**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**
**SAN DIEGO REGION**
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
**October 14, 2026**

## CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on October 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Moulton Niguel Water District Board Room, 26161 Gordon Road, Laguna Niguel, California 92653.

## ATTENDANCE

### Board Members present:

Gary Strawn, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Celeste Cantú, and Yen Tu.

### Board Members attending remotely:

Emily Wier. Ms. Wier left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

### Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

### Staff present:

David Gibson, Laurie Walsh, Chris Blank, Christina Arias, Eric Becker, Kate Becker, Wayne Chiu, Tony Felix, Amy Grove, Carolina Guia, Jeremy Haas, Gabriel Haro, Adrian Hinkle, Aayush Khurana, Joann Lim, Chad Loflen, Frank Melbourn, Roger Mitchell, Ben Neill, Riley Nolan, Fisayo Osibodu, Martin Pham, Kaylee Popovich, Ahlyssa Santillana, James Smith, Brandie White, Nicholas White, Emily Yagi.

### Staff remote attendance:

Tanya Clark, Sherrie Komeylyan, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Sarah Mearon, Erin Schmitt, Cailynn Smith.

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

Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Board (remote); Alex Sauerwein, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Gerardo Rabelo, Tino Gamboa, Vinty Siev (remote), Department of Information Technology.

**Public Attendance:**

Present:

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| Nathan Yancheff, Sandra Jacobson<br>*California Trout* | Jose Martin, Vicki Kalkirtz, Kelly Baker, Arielle Beaulieu, Todd Snyder, Keli Balo, Drew Kleis<br>*City of San Diego* |
| Justin Brazil<br>*Sweetwater Authority* | Tyler Heckstall Rodenbaum, David Pohl, Sumedh Bahl<br>*County of San Diego* |
| Michael A. Welch<br>*Michael Welch Consultants* | Mackenzie Tassiello, Rolf Schottle<br>*WSP* |
| Chess Stranski<br>*GEI Consultants* | Amber Boone<br>*SOCWA* |
| John Adriany<br>*SBWW* | Karen Holman, Kelly Tait, Heather Carroll<br>*Port of San Diego* |
| Beth Breitenbach, Hannah Sawyer<br>*Haley & Aldrich* | Eric Stein, Kris Taniguchi-Quan<br>*SCCWRP* |
| Alexander Gershunov, Tom Corringham<br>*Scripps Institution of Oceanography* | |

## 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 speakers for the public forum.

### BOARD BUSINESS

**ITEM 1 –** Minutes of Board Meeting: September 9, 2026

**Motion to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2026:**

- Dr. Olson

**Second:**

- Ms. Cantú

**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, Dorene D'Adamo, provided an update on recent State Board actions and priorities for upcoming actions, and she responded to Board Member questions.

Mr. Gibson welcomed Environmental Scientist, Carolina Guia to the Compliance Assurance Unit. Mr. Gibson also responded to Board Member questions about the written report.

**ITEM 3 –** Transboundary Flows

Riley Nolan provided information and updates that did not appear in the written Border Water Quality Update and responded to Board Member questions.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**ITEM 4 –** San Diego Bay Strategy Update: Assessment of the Habitat and Ecosystem Beneficial Uses. *(Wayne Chiu)*

- Wayne Chiu gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

  *Chair Strawn called a recess at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:17 a.m.*

- The following representatives from the Port of San Diego presented and responded to Board Member question:
  - Karen Holman, Director of Environmental Protection
  - Kelly Tait, Environmental Programs Manager, Environmental Protection
  - Heather Carroll, Director of Environmental Conservation
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom. There were no public comments on this item.

**ITEM 5 –** Super El Niño Status & Preparations. *(James Smith)*

- Jimmy Smith gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

  *Chair Strawn called a recess at 1:35 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:47 p.m.*

- Also presenting and responding to Board Member questions:
    - Alexander (Sasha) Gershunov, Research Meteorologist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UC San Diego)
    - Tom Corringham, Research Economist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UC San Diego)
    - Todd Snyder, Stormwater, Department Director, City of San Diego
    - Drew Kleis, Public Utilities Department, Assistant Director, City of San Diego
    - Tyler Rodenbaugh, Flood Control, Senior Meteorologist, County of San Diego
    - Sumedh Bahl, P.E., Wastewater, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego
    - David Pohl, Ph.D., P.E., Watersheds, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom.
    - The following stakeholders provided comments on the item:
        - Justin Brazil, Director of Water Quality, Sweetwater Authority
        - Amber Boone, General Manager, South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA)

**ITEM 6 –** San Mateo Creek Invasive Species Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Update. *(Chad Loflen)*

- Chad Loflen introduced the item, and the following representatives from California Trout (CalTrout) presented and responded to Board Member questions:
    - Sandra Jacobson, Ph.D., Director, South Coast Region, San Diego office
    - Nate Yancheff, Project Manager, South Coast Region, San Diego office
- Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom. There were no public comments on this item

**ITEM 7 –** The California Environmental Flows Framework. *(Jeremy Haas)*

- Jeremy Haas introduced the item, and Kris Taniguchi-Quan and Eric Stein from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) 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 2:58 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Christina A. Blank

Digitally signed by Christina A. Blank
Date: 2026.11.16 12:48:28 -08'00'

Water Boards

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

Signed by:

DavidWGibson

Digitally signed by DavidWGibson
Date: 2026.11.16 11:11:55 -08'00'

Water Boards

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer