

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Strawn called the meeting to order on March 11, 2026, at 9:00 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, Celeste Cantú, Yen Tu, and Emily Wier.

Board Members absent:

Megan Blair

Staff present:

David Gibson, Laurie Walsh, Chris Blank, Christina Arias, Eric Becker, Kate Buckley, Brandon Bushnell, Wayne Chiu, Melissa Corona, Ariel Cutter, Jeremy Haas, Gabriel Haro, Adrian Hinkle, Ella Knight, Joann Lim, Chad Loflen, Sarah Mearon, Frank Melbourn, Roger Mitchell, Fisayo Osibodu, Michelle Santillan, Ahlyssa Santillana, Nicholas White.

Staff remote attendance:

Jody Ebsen, Amy Grove, Mahsa Izadmehr, Carey Kowalski, Alan Monji, Vicente Rodriguez, Hiram Sarabia, Erin Schmitt, James Smith, Brandie White.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board

Nichole Morgan, State Water Board; Josh Caplan (remote), California Dept. of Justice; Jennifer Fordyce, Eric Gillman, State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel; Kevin Heinemann, Gerardo Rabelo, Tino Gamboa, DIT; Shane Stranahan (remote), California Reporting

Public Attendance:

Present:

Allan Kashani
Tri Point Homes

Doug Owen
Stantec

Ben Gibson, Kelly Richardson
General Dynamics

Michael Welch
Michael Welch Consultants

Peter Tomsovic
Helix Environmental Planning

Caroline Lei, Megan Kinnek
LMC

Christina Schaefer
SES

Kyle Morgan, Daniel Peterson
City of Escondido

Arielle Beaulieu, Josie Martin, Doug
Campbell, Christina Rae, Juan
Guerreiro, Peter Vroom
City of San Diego

Patrick McDonough, Phillip Musegaas
San Diego Coastkeeper

Peter Kozelka, Tara Flint Silva
USEPA

Karen Holman, John Carter
Port of San Diego

Remote:

Julie Song
USEPA

Marlene Burns
City of Laguna Woods

Alexander Berenter
City of San Diego

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 comments for the Public Forum

BOARD BUSINESS

ITEM 1 – Minutes of Board Meeting: December 10, 2025

Motion to approve the Minutes from December 10, 2025:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Dr. Olson

Aye:

- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- Ms. Tu
- Ms. Wier

ITEM 2 – Chair’s, Board Members’, State Water Board Liaison’s, and Executive Officer’s Reports. *These items were for Board information/discussion only and the Board took no formal action.*

The State Board liaison, Nichole Morgan, provided updates on recent State Board actions and upcoming priorities and responded to Board Member questions.

Board Members:

Mr. Gibson congratulated Laurie Walsh for being selected as the next Assistant Executive Officer, and he announced the retirement of Chiara Clemente on March 6, 2026. He then responded to Board Member questions and provided updates that did not appear in the written Executive Officer’s Report.

ITEM 3 – Transboundary Flows

Mr. Gibson provided information and 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 people.*

ITEM 4 – Amendment to Waste Discharge Requirements: Amendment to Orders Nos. R9-2010-0032 and R9-2023-0131, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Escondido* (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0001). Written comments for this item were due on January 9, 2026. *(Brandon Bushnell)*

Brandon Bushnell responded to Board Member questions on this item.

ITEM 5 – Waste Discharge Requirements for Tri Pointe Homes Nakano Project, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0025). Written comments for this item were due by 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2026. *(Ariel Cutter)*

David Gibson responded to Board Member questions on this item.

Motion to approve consent calendar:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Ms. Cantú

Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

ITEM 6 – Binational Resilience Initiative: Program Overview and Local Projects (*Riley Nolan*)

Melissa Corona introduced Yamilett Carrillo from San Diego Foundation, who gave a presentation and responded to Board Member questions. Phillip Musegaas, Executive Director of San Diego Coastkeeper, and Waylon Matson of 4 Walls International participated in the presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

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

Chair Strawn called a brief recess at 10:08 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 7 – NPDES Permit Reissuance: Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit for the City of San Diego, E.W. Blom Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0002, NPDES Permit No. CA0107409, Final Tentative Order and Permit). (*Joann Lim*)

Board Member Yen Tu recused herself from this matter and left the room.

Joann Lim gave the staff presentation, which included an errata for two date changes in the Fact Sheet. Ms. Lim introduced Peter Kozelka with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who gave a presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

Juan Guerreiro, Director of the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department presented and responded to Board Member questions.

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

Ms. Lim presented two additional proposed language changes regarding the concerns raised by the City of San Diego.

- The following stakeholders commented on this item:
 - Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper

Motion to approve Order No. R9-2026-0002, with errata/changes presented:

- Chair Strawn

Second:

- Ms. Cantú

Aye:

- Ms. Cantú
- Dr. Olson
- Ms. Wier
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Recused:

- Ms. Tu

Chair Strawn adjourned for lunch and closed session at 11:56 a.m., and Mr. Gillman stated that the Board Members would discuss Items 10(i) and 10(k) during closed session. Chair Strawn reconvened the public meeting at 1:05 p.m. Ms. Tu returned to the room.

ITEM 8 – Amendment to Cleanup and Abatement Order: Amendment No. 1 to Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2022-0007, An Order Directing Lockheed Martin Corporation to Clean Up or Abate the Effects of Waste Discharged from the Former Tow Basin and Former Marine Terminal and Railway Facilities at 3380 North Harbor Drive and 1160 Harbor Island Drive to the East Basin of Harbor Island in San Diego Bay, San Diego, California (Tentative Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2026-0023). *(Adrian Hinkle)*

Advisory Team: Jeremy Haas, Adrian Hinkle, Jennifer Fordyce, Eric Gillman

Cleanup Team: Sarah Mearon, Julie Macedo, Gabe Haro

Jennifer Fordyce and Adrian Hinkle gave the Advisory Team presentation.

Caroline Lee presented on behalf of Lockheed Martin and responded to Board Member questions. David Templeton, a consultant representing Lockheed Martin, also responded to Board Member questions.

Julie Macedo gave the Cleanup Team's presentation and responded to Board Member questions.

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

- The following stakeholders commented on this item:
 - John Carter, Port of San Diego
 - Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper

Motion to approve Order No. R9-2026-0023, with typographical error correction in Directive E.2:

- Ms. Cantú

Second:

- Ms. Wier

Aye:

- Ms. Cantú
- Ms. Tu
- Ms. Wier
- Chair Strawn

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- Dr. Olson

ITEM 9 – Election of the 2026 Regional Board Chair and Vice Chair. (David Gibson)

Mr. Gibson introduced the item and opened the floor for nominations.

Nomination of Gary Strawn to be 2026 Regional Board Chair: Dr. Olson

Nomination of Betty Olson to be 2026 Regional Board Vice Chair: Mr. Strawn.

Motion to select Gary Strawn as 2026 Regional Board Chair and Betty Olson as 2026 Regional Board Vice Chair:

- Ms. Tu

Second:

- Ms. Cantú

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Aye:

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

Nay:

- None

Absent:

- Ms. Blair

Abstain:

- None

There being no further business, Chair Strawn adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer