

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
November 19, 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 (Chair)
Gloria Gray
Bruce Reznik
Sarah Sikich

Absent:
Timothy Lippman, Micheal
O'Leary

Staff:

Tom Ford, Scott Valor (via
teleconference), Marcelo Villagomez,
Guangyu Wang

Guests: EJ Caldwell, Walter
Lamb

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up. Called to order at 12:20 p.m.

Fran Diamond chaired the meeting.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on a pending legal action against the SMBRC and stated that the Ballona restoration has been delayed for years. He called for an independent TAC to be created for Ballona before the EIR is released.

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of September 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes

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

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged.

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Tom Ford noted that the Arroyo Sequit project is underway with the primary creek barriers already having been removed. Early rains have caused delays in putting in new bridges, requiring an extension of work permits to July 1, 2016. Sarah Sikich suggested continued outreach regarding the delays, timelines, and current status.

Ford commented on a Torrance stormwater retention basin projects, noting that one of the basins is having difficulty as new discharges flooded it, thereby killing new vegetation that was planted. Moving forward, periodic discharges are expected and the plant palette will be adjusted accordingly.

Ford said the current RFP went live on November 2 and there are already two “partial” submissions.

Ford noted that the Technical Advisory Committee serves as a clean beaches task force for vetting any related projects that are to be funded by the SWRCB through bonds. Guangyu Wang discussed the process and answered EC member questions.

Ford stated that a bilge pumpout system will be installed at Oceanside Harbor. Fran Diamond suggested that state legislation would be appropriate to require pumpout systems at all California harbors. Sarah Sikich noted that there are ongoing discussions regarding the issue.

Ford said that the State of the Bay report is expected to be published in December and suggested a presentation on it at the December Governing Board meeting.

Ford noted that the Wetlands Program Development Grant for The Bay Foundation has been kicked off and summarized some of the procedures.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

- a. Establish Governing Board Agenda for December

Election of Watershed Advisory Council Members to the SMBRC Governing Board

Ford summarized the election process, noting that the election process will open today and close on December 10, allowing for floor nominations on the December 17. EC members asked for further clarification on the GB version of this staff report.

This item was placed on the GB agenda without objection. (M: Sikich, S: Gray)

Consideration of Approval of MOU with Los Angeles World Airports

Ford summarized the proposed dune complex restoration near LAX, citing the scope and timing of the project. He noted that the MOU would be between the SMBRA and the City of Los Angeles and would be three years in length at the start (with opportunity for renewal).

This item was placed on the GB agenda without objection. (M: Reznik, S: Sikich)

Consideration of Approval of 2016 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Calendar

Ford noted the meeting dates for 2016 and the need to put the calendar out in advance.

This item was placed on the GB agenda without objection. (M: Gray, S: Diamond)

Consideration to Rescind Two Resolutions Recommending Prop. 84 Funding

Ford summarized the need to rescind two previously-funded projects due to various delay issues that make the projects highly unlikely to start in the near future. He noted that one project was authorized for funding fully five years ago, yet no activity has taken place due to the need to purchase property from an unwilling seller. He noted that no funding has taken place for these projects. He also noted that, if the projects move forward, it is entirely possible to recommend funding for them in the future. However, rescinding the resolutions will free up money for other watershed projects that are ready now. Board members

discussed the merits of potentially maintaining funding for one of the projects and staff responded regarding the reason for delays and the recommendation to rescind.

EC members suggested giving the project proponents notice that the GB may consider rescinding the resolutions and asking for a detailed response.

The EC directed staff to follow up with the proponents.

In order to preserve its place on the agenda, this item was placed on the GB agenda. (M: Reznik, S: Gray)

Proposed Presentation

Sarah Sikich suggested a State of the Bay overview.

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

Joan Cardellino asked about the pending litigation. Ford stated that he cannot comment on pending litigation and suggested calling legal counsel if anyone has questions. It was noted that State Water Board legal will be at the December GB meeting.

The EC members asked for a potential closed session in December. Director Gray suggested a regular, procedural closed session for the EC. Staff was directed to work with legal counsel on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m. without objection.