



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

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

Date: Thursday, October 22, 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 9:34 a.m. Caspary provided an overview of the meeting protocols and welcomed James Stahl as the new representative of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) on the Governing Board. Introductions followed.

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

Patricia McPherson commented on California Department Fish & Wildlife's (CDFW) memo regarding public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (CDFW Memo), aquifer remediation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and the Ballona Wetlands Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Kathy Knight commented on public access and restoration at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR, and the CDFW Memo.

Margot Griswald commented on the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR and change in lagoon habitats.

Cindy Hardin commented on restoration and animals present at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and the Ballona Wetlands Final EIR.

Marcia Hanscom commented on loss of salt pan habitat, public access and restoration at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and the CDFW Memo.

Lisa Levinson commented on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and the CDFW Memo.

Roy Van de Hoek commented on the designation of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP), estuaries in the watershed, and public access and the SoCal Gas facility at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

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2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

Guangyu Wang recommended amending the order of the agenda to move Item 5.b. after Item 2.b. The order of the agenda was approved as amended without objection.

b) Report from the Chair

Charlie Caspary reported on the September 17, 2020 Executive Committee meeting, which included reports on Commission staff activities, recommendations regarding subcommittee guidelines, updates on the Projected Agenda Items Calendar and Informational Items List, and development of the October 22, 2020 Governing Board meeting agenda. Caspary also reported on discussion with CDFW regarding public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, the CDFW Memo, and the Executive Committee's potential consideration of a subcommittee regarding MS4 permit implementation at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Member comments followed on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and the process for the Commission to consider a response to the CDFW Memo, including requests for the Executive Committee to explore this issue and consider scheduling another discussion of this issue as an agenda item for a future Governing Board meeting. Caspary encouraged collaboration with CDFW on resolving public access issues outlined in the CDFW Memo and requested members to submit specific questions to Guangyu Wang.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Guangyu Wang introduced Dan Pondella to provide an update on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Dan Pondella reported on the TAC's review and comments of the City of Culver City's Monitoring and Reporting Plan and upcoming review of the Santa Monica Bay NEP's Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (CMP) and provided an update on the Palos Verdes Reef Restoration Project.

Member comments followed on the City of Culver City's Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay NEP Director

Guangyu Wang reported on the CDFW Memo and member participation at the August 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting. Wang also reported on Commission staff's work activities including development of guidance for the operation and

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establishment of subcommittees for the Executive Committee's consideration, NEPORT reporting and Semi-annual Report of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and The Bay Foundation. Wang also responded to a question from a member of the public regarding the designation of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

Tom Ford reported on the update of the CMP, annual reporting of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, and the upcoming Association of NEPs' tech transfer conference.

Casparly invited Eric Gillman to provide an update on ongoing litigations. Eric Gillman reported on two active lawsuits against the Commission.

Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on public access at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve including the CDFW Memo, the MOA between the Commission and The Bay Foundation, and the annual assistance application and agreement for the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of August 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Tom Ford proposed adding a comma to the first paragraph on page 4. The meeting minutes were approved as proposed by roll-call vote. Moved: Timothy Lippman. Seconded: EJ Caldwell.

b) Consideration of Approval of Resolution Regarding the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and provided background on the draft resolution and the Executive Committee's discussion of forming a subcommittee regarding MS4 permit implementation.

Member comments followed on recusal from voting on this item, the goals and numeric requirements of MS4 permits, and input from cities within the watershed.

The draft resolution was approved by roll-call vote. Moved: Kevin McKeown. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

Public Comments

Paul Alva commented on appreciation of the draft resolution's acknowledgment of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's continued review of

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the MS4 permit and support and encouragement of adoption of an MS4 permit that furthers the goals of the Commission and the implementation of the CCMP.

4) Additional Informational Items

a) Presentation on Highlights from Santa Monica Bay NEP Reporting

Guangyu Wang invited Tom Ford, Karina Johnston, and Caitlin Gray to present on the updates from the Santa Monica Bay NEP's Semi-annual Report of activities from April 1 to September 30, 2020. Tom Ford and Karina Johnston highlighted Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation and Caitlin Gray reported on projects recommended by the Commission for Proposition 12 and 84 funding.

Member comments followed on the Santa Monica Beach Pilot Project and results of the August 2020 survey, the Pure Water Project by Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority, and opportunities for outreach and engagement in activities in the watershed.

Public Comments

Kathy Knight commented on the Westwood Neighborhood Greenway Project and potential accumulation of runoff pollution in plants and wildlife.

b) Presentation on the Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) Update

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and invited Karina Johnston to present on the CMP update. Tom Ford reported on the TAC's efforts to advance technical reports including the CMP update and the State of the Bay Report, and discussed efforts to fill data gaps for climate change impacts on pelagic habitats.

Caspary inquired about the biggest issue encountered during the CMP update. Tom Ford responded and mentioned data availability and monitoring across the watershed's habitat types in order to inform their relative health.

5) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

b) Member Comment

Richard Bloom commented on resource limitations for addressing oceanic and coastal issues, updates from the State Assembly Resources and Transportation

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budget subcommittee, and updates on Assembly Bill No. 1788 and legislation regarding plastic pollution.

Martha Tremblay commented on an upcoming virtual tour of the Advanced Purification Center at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant.

Clark Stevens commented on the availability of resources for wildlife resiliency at defensiblespace.org.

Erica Yelensky notified members of the opening 2021 grant solicitation of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program and requested a progress update on the MOA between the Commission and The Bay Foundation.

James Stahl commented in support of the water supply goals of the Advanced Purification Center at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant.

Shelley Luce commented on efforts and results of Coastal Cleanup month.

c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for December 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.)

Caspary announced the next Executive Committee meeting scheduled for November 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. and the next Governing Board meeting set for December 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

EJ Caldwell, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)

Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Kelly Clark, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)

Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy

Robert Godfrey, At-Large Representative (Marina Del Rey Anglers)

Kenneth Kao, South Bay Cities (City of Palos Verdes Estate)

Timothy Lippman, LA County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)

Shelley Luce, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)

Kevin McKeown, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Santa Monica)

Dan Murphy, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division

Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

James Stahl, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles

Clark Stevens, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)

Wing Tam, Public Works Department, City of LA (LA Sanitation & Environment)

Matthew Teclé, Los Angeles City Council District 11

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Martha Tremblay, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dennis Washborn, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)

Non-Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board:

Richard Bloom, State Assembly 50th District
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay NEP Director
Laurie Newman, The Bay Foundation
Timothy Pershing, State Assembly 50th District
Dan Pondella, Technical Advisory Committee
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

Commission and State Water Resources Control Board Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

Bruce Hamamoto
Cindy Hardin
Craig Cadawaller
Dave Roberts
Jeanette Vosburg, Sierra Club and Grassroots Coalition
Joe Faris
Julie Du Brow, The Bay Foundation
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Lisa Levinson
Marcelo Villagomez, The Bay Foundation
Marcia Hanscom
Margot Griswald
Mateo Torres
Patricia McPherson, Sierra Club Airport Marina Group and Grassroots Coalition
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Richard Brody, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Roy Van de Hoek
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust