



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

- DRAFT -

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

Date: Thursday, June 17, 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 9:33 a.m. Commission staff provided an overview of the meeting protocols. Introductions followed. Wing Tam notified Commission staff of Enrique Zaldivar's retirement.

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

Jeanette Vosburg commented on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Reserve).

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 introduced Alex Fisch (Mayor of Culver City) as the Governing Board member representing Ballona Creek Watershed Cities. Caspary reported on the May 20, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, which included reports on Commission staff activities, The Bay Foundation activities, development of the June 17, 2021 Governing Board meeting agenda, direction to Commission staff to consider adding optional "whereas" clauses to the proposed draft resolution regarding public access at the Reserve, and closed session.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

John Dorsey reported that there are no updates from the Technical Advisory Committee.

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

Guangyu Wang reported on collaboration with The Bay Foundation staff on the development of Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) logo and to develop and finalize the Santa Monica Bay NEP Semi-annual Report. Wang also reported on Commission staff's work activities including completing the annual Comprehensive Monitoring Program implementation report and presenting on the report at the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Los Angeles Water Board) board meeting; development of the draft Proposition 50 Request for Proposals (RFP), draft resolution regarding recommendations for the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program), draft resolution regarding public access at the Reserve, and draft resolution regarding the logo of the NEP; Proposition 84 grant management; and support of ongoing litigation. Wang informed members that public meetings of the Commission will likely continue to occur solely via remote presence until at least September 2021.

Wang recognized changes to the Governing Board's membership, including the departure of Liz Crosson as representative for the City of Los Angeles, Kevin McKeown as representative for Ballona Creek Watershed Cities, and Enrique Zaldivar as representative for City of Los Angeles Public Works Department. Wang also announced his retirement in the next few months.

Tom Ford reported on Santa Monica Bay NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, including transplanting eelgrass, outplanting abalone, kelp restoration, publication regarding analysis of kelp restoration efforts off the Palos Verdes Shelf, participation in California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) bull kelp working group, supporting monitoring and synthesis of ocean acidification data, community-based restoration at the Reserve, LAX dune restoration, supporting monitoring for coastal lagoons, and continued planning and implementation of the Los Angeles and Malibu Living Shorelines projects, Manhattan Beach Dune Restoration project, and Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot project.

Member Comments

Member Tim Pershing thanked The Bay Foundation for its work.

Public Comment

Cindy Hardin commented on western harvester ants and horned lizards at LAX Dunes.

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3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of April 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Wing Tam. Seconded: Kelly Clark. Abstained: Alex Fisch and Danielle LeFer.

b) Consideration of Approval of Proposition 50 Grant Program Award Process and Request for Proposals

Caitlin Gray introduced this item, provided background information on the Commission's Proposition 50 grant program, outlined revisions to the first draft Proposition 50 RFP that was distributed to the Executive Committee, and recommended that the Governing Board approve staff's proposed final draft Proposition 50 RFP (draft RFP).

Member Comments

Member comments followed on capital infrastructure projects and suggested revisions to the final draft RFP to clarify that only California-based entities are eligible to apply, to add federally recognized and California-recognized tribes as entities eligible to apply, and to add the final disbursement date.

Guangyu Wang informed the Governing Board that monitoring projects are the priority for this grant program, but any capital infrastructure components would be subject to additional requirements such as 20-year lifespan and match requirements. Wang also recommended that any suggested revisions to the final draft RFP would be subject to consultation with Division of Financial Assistance of the State Water Board (DFA).

Members discussed possible procedures for the Governing Board to revise the final draft RFP to incorporate the proposed revisions. Eric Gillman suggested that Commission staff could bring the final draft RFP with the proposed revisions incorporated, as appropriate, back to the Governing Board at its next meeting for consideration of approval. The Governing Board could also approve the final draft RFP at this meeting with the suggested revisions incorporated pending consultation with DFA staff.

Public Comment

Gabrielle Crow commented on federally recognized and California-recognized tribes.

Member Votes

By roll-call vote, the Governing Board approved the final draft RFP and directed Commission staff to revise the final draft RFP to include federally recognized and California-recognized tribes as entities that are eligible to apply for this grant program, as appropriate based on consultation with DFA staff. Moved: Megan Cooper. Seconded: James Stahl.

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The final draft RFP was revised to include the final disbursement date by roll-call vote. Moved: Tom Ford. Seconded: Claire Waggoner.

c) Consideration of Adoption of the Resolution regarding Recommendations for Safe, Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Stormwater Investment Plans within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Guangyu Wang invited Kirk Allen, SCW Program staff, to present on the SCW Program Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY21-22) Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) within the Santa Monica Bay watershed. Allen provided an overview of the SCW Program and the projects proposed for inclusion in the FY21-22 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay watershed. Wang recommended the Governing Board adopt staff's proposed draft resolution regarding recommendations for the SCW Program FY21-22 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

Member Comments

Member comments followed on the Regional Pathogen Reduction project proposed under the Scientific Studies Program.

