

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on August 27, 2025 at approximately 9:15 a.m. in the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, Room 108, San Diego, California 92108.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

Gary Strawn, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Board Vice Chair (remote); Megan Blair, Celeste Cantú; and Stefanie Warren. Board Member Yen Tu arrived at 9:36 a.m. Ms. Blair left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Laurie Walsh, Melissa Corona, Riley Nolan, Ben Neill, Wayne Chiu

Staff remote attendance:

Joann Lim, Renan Jauregui

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Jennifer Fordyce, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Jerry Rabelo, Tino Gamboa, Vinty Siev (remote) DIT; Elise Hicks, California Court Reporting.

Public Attendance:

Present:

Leon Benham <i>Citizens for Coastal Conservancy</i>	Gilbert Anaya, Ramon Macias <i>USIBWC</i>
Sara M. Katz <i>Katz and Associates</i>	Yamilett Carrillo <i>San Diego Foundation</i>
Courtney Baltiyshty <i>YMCA</i>	Madeline Yang <i>Coronado News</i>
Karen Holman <i>Port of San Diego</i>	Tiffany Curry <i>Outdoor Outreach</i>
Tara Flint Silva <i>U.S.EPA Region 9</i>	Steve Egger <i>Otay Mesa-Nestor Planning Group Community</i>
Libi Uremovic	Michael McKay <i>Mayor, City of Imperial Beach</i>
Lisa Ross, Charles Rilli <i>Sierra Club, San Diego</i>	Phillip Musegaas <i>San Diego Coastkeeper</i>

Remote attendance:

Joel Anderson <i>San Diego County Board of Supervisors</i>	Tamara Cortez <i>USIBWC</i>
Tom Konner <i>USEPA</i>	Connie Gunther <i>Descendants of Early San Diego</i>
Erin Hogeboom <i>San Diego for Every Child</i>	Hernando Duran <i>Tijuana Innovadora</i>
Margarita Diaz <i>PFEA</i>	

BOARD MEETING

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

Kelly Dorsey provided instructions for participating in the Board meeting via Zoom.

ACTION ITEM

Item 1 – Public Hearing: Consideration of Tentative Cease and Desist Order to United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall (Tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2025-0139). Written comments on this item are due by August 21, 2025. The San Diego Water Board may deliberate in a closed session to consider evidence introduced in an adjudicative hearing (Authorized under Government Code § 11126(c)(3)). (Melissa Corona)

Chair Strawn gave an opening statement, opened the public hearing, and administered the oath.

County Supervisor Joel Anderson provided comments on the tentative Cease and Desist Order.

Melissa Corona gave the staff presentation, explained the changes identified in the Errata Sheet, and responded to Board Member questions.

Ramon Macias, Principal Engineer for USIBWC, provided comments and responded to questions.

Chair Strawn requested public comments on this item. The following stakeholders offered comments:

- Libi Uremovic, Forensic Auditor of Government Agencies
- Mitchell McKay, Mayor, City of Imperial Beach
- Leon Benham, Citizens for Coastal Conservancy
- Lisa Ross, Sierra Club, San Diego
- Charles Rilli, Sierra Club, San Diego
- Phillip Musegaas, San Diego Coastkeeper

- Erin Hogeboom, Director, San Diego for Every Child
- Courtney Baltiyskyy, Vice President of Public Policy, YMCA
- Laura Wilkinson Sinton, CEO, Stop the Sewage
- Karen Holman, Director, Environmental Protection, Port of San Diego
- Tiffany Curry, Public Policy Coordinator, Outdoor Outreach

Chair Strawn asked for Board Member questions, comments, or discussion and then closed the public hearing.

Motion to adopt Tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2025-0139 with the changes in the Errata Sheet:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Tu

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer