

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, California

MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Abarbanel called to order the meeting of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (SDRWQCB) at the Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2375 Northside Drive, San Diego, California.

Item 1 – Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members present: Henry Abarbanel, Eric Anderson, Tomás Morales, Gary Strawn, Betty Olson, and Stefanie Warren.

Staff Present: David Gibson, James Smith, Eric Becker, Chiara Clemente, Alex Cali, Frank Melbourn, Julie Chan, Roger Mitchell, Barry Pulver, Sean McClain, Melissa Valdovinos, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Ben Neill, Dat Quach, Tony Felix, Laurie Walsh, Wayne Chiu, Aaron Buck, Betty Fetscher, Kelly Dorsey, Deborah Woodward, Alan Monji, Cynthia Gorham, Lori Costa, Rachel O'Donovan, Kristin Schwall. Lucas Lima, Bruce Posthumus, and Nicole Gergans.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board: State Water Resources Control Board – Catherine Hagan, Adriana Nuñez, and Michael Lauffer.

Public Attendance: Jessica Palmer, Len Sinfield – U.S. Navy; Chuck Katz – Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center; Chris Stransky – AMEC; Matt O'Malley – San Diego CoastKeeper; Billy Ortiz – Lakeside Community; Ruth Kolb – City of San Diego.

Item 2 – Public Forum

Billy Ortiz of the Lakeside Community asked to be notified about a 401 Permit/proposed project regarding the natural sand mine in the El Monte residential area.

Executive Officer Gibson responded that he was familiar with the proposed project but stated that the Regional Board had not yet received a Report of Waste Discharge or 401 Certification application. He said he would provide a copy to Mr. Ortiz, and anyone else who would like notification, once it was received. He also said it would be available on the Regional Board's website and could be obtained through a Public Records Act request. He would also include a report in his Executive Officer's Report.

Chairman Abarbanel asked Mr. Gibson if the project was large enough to hold a Public Workshop to get public input on the matter. Mr. Gibson responded that it certainly could rise to that if there was a great deal of public interest and/or if there were significant impacts. He stated this project could include both.

Item 3 – Minutes of Board Meeting: July 20, 2015

Mr. Morales moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Strawn seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and Board Members Abarbanel, Anderson, Morales, Olson, Strawn, and Warren voted “aye.” The motion passed.

Item 4 – Chairman’s, Board Members’, State Water Board Liaison’s, and Executive Officer’s Reports. These items are for Board discussion only. No public testimony will be allowed, and the Board will take no formal action.

Mr. Gibson informed the Board Members that he would be attending the National Coordinators meeting regarding the Tijuana River Task Force on their Border 20/20 Workgroup on September 21 – 23, 2015. He said he would report back in the next Executive Officer’s Report.

Mr. Gibson updated the Board Members on a recent site visit to the Tijuana River Valley. He said there was a significant amount of trash from the July rains and he expected to see quite a bit more. Mr. Gibson stated that there were three parcels pending purchase. The City of San Diego and County of San Diego hope to acquire one or two of the properties as they are in an acute location in the River Valley and represent important opportunities to move flood prone properties out of the floodplain and reduce flooding risks. He said the City of San Diego was to decide on the matter and was currently working on an appraisal.

Mr. Gibson reported that he anticipated having a meeting in November with Mayor Faulconer and Supervisors Cox and Roberts but avoid ex-parte issues with both himself and the Board.

Mr. Gibson presented staff member Melissa Valdovinos with a Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award for her work on the San Diego Bay Strategy.

Mr. Gibson informed Board Members and the public about the Coastal Cleanup Day at the Border Field State Park on September 19, 2015.

Item 5 – Future Agenda Items: Board members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. *(David Gibson)*

Dr. Olson requested a briefing on Assembly Bill 163 as it moves along in the process. Mr. Gibson said he would provide updates in his Executive Officer’s Reports and would schedule individual meetings with Board Members if required as it progressed. He said his understanding was that it was a two-year bill and nothing will be happening in this legislative cycle.

Item 8 - Information Item: Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) Issue Discussion in Preparation for the October WQCC Meeting. *(David Gibson)*

Chairman Abarbanel took Item 8 out of order. He proposed that a subset of the Board prepare materials associated with AB 163 for discussion at the Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting instead of waiting for the two-year cycle. He also suggested that Senator Robert Hertzberg, Member of the California State Senate, and

some local legislators attend the November or December Board Meeting to discuss the Item.

Ms. Warren suggested that the Board host a roundtable. Mr. Gibson agreed and suggested the December Board Meeting.

Item 7 - Information Item: Update from Energy and Environmental Sciences Group at U.S. Navy SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific on Ongoing Monitoring and Assessment Techniques. *(David Gibson)*

Chairman Abarbanel took Item 7 out of order.

Len Sinfield, U.S. Navy, introduced the item. Chuck Katz, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR), gave the presentation on Energy and Environmental Sciences Technology and responded to Board Member questions.

Chairman Abarbanel asked how the Water Board could work with the Navy to use their sea level rise model in Point Loma. He also asked the Navy to work with Ruth Kolb, City of San Diego. Mr. Sinfield agreed to do so.

Billy Ortiz, Lakeside Community, asked about invasive plant control.


Item 6 - Update on Water Law. *(Catherine George Hagan)*

Catherine Hagan introduced the item. Michael Lauffer, State Board Office of Chief Counsel, gave the presentation.


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:



Rachel O'Donovan
Office Technician



David Gibson
Executive Officer