

State of California
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Minutes of the July 26, 2024 Board Meeting
City of Orange
300 E. Chapman Ave.
Orange, CA 92866
And via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code, § 11123.2)

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Item 1. Introductions and Declaration of Quorum

***Indicates that attendance was virtual.

Board Members Present at Board Meeting

Kris A. Murray, Chair
John Scandura, Vice Chair
William Ruh, Board Member
Letitia Clark, Board Member
Gloria Alvarado, Board Member
Al Lopez, Board Member

Board Members Absent at Board Meeting

None

Staff Present at Board Meeting

Jayne Joy, Executive Officer
Eric Lindberg, Assistant Executive Officer
Jessica Baenre, Executive Assistant
Nick Amini, Branch Manager
Dan Mefford, Information Technology Specialist I
Don Nguyen, Information Technology Associate
Fernanda Arechiga, Scientific Aid***
Alice Nash, Water Resource Control Engineer
Claudia Tenorio, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
Hossein Shahrokhnia, Environmental Scientist
Mona Behrooz, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Kayla Kawamura, Water Resource Control Engineer

State Water Board Present at Board Meeting

Lori Okun, Regional Board Counsel
Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Board Liaison***
David Lancaster, State Water Board Counsel***

Public Attendance Present at Board Meeting

Richard Beck, Michael Baker International***
Ryan Ross, Riverside County Dept. of Waste Resources***

Item 2. Public Forum

None.

Item 3. State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Liaison Report

State Water Board Member Dorene D'Adamo provided an update on the following:

Rulemaking to Make Conservation a California Way of Life

This regulation focuses on outdoor water use. It was adopted by the State Water Board in July 2024 and is currently at the Office of Administrative Law for final review and adoption. It is expected to become final by the end of the year and be effective in January 2025. Additional timeframes will be provided, depending on whether communities have variances or if they are at a certain level of median household income.

Ms. D'Adamo encourages water suppliers to become informed so they can understand the various compliance deadlines.

Climate Change Resolution

The State Water Board and Regional Boards adopted a climate change resolution several years ago. Ms. D'Adamo noted that it's time to review the climate change resolution to see if new findings could be incorporated.

The State Water Board will take some time over the next year to have a more comprehensive stakeholder process and will work with all divisions and offices, Regional Boards, the Air Resources Board, and the Department of Water Resources.

Safe Drinking Water

Secretary Garcia and Chair Esquivel recently attended an event for Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience. Ms. D'Adamo emphasized that providing safe and affordable drinking water to all Californians is one of the State Water Board's top priorities.

Ms. D'Adamo highlighted that the number of Californians without access to safe drinking water has decreased from 1.6 million to 700,000. The funding from this program has helped bridge the gap for projects that wouldn't meet the available State Revolving funds. Additionally, the program has enabled the State Water Board to provide technical assistance, appoint an administrator, and encourage communities to explore options in their best interest. Since 2019, the State Water Board has overseen 142 consolidations, benefiting over 100,000 people. The Board has received \$830 million in grants, which is double the amount received in the previous five years.

State Revolving Fund for Drinking Water

The State Water Board conducted a workshop on July 16, 2024, to discuss the Intended Use plan and the Fund Expenditure plan. The deadline for public comments was July 24, 2024. It is anticipated that both plans will be adopted on August 20, 2024.

Hexavalent Chromium (Chromium-6) Maximum Contaminant Level

The Office of Administrative Law recently approved the regulation on Maximum Contaminant Level for Chromium-6, which will be enforceable starting on October 1, 2024.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The State Water Board will consider the annual Intended Use plan for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. A Board workshop took place on July 2, 2024, and the comment period deadline was July 15, 2024. Ms. D’Adamo anticipates that it will be considered for adoption at the August 6, 2024, State Water Board meeting.

Wastewater

A four-year project was recently started to determine California's wastewater needs and the gap in meeting those needs. A resolution was adopted stating that access to sanitation is a basic human right and safe wastewater is critical to public health.

A 30-member advisory committee will advise the State Water Board.

Wildfires

On June 28, 2024, the State Water Board released a draft Utility Wildfire General Order that would provide an expedited process for permit coverage of related utility activities and support essential wildfire prevention and mitigation activities.

A staff workshop occurred on July 23, 2024. A public hearing is scheduled for August 20, 2024, and written comments are due on August 30, 2024.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

The State Water Board is currently considering placing six basins on probation.

- Tulare Lake Subbasin: has already been placed on probation.
- Tule Subbasin: will be the next basin to have a probationary hearing.
- Kern County Subbasin: a probationary hearing notice has been issued; the hearing is scheduled to take place on February 20, 2025.

Item 4. Racial Equity

Jayne Joy, Executive Officer, presented this item.

Ms. Joy discussed the strategic objectives of the racial equity action plan. The plan will be approved by the Executive Officer and does not require Board approval. Once completed, the action plan will be posted on the Santa Ana Water Board website. It will be considered a living document—easily updatable and reviewed every five years, with the possibility of being amended sooner if necessary.

Board Members asked questions and provided comments.

Item 5. Regional Board Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2024

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

It was noted that a change was made on page 2, the word “designation” was changed to “probation”.

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Clark, seconded by Board Member Scandura, and the

Regional Board Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2024, were approved with noted change as presented by roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Board Member Lopez- Aye, Board Member Alvarado- Aye, Board Member Clark- Aye, Board Member Ruh- Abstain, Vice Chair Scandura- Aye, Chair Murray- Aye.

Board Member Ruh abstained because he was not in attendance at the May 3, 2024 Board Meeting.

Item 6. Consideration of the Consent Calendar items are listed with an asterisk

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

It was noted that Item 7 had an errata sheet.

It was noted that on page 7 of Item 9 and Item 10 under section B. Discharge Prohibitions, 2. "Expect" should be "Except".

Item *7. Waste Discharge Requirements for Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, Badlands Landfill Integrated Project: Phase 2 Stages 1-3, Moreno Valley, Riverside County; R8-2024-0046

Item *8. Waste Discharger Requirements for In-situ Remediation of Groundwater at James Square Facility, Corona Del Mar, Orange County; R8-2024-0049

Item *9. Waste Discharger Requirements for Pulte Home Company, LLC, Avelina Residential Development Line A-H Project, Perris, Riverside County; R8-2024-0053

Item *10. Waste Discharger Requirements for Perris Logistics Center South Project, Riverside County; R8-2024-0056

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Ruh, seconded by Board Member Clark, and Order Number R8-2024-0046 with an errata sheet, Order Number R8-2024-0049, Order Number R8-2024-0053 with noted change, and Order Number R8-2024-0056 with noted change were approved as presented by roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Board Member Lopez- Aye, Board Member Alvarado- Aye, Board Member Clark- Aye, Board Member Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Scandura- Aye, Chair Murray- Aye.

Item 11. Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin Overview

Claudia Tenorio, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), presented this item. The presentation provided an overview of the Triennial Review process and an update for the current Triennial Review process for the years 2024-2027.

Ms. Tenorio began her presentation by providing background information on the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan is a master water quality control planning document; the document is designed to protect the water quality of the Santa Ana Region's groundwater and surface waters. The Basin Plan prescribes beneficial uses, water quality objectives, implementation strategies, and timelines. A beneficial use is one of the various ways that water can be used for the benefit of people or wildlife. The principal means for achieving water quality objectives and protecting beneficial uses is through the issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

Ms. Tenorio discussed the Triennial Review Federal and State Requirements.

- The Federal Clean Water Act requires that water quality standards be reviewed every three years and water quality standards include both designated beneficial uses as well as water quality criteria.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulations require that the review of water quality standards include public participation.
- The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires a periodic review of water quality control plans.

Ms. Tenorio mentioned that the last time the Board adopted a Triennial Review for the Santa Ana Region was in June 2019; however, due to staffing constraints and resources, the Region was delayed in meeting the three-year deadline required under the Federal Clean Water Act.

The review of water quality standards and the Basin Plan ensures that standards are based on current science, methodologies, and guidance. The review assists staff in identifying necessary updates or revisions to the Basin Plan, updating outdated information, and identifying priority Basin Plan amendment projects.

Ms. Tenorio reviewed the Triennial Review process.

- Phase 1: is an internal review of water quality standards and the preliminary identification of potential Basin Plan amendment projects. This phase includes reaching out to each section in the Santa Ana Region and soliciting input on potential Basin Plan amendments.
- Phase 2: includes public meetings and solicitation of input from interested persons and tribes on potential Basin Plan amendments and how to prioritize those issues that have been identified.
- Phase 3: Santa Ana Water Board adoption of the Triennial Review priority list and establishment of a work plan for prioritized projects for the next three-year period.

Ms. Tenorio discussed major milestones in the Triennial Review process.

- January 31, 2024: Scoping Meeting
- March 29, 2024: Notice of Solicitation of Public Comment
- April 29, 2024: End of Solicitation Period

- August 15, 2024: Notice of Public Hearing
- September 30, 2024: End of Public Comment Period
- October 25, 2024: Board Public Hearing to consider adoption

Ms. Tenorio explained how priority criteria are determined. Staff considers priority projects that:

- Protect and restore beneficial uses.
- Are aligned with the Santa Ana Water Board, State Water Board, or the U.S. EPA priorities.
- Have availability of necessary expertise, funding, and other resources.
- Have ongoing projects with allocated resources.
- Improve clarity and consistency in the Basin Plan.
- Can be completed in the Triennial Review period.

Ms. Tenorio reviewed the following next steps in the Triennial Review process:

- The final proposed list will be released on August 15, 2024, and the public comment period will end on September 30, 2024.
- The Triennial Review Priority List and Workplan will be presented to the Board for adoption at the October 25, 2024 Board meeting.
- The Triennial Review Priority List and Workplan will be transmitted to the U.S. EPA for review.

Board Members asked questions and provided comments.

Item 12. Status of Environmental Investigation and Remediation at a Former Teflon Recycling Facility in Santa Ana

Mona Behrooz, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, and Kayla Kawamura, Water Resource Control Engineer, presented this item.

Ms. Behrooz and Ms. Kawamura discussed the environmental investigation and remediation progress at the former Teflon Recycling Facility in Santa Ana.

Ms. Behrooz explained that the facility recycled Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), commonly known as Teflon. From 1972 to 1993, scrap Teflon was shipped to the site and subjected to a process where it was recycled and cleaned. The cleaning mixture used for Teflon was 70% Perchloric Acid and 30% Nitric Acid at 300 degrees Celsius for 24 hours. After removing all impurities from the Teflon pieces, they were separated, neutralized, washed, and dried; the clean Teflon was then shipped back to the manufacturers or facilities using it.

As a result, the chemical perchloric acid was discharged into the subsurface. Ms. Behrooz explained that when perchloric acid discharges into the subsurface, it dissociates, releases oxygen, and creates perchlorate. An important property of perchlorate is that it is highly soluble, can dissolve readily in water, and can move at the same speed as groundwater in subsurface.

Ms. Behrooz explained that perchlorate has several health impacts. It can interfere with thyroid glands, cause issues with iodine, cause hormonal imbalance in pregnant women, cause developmental issues for a fetus, and in water contaminated with perchlorate it can cause a decreased level of intelligence quotient (IQ) in children. There are also potential links to cancer, although they have not been proven yet.

Ms. Behrooz discussed the hydrogeologic setting of the site. The first water-bearing zone (WBZ) is approximately 15 feet below ground surface (bgs) to approximately 30 feet bgs. The second WBZ is approximately 32 feet bgs to 59 feet bgs. Ms. Behrooz provided images from 2024 showing the concentrations of perchlorate in groundwater, both on-site and off-site for the first and second WBZ. Ms. Behrooz stated that for any site under Site Cleanup Program oversight they are required to prepare a comprehensive conceptual site model.

Ms. Kawamura, the case manager for this project, provided details about the remediation efforts. The source area remediation focused on areas where perchlorate concentrations exceeded 100,000 micrograms per kilogram. In 2019, large-diameter augers were used for the remedial excavation. Two years after the remediation, perchlorate concentrations in groundwater decreased from 23,000 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) to 330 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

Ms. Kawamura shared data on the following:

On-site Pilot Study Area – Post-injection Soil Sampling Results:

This study involved taking samples at different time points (pre-injection, 30-day, 60-day, 180-day, 1-year, and 2-year). The data revealed a decrease in perchlorate concentrations over time.

On-site Pilot Study Area – Soil Cores:

This study presented various images of soil cores from different time points (pre-injection, 30-day, and 60-day post-injection). The data indicated favorable conditions for bioremediation.

Off-site Reactive Zones:

These zones addressed the off-site portion of the groundwater plume. V-shaped reactive zones were installed from 2017 to 2018, with 250 injection points (approximately 1,200 feet in length). The data collected showed that perchlorate concentrations above 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ decreased to non-detectable levels as the groundwater moved through the zone. This month, the Santa Ana Water Board authorized replenishing this reactive zone and installing an additional subsurface reactive zone approximately 500 feet up-gradient under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ remediation.

Ms. Kawamura summarized that the remedial efforts demonstrate collaboration between the Water Board, the responsible party, and their consultant. These efforts have led to the development of a comprehensive conceptual site model and the implementation of effective remedies at the site to protect groundwater resources.

Board Members asked questions and provided comments.

Item 13. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Joy submitted a written report that provided an update on the Former Ford Aeronutronics Facility and the Underground Storage Tank cleanup process.

Item 14. Board Member and Executive Officer Communications

Board Member Lopez thanked the staff for meeting with him to discuss the MS4 Permit.

Board Member Alvarado thanked the staff for the training and information provided. She also introduced several UCI Labor Center interns who work with the Orange County Labor Federation.

Board Member Clark thanked Board Member Alvarado and the presenters. She expressed her enjoyment in serving on the Board and working together to carry out the democratic process in a peaceful and kind way.

Board Member Ruh thanked the staff for the presentations and congratulated Board Member Alvarado for being named one of the 20 most influential people in Orange County.

Vice Chair Scandura thanked the staff for the MS4 Permit briefing, welcomed the UCI Labor Interns, and mentioned that his family is celebrating two milestones: his mother turned 90, and his mother-in-law will be turning 100.

Chair Murray thanked her colleagues, the staff, and the City of Orange.

Closed Session

None.

Adjournment

Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JAYNE JOY, P.E.
Executive Officer

/jb