
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

Ventura County Government Center

800 S. Victoria Avenue #1920

Ventura, CA 93009

July 14, 2022

Acting Chair Stahl called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

Acting Chair Stahl 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. He provided instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting for those wishing to provide comments on an agenda item, and he announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Language Translation Instructions: One of the Spanish translators provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Norma Camacho, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai, and James Stahl

Board Member Absent: Marissa Christiansen

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Amber Bolanos, Khalid Abdullah, Aurel Agarin, Sophie Froelich, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Arthur Heath, Bronwyn Kelly, Adriana Vallejo, Anna Bellini, Thizar Williams, Steven Webb, Jeong-Hee Lim, Thomas Siebels, Celine Gallon, Wen Yang, Douglas Cross, Xiaofei Cui

Acting Chair Stahl introduced Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, who welcomed the Los Angeles Water Board.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, recommended moving Item 13 to the consent calendar and taking Item 7 off the consent calendar. The Executive Officer noted that there would not be a State Board liaison report.

There were no objections to the recommendations.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the May 12, 2022, Meeting

MOTION: Board Member Nahai made a motion to approve the May 12, 2022 draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Camacho
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Item 4 – Board Member Communications

- a. Ex Parte Disclosures (Board Members identified any discussions they had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40.)

Board Member Camacho:

On June 17, 2022, she received an email from Ray Tahir regarding the Dominguez Channel odor matter. The email subject was titled, “Dominguez Channel odor was not caused by the warehouse fire in Carson”; there was a letter attached. Due to the subject being an impending prosecutorial matter, Board Member Camacho did not read the attached letter or email and forwarded them to Executive Officer Purdy.

Board Member Méndez:

He received the same email and letter as Board Member Camacho. He did not read the contents and forwarded them to Executive Officer Purdy.

Board Member Nahai:

He received the same email and letter as Board Member Camacho and forwarded them to Executive Officer Purdy.

Board Member Muñoz:

No ex parte communications reported.

Acting Chair Stahl:

On June 17, 2022, he received the same email and letter as the other Board Members and forwarded them to Executive Officer Purdy.

He also received an email from Maureen McGuire regarding Item 14 with two letters from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, both of which he forwarded to Executive Officer Purdy.

Executive Officer Purdy confirmed that the email and letters were ex parte communications given that the Board's consideration of the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands is a pending matter. Because the WDRs are general WDRs, ex parte communications are not prohibited at this time but there are disclosure rules that must be followed for pending general WDRs.

Attorney Sophie Froelich further explained that beginning two weeks prior a scheduled adoption hearing for general WDRs, such as the Agricultural WDRs, ex parte communications are prohibited.

b. Board Member Reports

Board Member Nahai:

He will be speaking at the CCEEB (The California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance) conference. Board Member Nahai will be on a panel about the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

Board Member Muñoz: Nothing to report

Board Member Méndez: Nothing to report

Board Member Camacho reported on June 23, 2022, she attended a tour organized by the Ventura County Farm Bureau of two farms in the Oxnard Plain and a citrus ranch in Ojai. Ventura County Farm Bureau CEO Maureen McGuire and Los Angeles Water Board staff were in attendance.

Acting Chair Stahl reported on May 20, 2022, he participated in the Water Boards' Chairs' meeting virtually; he noted that Executive Officer Purdy attended in person.

On June 2, 2022, he attended a DTSC public meeting on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, at which DTSC presented its Settlement Agreement with The Boeing Company to the public.

He also attended monthly Chairs' meetings on June 6 and July 11, 2022. The July

11, 2022, meeting included a presentation on recent advances in the Water Boards' racial equity work.

He also attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board meeting. Notable presentations were made on the current funding round of the LA County Safe Clean Water Program and the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Pure Water indirect potable reuse project.

He also participated in the Measure W Regional Oversight Committee on June 16, 2022, as a non-voting member.

Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report

The EO provided updates on: 1) the Smith Service Station in Long Beach, a truck fuel refueling facility where groundwater contamination has migrated off-site, 2) the Garfield Express project in the City of Lynwood, where the Board has been overseeing the remediation of a site of a former gasoline service station and dry cleaner, and 3) the ongoing work to develop a statewide racial equity action plan per the resolution adopted by the State Water Board in Fall 2021.

Item 6 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Dan Medina, Gardena Valley Democratic Club
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Items 8-13 Uncontested items

Item 7 was removed from the Consent Calendar, leaving Items 8 through 13.

Board Member Nahai asked for details regarding the changes being made to Item 13.

The Board's Municipal Permitting Unit Supervisor, Steven Webb, explained the changes and requirements for the discharger.

MOTION: Board Member Nahai made a motion for approval of the consent calendar: Items 8 through 13.

Seconded by: Board Member Méndez

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Item 7 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company, LLC, Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery-Carson Operations, Carson, CA, NPDES Permit No. CA0000680

Acting Chair Stahl administered the oath.

Staff Presentation: Bronwyn Kelly, Industrial Permitting Unit Supervisor

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

MOTION: Board Member Muñoz moved for adoption of Item 7.

Seconded by: Board Member Camacho

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Break 10:24 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Sophie Froelich recommended reopening Items 7, 8, and 9 because the change sheets were not included in the Board's motions to adopt the items. The change sheets included new dates because of the postponement of the items from the scheduled June 9, 2022 Board meeting, which was cancelled, to this Board meeting.

Changes were read into the record.

MOTION: Board Member Nahai moved to reopen Item 7 and adopt the item with the change sheet.

Seconded by: Board Member Camacho

Motion Carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

MOTION: Board Member Muñoz moved to reopen Item 8 and adopt the change sheet.

Seconded by: Board Member Camacho
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

MOTION: Board Member Méndez moved to reopen Item 9 and adopt the change sheet.

Seconded by: Board Member Nahai
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Item 14 – Public Workshop on pending Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands within the Los Angeles Region

Staff Presentation:

Introduction: Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer

Main presentation:

- Anna Bellini, Project Manager
- Dr. LB Nye, Manager of the Regional Programs Section

Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG) Presentation:

- Jodi Switzer, Water Program Director, Farm Bureau of Ventura County
- Theresa (Tess) Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway
- Maureen McGuire, CEO, Farm Bureau of Ventura County

Additional Speakers:

- Rob Roy, Ventura County Agricultural Association
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Benjamin Pitterle, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- Chuck Carter, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council

Lunch break/Closed Session: 1:07 p.m. - 1:58 p.m.***Item 15 – Closed Session***

Legal counsel Sophie Froelich announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 15e and 15r.

(The Board met in closed session from 1:07 p.m. to 1:58 p.m.)

Additional Speakers on Item 14 (continued after lunch break):

- Larry Yee, Former Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Member, speaking as a member of the public
- Ben Faber, Soil Scientist
- Dennis Lebow, Reiter Berry Farms
- Anthony Emmert, United Water Conservation District
- Louise Lampara, Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business

The Board provided input to staff on the development of the Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands within the Los Angeles Region. Executive Officer Renee Purdy, Assistant Executive Officer Jenny Newman, Dr. LB Nye, and Anna Bellini responded to comments and questions. However, no action or voting took place at this workshop.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 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 Amber Bolanos, Acting Board Clerk on: 10/14/2022

Signature on File: Amber Bolanos