



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

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

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 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 9:33 a.m. Caspary introduced staff to provide 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

Walter Lamb commented on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, including public access and greenhouse gas emission impacts of restoration, and on the relationship between the Commission and The Bay Foundation.

Michael Fujimori commented on restoration and SoCal Gas infrastructure at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

Without objection, Caspary amended the order of the agenda to allow one Governing Board member to make comments before 11:00 a.m. instead of during item 5.b.

b) Report from the Chair

Caspary invited Eric Gillman to provide an update on ongoing litigation. Eric Gillman reported on lawsuits against the Commission.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Guangyu Wang introduced John Dorsey to provide an update on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). John Dorsey reported that the upcoming TAC meeting is anticipated to include discussion of additional TAC member

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representation and revision of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (CMP).

Member comments followed on the indicators of habitat health for the major habitats in Santa Monica Bay.

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

Guangyu Wang thanked Commission members for their support this year and announced changes in the Commission's membership, including the departure of alternate Kenny Kao and the addition of alternate Hannah Levien. Wang also reported on Commission staff's work activities including facilitating the completion the Santa Monica Bay NEP Semi-annual Report, assisting ongoing lawsuits, managing Proposition 84 grants, and developing a timeline with The Bay Foundation for the draft amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and The Bay Foundation. Wang also reported on the postponement of the Executive Committee's discussion and consideration of next steps regarding the California Department Fish & Wildlife's memo about public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (CDFW Memo).

Tom Ford reported on white seabass in Marina del Rey; assistance of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County in assessing ocean acidification; completion of the latest Baywire newsletter; the US EPA's updated NEP funding guidance and identified areas of special interest; diversity, equity and inclusion discussions with US EPA; historical dumping of DDT; and the Ocean Protection Council's upcoming meeting regarding additional funding for statewide kelp recovery research. Tom Ford also reported on Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, including development of the draft Santa Monica Bay NEP Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Work Plan; outplanting of white abalone; genetic testing of eelgrass; kelp restoration in Palos Verdes Shelf; plankton sampling in the Santa Monica Bay; restoration of the Ballona Wetlands; dune restoration at Zuma Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Dockweiler Beach; virtual efforts of the Boater Education Program; and advancements of the Table-to-Farm Composting program.

Member comments followed on the Ocean Protection Council's upcoming meeting, potential discussions with US EPA staff regarding historical dumping of DDT, and the Ecosystem Restoration Camps' restoration efforts.

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3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Under item 2.b, Kevin McKeown proposed adding the request for the Executive Committee to consider a response to the CDFW Memo and scheduling discussion of the public access issue as an agenda item for a future Governing Board meeting and Randy Rodriguez proposed clarifying that a potential future discussion would be the second time the Governing Board discussed this issue. Under item 3.b, Cung Nguyen proposed amending Paul Alva's comment to state that the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit was still in draft form.

The meeting minutes were approved as amended by roll-call vote. Moved: Kevin McKeown. Seconded: Wing Tam.

b) Election of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Chair

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and reported that one nomination was received for Charlie Caspary during the nomination period. Wang opened floor nominations and none were received. Kevin McKeown moved to close floor nominations. Wang recommended a roll-call vote.

Charlie Caspary was elected as the Governing Board Chair by roll-call vote.

c) Consideration of Approval of 2021 Governing Board Meeting Dates

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and recommended the Governing Board continue to conduct meetings via remote video and teleconference for at least the February, April, and June 2021 Governing Board meetings following CalEPA's telework guidance. Wang also recommended Governing Board members anticipate longer meetings to allow time for public comment and addressing agenda items.

The 2021 Governing Board meeting dates were approved by roll-call vote. Moved: Cung Nguyen. Seconded: Martha Tremblay.

Member comments followed on the potential for continuing to have remote teleconference options for future meetings, including those held in person. Eric Gillman reported that continuing remote meetings in the current manner after the COVID-19 emergency would require modification to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. Caspary encouraged members to discuss the potential for continuing remote meeting options with their respective agencies.

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4) Additional Informational Items

d) Update on Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Activities in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed: Reuse, Recycling, and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Efforts by Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs)

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and invited members and POTW staff to present on advanced wastewater treatment efforts. Martha Tremblay and Bruce Chalmers presented on the Regional Recycled Water Program by the Metropolitan Water Districts of Southern California and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. David Pedersen presented on the Pure Water Project by the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority. Wing Tam, Huub Cox, and Stephanie Osorio presented on the Hyperion Recycled Water Program and the Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility by LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN).

Member comments followed on the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) upcoming informational item on statewide volumetric accounting of wastewater and recycled water scheduled for January 5, 2021 and encouragement of applicable recycled water projects to file a petition for change of use with the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights. Member comments also followed on the fate of Hyperion's projected output of reverse osmosis concentrate, impacts on the management of seawater barrier injection wells, encouragement of recycled water projects to consider impacts to wildlife and instream flows and consult with CDFW as needed, and engagement with the public to encourage support for projects that increase water resiliency and water quality. Huub Cox responded that analysis is still needed to understand the reverse osmosis concentrate's anticipated flow and composition. Huub Cox also commented on the opportunity to significantly reduce nitrogen loading in Santa Monica Bay with membrane bioreactors. Wing Tam responded to comments on the injection wells including Terminal Island's use of recycled water. Cung Nguyen commented on the seawater barriers operated by County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works and Flood Control District.

5) Other Businesses

e) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

f) Member Comment

Shelley Luce commented on historical dumping of DDT in the ocean between Santa Catalina Island and Palos Verdes Peninsula, including recent reporting on additional dumping sites and potential actions the Commission could take to address this issue such as requesting the US EPA convene a science advisory

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panel, increasing monitoring and assessments of DDT, identifying sources of funding, and exploring mechanisms to enhance regulation of “forever chemicals”.

Kevin McKeown commented on the departure of Meghan Sahli-Wells as his alternate.

Roberto Uranga commented on the California Coastal Commission’s enforcement actions related to pipelines at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Martha Tremblay commented on the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant’s wastewater monitoring for the COVID-19 virus.

Jonathon Bishop commented on the State Water Board’s efforts to increase monitoring of municipal wastewater for the virus and encouraged members to contact him or Claire Waggoner if they have questions.

Caspary commented on the technological advancements that further the understanding of public health challenges and the expertise represented on the Commission and thanked members of the Commission and Commission staff for their work.

g) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for February 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.)

The next Governing Board meeting is tentatively set for February 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

e) Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Jonathon Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
EJ Caldwell, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy
Liz Crosson, City of Los Angeles, Office of Mayor Garcetti
Kenneth Kao, South Bay Cities (City of Palos Verdes Estate)
Timothy Lippman, LA County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)
Hannah Levien, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Shelley Luce, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Kevin McKeown, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Christopher Newman, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Cung Nguyen, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

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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)
Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Martha Tremblay, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Roberto Uranga, California Coastal Commission
Claire Waggoner, State Water Resources Control Board
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
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:

Azya Jackson
Bruce Chalmers, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Craig Cadwallader
Dave Roberts
Huub Cox, LA Sanitation & Environment
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Lynda Lo-Hill
Michael Fujimori
Richard Brody, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Stephanie Osorio, LA Sanitation & Environment
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust