

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on March 12, 2025 at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Gary Strawn, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Board Vice Chair, Megan Blair, Celeste Cantú (remote), Yen Tu (remote), and Stefanie Warren.

Staff present:

David Gibson, Jeremy Haas, Ella Knight, Chris Blank, James Chhor, Roger Mitchell, Hayley Sue, Ariel Cutter, Eric Becker, Debbie Woodward, Catherine Brennan, Jessica Taylor, Sarah Mearon, Ben Neill, Riley Nolan, Mahsa Izadmehr, Christina Arias, Melissa Corona, Fisayo Osibodu, Chad Loflen, Frank Melbourn, Brandon Bushnell, Wayne Chiu, Adrian Hinkle

Staff remote attendance:

Kelly Dorsey, Cailynn Smith, Laurie Walsh, Sean McClain, Lauren Kim, Joann Lim, Jody Ebsen, Carey Kowalski, Cynthia Gorham, Erin Schmitt, Hiram Sarabia, Alan Monji, Tony Felix

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Dorene D'Adamo (remote), for the State Water Resources Control Board; Alex Sauerwein, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Vinty Siev, Tino, Gamboa, DIT.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Paul Ahn
Southern California Edison
Dr. Ankita Kadakia, Heather Buonomo
San Diego County DHS

A. Singh
AECOMM
Juan Guerrero, Doug Campbell
Doug Owen
City of San Diego
Niloy Bhattadranjiya
University of Miami (class research)

Michael R. Welch
Michael Welch Consultants
Amber Boone
South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA)
Brian Couture
Energy Solutions
Lindsay Leahy
Santa Margarita Water District

Tara Flint Silva
USEPA, Region 9

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: February 12, 2025

Motion to adopt the February 12, 2025, minutes:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Ms. Warren

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- None

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.*

Dorene D’Adamo provided updates on recent State Board actions and upcoming priorities and responded to Board Member questions and comments.

Mr. Gibson welcomed new employees Ariel Cutter, Hayley Sue, and Adrian Hinkle. He also responded to Board Member questions and provided updates that were not in the written Executive Officer’s Report.

Item 3 – Transboundary Flows

Mr. Gibson gave a presentation providing 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 persons.*

The consent calendar items were taken separately

Item 4 – NPDES Permit Amendment: Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0001, amending Order No. R9-2022-0005, NPDES No. CA90107417). Written comments on this item were due on January 15, 2025. *(Joann Lim)*

Dr. Olson recused herself from this item.

Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0001:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Warren

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- None

Recused:

- Dr. Olson

Item 5 – NPDES Permit Amendment: Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Related to the Decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0002, amending Order No. R9-2023-0011, NPDES No. CA90109282). Written comments on this item were due on January 13, 2025. (*Joann Lim*)

Motion to approve Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0002:

- Dr. Olson

Second:

- Ms. Warren

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- None

Abstain:

- None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 6 – Presentation of results from the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Investigation in the Tijuana River Valley by Dr. Ankita Kadakia. (*David Gibson*)

Dave Gibson introduced Dr. Kadakia, and she gave her presentation and responded to Board Member questions. Heather Buonomo, Director of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Quality and Health and Mr. Gibson also responded to Board Member questions.

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

Chair Strawn called a recess at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Item 7 – City of San Diego Pure Water Update. *(Fisayo Osibodu)*

Fisayo introduced the item. Juan Guerrero, Director of the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, and Doug Campbell, Assistant Director of the City of San Diego Water Recovery and Pure Water Branch, gave the presentation. Mr. Guerrero and Mr. Campbell also responded to Board Member questions. Mr. Doug Owen from the City of San Diego Facilities Management team also responded to Board Member questions.

Chair Strawn asked for public comments, both in person and on Zoom

Frank Melbourn, Water Resource Control Engineer, from the Board staff, asked whether there would be a change in the taste of the tap water in San Diego, and Mr. Campbell responded that there would be less salinity and some softening of the water in comparison with water from the Colorado River.

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer