

State of California
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Minutes of the March 18, 2022 Board Meeting
Video and Teleconference Meeting
No Physical Meeting Location
(Authorized by and in furtherance of
Executive Order N-1-22)

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Item 1. Introductions

Board Members Present at Virtual Board Meeting

Kris A. Murray, Chair
Joe Kerr, Vice Chair
William Ruh
Gloria Alvarado
John Scandura

Board Members Absent at Virtual Board Meeting

Letitia Clark

Staff Present at Virtual Board Meeting

Jayne Joy, Executive Officer
Ann Sturdivant, Assistant Executive Officer
Katharine Buddingh, Attorney III
Dorene D'Adamo, State Board Liaison
Lauma Willis, Environmental Program Manager- Planning
Jessica Baenre, Board Clerk
Kevin Heinemann, Information Technology Manager
Daniel Mefford, Information Technology Specialist I
Don Nguyen, Information Technology Associate
Julio Lara, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer
Ryan Harris, Water Resources Control Engineer
Hero Alexander, Water Resources Control Engineer
Cindy Li, Senior Engineering Geologist
Bill Rice, Environmental Geologist
Michelle Beckwith, Senior Environmental Scientist
Steven Stephansen, Environmental Scientist
Fernanda Arechiga, Scientific Aid

Also Present at Virtual Board Meeting

Mark Norton, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Keith Linker, City of Anaheim
Marc Rodabaugh, San Bernardino County
Jason Dadakis, Orange County Water District

Virtual Public Attendance by Virtual Speaker Cards Received

None.

Item 2. Public Forum

None.

Item 3. State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Liaison Report

This item was presented by Dorene D'Adamo.

Ms. D'Adamo provided a drought update. The State Water Board received information from staff, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Water Resources on the hydrologic conditions and stated that we are on track to have the driest three-year period on historical record due to lack of precipitation, higher temperatures (than average), and extremely dry soils.

Ms. D'Adamo mentioned that March is Water Data month. The State Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis are providing information, documents, management options and tools to help inform the public about the drought. Ms. D'Adamo discussed the following four tools and will provide information to the Executive Officer for distribution.

- 1) The Water Use Objective Exploration Tool
 - shows how upcoming efficiency standards might affect urban water use
- 2) Mapping Tool
 - shows active and completed projects
- 3) California Water Watch
 - shows the current statewide hydro climate and water supply conditions
- 4) DWR My Dry Well
 - allows Californians to report problems with their private household water supply

The State Water Board held a workshop on the sanitary sewer systems waste discharge requirements. This general order requires public agencies to report sewer spills, develop a sewer system management plan and conduct internal sewer program audits. The public comment period will end on April 8, 2022.

Ms. D'Adamo provided an update on the wastewater arranges payment program. Excess funding is still available, and the Board will continue to be updated.

The 2022 Strategic Plan has been completed and was posted online. A top priority for the State Water Board is to adopt a maximum contaminant level for hexavalent chromium this year. Additional items included in the strategic plan are drought activities, temperature management, water use efficiency, and developing the direct potable reuse regulations by the December 2023 statutory deadline.

Lastly, Ms. D'Adamo discussed sewer shed surveillance for COVID-19. The State Water Board staff is willing to help put together an information item that could be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Board Members had questions and comments for Ms. D'Adamo.

Item 4. Regional Board Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2021

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Ruh, seconded by Vice Chair Kerr and the Minutes of the December 10, 2021 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Board Member John Scandura- Aye, Board Member Gloria Alvarado- Aye, Board Member William Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Joe Kerr- Aye, Chair Kris Murray- Aye.

Item 5. Regional Board Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2022

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Ruh, seconded by Vice Chair Kerr and the Minutes of the February 4, 2022 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Board Member John Scandura- Aye, Board Member Gloria Alvarado- Aye, Board Member William Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Joe Kerr- Aye, Chair Kris Murray- Aye.

Item 6. Consideration of the Consent Calendar items are listed with an asterisk

It was noted by Chair Murray that item 7 had an errata sheet. Board Member Scandura requested to pull item 7 for discussion.

Chair Murray asked the Board Members for a motion on item 8 and asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

Item *8. Revised Waste Discharge Requirements and the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill, Order Number R8-2022-0006

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Ruh, seconded by Board Member Scandura, and unanimously carried to adopt Order R8-2022-0006, as presented by roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Board Member John Scandura- Aye, Board Member Gloria Alvarado- Aye, Board Member William Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Joe Kerr- Aye, Chair Kris Murray- Aye.

Chair Murray opened the discussion for item 7.

Board Member Scandura agreed with the terms and conditions of the permit but mentioned that the last permit the water district had expired on December 31, 2019 and over 26 months had lapsed. Board Member Scandura asked several questions to Board staff.

Ms. Joy explained that this permit provides a discharge location under extreme conditions. Orange County Water District had a similar permit for 13 years and has never been required to exercise the use of the permit.

Board staff, Julio Lara, stated that the discharger must file for renewal of the permit 180 days before expiration. If the applicant fails to submit the renewal before the expiration date, by law, the permit cannot be administered or extended. Mr. Lara explained that in this case, the expiration date was December 31, 2019 and Water Board staff received the application on December 23, 2019. Mr. Lara mentioned that it is difficult to quickly produce permits due to staffing levels and backlog.

Board Member Scandura stated the importance of timely filing and made a motion to move item 7 with errata sheet, Board Member Ruh seconded the motion.

Chair Murray asked Board Clerk Ms. Baenre for a roll call vote.

Item *7. Renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA8000408 for Orange County Water District's Advanced Water Purification Facility, Order No. R8-2022-0002

Motion: It was moved by Board Member Scandura, seconded by Board Member Ruh, and unanimously carried to adopt Order R8-2022-0002 with errata sheet, as presented by roll call vote.

Roll call vote: Board Member John Scandura- Aye, Board Member Gloria Alvarado- Aye, Board Member William Ruh- Aye, Vice Chair Kerr- Aye, Chair Kris Murray- Aye.

Item 9. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Credit Program, City of Anaheim, Orange County

Board Member John Scandura and Board Member William Ruh recused themselves from the presentation.

This item was presented by Keith Linker with the City of Anaheim.

The City of Anaheim is constructing its own regional stormwater retention system. The first system is at Anaheim's Modjeska Park; it collects the vast majority of runoff from a 224-acre urban watershed. It treats the incoming flows and infiltrates 150 acres per year into the drinking water aquifer. This system is more effective and efficient than placing storm water systems on each of the 765 contributing upstream properties and is 5 times less expensive.

Mr. Linker discussed how the Stormwater Credit Program is a way to generate funding to construct additional stormwater retention systems. Mr. Linker explained the process, key program components and benefits.

Board Members had questions and comments for Mr. Linker.

Item 10. Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority’s Weather Modification Study and Proposed Pilot Project

This item was presented by Mark Norton with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). Mr. Norton discussed the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program reviewing the cloud seeding process, background, and recent advances.

United States cloud seeding started in the 1940s and is a technology where silver iodide mixed with acetone is vaporized, releasing particles into the atmosphere. The iodide particles rise into cold, high-altitude air and moisture in the air condenses to form ice crystals on the particles. As the ice crystals grow, they become heavy and fall back to Earth in the form of snow, or at warm temperatures, melt into rain.

There are ongoing cloud seeding programs in California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada; currently, there are 15 cloud seeding projects in California. The State of California considers cloud seeding a safe and effective means of augmenting local water supplies and is in the California Water Plan.

Mr. Norton explained that there are two types of cloud seeding, ground-based and ariel. The Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program focuses on ground-based seeding methods such as the Cloud Nuclei Generator and Automated High Output Ground Seeding System.

SAWPA is considering the cloud seeding pilot for the watershed because precipitation and flows in the Santa Ana River are trending down, dry years and droughts, it is cost effective, and it supports local water storage. A feasibility study was conducted in 2020 and found that the proposed cloud seeding program would be both technically and economically feasible. A validation study is currently underway to determine the benefits of cloud seeding within the Santa Ana River watershed; the 4-year pilot program will include a target and control analysis to evaluate the increases to the watershed.

Board Members had questions and comments for Mr. Norton.

Item 11. Department of Defense Program

This item was postponed.

Item 12. Executive Officer’s Report

Report submitted.

Item 13. Regional Board Member and Executive Officer Communications

Chair Murray shared the news that former Board member Dr. Tom Rivera passed away. Board Members Ruh, Alvarado, Scandura, Vice Chair Kerr and Executive Office Joy shared memories and offered condolences to the Rivera family.

Chair Murray thanked Lauren Chase and Orange County Coast Keeper; she joined them for a beach cleanup at Huntington State Beach and helped collect 239 pounds of trash.

Closed Session

None.

Adjournment

In the honor and memory of Dr. Tom Rivera, Chair Murray adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JAYNE JOY, P.E.
Executive Officer

/jb