

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Celeste Cantú opened the meeting May 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108. However, due to technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at approximately 9:10 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members present:**

Celeste Cantú, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Megan Blair; Gary Strawn, and Stefanie Warren. Ms. Warren arrived at 10:21 a.m.; Ms. Blair left the meeting at 11: 53 a.m.

**Board Members absent:**

Henry Abarbanel, Eric Anderson

**Staff present:**

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Roger Mitchell, Jeremy Haas, Ben Neill, Cailynn Smith, Abigail Pashina, Brandon Bushnell, Sarah Mearon, Fisayo Osibodu, Michelle Santillan, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Wayne Chiu, Cynthia Gorham, Laurie Walsh, Vicente Rodriguez

**Remote attendance:**

Regina Coughlin, Frank Melbourn, Amy Grove, Brian Covellone,

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

Jennifer Fordyce, Alex Sauerwein, Office of Chief Counsel; Nichole Morgan (remote), State Water Resources Control Board; Sean Sterchi, Ashley Dummer (remote), Division of Drinking Water; Elise Hicks, California Reporting.

**Public Attendance:**

Present:

Valerie Mellano, Derek Davis, Tasha Ardalan, Andy Lyall, Burnet Wohlford, Edward E. Embly, Enrico Ferro <i>San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group</i>	Michael A. Mellano, Dana J. Groot, Alysha Stehley <i>San Diego County Farm Bureau</i>
Jason DuMond <i>Mikhail Ogawa Engineering (MOE)</i>	Garrett Cooper, Kimberly Greene, Jordan Kay <i>County of San Diego Agriculture, Weights and Measures</i>
Michael Welch <i>Michael Welch Consultants</i>	Gerry Spinelli <i>University of California Extension Service</i>
Rob Hutsel <i>San Diego River Park Foundation</i>	Hugo Bermudez <i>Austal USA</i>
Craig Kolodae <i>San Pasqual Valley Soils</i>	Mary Matava <i>Agri Service</i>
Trevor Jones <i>Continental Maritime</i>	

Remote attendance:

Ray Lodge <i>Lodge Ranch Enterprises</i>	James Gonzalez <i>Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery</i>
Sue Robinson <i>Ramona Valley Vineyard Association</i>	Jeff Bohn <i>Tree of Life Nursery</i>
Darren Baker <i>Baker Family Farm</i>	Greg Opgenorth <i>Grubb and Nadler Nurseries</i>
Victor Araiza <i>McMillan Farm Management</i>	Neil Nagata <i>Nagata Bros Farms Inc.</i>
Consuelo Martinez <i>City of Escondido</i>	Brianna Martin <i>County of San Diego, Watershed Protection Program</i>
Edward Grangetto <i>Escondido Growers for Agricultural Preservation</i>	Janet Kister <i>Sunlet Nursery</i>
Linda Mullins <i>The Mullins Family Farm: The Avocado Lady</i>	Jennifer Bantle <i>Bantle Avocado Farm</i>
Mike MacKenzie <i>Avocado grower</i>	Darcy Cook <i>Mission Resource Conservation District</i>
Bryn Home <i>Pacific Ridgeline</i>	Katie Byrne <i>San Diego County Farm Bureau</i>
Mia Gil <i>Viejas</i>	Leslie Purcell <i>Sierra Club member</i>
Lily Momper <i>Exponent</i>	

**BOARD MEETING**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Kristen Northrop, Policy Advocate, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, addressed the Board regarding fireworks and fireworks debris in San Diego Bay.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**Item 1** – Minutes of Board Meeting: April 12, 2023

**Motion to adopt the April 12, 2023 minutes:**

- Dr. Olson

**Second:**

- Ms. Blair

**Aye:**

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

• **Nay:**

- None

**Absent:**

- Mr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Warren

**Abstain:**

- None

**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, provided an update on recent State Board actions and priorities, and she responded to Board Member questions.

Mr. Gibson provided updates and responded to Board Member questions regarding the written Executive Officer’s Report.

Dr. Olson stated that the Rancho California Water District had receive \$5 million from the City of Riverside for in-line hydro generation projects.

## 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 uncontested items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda item. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent board meeting to allow input by interested persons.*

**Item 3** – Waste Discharge Requirement Rescission: Rescission of Order No. R9-2015-0012, Waste Discharge Requirements for United States Navy, Remote Training Site Warner Springs Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0020). *(Brandon Bushnell)*

### **Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar:**

- Mr. Strawn

### **Second:**

- Ms. Blair

### **Aye:**

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

### **Nay:**

- None

### **Absent:**

- Mr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Warren

### **Abstain:**

- None

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Chair Cantú took this item out of order.

**Item 5** – Agricultural Workshop to Hear from Interested, Concerned, and Informed Stakeholders regarding the Agricultural Community Concerns Raised at the September 2022 Board Meeting. *(Ben Neill, Cailynn Smith, Abigail Pashina)*

Ben Neill introduced the item, followed by a presentation from Val Mellano of the San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group (SDRILG). Mr. Neill, along with Cailynn Smith and Abigail Pashina, then led a question-and-answer session for the stakeholders enrolled under the Agricultural Orders.

The following stakeholders participated in the question-and-answer session:

- Tasha Aradlan, SDRILG
- Marian Matalva, SDRILG, San Diego County Farm Bureau
- Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
- Sean Sterchi, DDW
- Andy Lyle, SDRILG
- Darcy Cook, Mission Resource Conservation District
- Mike Mellano, San Diego County Farm Bureau
- Laurie Walsh, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, SDRWQCB
- Enrico Ferro, San Diego Grower
- Craig Kolodae, San Pasqual Valley Soils
- Jason DuMond, Mikhail Ogawa Engineering
- Neil Nagata, Oceanside Grower
- Jennifer Bantle, Bantle Avocado Farms
- Dana Groot, San Diego County Farm Bureau
- Derek Hughes, Avocado and Persimmon Grower, Escondido, SDRILG
- Alysha Stehley, San Diego Farm Bureau

*Chair Cantú called a brief recess at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:54 a.m.*

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Item 4** – General NPDES Permit Issuance: General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Shipyards to San Diego Bay (Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0012, NPDES No. CAG039001). (*Vicente Rodriguez*)

Chair Cantú gave an opening statement and administered the oath. Vicente Rodriguez gave the staff presentation. Brandi Outwin-Beals responded to Board Member questions.

The following stakeholders commented on the item:

- Trevor Jones, Continental Maritime
- Phillip Musegaas, San Diego Coastkeeper

**Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0011, NPDES No. CA0109282:**

- Dr. Olson

**Second:**

- Mr. Strawn

**Aye:**

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

**Nay:**

- None

**Absent:**

- Mr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair

**Abstain:**

- None

**BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS**

**Item 6** – Future Agenda Items: Recommended Course of Action and Estimated Staff Hours to Address Action Items from the April 2023 Board Meeting. In addition, Board Members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. *(Kelly Dorsey)*

Ms. Warren asked for an update from the San Diego County Farm Bureau and SDRILG regarding best management practices for irrigation methods.

Dr. Olson requested an update on streamlining and customizing the Agricultural Orders to the San Diego Region.

There being no further business, Chair Cantú adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

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Christina A. Blank  
Executive Assistant

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David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer