



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

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

Date: Thursday, February 18, 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. 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

Christina Ku commented on the Ballona Wetlands, including protection of the wetlands and its species, the restoration plan and funding, and entities involved in the restoration.

Marcia Hanscom commented on the Ballona Wetlands, including land acquisition, the restoration plan and flood risk standards, related activities included in the draft Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Work Plan, and entities involved in the restoration.

Mary Beth Trautwein commented on the Playa del Rey natural gas storage facility.

Jane Velez-Mitchell commented on the restoration of Ballona Wetlands, including flood risk standards, nature-based alternatives for restoration, and impacts of the restoration plan on species and public access.

Robert van de Hoek commented on the Ballona Wetlands, including lawsuits and mitigation of trash pollution, and sea otters, kelp forests, and tidewater goby in Santa Monica Bay.

Kathy Knight commented on the Ballona Wetlands, including species, the restoration plan and flood control systems, and an Environmental Impact Report that studies freshwater alternatives.

Susanne Cumming commented on the Ballona Wetlands, including incorporating sea level rise and public access in the draft FY22 Work Plan, the restoration plan, and nature-based alternatives for restoration.

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2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

There was no change to the order of the agenda. The order of the agenda was approved without objection.

b) Report from the Chair

Caspary reported that, due to the cancellation of the January 21 Executive Committee meeting, he coordinated with Commission staff and legal counsel to finalize the agenda for this Governing Board meeting based on input from Executive Committee members via email.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Guangyu Wang introduced John Dorsey to provide an update on activities of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). John Dorsey reported that additional time was needed for the TAC to complete the draft revised Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (CMP) and the upcoming TAC meeting is anticipated to include discussion and consideration of recommendations to forward the final draft revised CMP for Governing Board approval.

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

Guangyu Wang welcomed two new Governing Board members: member Mikke Pierson (Mayor of City of Malibu) representing Malibu Creek Watershed Cities, and alternate Eric Alegria (Mayor of City of Rancho Palos Verdes) representing South Bay Cities. Wang reported on Commission staff's work activities including management of Proposition 84-funded projects, assisting ongoing litigation, and collaboration with The Bay Foundation in the development of the draft FY22 Work Plan and the draft revised CMP. Wang also reported that the development of the draft amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and The Bay Foundation is on hold pending the outcome of the mediation process of the ongoing lawsuit against the Commission. Eric Gillman provided additional update on the litigation and its impact on the MOA amendment.

Tom Ford invited John Dorsey to provide an update on the beach site suitability analysis project and Clark Stevens to provide an update on the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning Project. Tom Ford also reported on the federal reauthorization of the NEP and on Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, including restoration efforts for eelgrass, kelp forests, and abalone, and impacts of harmful algal blooms.

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Members comments followed on the beach site suitability analysis, including habitats incorporated in the analysis, the potential to consider augmentation of sediment supply from removal of Rindge Dam, and the potential for a presentation on the analysis results.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Jonathon Bishop. Seconded: Wing Tam.

b) Election of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board Vice-chairs

Guangyu Wang reported that four nominations were received for the five Governing Board Vice-chair seats during the nomination period: Sheila Kuehl representing Los Angeles (LA) County Board of Supervisors (3rd District), Bruce Reznik representing LA Waterkeeper, Shelley Luce representing Heal the Bay, and Gloria Gray representing the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Wang opened floor nominations and one floor nomination was received from Martha Tremblay for Robert Ferrante representing LA County Sanitation Districts. Without objection, Charlie Caspary closed nominations and recommended election of the nominees as a slate.

Sheila Kuehl, Bruce Reznik, Shelley Luce, Gloria Gray, and Robert Ferrante were elected as Governing Board Vice-chairs by roll-call vote.

c) Consideration of Approval of the Introduction Chapter of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and invited Tom Ford to report on the purpose and development of the draft Introduction Chapter of the Santa Monica Bay NEP CCMP. Tom Ford also recommended approval pending typographical changes.

The Introduction Chapter of the Santa Monica Bay NEP CCMP was approved, pending typographical changes, by roll-call vote. Moved: Rorie Skei. Seconded: Martha Tremblay. Jonathon Bishop amended the motion to add typographical changes.

Members comments followed on US EPA's review and concurrence process.

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d) Consideration of Approval of Resolution regarding the Updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and recommended the Governing Board approve Resolution 21-01, which approves revisions to the IRWM program's updated MOU and affirms the Commission's continued participation in the IRWM program's Leadership Committee to further the implementation of the CCMP.

Resolution 21-01 was approved by roll-call vote. Moved: Wing Tam. Seconded: Katherine Pease.

4) Additional Informational Items

a) Presentation on Development of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Work Plan

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and reported on US EPA deadlines to complete the FY22 Work Plan and opportunities for stakeholders to provide input on the FY22 Work Plan, including a written public comment period (opening February 18, 2021 and closing March 5, 2021), and a virtual public workshop of the Santa Monica Bay Stakeholders on February 24, 2021, facilitated with support from professional facilitators and in collaboration with The Bay Foundation staff.

Wang also invited Tom Ford to present on the purpose and structure of the draft FY22 Work Plan, including US EPA requirements and examples of included activities. Tom Ford invited Karina Johnston to provide more information on beach-restoration related efforts, including participation in American Shore and Beach Preservation Association meetings and updates on The Bay Foundation's Living Shorelines projects.

Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on the Ballona Wetlands, including projections of sea level rise and public access, the FY22 Work Plan, and the annual federal grant application for the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

5) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

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b) Member Comment

Laurie Newman commented on The Bay Foundation's Coastal Connection 7 scheduled for September 13, 2021 and addition of three board members.

Bob Godfrey commented on the extension of the Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program to further restoration of white seabass and halibut populations, and anticipated release of white seabass in April.

Kevin McKeown commented on his new alternate, Alex Fisch (Mayor of Culver City), and requested a discussion of public access at the Ballona Wetlands. Charlie Caspary reported that a discussion is anticipated as early as the next Executive Committee meeting.

c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for April 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.)

Charlie Caspary encouraged all stakeholders to attend the February 24, 2021 Santa Monica Bay Stakeholders workshop.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Eric Alegria, South Bay Cities (City of Rancho Palos Verdes)
Jonathon Bishop, State Water Resources Control 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
Bob Godfrey, At-Large Representative (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Gloria Gray, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Hannah Levien, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Timothy Lippman, LA County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)
Kevin McKeown, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Santa Monica)
Dan Murphy, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Cung Nguyen, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Katherine Pease, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Mikke Pierson, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Kim Sidoriak, Coastal Tourism Industry (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism)
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Clark Stevens, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains)
Wing Tam, Public Works Department, City of LA (LA Sanitation & Environment)

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Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
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

Christina Ku
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Ekow Edzie, Consensus Building Institute
Heather Burdick, The Bay Foundation
Jane Velez-Mitchell
Jeanette Vosburg
Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation
Kathy Knight
Marcelo Villagomez, The Bay Foundation
Marcia Hanscom
Mary Beth Trautwein
Richard Brody, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Robert van de Hoek
Scott Culbertson, Friends of Ballona Wetlands
Susanne Cumming
Vince Bacalan, US EPA
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust