
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, July 24, 2026

City of Orange
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92866

And via Video and Teleconference (Gov. Code, § 11123.2)

Archived audio and video webcasts of Board meetings are available at the following link: <https://cal-span.org/meetings/RWQCB-SA/>

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scandura called the meeting to order with a quorum on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 9:05 a.m.

ITEM 1. INTRODUCTION AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

***Indicates that attendance was virtual.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair John Scandura
Vice Chair Gloria Alvarado
Board Member William "Bill" Ruh
Board Member Kristine "Kris" Murray
Board Member Letitia Clark
Board Member Sixto "Al" Lopez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Eric Lindberg, Executive Officer
Brian Covellone, Assistant Executive Officer
Vanessa Fuerte, Clerk to the Board
Kevin Heinemann, Information Technology Manager I
Don Nguyen, Information Technology Associate
Nick Amini, Branch Manager, Surface Water and Agriculture Branch
Jagroop Khela, Branch Manager, Planning, Implementation and Permitting Branch

JOHN SCANDURA, CHAIR | ERIC LINDBERG, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Alan Kuoch, Branch Manager, Groundwater Protection Branch
Adam Fischer, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Hero Alexander, Environmental Scientist

STATE WATER BOARD PRESENT

Heraclio Pimentel, Regional Board Counsel
Nicole Morgan, State Water Board Liaison***
Lori Okun, Attorney
Desta Matsuda, Attorney

COURT REPORTER PRESENT

Marlee Nelson***

SPANISH INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Ray Smith, Audio Technician
Javier Morrone, Interpreter
Anabella Tidona, Interpreter

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE PRESENT

Ryan Kerns, Chief of Watershed Protection Riverside County
James Fortuna, Orange County
Christopher Bland, Stormwater Program Manager for San Bernardino County
Dr. Nari Lan, Economist and Research Manager with Beacon Economics
Greg Newmark, Council for San Bernardino County
Arlene Chun, Engineer Manager for San Bernardino County
Kimberley Colbart, City of Claremont
Julie Carver, City of Pomona
Joel Bacca, City of Rialto
Phil Dupper, City of Loma Linda
Steven Robard, Riverside City Council
Ceaser Borough, Deputy Director for Santa Ana
Mario Sario, Mayor of Redlands
Nathan Mustafa, Public Works City of Riverside
Peter Garcia, City of Fontana
Quanetta Warren, Mayor of Fontana
Nathan Linsky, City of Chino
Larry Macallan, City of Highland
Doug Wilson, City of Grand Terrace
Linda Krupa, City of Hemet
Katrina Kunkel, City of Menifee
Dr. Sean Moore, City of Yucaipa
Randal Putts, City of Big Bear Lake
Gary Brown, Orange County Coast Keeper
Sarah Spinuzzi, Orange County Coast Keeper
Ray Heimstra, Orange County Coast Keeper

Note: List of public participants compiled from speaker cards and a voluntary sign-in sheet. Not all present are captured on this list.

ITEM 2. BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chair John Scandura introduced Nicole Morgan as the new State Board liaison for Region 8, from the State Water Resources Control Board. Board member Morgan briefly addressed the board.

ITEM 3. REGIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2026

Motion: Bill Ruh moved to adopt the June 12, 2026, Board meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Murray

MOTION PASSED

Aye: Board Member Lopez
Board Member Clark
Board Member Murray
Board Member Ruh
Vice Chair Alvarado
Chair Scandura

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

ITEM 4. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM 5*. Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Highland/Redlands Regional Connector Project

Order Number R8-2026-0038

ITEM 6*. Recissions

Orders R8-2023-008 and R8-2017-0010 are proposed to be rescinded as the discharges have ceased and the monitoring and reporting requirements have been fulfilled.

Order Number R8-2026-0015

Motion: Vice Chair Alvarado moved to adopt Order Number R8-2026-0038 & Order R8-2026-0015

Seconded by: Board Member Bill Ruh

MOTION PASSED

Aye: Board Member Lopez
Board Member Clark
Board Member Murray
Board Member Ruh
Vice Chair Alvarado
Chair Scandura

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

ITEM 7. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Pollutants in Urban Runoff from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in the Counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, Order R8-2026-0034 (NPDES No. CAS618000)

Hero Alexander presented the background and revisions to the Tentative Order R8-2026-0034, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The public comment period for the draft Tentative Order concluded on July 20, 2026.

Presentations were made on behalf of the permittees by Amanda Carr, Chris Bland, and Ryan Kearns.

A large number of public comments were received on Item 7 from the principal permittees, members of the public, non-governmental organizations, and elected officials from various cities and county governments. Comments were made in English and Spanish with translation services available for the board members, staff, and the audience.

Break: 10:56 a.m. – 11:14 a.m.

Lunch: 12:28 p.m. -1:20 p.m.

Break: 2:54 p.m. – 3:12 p.m.

Break: 4:20 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.

Board members asked clarifying questions of the permittees and staff. The board directed staff to prepare a presentation for the next meeting related to questions raised during the hearing.

Note that Board members Ruh and Clark recused themselves from this item and left the meeting prior to Item 7 being heard.

ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken on the Tentative Order at this meeting.

The Chair announced that the hearing was closed and continued to August 21, 2026, at Loma Linda City Hall, where the Board will consider additional evidence relevant to the revised Tentative Order.

Chair Scandura adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric T. Lindberg', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

ERIC T. LINDBERG, PG CHG
Executive Officer

/vf