



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

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

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting Only

Charlie Caspary chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Executive Committee meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. 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

There was no public comment.

2) Executive Committee Business

a) Order of Agenda

Caspary amended the order of the agenda to move Item 2.d before Item 2.c without objection.

b) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Director

Claire Waggoner introduced Marissa Caringella as the Chief Administrative Director after Guangyu Wang's retirement, anticipated for September 17, 2021.

Guangyu Wang informed the Executive Committee that Commission staff received a letter supporting public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve from the Westside Cities Council of Governments on June 28, 2021. Wang reported on collaboration with The Bay Foundation to develop the draft amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and The Bay Foundation (MOA amendment) and the NEP website, and Commission staff's work activities including finalizing and releasing the Proposition 50 grant program Request for Proposals; conveying to the Board of Supervisors and the Safe, Clean Water Program's committees the Commission's recommendations for the Safe, Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Stormwater Investment Plans within the Santa Monica Bay watershed; updating the cover pages of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) documents with the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo; Proposition 84 grant

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management; addressing two Public Records Act (PRA) requests; and support of ongoing litigation. Wang also provided an update on the termination of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority, including audits for fiscal years 2020 and 2021; update on Assembly Bill 963 (Baldwin Hills Conservancy: urban watersheds conservancy expansion); and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's public hearing on the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit.

Member Comments

Member comments followed on the public hearing on MS4 permit. Caspary asked Commission staff to confirm if the board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority needs to review the fiscal year 2021 audit as its final act of business. At Caspary's request, Wang summarized the PRA requests received in the last three months. Caspary suggested for members to contact Commission staff if they are interested in receiving the materials responsive to those PRA requests.

Tom Ford reported on finalizing the Santa Monica Bay NEP semi-annual report in collaboration with Commission staff. Ford also highlighted Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation including abalone outplanting; eelgrass transplanting; boater education regarding sewage pumpouts; engagement of yacht clubs in audit of single-use service ware; supporting deployment of sensors in Topanga and Malibu Lagoons for monitoring of current and post-restoration conditions, respectively; Malibu Living Shoreline Project monitoring; events permitting; and community-based restoration at the LAX dunes, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Reserve) project sites.

Member Comments

Member comments followed on the plankton nets used for abalone outplanting.

c) Consideration of Approval of May 20, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved as published by roll-call vote. Moved: Martha Tremblay. Seconded: Shelley Luce.

d) Establish the Governing Board Agenda for the August 19, 2021 Governing Board Meeting

i) Consideration of Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and The Bay Foundation regarding the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Caitlin Gray introduced this item; provided background information on the MOA amendment, including the purpose of the MOA, the need for and development of the proposed draft MOA amendment, and major proposed changes to the MOA approved in 2018; and recommended for the Executive Committee to schedule this item for the August 19, 2021 Governing Board meeting.

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Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on the record sharing provision and opportunities for Governing Board and public input during the MOA amendment process.

Member Comments

Members thanked Commission staff and The Bay Foundation for their work in developing the proposed draft MOA amendment. Erica Yelensky thanked Commission staff and The Bay Foundation for reaching out to US EPA for feedback and commented that the proposed draft MOA amendment is aligned with US EPA's recommendations in the 2019 Program Evaluation to clarify roles and responsibilities of the Santa Monica Bay NEP entities.

ii) Highlights from The Bay Foundation regarding Community-based Restoration at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and recommended for the Executive Committee to schedule this item for the August 19, 2021 Governing Board meeting. Tom Ford reported that The Bay Foundation staff would highlight restoration activities and monitoring results from the project's upcoming annual report to inform stakeholders, including members of the public, of the condition of portions of the Reserve.

Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on objective science and discussion.

Member Comments

Member comments followed on the content of and time needed for the presentation.

At Caspary's request, members discussed additional information items to schedule for the August 19, 2021 Governing Board meeting. Members suggested that an update on the June 11, 2021 sewage discharge from the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant would be a timely information item and could include a summary of the cause of the event and the response, including the process to notify the public, to be presented by City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health staff.

Wang recommended that scheduling this item would be contingent on the availability of the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health representatives to present. Caspary requested members to share contact information of representatives from these agencies with Commission staff.

The agenda for the August 19, 2021 Governing Board meeting was approved by roll-call vote with the following agenda items: Consideration of approval of the MOA amendment, highlights from The Bay Foundation regarding community-based restoration at the Reserve, and an update on the June 11, 2021 sewage discharge from the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant. Moved: Shelley Luce. Seconded: Kelly Clark.

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e) Closed Session

There was no closed session.

3) Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Martha Tremblay commented on an upcoming virtual tour of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts ocean monitoring boat.

Tom Ford commented on support from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts staff on ocean acidification and hypoxia.

Shelley Luce commented on release of Heal the Bay's annual Beach Report Card and River Report Card and next steps to improve methodology of the River Report Card. Member comments followed on Assembly Bill 1066 (Priority inland water-contact recreation sites: water quality monitoring) and the scope of the River Report Card.

Erica Yelensky commented on Culver City's passage of a food ware ordinance, Upstream's publication on reusable food ware, and US EPA's grant opportunities for the Wetland Program Development Grants and nonpoint source grant programs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.

Attendance:

Voting Members and Alternates of the Executive Committee:

EJ Caldwell, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Shelley Luce, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Claire Waggoner, State Water Resources Control Board

Non-Voting Members and Alternates of the Executive Committee:

Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay NEP Director
Erica Yelensky, US EPA Region 9

Commission and State Water Board Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

Tracy Egoscue
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust