



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

DRAFT PENDING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020

Time: 11:30–1:30 p.m.

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)
Maria Small (California Coastal Conservancy)
Erica Yelensky (USEPA), via teleconference

Meeting called to order at 11:39am.

Charles Caspary chaired the meeting. Introductions followed.

Agenda Item 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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Agenda Item 2. Executive Committee Business

Report from the Chair

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

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 12th Governing Board meeting regarding Commission's operations. Member questions followed on process for approving the Governing Board's agendas and additional topics for future stakeholder workshops. Charles Caspary directed staff to distribute draft minutes of the EC meeting prior to the next Governing Board meeting. Questions from the public followed on the process for the Ballona Wetlands EIR.

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.

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 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.

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

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

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- 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.

Agenda Item 3. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

No member comments and announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.