



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

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

Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021

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 and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Commission staff provided an overview of the meeting protocols. Introductions followed.

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

Kathy Knight commented on the drought and freshwater aquifers.

Lisa Rachal commented on education programs at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Reserve).

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

Without objection, Caspary accepted Guangyu Wang's recommendation to adjust the order of the agenda to accommodate the availability of the presenter for item 4.b, if needed.

b) Report from the Chair

Caspary reported on the July 15, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, which included reports on activities of Commission staff and The Bay Foundation staff and development of the August 19, 2021 Governing Board meeting agenda.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

John Dorsey reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is set to meet on September 14, 2021 to discuss the development of the next State of the Bay Report, TAC membership and additional representation, and Proposition 50 grant program proposal review.

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Member Comments

At Caspary's request, Dorsey offered to send information to the Governing Board regarding Southern California Coastal Research Project's (SCWWRP) microplastics research. Member comments followed on flushable wipes and Bay protection technologies.

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

Guangyu Wang announced his retirement date of September 17, 2021 and introduced his replacement, Marissa Caringella. Wang reported on a letter received after the June 17, 2021 Governing Board meeting from Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) regarding public access at the Reserve. Wang announced Councilmember Yasmine-Imani McMorrin as the new Governing Board member representing the Ballona Creek Watershed Cities. Wang also reminded members on required Form 700 filing for assuming and leaving office.

Wang reported on collaboration with The Bay Foundation to develop the Santa Monica Bay NEP website and complete NEPORT reporting. Wang also reported on Commission staff's work activities, including developing the Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and The Bay Foundation (MOA Amendment), finalizing and releasing the Proposition 50 grant program Request for Proposals, facilitating a public workshop on the Proposition 50 grant program, updating the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) documents with the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo, Proposition 84 grant management, responding to public records requests, and supporting ongoing litigation.

Tom Ford provided updates on the NEP, including providing feedback on US EPA's NEP performance evaluation process and efforts to address diversity, equity and inclusion. Ford announced the publication of a collaborative report in entitled "Integrating high-resolution coastal acidification monitoring data across seven United States estuaries". Ford also reported on Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, including restaurant engagement to reduce plastic waste, boater education, continued implementation of the Table-to-Farm composting and community garden project, beach restoration, kelp forest restoration, abalone outplanting, and eelgrass transplanting.

Eric Gillman reported that there were no updates on ongoing litigation.

Member Comments

At Caspary's request, John Dorsey offered to share photos of the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Project to distribute to members.

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Member comments followed on the coastal acidification article, scheduling presentations accompanying the Santa Monica Bay NEP's annual reports, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and signage for beach restoration projects.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Cung Nguyen proposed correcting Enrique Zaldivar's representation referenced under item 2.d to LA Sanitation and Environment.

Member Votes

By roll-call vote, the Governing Board approved the meeting minutes as amended. Moved: Cung Nguyen. Seconded: Kelly Clark. Abstained: Maral Tashjian, Martha Tremblay, and Steve Uhring.

b) Consideration of Approval of the Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and The Bay Foundation regarding the Santa Monica Bay NEP

Caitlin Gray introduced this item and provided background information on the MOA Amendment, outlined the process to develop the MOA Amendment, summarized provisions, and recommended that the Governing Board adopt draft resolution 21-05 to approve the MOA Amendment.

Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the 2018 settlement agreement with the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust and the MOA Amendment's records sharing provision.

Member Comments

Casparly and other members commented on the collaboration between The Bay Foundation and the Commission to develop the MOA Amendment and improvements to the 2018 MOA.

Member Votes

By roll-call vote, the Governing Board unanimously approved the MOA Amendment. Moved: Jonathan Bishop. Seconded: Wing Tam.

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

4) Additional Informational Items

a) Highlights on Community-based Restoration at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve – The Bay Foundation

Caspary moved agenda item 4.b. before item 4.a. without objection.

Wang and Ford introduced this item. Karina Johnston presented on the community-based restoration efforts to remove invasive plants from a portion of the Reserve. Johnston acknowledged the Gabrielino-Tongva tribe and outlined the history, goals, progress, challenges, and next steps of the project. Johnston clarified that The Bay Foundation's community-based restoration project is separate from the larger Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on the cost and success criteria of the project.

Kathy Knight commented on the level of community participation and communication with the public and the larger Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

Richard Brody commented on The Bay Foundation's efforts and progress made in the project and the role of native plants in overall ecosystem health.

