COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

September 16, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hybrid
Virtual Meeting/In-person

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Others Present
Quinnton Austin Zohir Chowdhury Jesse Conner Cliff Hanna Barry Pulver Laura Wilkinson Sinton Scott Snyder Toby Roy Mike Vizzier Laurie Walsh LaRosa Watson	Jared Wilson	Daniel Anderson, DEHQ Ana Becker, DEHQ Heather Buonomo, DEHQ Joseph Chan, DEHQ JoAnn Cruz, DEHQ Saran Grewal, DEHQ John-Ross Glueck, DEHQ Amy Harbert, DEHQ Ryan Johnson, DEHQ Joann Lee, DEHQ Greg Lusitana, DEHQ Zoraida Moreno, DEHQ Deborah Mosley, DEHQ Rita Raphael, DEHQ Dolores Scruggs, DEHQ Larry Valenzuela, DEHQ Joey Wyatt, DEHQ	Crystal Benham, Parks and Recreation Sarah Dawe, Economic Development and Government Affairs Yonas Gizachew, Public Health Services Riley Nolan, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board David Soderman, Air Pollution Control District Kathy Stewart, Public Works Sayone Thihalolipavan, Public Health Services Mike Watt, Air Pollution Control District

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m., with nine 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)

MOTION TO APPROVE "JUST CAUSE" FOR BOARD MEMBER LAURA WILKINSON SINTON – Board Member Roy, 2nd Board Member, Hanna.
ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EHQAB MEMBER – INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Laura Wilkinson Sinton, Public Member, Seat 6

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES – ACTION ITEM

MOTION TO APPROVE THE August 19, 2026. Board member Watson, 2nd Board member, Hanna.
ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-1

VI. TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY MULTI-AGENCY PANEL – INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Amy Harbert, Director of Environmental Health and Quality, provided an overview of the ongoing Tijuana River sewage crisis, highlighting its impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy. She noted decades of impacts from inadequate infrastructure and untreated flows from Mexico, as well as ongoing issues with the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. Multiple local, state, and federal agencies and community partners are working to address the crisis, identify solutions, secure funding, and advocate for resources. The County has declared a local emergency 25 times since July 27, 2023, and established an Incident Command System to coordinate the County's response. Amy introduced a panel of representatives from various agencies and County departments who would provide updates on their respective roles and efforts.

- Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H, Public Health Officer, Public Health Services, County of San Diego
- Riley Nolan, Water Resource Control Engineer, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Mike Watt, Chief Emission Reduction Strategies and David Soderman, Chief, Departmental Operations, Air Pollution Control District
- Kathy Stewart, Assistant Director, Department of Public Works, County of San Diego
- Crystal Behnam, Chief, Department Parks and Recreation, Count of San Diego
- Sarah Dawe, Deputy Director, Economic Development and Government Affairs, County of San Diego

Board members asked questions about the frequency and geographic coverage of health surveillance, timelines for health-study results, opportunities to include health data from Baja California, long-term funding and infrastructure sustainability, connecting health findings with air and water quality data, wastewater reuse and source control, the frequency of hydrogen sulfide exceedances and alerts, and clarification of the estimated regional economic losses associated with the sewage crisis.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 10:00 A.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – Board member Watson, 2nd Board member Hanna.
ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0
Next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

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