
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Board Room

Water Replenishment District

Lakewood, CA 90712

December 8, 2022

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

She 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 on an agenda item, and she announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Juan Carlos Juarez, one of the Spanish translators, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Chair Camacho thanked the Water Replenishment District Board members for allowing the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to use their facility for the Board meeting.

John D.S. Allen, President and Director of Division 3 of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California welcomed the Regional Water Board to the facility.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Norma Camacho, Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai (remote participation) and James Stahl

Note: Marissa Christiansen departed at 1:28 p.m. (after announcing that she was voluntarily recusing herself from Items 9 and 10) and returned to the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Irma Muñoz departed after closed session.

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman (remote participation), Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Adriana Nuñez, Sophie Froelich, Tamarin Austin, Jennifer Fordyce, Khalid Abdullah, Alfredo Duran, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Arthur Heath, Veronica Cuevas, Anna Bellini, Jillian Ly, Yue Rong, Jeong-Hee Lim, Steven Webb, Danielle Robinson, Don Tsai, and Brian Anderson

NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the November 10, 2022, meeting.

MOTION: Board Member Stahl made a motion to approve the November 10, 2022, draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Muñoz

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - 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.)

Vice Chair Nahai reported on two ex parte communications.

He had a meeting with Jodie Switzer and Maureen McGuire of the Farm Bureau, and with Benjamin Pitterle of Santa Barbara Channel Keeper. Their discussions pertained to their perspectives on the Irrigated Agricultural Lands waiver. Vice Chair Nahai thanked the groups for sharing their perspectives.

Chair Camacho reported on one ex parte communication.

On November 16, 2022, she also met with Maureen McGuire and Jodi Switzer, of the Farm Bureau, regarding the Irrigated Agricultural Lands waiver.

- b. Board Member Reports:

Board Member Christiansen reported that on December 7, 2022, she attended a presentation by the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering. The presentation was on the Paseo Del Rio project at Taylor Yard. The presentation included three different design concepts. Attendees of the presentation were the Friends of the Los Angeles River Board and staff.

Vice Chair Nahai reported that on November 17, 2022, he attended the City of Santa Monica's opening of the City's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project.

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer provided updates on the following items: (1) On November 17, 2022, the City of Santa Monica celebrated the opening of the City’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project. This event was attended by representatives of the State Water Resources Control Board and Vice Chair Nahai. (2) USEPA has finalized its San Gabriel Basin Workplan which includes a Grant Package providing \$600,000 to the Regional Board for staffing assistance to address the Superfund Site for two years. The Grant Package is scheduled for consideration by the State Board on January 18, 2023.

(3) Update on the former Kast Property Tank Farm (Carousel Tract or Carousel Community) in the City of Carson. Cleanup is expected to be completed by the Summer of 2023. (4) Update on the limits for PFAS in drinking water set by the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water.

Board Member Stahl requested that the public have online access to the complete agenda package including the comment letters.

Executive Officer, Renee Purdy, responded to comments made by the Board members Muñoz, Stahl and Vice Chair Nahai.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board [Board Member Laurel Firestone]

The State Water Board Liaison provided an update on the following items: (1) the upcoming Water Board’s Racial Equity Action Plan and ways the Water Boards are addressing public accessibility to the Water Board’s websites; (2) she thanked everyone who participated in the WQCC meeting in October 2022; (3) a report on the significant monthly water conservation savings in our region as requested by Governor Newsom; (4) the readoption of emergency regulations prohibiting wasteful use of water on December 7, 2022; (5) the adoption of water loss performance standards; (6) and the adoption of the sanitary sewer systems general order.

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members. Board Member Firestone addressed Board member questions and comments.

Break: 10:03 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Item 7 – Public Forum***Speakers:***

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Margaret Clark, Councilmember, City of Rosemead
- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
- Glen Kau, City of Norwalk

Executive Officer Renee Purdy and Legal Counsel Adriana Nuñez, responded to comments by Ray Tahir.

Chair Camacho asked staff to address Glen Kau’s comments and provide a report to the Board.

Executive Officer Renee Purdy responded to Board member comments and questions.

Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 8 and administered the oath.

Item 8 –Consideration of Extension of Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands within the Los Angeles Region

Staff Presentation: Anna Bellini, Environmental Scientist

Speakers:

- Jodi Switzer and Maureen McGuire, Farm Bureau of Ventura County
- Joy Downing Riley, Surfrider Foundation
- Ariana McCray, Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group
- Chuck Carter, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council
- Benjamin Pitterle, Santa Barbara Channel Keeper
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members periodically during the speakers' presentations.

Speakers and Board staff responded to comments and questions from Board members.

Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members deliberations.

Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez, made a statement clarifying the matters that Board members should consider for their vote.

LB Nye and Jenny Newman responded to Board members comments and questions.

MOTION: Board Member Christiansen made a motion to approve Item 8 with the following change: extend the duration of the Conditional Waiver for six months (changing Board staff's proposed expiration date of Dec. 31, 2023 to July 31, 2023).

MOTION AMENDMENT: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to amend Board Member Christiansen's motion to extend the Conditional Wavier through September 2023. Board Member Christiansen accepted this amendment.

Motion, as amended, was seconded by: Board Member Muñoz

Motion, as amended, carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

Lunch Break/Closed Session**Item 13 Closed Session (12:00 p.m. to 1:26 p.m.)**

Legal counsel, Sophie Froelich, announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 13(l) and 13(q)(iii)

(The Board met in closed session from 12:00 p.m. to 1:26 p.m.)

Board Member Christiansen made a statement and voluntarily recused herself from the proceedings on Items 9 and 10

Chair Camacho: Announced agendas items 9 & 10 and administered the oath.

Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for the Los Angeles – Glendale Water Reclamation Plant, Los Angeles***Item 10 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for the City of Los Angeles, Donald C. Tilman Water Reclamation Plant.***

Staff presentation: Steven Webb, Senior WRC Engineer

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members. There were no questions from Board members for the staff presentation.

Speakers:

- Abraham Razon, City of LA, LASAN
- Benjamin Harris and Justin Breck, LA Waterkeeper
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

Break/Closed Session #2**Item 13 Closed Session (2:37 p.m. to 2:58 p.m.)**

Legal counsel, Sophie Froelich, announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Item 13(h)

Items 9 and 10 (cont.)

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members.

Steven Webb, and Abraham Razon responded to Board members comments and questions.

MOTION: Board Member Stahl made a motion to approve Items 9 and 10.

Board Member Stahl added two recommendations: (1) A monthly report from the permittee on reported odor complaints with a map specifying the location of the odor and

what was the resolution of the complaint. (2) A report from the permittee on an alternative power source and reported power outages.

Legal Counsel Tamarin Austin made a statement clarifying Board Member Stahl's motion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion for a "friendly amendment" to the motion on the floor. He recommended: (1) The compliance schedule for temperature be reduced to 8 years. (2) The time for the completion of the climate change study be restored to the initial one-year timeframe already in the permit.

Chris Minton, Larry Walker Associates (consultant LASAN), Jenny Newman and Renee Purdy responded to Board members' comments and recommendations.

Legal Counsel Tamarin Austin made a statement clarifying Board Member Stahl's motion.

Board Recess 3:35 p.m. to 3:56 p.m.

Board recess for legal counsel and Board staff to craft language for the proposed amendments.

Jenny Newman and Sophie Froelich presented language to clarify the proposed amendment by Vice Chair Nahai, to shorten the compliance schedule in both permits by shortening several tasks in the schedule and making conforming changes to the fact sheet, the MRP, and response to comments, and to change the climate change plan submittal due date.

Tamarin Austin presented language to clarify the proposed amendment by Board Member Stahl regarding odor complaint reporting and alternative power sources.

Renee Purdy mentioned that the City of Los Angeles was willing to accept the proposed amendment with the acceptance of one task in the shortened compliance schedule. The City of Los Angeles requested submitting the pollution prevention plan on April 1, 2023, instead of March 1, 2023.

Legal Counsel Sophie Froelich explained the motion and vote proceedings on Item 9.

Vote #1 –Item 9

Seconded by: Board Member Méndez

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Legal Counsel Sophie Froelich explained the motion and vote proceedings on Item 10.

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Legal Counsel Sophie Froelich made a statement clarifying the conforming changes in the fact sheet, the MRP and response to comments in the motion adopted for Item 9. The Board had a second vote on Item 9 after the vote and approval of Item 10.

Vote #2 – Item 9

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Chair Camacho: Announced agendas Items 11 & 12.

Board Member Stahl made a statement regarding Items 11 & 12.

Chair Camacho administered the oath.

Items 11 – Consideration of Tentative Amendment of Time Schedule Order for Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District, Valencia Water Reclamation Plant.

Items 12 – Consideration of Tentative Amendment to Time Schedule Order for Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District, Saugus Water Reclamation Plant.

Staff presentation: Steven Webb, Senior WRC Engineer

Speakers:

- Robert Ferrante, General Manager, LACSD
- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members.

Robert Ferrante, Executive Officer Renee Purdy and Benjamin Harris responded to comments and questions made by Board members.

Legal Counsel Sophie Froelich made a statement clarifying Vice Chair Nahai's position on supporting extensions that may come before the Board in the future.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve Item 11.

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

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve Item 12.

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

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Chair Camacho requested that Regional Board examine TSOs at the upcoming Annual Board Retreat in January 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: February 27, 2023

Signature on File: Helen Rowe