



**SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020**

**Time: 11:30 am–1:30 pm**

**Meeting Location:**

Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility  
1935 S. Hughes Way  
El Segundo, CA 90245

**Attendance:**

Members/Alternates:

Charles Caspary  
E.J. Caldwell (alternate)  
Megan Cooper (alternate)  
Gloria Gray  
Shelley Luce  
Viridinia Velez (alternate)

Staff:

Guangyu Wang (SMBRC)  
Caitlin Gray (SMBRC)  
Eric Gillman (SWRCB), via teleconference  
Claire Waggoner (SWRCB), via teleconference

Guest:

Tom Ford (the Bay Foundation)  
Kathy Knight (Ballona Ecosystem Education Project)  
Walter Lamb (Ballona Wetlands Land Trust)  
Mary Small (California Coastal Conservancy)  
Erica Yelensky (USEPA), via teleconference

Meeting called to order at 11:39 am.

Charles Caspary chaired the meeting. Introductions followed.

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

Walter Lamb commented on the proposed Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding, Memorandum of Agreement, and the Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Ballona Wetlands EIR).

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**2) Executive Committee Business**

**Report from the Chair**

Charles Caspary introduced this item. Caspary reported on the Commission being served a writ of mandate.

**Public Comment**

Kathy Knight commented on protecting wildlife and discouraging bulldozing in the Ballona Wetlands.

**a) Order of Agenda**

The order of the agenda was revised to move a portion of the Report from the Chief Administrative Director to a later time.

**b) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) Staff**

Guangyu Wang briefed members on Commission staff's progress in reviewing and implementing suggestions received at the December 12, 2019 Governing Board meeting regarding Commission's operations. Wang presented the "2020 Governing Board Meeting Recurring Agenda Items" calendar to be updated periodically in order to inform opportunities for future stakeholder workshops regarding issues of concern in the watershed. Member questions and comments followed on process for approving the Governing Board's agendas and additional topics for future stakeholder workshops. Charlie Caspary directed staff to distribute draft minutes of the Executive Committee meeting prior to the next Governing Board meeting. Questions from the public followed on the process for the Ballona Wetlands EIR. Member comments followed on the process for the Ballona Wetlands EIR and the flood capacity of the Ballona Wetlands. Mary Small offered to provide a summary of the Ballona Wetlands EIR process and information on the flood capacity of the Ballona Wetlands.

Wang continued his Report following Item 2.d.ii. Wang provided a brief background on Senate Bill (SB) 45 and invited E.J. Caldwell to brief members on the status of the legislation. Member comments and discussion followed on the feasibility of developing a comment letter outlining the need for Bay restoration funding, for inclusion of funding for wetlands restoration consistent with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Regional Strategy in SB 45, and for notifying Governing Board members of SB 45. Eric Gillman provided guidance on the Executive Committee's authority to provide recommendations to the Governing Board regarding the development of a comment letter.

Guangyu Wang invited Tom Ford to brief members on various activities carried out by the Bay Foundation (TBF), including preparation of the Fiscal Year 2021 work plan and updates on white abalone reintroduction, eelgrass habitat

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restoration, kelp forest restoration, the Malibu Living Shoreline project, the Manhattan Beach coastal dune restoration project, the Ballona Wetlands Restoration project, the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program, the Boater Education and Outreach Program, and the Table to Farm Composting and community gardens. Ford also informed members of a ten (10) percent increase in Section 320 NEP grant funds for the next fiscal year and the Coastal Research Institutes' new visiting professor. Member questions followed.

**c) Consideration of Approval of November 21, 2019 Executive Committee**

The November meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Moved by Shelley Luce. Seconded by Viridinia Velez.

**d) Establish the Governing Board Agenda for the February 20, 2020 Governing Board Meeting**

**i) Election of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Vice-Chairs**

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and explained the election is needed under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). No member questions followed.

**ii) Consideration of Appointment and Reappointment of Technical Advisory Committee Members**

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and explained the appointment and reappointment of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members is needed under the existing MOU. Member questions followed on additional areas of expertise that could support the TAC and requesting recommendations and contacts for potential new TAC members from Governing Board members. Guests commented to suggest recognizing long years of service for retiring TAC members.

**iii) Consideration of Approval of Amendment to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Memorandum of Understanding**

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and summarized progress in drafting the proposed Amendment to the SMBRC MOU. Member comments followed on authorities of the Executive Committee under the existing MOU.

**iv) Consideration of Prop. 12 Project Adjustment for Paramount Ranch and Topanga Creek Projects**

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and invited Megan Cooper to brief members on the need to reallocate funds to other projects initially recommended by the Governing Board due to impacts from the Woolsey Fire. Wang and Cooper recommended revising the Proposition 12 Recommended

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Project List to remove the recommended funding amounts, while retaining the Governing Board's determination of project eligibility and priority. Member comments followed on allowing flexibility in funding projects while ensuring transparency of funding decisions.

**v) Presentation on Development of the SMBNEP FY21 Annual Work Plan (incorrectly referred to as "FY20 Annual Work Plan" on the meeting agenda)**

No introduction and discussion on this item in addition to briefing during *Item 2.b.*

**vi) Presentation and Input on Measure W Stormwater Investment Plans within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and presented the timeline of developing Measure W Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) and options for providing the Commission's input in the SIPs.

Shelley Luce moved to change *Item 2.d.iv* to "Consideration of Approval of Resolution to Revise the Proposition 12 Grant Program Recommended Project List", place *Items 2.d.i-v* on the February Governing Board meeting agenda, and include an informational item providing an overview of the Ballona Wetlands final EIR process. Charlie Caspary seconded. The motion passed without objection.

**e) Closed Session**

No closed session was held.

**3) Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda**

No member comments and announcements. Meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.