Leslie Purcell commented on John Tommy Rosas's work, community involvement in the project, and communicating benefits of native plants. Johnston responded with information on public communication and native plant selection in consideration of diversity and aesthetics.

Rich Burg commented on The Bay Foundation's efforts and progress made in the project.

Member Comments

Members commented on invasive pampas grass and drought mitigation for plant establishment.

Caspary commented on recognition of The Bay Foundation's efforts and volunteer involvement in the project.

b) Update on the July 11, 2021 Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant Sewage Discharge – Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Guangyu Wang introduced this item. Wing Tam discussed the postponement of the LA Sanitation and Environment's presentation on the incident and the City of LA Board of Public Works' August 18, 2021 town hall meeting. Tam also directed interested parties to the Hyperion 2021 Recovery website at www.lacitysan.org/hyperion2021recovery. Wang invited Dr. Muntu Davis of Los

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Angeles County Department of Public Health (Department) to present on the July 11, 2021 discharge of untreated wastewater from the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (Hyperion WRP).

Dr. Davis described the incident and outlined the Department's response activities, including determining public health impacts, ocean water closures, bacterial contamination monitoring, public notification of water quality, and collaboration with other agencies to address odor. Dr. Davis described incident notification gaps and steps to avoid similar issues in the future.

Public Comments

Leslie Purcell commented on beach and offshore monitoring locations. Liza Frias responded with information on routine testing across the county. Renee Purdy commented on sampling along the shoreline near the 1-mile outfall.

Craig Cadwallader commented on improvements to the public notification process. Frias responded on the Department's current process and potential mechanisms to notify the public.

Benjamin Harris commented on improvements to the public notification process and the availability of rapid bacteria sampling. Frias commented on exploring rapid bacteria sampling.

Richard Brody commented on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's spill notification system and the cause of the July 11, 2021 incident. Frias commented on partners to add to the Department's notification list and directed inquiries regarding the cause of the incident to LA Sanitation and Environment. Dr. Davis commented on the initial report on the cause of the incident.

Member Comments

Wing Tam commented on the data available regarding Hyperion WRP effluent quality and the actions being taken to repair the system. Tam directed interested parties to the LASAN Hyperion 2021 Recovery website.

Members commented on State Water Resources Control Board-funded projects for rapid bacteria sampling; existing notification systems for spills, including those required for wastewater agencies; and improvements to the public notification process, such as consultation with affected cities and COGs, direct phone alerts to the public, and early notification to first responders. Member comments followed regarding whether the discharge was contained onsite, the recording of the August 18, 2021 town hall, and LA Sanitation and Environment's efforts to address the issue.

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

5) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

b) Member Comment

Caspary and Cung Nguyen acknowledged Guangyu Wang's retirement.

Erica Yelensky commented on FEMA funding availability and upcoming funding opportunity for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program.

c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for October 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.)

Caspary announced the next Governing Board meeting for October 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Jonathon Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
E.J. Caldwell, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Bob Godfrey, At-Large Representative (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Gloria Gray, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Danielle LeFer, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Hannah Levien, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Timothy Lippman, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)
Shelley Luce, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Dan Murphy, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Cung Nguyen, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Kim Sidoriak, Coastal Tourism Industry (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism)
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Wing Tam, Public Works Department, City of LA (LA Sanitation & Environment)
Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Steven Uhring, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Claire Waggoner, State Water Resources Control Board

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Dennis Washburn, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)

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
Tim Pershing, State Assembly 50th District
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

Commission and State Water Resources Control Board Staff

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

Public Attendees

Adriana Nunez
Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Ching To
Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation
Cyrus Rangan, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Dan Kippen
Dane Lazarus, The Bay Foundation
Hugh Marley, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jenny Newman, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Joshua Bobrowsky, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Leslie Purcell
Lisa Rachal, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Liza Frias, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Lynda Lo-Hill
Dr. Muntu Davis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Maggie Jenkins
Marcelo Villagomez, The Bay Foundation
Maurice Pantoja, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Renee Purdy, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Richard Brody, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Rich Burg, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Riley Temkin, The Bay Foundation
Russ Colby, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Sara Cuadra, The Bay Foundation
Scott Culbertson, Friends of Ballona Wetlands
Sean Singletary, City of Culver City
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust