



**SANTA MONICA BAY
RESTORATION COMMISSION**
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting Only

Charlie Caspary chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Governing Board meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. Caspary provided an overview of the meeting protocols and welcomed the new Governing Board members: Jonathon Bishop, Chief Deputy Director for the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Director. Introductions followed.

Caspary amended the order of the agenda without objection to combine Items 3.e. and 3.f. as a single presentation by California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) staff followed by comments from the public and Governing Board members.

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

Neysa Frechette commented on restoration and public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Cindy Grant commented on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and formation of a subcommittee.

Roy Van de Hoek commented on sea otters.

Jane Velez-Mitchell commented on restoration and public access of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

2) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Guangyu Wang proposed removing "Laurie Newman" from under *Attendance: Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board*. The meeting minutes were approved as amended by voice vote without objection. Moved: Wing Tam. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

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3) Informational Items

a) Report from the Chair

Charles Caspary reported on the July 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting, including the development of the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting agenda and closed session regarding ongoing litigations. Caspary reported that the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting agenda was modified to replace the item on the Measure W Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Ballona Creek TMDL Project with an information item on the Measure W SCWP Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 project eligibility criteria and solicitation process (Item 3.d).

b) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Guangyu Wang introduced John Dorsey to provide an update on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). John Dorsey reported on the TAC's review and comments of the City of Culver City's Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

c) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Director

Guangyu Wang reported on the June 30, 2020 effective date of the amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by the Governing Board at its June 18, 2020 meeting. Wang also reported on Commission staff's work activities including update of the Commission's website and stakeholder mailing list; completion of the remaining components of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) revision, including the Comprehensive Monitoring Program update; Proposition 50 grant award process; Proposition 84 grant management; SCWP participation; addressing ongoing litigation; annual NEPORT reporting; Form 700 Commission filing; and accessibility and ADA compliance. Wang also informed members that remote meetings of the Commission would likely continue through December 2020.

Tom Ford reported on Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation including the annual NEP reporting; completion of the remaining components of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) revision; the LA Living Shorelines project; strategic planning efforts for beach preservation; upcoming Ecosystem-based Management Network's webinar regarding changes to coastal tourism as a result of COVID-19; eelgrass research in Santa Monica Bay; kelp forest restoration; abalone outplanting; the virtual Boater Education Program; the Table-to-Farm Composting project; the upcoming Association of National Estuary Programs virtual tech-transfer meeting; the development of additional partnerships; competitive grant proposals; and support of the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning project.

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Member comments followed on interest in partners highlighting projects in the Santa Monica Bay watershed, abalone restoration and commercial fisheries, and the National Resources Conservation Service.

Caspary commented on the upcoming webinar regarding changes to coastal tourism as a result of COVID-19.

i) Overview of Executive Committee's Role and Next Steps Pertaining to Establishment and Operation of Subcommittees

Guangyu Wang introduced Caitlin Gray to present on the Executive Committee's role in the formation of subcommittees and provide the opportunity for Governing Board members to share input.

Member comments followed on Governing Board members providing additional input and comments via email to Commission staff, ensuring the purpose of subcommittees is tied to the purpose of the Commission, considering ad hoc subcommittees for a specific need, considering the limited resources and staffing, the process for "deep dives" on NEP topics, governance and accountability, potential ability to advance issues in the CCMP, ability for non-members of the Governing Board to be members of a subcommittee in order to fill specific expertise gaps not represented on the Governing Board, and encouraging Governing Board members to provide feedback on examples that subcommittee could address.

Caspary directed staff to explore whether subcommittees would be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act and conflict of interest filing and urged Governing Board members to provide input.

Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on The Bay Foundation's activities and report related to the habitat restoration project at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Patricia McPherson commented on The Bay Foundation's activities, consumption of animals, and the formation of subcommittees.

Deborah Ryan commented in support of Jane Velez-Mitchell.

d) Update on Measure W Safe Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Project Eligibility Criteria and Solicitation Process

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and provided an update on the FY 20-21 Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) and overviews of the FY 21-22 Regional Program timeline, Watershed Coordinators, SIP review process, project scoring and SIP criteria, and additional resources.

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Member comments followed on estimated annual funds allocated to the SCWP Watershed Areas in the Santa Monica Bay watershed; the SCWP Municipal Program; goals of the SCWP, prioritizing multi-benefit projects, and reinvesting in disadvantaged communities; upcoming SCWP FY21-22 Regional Program workshops; update on the SCWP Watershed Coordinators; potential SCWP project endorsements identifying how they align with the Commission's mission; SCWP Regional Oversight Committee's review of guidelines for community benefits, community engagement, and benefits to disadvantaged communities; and the Commission's role in identifying additional funding opportunities.

Public Comments

Annie Abram commented in support of Jane Velez-Mitchell and commented on SoCal Gas's role in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Sarah Segal commented on the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Paige Roache commented on the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Anna Christensen commented on wetland restoration projects.

- e) **Update on Restoration Activities in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed: Ballona Wetlands Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)**
- f) **Presentation on Issues of Concern in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed: Public Access to Coastal Resources Highlighting Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve – CDFW**

Guangyu Wang introduced Randy Rodriguez and Richard Brody to provide an update on the Ballona Wetlands Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a presentation on public access to coastal resources highlighting Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Richard Brody reported on authorized activity at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve including opportunities for school children and the general public, the Interim Stewardship and Access Management Plan and implemented Plan recommendations, public access plans described in the EIR, and impacts to public access due to the COVID-19 emergency. Richard Brody also reported on CDFW's ongoing review of the EIR and the anticipated timeline of certification and final planning and permitting.

Public Comments

Guangyu Wang read written comments regarding public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and formation of a subcommittee pertaining to public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

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The following members of the public commented on Items 3.e and 3.f:

Richard Harmel
Wendy-Su Rosen
Jane Velez-Mitchell
Marcia Hanscom
Lisa Levinson
Kathy Knight
Michael Fujimori
Jeanette Vosburg
Walter Lamb
Patricia McPherson
Mary Beth Trautwein
John Flores
Alyson Burton
Natalie Ford
Cindy Hardin
Annie Abram
Judith Davies
Leslie Purcell
Molly Bassler
Louis Keller
Sarah Segal
Patrick Davenport

Members commented on previous education and public access programs, current public access, and natural gas infrastructure and mineral rights.

Randy Rodriguez commented on ability to respond to pertinent member and public comments given the time constraints of the meeting.

Caspary requested an update from CDFW staff at the next Executive Committee meeting and a standing item on updates on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Randy Rodriguez encouraged Governing Board members to contact CDFW for questions or updates on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and to discuss the form and venue of future updates.

4) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

b) Member Comment

Tom Ford thanked Caspary and Commission staff for facilitating the Governing Board meeting.

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c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for October 15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.)

Caspary announced the next Governing Board meeting (tentatively set for October 15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.).

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Jonathan Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy
Gloria Gray, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Misti Kerns, Coastal Tourism Industry (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism)
Danielle LeFer, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Timothy Lippman, LA County Board of Supervisors (3rd District, Office of Supervisor Kuehl)
Shelley Luce, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Kevin McKeown, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Cung Nguyen, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Dave Pederson, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Bruce Reznik, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Rod Spackman, Business/Economic Interest (Chevron)
Clark Stevens, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)
Wing Tam, Public Works Department, City of LA (LA Sanitation & Environment)
Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Matthew Tecele, Los Angeles City Council District 11, Office of Councilmember Bonin
Martha Tremblay, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Roberto Uranga, California Coastal Commission
Claire Waggoner, State Water Resources Control Board

Non-Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board:

John Dorsey, Technical Advisory Committee
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay NEP Director
Laurie Newman, The Bay Foundation
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

Commission and State Water Board Staff:

Eric Gillman, State Water Resources Control Board
Caitlin Gray, Commission
Guangyu Wang, Commission

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Other Attendees:

Alyson Burton
Anna Christensen, Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force
Annie Abram
Ariel Ouziel
Cindy Grant, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Cindy Hardin
Deborah Ryan
Jack Neff
Jane Velez-Mitchell, JaneUnchained News Network
Jeanette Vosburg, Sierra Club and Grassroots Coalition
John Flores
Judith Davies
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project and Sierra Club
Leslie Purcell
Lisa Levinson
Louis Keller, Climate Reality Los Angeles Chapter
Marcelo Villagomez, The Bay Foundation
Marcia Hanscom, Ballona Institute
Mary Beth Trautwein
Michael Fujimori
Molly Bassler
Natalie Ford
Neysa Frechette, Friends of Ballona Wetlands and Steering Committee of the Wetlands
Restoration Principles Coalition
Paige Roache
Patricia McPherson, Sierra Club Airport Marina Group and Grassroots Coalition
Patrick Davenport
Richard Brody, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Richard Harmel
Roy Van de Hoek
Sarah Segal
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Wendy-Su Rosen, Wetland Residents Coalition