



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

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

**Date:** Thursday, July 16, 2020

**Time:** 11:30–1:30 p.m.

**Meeting Location:** Remote Meeting Only

Charlie Caspary chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Executive Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:32 am. Caspary provided an overview of the meeting protocols and welcomed the new Executive Committee members: Jonathan Bishop (State Water Resources Control Board), Erica Yelensky (alternate for US EPA Regional Administrator of Region 9), and Tom Ford (National Estuary Program (NEP) Director of the Santa Monica Bay NEP). Introductions followed.

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

Nick Buro commented on the Pew Charitable Trusts' marine life conservation efforts and priorities for the Commission's consideration including coastal habitat conservation issues and fishery management plans. Caspary and Tom Ford highlighted actions that encompass these issues in the Santa Monica Bay NEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan.

**2) Executive Committee Business**

**a) Order of Agenda**

With no objection from members, Caspary amended the order of the agenda to move item 3 before item 2.e.

**b) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and The Bay Foundation Staff**

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 and Commission staff's work activities including updating the Commission's website, membership, and stakeholder email distribution list; the Santa Monica NEP Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) annual progress report to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board; and

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Measure W Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) participation and support.

Wang invited Caitlin Gray to provide an overview of the Executive Committee's membership, roles, and functions as described in the amended MOU.

Wang discussed the Projected Agenda Items Calendar for upcoming Commission meetings as a tool for planning essential and recurring Commission activities and scheduling potential information items. Wang reported on the Proposition 50 grant award process and encumbrance dates. Wang also informed members that remote meetings of the Commission would likely continue through December 2020.

Members commented on the CCMP package approval, Proposition 50 encumbrance dates, recommendations regarding the Ballona Creek TMDL Project, development of guidelines for subcommittee operational procedures, and tasks and mechanisms to identify issues in the watershed.

Tom Ford reported on the Association of NEP's technical exchange and Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation including the community engagement program, the Living Shorelines projects, abalone transport, NASA proposal for a regional ocean acidification and hypoxia project, the launch of Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant's Membrane Bioreactor pilot project, Coastal Research Institute's research, the Topanga Lagoon restoration project, and US EPA NEPORT reporting.

Member comments followed on the potential for the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant's involvement with the regional ocean acidification and hypoxia project.

Tom Ford invited Erica Yelensky to provide an update on the Section 320 Clean Water Act NEP grant (NEP grant). Yelensky updated members on extending the current NEP grant and preparing for the next NEP grant.

### **c) Consideration of Approval of May 21, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes were approved as published by roll-call vote. Moved: Kelly Clark. Seconded: Martha Tremblay.

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

#### **i) Consideration of Adoption of Recommendations regarding Ballona Creek TMDL Project in the Measure W Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Stormwater Investment Plan**

Wang introduced this item and reported on the potential consideration of the Ballona Creek TMDL Project (Project) for inclusion in the Central Santa

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Monica Bay Watershed Area's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) and the project's potential benefits for water quality in the watershed.

Wang invited City of LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) staff, Brett Perry, to provide an overview of the Project. Wang provided an overview of the timeline for potential consideration of the Project for inclusion in the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area SIP.

Member comments followed on the SCWP Regional Oversight Committee's recommendations on the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area SIP, the SCWP's criteria for Disadvantage Community (DAC) benefits, and the eligibility of the Project in meeting the DAC benefit criteria.

Member comments followed on the significance of the Project, the status of the Project's environmental impact review, the potential for considering SCWP funding for the next fiscal year, and whether the Commission should separately consider providing input on the Project's ability to achieve TMDL goals and the Project's eligibility to be categorized as providing DAC benefits.

Item 2.d.i was tentatively added to the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting agenda, with a presentation on the DAC benefits criteria concerns by Bruce Reznik, pending the LA County legal counsel's determination, by roll-call vote. Moved: Timothy Lippman. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

### **ii) Information Item(s) on Issues Identified in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

Wang introduced this item and provided an overview of the Information Items List. Staff recommended the Executive Committee prioritize topics suggested by members of the Commission and the public.

#### **Public Comment**

Walter Lamb commented on potential information items for future Governing Board meetings, including the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR certification, 408 permitting, interim access, and a list of topics for habitat restoration.

Caspary requested staff recommendations on the process for subcommittee establishment, member appointment, operational procedures, and identification of topics and tasks for subcommittees. Member comments followed on addressing technical issues with the Technical Advisory Committee's input and on updating the Information Items List with a suggested schedule of the potential topics to be presented by staff at the next Executive Committee meeting. Wang clarified the Executive Committee's role to establish subcommittees and their operational procedures and tasks as delegated by the Governing Board.

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Member comments followed on a standing Governing Board agenda item for updates on restoration activities in the Santa Monica Bay watershed and requested California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) provide an update on the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR at the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting.

Wang recommended the Executive Committee schedule the public access to coastal resources, highlighting Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, as an information item presented by CDFW staff at the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting.

Randy Rodriguez confirmed CDFW's availability to present an information item on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and provided input on the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR update.

The following recommended items were added to the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting agenda by roll-call vote: Item 2.d.ii, CDFW presentation on public access to coastal resources highlighting Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and the impact of COVID-19 to access; updates on restoration activities in the Santa Monica Bay watershed, specifically CDFW report highlighting the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR; and a staff report regarding an overview of Governing Board and Executive Committee roles and functions, with focus and input from the Governing Board on the establishment and operation of subcommittees. Moved: Jonathon Bishop. Seconded: E.J. Caldwell.

### **e) Closed Session**

#### **Public Comment**

Walter Lamb commented on Ballona Wetlands Land Trust's (BWLTL) litigation and closed session of the Executive Committee.

Eric Gillman announced closed session. The open meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Closed session adjourned and open meeting reconvened at 2:30 pm. Eric Gillman reported there was nothing to report from closed session.

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

Casparly announced the launch of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Pure Water Project and a virtual tour of the pilot. Wang reminded members that this project was recommended by the Governing Board for allocation of Proposition 12 funds.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

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### **Attendance:**

#### **Voting Members and Alternates of the Executive Committee:**

Jonathan Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board  
EJ Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District  
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Kelly Clark, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Gloria Gray, West Basin Municipal Water District  
Timothy Lippman, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office, 3rd District,  
County of Los Angeles  
Shelley Luce, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal the Bay  
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

#### **Non-Voting Members and Alternates of the Executive Committee:**

Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay NEP Director  
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Regional Administrator Region 9

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

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

#### **Guests:**

Jon Ball, Public  
Sheila Brice, LASAN  
Nick Buro, Pew Charitable Trusts  
Wendy Dinh, LASAN  
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project and Sierra Club  
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
Alfredo Magallanes, LASAN  
Katie Mica, Public  
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Brett Perry, LASAN  
DJ Yousavich, UCLA