

State of California
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Draft Minutes of the January 16, 2020, Special Board Meeting
Eastern Municipal Water District
2270 Trumble Road
Perris, CA 92570

Chair Ruh called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **Introductions**

Board Members Present:

William Ruh, Chair
Tom Rivera
Lana Peterson
Daniel P. Selmi
Kris A. Murray

Staff Present:

Hope A. Smythe, Executive Officer
Jayne Joy, Assistant Executive Officer
Teresita Sablan, Regional Board Counsel
Lauma Willis, Division Chief
Mark E. Smythe, Division Chief
Barbara Barry, Chief of Basin Planning – Inland Waters
Susan Beeson, Sanitary Engineering Associate
Daniel Mefford, Information Technology Associate
Jeannie Aguilar, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Public Attendance:

Anthony Large, Janet Anderson, Quail Valley Environmental Group; Carol Scarcello, Jim Silva, Anna Silva, Sohail Fahmian, Chris Manson, Felipa Carrillo, Frank Smith, Dorothy Rackstraw, Johnny Perez, Shelly Daigle, Joe Mouawad, EMWD; Amanda Fine, EMWD; Alfred Javier, EMWD; Bonnie Wright, EMWD; Ron Sullivan, EMWD, Ryan Olney, County of Riverside; Greg Reyes, County of Riverside; Craig Carlson, City of Menifee; Abbe Rosas, Jessica Glenn, Jennifer Thomas, Jason Friend, Richard Melrose, Sandy Melrose, Peter Torres, Ann Marie Devarng, Tammy Petri, Jerry Diaz, LaSondra Mila, Blue Water Realty; Robert Lafond, Michael Fornarolto,

Item 2. Public Forum:

None.

Item 3. Order R8-2020-0004 Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin to expand exemptions to the Quail Valley On-site Septic Tank-subsurface Disposal System (Septic System) prohibition of discharges from new septic systems in Quail Valley – Order Number R8-2020-0004

This item was presented by Regional Board staff, Barbara Barry.

Barbara Barry's presentation summarized the proposed amendment to the Basin Plan in Resolution R8-2020-0004, that proposes changes to the prohibition of discharge from new septic systems in Quail Valley. Barbara informed the Board Members that during the winter of 2004-2005 a series of heavy rain events resulted in widespread failures of septic systems in Quail Valley, resulting in sewage backing up into residences and sewage at the ground surface level that flowed into Canyon Lake. These systems were generally failing due to high groundwater, poor soil conditions, shallow impermeable strata and poor design and maintenance.

Septic systems in Quail Valley have been failing and adversely impacting water resources and posing a significant threat to public health. Currently, most of the area is not served by sanitary sewer systems. Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) (hereinafter, individually and collectively referred to as the sewerage agency) are exploring the feasibility of extending sanitary sewers to this area. Quail Valley is divided into nine subareas. Subareas 4 and 9 have the highest density of septic systems. The issues observed during the 2004-2005 rainy season led staff to adopt Resolution R8-2006-0024 on October 3, 2006, which is a prohibition of discharges from new septic systems in Quail Valley. Since the 2006 prohibition went into effect, the County of Riverside developed a Local Area Management Program (LAMP) to implement the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy and EMWD completed a project that constructed a pump station and sewer main to Quail Valley and installed sewers to a portion of the residents in Subarea 9.

With the County of Riverside LAMP and OWTS Policy in place, and EMWD plans to only provide sewers to residents in Subareas 4 and 9, Santa Ana Water Board staff developed a Basin Plan amendment for consideration. The Basin Plan amendment would maintain the prohibition of discharges from new septic systems within Subareas 4 and 9, while all other Subareas would be allowed exemptions from the prohibition if the required conditions in the LAMP and OWTS Policy are met.

Speakers: Alfred Javier, Eastern Municipal Water District; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Craig Carlson, City of Menifee, Amanda Fine, Eastern Municipal Water District; Bonnie Wright, Eastern Municipal Water District; Ron Sullivan Eastern Municipal Water District; Ryan Olney, Riverside County Department of Environmental Health; Greg Reyes, Riverside County Department of Environmental Health, Commissioner Scott, Jim Silva, Sohail Fahmian, Carol Scarcello, Janet Anderson, Tammy Petri, Robert Lafond, Shelly Daigle, Jason Friend, LaSondra Mila, Michael Fornarolto.

Board Member Selmi said the Board should take the initiative and invite the relevant public agencies, including the City of Menifee to form an informal task force whose purpose is to try to expedite the installing sewers in Subareas 4 and 9 of Quail Valley. Board Member Selmi called for a separate motion to form an informal task force. Ms. Sablan, Legal Counsel, suggested that the Executive Officer could present a plan at a future meeting on forming an informal task force. Board Member Selmi said that part of the separate motion is for the Executive Officer to report back to the Board regularly, at least every six months with a written report on the status of this project. Chair Ruh called for a vote from the Board Members. All Board Members were in favor, the motion passed.

Separate Motion: It was moved by Board Member Selmi, seconded by Chair Member Ruh, and it was unanimously carried to approve an Informal Task Force to expedite the installing sewers of Subareas 4 and 9 in Quail Valley as presented.

Chair Ruh brought forward the motion for Order R8-2020-0004. Chair Peterson moved to approve the resolution as it stands with the other separate motion approved.

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Peterson, seconded by Chair Member Ruh, and it was unanimously carried to approve the Resolution R8-2020-0004 with errata as presented

Adjournment – Chair Ruh adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

HOPE A. SMYTHE
Executive Officer

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