

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
September 17, 2015, 12:00 to 2:00 pm  
West Basin's Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility  
1935 S. Hughes Way  
El Segundo, CA 90245

### *Attendance:*

Joan Cardellino  
Fran Diamond  
Timothy Lippman  
Sarah Sikich

Absent:  
Gloria Gray, Micheal  
O'Leary, LA Waterkeeper  
representative

### *Staff:*

Tom Ford, Victoria Gambale, Jack Topel  
Scott Valor (via teleconference), Marcelo  
Villagomez

Guests: Barbara Cameron,  
Walter Lamb, Damian  
Skinner

*Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 12:13 p.m.*

Fran Diamond chaired the meeting.

### *Agenda Item 1. Public Comment*

Walter Lamb stated that the new format of the Work Plan is less transparent. He discussed the use of "Commission" business cards by The Bay Foundation staff and suggested that board members consider whether or not claims made by the public are legitimate and, if so, to act on them.

### *Agenda Item 2. Informational Items*

- a. Consideration of Approval of May 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection. (M: Cardellino, S: Sikich)

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged.

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford thanked everyone for their attendance at and work on the State of the Bay conference. He noted that it was well received. He noted that the State of the Bay Report should be completed toward the end of this year.

Ford noted that the four rain gardens that the NEP installed handled the two inches of rain that fell in the LA basin yesterday, treating and releasing the captured runoff.

The Ballona Wetlands EIR/EIS is moving forward. Ford noted that the EIR/EIS should be released this winter. The website will continue to be updated as the lead agencies deem appropriate.

Ford noted Coastal Cleanup Day this weekend. He noted that The Bay Foundation staff will be conducting dune restoration at LAX property on that day.

He updated the EC on the Arroyo Sequit restoration project, noting that barriers were being removed to increase public safety and protect fish and wildlife at the same time. He noted that the project was continuing to be funded through Proposition 50.

Ford stated that NOAA/NMFS has committed funding for a grow-out facility for green abalone in order to help increase their numbers in the wild. He noted that the release sites will be in the Palos Verdes area at the kelp restoration sites.

He noted that the kelp restoration annual report will come out in October and be distributed to various agencies as well as being posted on the website. Ford noted that there is also a focus on offshore eel and surf grass and that it is an essential fish habitat, in addition to the kelp. He noted that about 90% of eel/surf grass has been lost in the region.

Ford stated that the Bay Restoration Plan will be reviewed for consistency with climate change requirements, per US EPA. He noted that updates could be extensive.

Finally, he reported on the aerial surveys being conducted over the watershed. A presentation was made regarding the surveys at a conference in Wyoming.

### *Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business*

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for October

#### Consideration of Approval of Proposition 84 Request for Proposals

Ford introduced Jack Topel and summarized the RFP process, noting that it has been nearly a year in development. Ford noted that staff would like to fund large, big-picture projects as well as smaller projects. He noted that there are tiers of match requirements, based on funding levels. He noted that technical review of the proposed projects will be conducted by the Technical Advisory Committee through the Clean Beaches Task Force. Ford stated that projects not considered will be put back “in the hopper” for future consideration should new funding arise.

Timothy Lippman asked about monitoring requirements. Topel noted that monitoring is being required in order to determine that goals (quantifiable results) are being met. Joan Cardellino asked for clarification regarding pre- and post-monitoring. Ford noted that a demonstrable impact to waterways must be shown. Barbara Cameron asked how this would be applied to areas that have never been monitored. Topel noted that at least one year of monitoring will be required, but additional monitoring will be asked for as well. Sarah Sikich raised questions about multi-level actions.

The EC then voted to bring the RFP to the GB in October. The vote was unanimous, with the exception of Diamond, who abstained from the vote. (M: Sikich, S: Cardellino)

Presentation “To Be Determined”

Ford noted that a presentation regarding the State of the Bay report will be made before its release. Lippman asked that the report be “flipped” with the RFP agenda item. Ford noted that he would include the “presentation” in his ED report.

b. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Members discussed various meetings recently attended as well as upcoming meetings. Cardellino noted that a presentation by LA County on stormwater capture might be of interest at the October meeting. Ford suggested that December would allow staff more time to get the proper parties coordinated for such a presentation. Staff discussed potential agenda items for the December GB meeting and stated that it would work to try to get such a presentation to the GB as soon as possible.

Cardellino updated the EC on the Coastal Conservancy Proposition 1 funding, noting deadlines for various grant rounds—approximately two months per grant round period. They are expecting a high volume of grant applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m. without objection.