

**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION  
Draft Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020**

**Time: 9:30 am–12:00 pm**

**Meeting Location:**

Del Rey Yacht Club  
13900 Palawan Way  
Marina del Rey CA 90292

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Governing Board meeting was called to order at 9:39 am.

Charles Caspary chaired the meeting.

**1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items**

Kathy Knight commented on restoring Ballona Wetlands.  
Jeanette Vosburg commented on impacts of Ballona Wetlands restoration activities to aquifers, carbon dioxide emissions, and wildlife.

**2) Informational Items**

**a) Order of Agenda**

There was no change to the order of the agenda. Moved: Wing Tam.  
Seconded: Jefferson Wagner.

**b) Report from the Chair**

Charles Caspary reported on the January 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting and informed the Governing Board that the Commission was served a lawsuit at the meeting location.

**c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee**

Steve Bay reported on the February 5, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, including public comments received, progress in reviewing and revising the Comprehensive Monitoring Program, and TAC membership and additional areas of expertise. Bay announced his retirement and resignation from the TAC.

Caspary and members thanked Bay for his years of service on the TAC.

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### d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and SMBNEP Staff

Guangyu Wang thanked Bay for his service on the TAC, reported on the December 19, 2019 Governing Board meeting, and summarized Commission staff's work activities.

Tom Ford gave the report on SMBNEP activities carried out by the Bay Foundation (TBF) including preparing the SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan; publishing the Baywire Newsletter 2020 annual report; and implementing restoration, research, outreach, and community engagement projects. Ford reported on a 10% increase in baseline US EPA NEP funding for FY21; status of federal reauthorization bill for the NEP; upcoming annual NEP meeting; results of US EPA's SMBNEP performance evaluation, and TBF's public Board of Directors' meeting.

Member questions and comments followed on illegal dumping at Ballona Wetlands, ecological impacts of PFAS and fire retardants, and climate change resilience and mitigation.

Wang invited Megan Cooper to provide an update on Proposition 12 projects.

Caspary invited Eric Gillman to provide a brief report of ongoing litigation.

### 3) Governing Board Business

#### a) Approval of December 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Wang proposed removing "Richard Brody" under item 2d. The meeting minutes were approved as amended. Moved: Jefferson Wagner. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

#### b) Election of Governing Board Vice-chairs

Wang introduced this item. Nominations were received during the nomination period for Gloria Gray representing West Basin Municipal Water District, Bruce Reznik representing Los Angeles Waterkeeper, and Shelley Luce representing Heal the Bay. Wang opened the floor for nominations. Cung Nguyen nominated Sheila Kuehl representing Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Martha Tremblay nominated Robert Ferrante representing Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. John Bishop nominated Jared Blumenfeld representing CalEPA. Nominations closed. Moved: Dan Murphy. Seconded: Cung Nguyen.

Randy Rodriguez moved to approve nominations as listed. Seconded: Cung Nguyen. West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Heal the Bay, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, and CalEPA were elected as the Governing Board Vice-chairs and Executive Committee members.

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### c) Consideration of Reappointment of TAC Members

Wang introduced this item and reported Dr. Richard Ambrose, Dr. John Dorsey, Dr. Mas Dojiri, Phyllis Grifman, Dr. Karen Martin, Dr. Dan Pondella, and Dr. Eric Stein reconfirmed their commitment to serve on the TAC. The TAC also identified additional areas of expertise that could assist the TAC in carrying out its functions.

The motion to reappoint all members listed above as TAC members was approved. Moved: Jefferson Wagner. Seconded: Wing Tam.

Member questions followed on frequency of TAC meetings.

Caspary invited Timothy Lippman to present a commemoration of service to Steve Bay on behalf of the Sheila Kuehl and the Governing Board.

### d) Consideration of Approval of Resolution to Revise the Proposition 12 Grant Program Recommended Project List

Wang introduced this item and reported on the proposed revisions to the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List. The resolution was approved unanimously. Moved: Timothy Lippman. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

## 4) Additional Information Items

### a) Update on the Proposed Amendment to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Wang introduced this item and provided an update on staff's progress completing the proposed Amendment to the MOU and accompanying Staff Report and Response to Comments documents.

Caspary questioned about anticipated completion date.

#### Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on stakeholder input, completing the MOU, Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC).

### b) Presentation on Development of the FY 21 Work Plan

Wang introduced this item and informed members of the upcoming WAC meeting for receiving input on the draft FY21 Work Plan and other topics of stakeholders' concern. Wang invited Ford to further discuss the facilitated workshop at WAC meeting and introduce the two areas of special interest—nutrient pollution reduction and climate resilience.

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Member questions and comments followed on potential topics for WAC discussion and future public forums and deadline for comments.

### **Public Comment**

Walter Lamb suggested equitable access to coastal resources, highlighting Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, as a topic for public forum.

### **c) Presentation on the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Final EIR)**

Wang introduced this item and invited Randy Rodriguez to discuss the Final EIR. Rodriguez invited Richard Brody to provide an update on the restoration process, restoration options to be selected, and additional opportunities for public comment.

### **Public Comment**

Walter Lamb commented on the funding source, flood conveyance capacity, access, and opportunities for public comment on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Final EIR.

## **5) Other Businesses**

### **a) Closed Session**

No closed session was held.

### **b) Member Comment**

Jefferson Wagner commented on an upcoming report summarizing the assessment of beach erosion in the City of Malibu and hydrological studies of Malibu Lagoon. Member comments followed on the scope of the hydrological study. Danielle LeFer reported study is an analysis of coastal processes.

Clark Stevens announced first stakeholder meeting on February 29 to discuss the Topanga Lagoon Restoration project's conceptual analysis and design.

Kevin McKeown commented on the Governing Board's responsibility to set the tone for Commission events.

Bob Godfrey announced upcoming youth fishing program starting June 11 and provided information for those interested in volunteering.

Cung Nguyen commented on pilot project with The Ocean Cleanup to reduce trash and plastic.

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Erica Yelensky announced new political appointee for US EPA Region 9, John W. Busterud.

**c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for April 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.)**

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

**Attendance:**

***Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board***

Jonathan Bishop, California Environmental Protection Agency  
EJ Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District  
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Kelly Clark, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)  
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina del Rey Anglers)  
Kara Kemmler, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Misti Kerns, Business/Tourism Interest (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism)  
Danielle Le Fer, California Department of Parks & Recreation  
Timothy Lippman, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office, 3rd District,  
County of Los Angeles  
Kevin McKeown, Westside Cities (City of Santa Monica)  
Dan Murphy, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division  
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Rod Spackman, Chevron  
Clark Stevens, Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District  
Matthew Teclé, Councilmember Mike Bonin's Office, Los Angeles City  
Council District 11  
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Michael Tripp, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors

***Non-Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board:***

Steve Bay, Technical Advisory Committee Chair  
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation  
Tim Pershing, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, 50th District  
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

***Commission and State Water Board Staff:***

Eric Gillman, State Water Board  
Caitlin Gray, Commission  
Claire Waggoner, State Water Board  
Guangyu Wang, Commission

***TBF Staff:***

Tom Ford  
Marcelo Villagomez

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***Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:***

Richard Brody

Kathy Knight, Sierra Club

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

Jeanette Vosburg, Sierra Club, Grassroots Coalition