



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**March 18, 2026  
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Hybrid  
Virtual Meeting/In-person**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Zohir Chowdhury Jesse Conner Cliff Hanna Scott Snyder Toby Roy Mike Vizzier Laurie Walsh LaRosa Watson Jared Wilson	Quinnton Austin	Daniel Anderson, DEHQ Ana Becker, DEHQ Heather Buonomo, DEHQ Joseph Chan, DEHQ JoAnn Cruz, DEHQ Jessica Geiszler, DEHQ Saran Grewal, DEHQ Nikos Gurfield, DEHQ Amy Harbert, DEHQ Vivian He, DEHQ Ryan Johnson, DEHQ Joann Lee, DEHQ Greg Lusitana, DEHQ Zoraida Moreno, DEHQ Deb Mosley, DEHQ Rita Raphael, DEHQ Joey Wyatt, DEHQ	Cesar Javier Purita Javier

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m., with ten active EHQAB members present.

**II. STATEMENT (JUST CAUSE) AND/OR CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY (EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES) BY A BOARD MEMBER (POSSIBLE ACTION, IF APPLICABLE)**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cesar Javier and Purita Javier attended having interest in environmental health.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES – ACTION ITEM**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE January 21, 2026, MINUTES – Board member Watson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Board member, Hanna.

ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0

**V. PROGRAM INNOVATIONS - INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

Joann Lee, Chief Operations, Food Water Housing Division (FWHD)  
Zoraida Moreno, Chief of Operations, Hazardous Materials Division (HMD)  
Nikos Gurfield, County Veterinarian, Community Health Division (CHD)

Staff presented an overview of program innovations across divisions, highlighting efforts that support smarter planning, improved resource management, cost reductions, enhanced customer engagement,

and overall operational success. The presentation included program innovations in the Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program, Hazardous Materials Program and Vector Control Program.

Board members asked questions and provided feedback on several topics. They requested clarification on report and graph details, whether top violations could be summarized, if the dashboards were for internal use or publicly available, and how violations are identified and enforced. Questions were asked about violation frequencies and compliance trends by business type.

Members also discussed vector control innovations and asked question regarding operating the program in cemetery settings, efficacy of products used, environmental impacts considered with product use, potential resistance, whether alternative treatment approaches have been explored and role of trapping and surveillance.

## **VI. UPDATES FROM THE DEHQ EXECUTIVE OFFICE – INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

Amy Harbert, Director of Environmental Health and Quality

- **Legislative Highlights/Program Updates (DEHQ Chiefs or Program Coordinators)**

The bills below were discussed.

- DEHQ, Heather Buonomo
  - SB 58 Air Quality: Standard: Hydrogen Sulfide
- Food Water and Housing Division Programs, Ryan Johnson
  - SB 918: Food Facilities: Retail Food Safety
- Food Water and Housing Division Programs and updates, Joann Lee
  - AB 1153: Illegal Disposal Site Abatement
- **Upcoming Board Letters**
  - TJRV – Local Emergency Review. State law requires that the Board of Supervisors consider a continuation of a state of emergency every 60 days.
  - Annual Cost Recovery
  - Vector Benefit Assessment

- **EHQAB Vacancies**

Environmental Health and Quality Advisory Board (EHQAB) consists of 17 professional, industry, and community members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, with currently 10 active appointed members. DEHQ continues to work on filling current vacancies through outreach efforts, communication with stakeholders and Board of Supervisor staff. Our staff has valuable industry contacts and connections that we are actively utilizing to recruit potential EHQAB Board members. However, the applicant pool for these specialized positions remains limited.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and individual Board of Supervisors offices are also advertising Boards, Commissions and Committee vacancies through social media and newsletters to help find qualified applicants to fill the vacancies. DEHQ appreciates the help if existing EHQAB appointed members in identifying any qualified individuals who may be a good fit for these roles. Please see Attachment A for list of EHQAB membership.

### **Current EHQAB Vacancies**

#### **Board of Supervisors' District Appointed Members:**

- District 1, Seat 10, Community Environmental Organization
- District 2, Seat 2, Restaurant Industry (representative currently working in the restaurant industry)
- District 3, Seat 6, Public Member
- District 5, Seat 5, Land Use/Housing Industry (representative of the land use planning and housing development industry)

DEHQ Appointed Members:

- Seat 12, Toxicologist (scientist who investigates the adverse effects of chemical substances on human health, animals, and the environment.)
- Seat 14, Land Use/Housing Industry (representative of the land use planning and housing development industry.)
- Seat 15, Vectorborne Disease Expert (specialist who focuses on understanding and managing diseases transmitted by vectors, such as mosquitos and ticks.)

**VII. SENATE BILL 707 (SB 707) REQUEST FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FINDINGS TO AUTHORIZE TELECONFERENCING – ACTION ITEM**

At the January meeting, the Board discussed the option of allowing meetings to be conducted virtually. To proceed with teleconferencing under SB 707, a formal approval process is required.

If the Board wishes to move forward, the following steps must be taken:

1. Submit a memorandum to the Clerk of the Board (COB).
2. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) will review the request and make the required findings to consider approval.
3. Upon BOS approval, the Environmental Health Quality Advisory Board (EHQAB) must take formal action to adopt teleconferencing.
4. Teleconferencing may begin at the meeting following EHQAB approval.

Please note that Board of Supervisors' approval must be renewed every six (6) months to continue holding teleconference meetings.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve submission of a request to the Board of Supervisors to authorize teleconferencing in accordance with SB 707.

**MOTION TO APPROVE SENDING A TELECONFERENCING REQUEST LETTER TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Board member Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Board member, Hanna.**

**ALL IN FAVOR – 4-4-0 (Tie vote)**

Motion failed due to tie vote.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 10:15 A.M.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN – Board member Hanna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Board member Watson.**

**ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0**

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

5530 Overland Avenue  
2nd Floor, Conference Rooms 241 & 242  
San Diego, CA 92123