Public Comment

Patricia McPherson commented on the Reserve and groundwater sustainability.

Member Votes

The resolution regarding recommendations for the SCW Program FY21-22 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay watershed was approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Timothy Lippman. Seconded: Mikke Pierson. Abstain: Shelley Luce.

d) Consideration of Adoption of the Resolution regarding Public Access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Caitlin Gray introduced this item, outlined the Executive Committee's discussion of the first draft of the resolution including the addition of optional "whereas" clauses for the Governing Board's consideration, and recommended that the Governing Board adopt staff's proposed final draft resolution expressing non-binding recommendations to CDFW regarding public access at the Reserve.

Public Comments

Walter Lamb commented on public access at the Reserve, including assessing safety concerns and increasing access while the restoration project is implemented.

Gabrielle Crow commented on access to natural areas for youth and increasing public access at the Reserve while the restoration project is implemented.

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Kathy Knight commented on public access at the Reserve and the resolution regarding public access at the Reserve.

Leslie Purcell commented on public access at the Reserve and the resolution regarding public access at the Reserve.

Cindy Hardin commented on public access at the Reserve and educational opportunities.

Rex Frankel commented on CDFW's restoration project and public access at the Reserve.

Jeanette Vosburg commented on the public access and Little League events at the Reserve.

Margot Griswald commented on public access at the Reserve and the resolution regarding public access at the Reserve.

Patricia McPherson commented on increasing public access at the Reserve while the restoration project is implemented, the resolution regarding public access at the Reserve, and drains at the Reserve.

Joe Young commented in support of Cindy Hardin and commented on public access at the Reserve and educational opportunities.

Member Comments

Shelley Luce commented on concerns about encouraging public access that may endanger the public and expose the State to legal liability and her decision to vote against staff's proposed final draft resolution.

Randy Rodriguez commented on existing opportunities for public access and public safety concerns and suggested he could provide an update on public access at the Reserve at a future Governing Board meeting.

Kelly Clark commented on staff's proposed final draft resolution and its encouragement of increasing public access at the Reserve where possible as determined by CDFW. Rodriguez responded that he has no concern with staff's proposed final draft resolution or the issues raised in the proposed optional "whereas" clauses.

Member Votes

At Caspary's request, Eric Gillman recommended that the Governing Board consider any revisions to the staff's proposed final draft resolution before considering approval of the resolution.

The resolution regarding public access at the Reserve was approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Claire Waggoner. Seconded: Kelly Clark. Opposed: Shelley Luce.

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e) Consideration of Adoption of the Resolution regarding the Logo of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Caitlin Gray introduced this item and outlined the Executive Committee's discussion of the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo and its recommendation for the Governing Board to consider adoption of a resolution regarding endorsement of the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo.

Public Comment

Gabrielle Crow commented on the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo, the designer of the logo, and public input opportunities and requested a land acknowledgment from the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

Member Comments

Member comments followed on the symbolism and the development of the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo.

Member Votes

The resolution regarding the new Santa Monica Bay NEP logo was approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Wing Tam. Seconded: James Stahl.

4) Additional Informational Items

a) Virtual Engagement Highlights from The Bay Foundation

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and invited Georgia Tunioli to present on The Bay Foundation's Community Engagement Program. Tunioli provided an update on virtual engagement efforts for the boater education, the Table-to-Farm composting and community garden, and the ReThink disposable programs.

Member Comments

Members commented on the United Nation's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, thanked Tunioli for her presentation, and encouraged other members to use the presentation as a resource.

5) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

b) Member Comment

There were no member comments.

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c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for August 19, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.)

Caspary announced the next Governing Board meeting for August 19, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates of the Governing Board

Charlie Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kelly Clark, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy
Alex Fisch, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Culver City)
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
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
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)
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
Tim Pershing, State Assembly 50th District
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

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Public Attendees

Cindy Hardin

Gabrielle Crowe

Georgia Tunioli, The Bay Foundation

James Garrett

Jeanette Vosburg

Joe Young

Karina Johnston, The Bay Foundation

Kathy Knight

Kirk Allen, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Leslie Purcell

Marcelo Villagomez, The Bay Foundation

Margot Griswald

Patricia McPherson

Rex Frankel

Richard Burg

Richard Brody

Susan Robinson

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust