

ITEM 5 – NPDES Permit for the East County Advanced Water Purification Project Discharge to Lake Jennings and Sycamore Creek (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0003). Written comments for this item were due on September 1, 2025. (*Brandon Bushnell*)

ITEM 6 – Waste Discharge Requirements for East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority Water Recycling Facility (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060). Written comments on this item were due on September 1, 2025. (*Brandon Bushnell*)

Brandon Bushnell gave a presentation providing information on Items 5 and 6 and responded to Board Member questions. Kyle Swanson, General Manager of Padre Dam Municipal Water District, voiced his support for the permits and responded to Board Member questions. Seva Sen, AWP Engineering Manager for Padre Dam, also responded to Board Member questions.

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Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom; there were no public comments.

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar items:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Tu

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

Chair Strawn called a recess at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

ITEM 7 – Manzanita Canyon Greening and Canyon Health Project. (Eric Becker)

Eric Becker introduced the project and responded to Board Member questions. Mr. Becker introduced Clayton Tootie, Executive Director with San Diego Canyonlands, and Christina Schaefer, President of Schaefer Ecological Solutions, both of whom gave a presentation on the project and responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom; there were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 8 – Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Schedule (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0170) (David Gibson)

Dave Gibson presented the Tentative Resolution and responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom; there were no public comments.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. R9-2025-0170:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

ITEM 9 – A Resolution Honoring the Service of Stefanie Warren (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0186). (David Gibson)

Dave Gibson presented the Tentative Resolution and thanked Ms. Warren for her contributions to the public outreach sessions and for her work on the Environmental Justice Symposium in 2017 and 2019.

The Board Members then took it in turns to express their appreciation for Ms. Warren's service from their own perspectives.

Ms. Warren expressed her appreciation for the Water Board staff and the work that they do to protect water quality.

Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom; there were no public comments.

Motion to adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0186:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

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

Nay:

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- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- Ms. Warren

Chair Strawn adjourned for the closed session at 11:37 a.m. Mr. Sauerwein stated that the Board Members would discuss item 10(j) during the closed session. Chair Strawn reconvened the public meeting at 12:08 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer