
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

No Physical Location

*Authorized by and in Furtherance of Executive Orders
N-29-20 and N-33-20*

December 10, 2020

Chair Muñoz called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Chair Muñoz explained the process for participation in the virtual meeting, noting that for those who only want to listen or watch the meeting, the Board's customary webcast was available and that the Board has Spanish translation services available through the Zoom platform for those who want to listen or participate in the meeting in Spanish. She provided instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting for those wishing to provide comments during the public forum or on an agenda item.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cynthia Guzmán, Irma Muñoz, James Stahl, Charles Stringer and Lawrence Yee

Note: Board Member Stringer departed at 3:38 p.m.

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Gerardo Rabelo, Khalid Abdullah, Tamarin Austin, Sophie Froelich, Adriana Nuñez, Milasol Gaslan, LB Nye, Cris Morris, Russ Colby, Yue Rong, Arthur Heath, Susana Vargas, Thomas Siebels, Megan Kung, Ivar Ridgeway, Rebecca Christmann, Angineh Shahnazarian, and Erum Razzak

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

The EO noted Item 5 (the EO report) will be heard after Item 10 (the MS4 Workshop).

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the November 12, 2020 Board meeting

MOTION: Board member Stringer made a motion to approve the November 12, 2020 draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board member Stahl
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
James Stahl – Yea
Charles Stringer – Yea
Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 4 – Board Member Communications

- a. Ex Parte Disclosure (Board Members will identify any discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40.)

Board Member Stringer reported on the following ex parte disclosures:

- August 3 – received a letter from Ray Tahir dated July 29, 2020. Mr. Tahir discussed his position on the pending MS4 permit that permittees are not required to strictly comply with TMDLs and are not subject to the State's compliance schedule policy.
- September 3 - received an email from Ray Tahir with substantive and procedural questions regarding the pending MS4 permit.

Board Member Stringer did not respond to the email and letter from Mr. Tahir. Both correspondences were sent to Board staff.

Vice Chair Yee reported on the following ex parte disclosures:

- November 13 – received an email from Ray Tahir, including an attached letter dated October 6 from Assemblymember Blanca Rubio related to the pending MS4 permit. Vice Chair Yee did not respond to the email from Mr. Tahir or the letter from Assemblymember Rubio. He forwarded the correspondences to the executive officer, Renee Purdy.
- b. Board Member Reports (The Board Members may discuss communications, correspondence, or other items of general interest relating to matters within the Board's jurisdiction.)

Board Member Stahl reported on attending the following events:

- November 18 – a virtual tour and inspection by Board staff of the Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant.
- November 19 – the Executive Committee meeting of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission as the Regional Water Board representative on the Commission’s Governing Board. Current Chair Charles Caspary nominated for the 2021 Board Chair.
- November 19 – a public meeting held by Board staff regarding soil and groundwater remediation at the United Technology Corporation (UTC) site in Canoga Park.
- December 8 - a meeting of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board as the Regional Water Board representative. The Board voted unanimously for Charles Caspary to continue serving as the Chair for 2021.

Board Member Guzmán reported on December 1 she attended one of four of the Statewide Racial Equity Initiative listening sessions.

Vice Chair Yee reported on November 19 he attended the MS4 Workshop and the UTC public meeting held by Board staff. Vice Chair Yee mentioned the Board’s January 14 Retreat will focus on racial equity.

Chair Muñoz reported on attending the following events:

- November 19 – the MS4 Workshop.
- November 19 - the community meeting held by Board staff regarding soil and groundwater remediation at the UTC facility in Canoga Park.
- December 1 – the Lomita City Council meeting regarding the onsite and offsite investigation of contamination from the Skypark commercial properties.

Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks contacted Chair Muñoz, inviting her on a tour of the Growing Works Nursery. Because of the pandemic, the tour was delayed until next year.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board

State Board member Sean Maguire reported on the following items:

- The State Board’s adoption of the Statewide Toxicity Provisions.
- Contract approval for work related to development of the direct potable reuse regulations, funding provided to retain an expert panel to weigh in on the

development of the regulations.

- The State Board's adoption of the Order on the petitions regarding approvals of the nine watershed management programs and one enhanced watershed management programs per the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit.
- Update on the Water Board's budget challenges related to COVID-19.
- Update on Californians' access to safe drinking water during the pandemic.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Chuck Carter, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council
- Leticia Vasquez, Central Basin Water District
- Martha Camacho Rodriguez, Social ECO Education (SEE-LA)
- Charming Evelyn, Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter

Item 8.1 and 8.2 – Contested Item

The Chair administered the oath for Items 8.1 and 8.2 on waste discharge requirements that serve as individual NPDES permits for AES Redondo Beach LLC, Redondo Beach Generating Station, Redondo Beach, CA and the time schedule order for the Redondo Beach Generating Station.

Staff Presentation by Thomas Siebels, Engineer, Industrial Permitting Unit, Watershed Regulatory Section

Speakers:

- Mark Miller, AES
- Nicholas Ghirelli, Richards Watson & Gershon for the City of Redondo Beach
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Lauren Brotherton, Heal the Bay

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve Item 8.1.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Yee

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

MOTION: Board member Guzmán made a motion to approve Item 8.2.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Yee
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
James Stahl – Yea
Charles Stringer – Yea
Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 9 – Update on Safe Clean Water Program Stormwater Investment Plans and Approval by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Speaker:

- Matt Frary, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Item 11 – Closed Session

There was no closed session.

Lunch Break 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Item 10 – MS4 Workshop

Staff Presentation by Dr. LB Nye, Section Chief, Regional Programs

Speakers:

- Margaret Clark, Councilmember, City of Rosemead
- Adam Haverstock, Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
- John Hunter, Lower Los Angeles and Lower San Gabriel Watershed Groups
- Illece Buckley-Weber, Councilmember, City of Agoura Hills
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates
- Glen Kau, City of Norwalk
- Shahram Kharaghani, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment
- Paul Alva, Public Works County of Los Angeles
- Arne Anselm, Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program
- Ewelina Mutkowska, County of Ventura
- Kathleen McGowan, McGowan Consulting
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Caty Wagner, Sierra Club
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Rowan Roderick-Jones, The Nature Conservancy
- Arthur Pugsley, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

- Isabella Wash, Pacifica Christian High School, Representing Self
- Heather Merenda, City of Santa Clarita
- Charming Evelyn, Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter
- Lauren Ahkiam, LAANE

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The EO reported on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Region 4 participated as a partnership agency in the National Water Quality Initiative, a funding resource that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers to help farmers implement conservation practices.

In 2020, the NRCS service team located in Ventura County submitted applications for the National Water Quality Initiative Readiness Phase for the Calleguas Creek and Ventura River Watersheds. Water Board staff members and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, NRCS, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, and the Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group worked together in the application process. The applications were approved.

In November of 2020, the team received the *2020 Excellence in Conservation Planning Awards Partnership of the Year* and were honored at the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts conference.

Award Recipients: ***Snejana Toneva***, lead staff for Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
Jun Zhu, Chief of the TMDL and Nonpoint Source Unit

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m. (For more detailed information on any matter at our meetings, you may contact Helen Rowe at (213) 576-6612 or email at: Helen.Rowe@waterboards.ca.gov, and she may provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, if available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk, February 11, 2021

Signature of File

Helen Rowe