



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Junipero Serra Building

Carmel Room

Los Angeles, CA 90013

February 23, 2023

Chair Camacho called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.

Item 1 – Roll Call

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

Board Member Absent: Marissa Christiansen

Staff Present: Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Adriana Nuñez, Sophie Froelich, Tamarin Austin, Jennifer Fordyce, Khalid Abdullah, Alfredo Duran, Gerardo Rabelo, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Arthur Heath, Jillian Ly, Erum Razzak, Ivar Ridgeway, Jeong-Hee Lim, Steven Webb, Susana Lagudis, Duong Trinh and Brian Anderson

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

Hugh Marley, Acting Executive Officer proposed two changes to the agenda. 1) Item 6, the update from the State Water Board Liaison, would be heard after Item 7; 2) Item 8 would be moved from the Uncontested Items calendar to Contested Items because two speakers registered.

NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There were no objections to the changes.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the December 8, 2022, meeting.

MOTION: Board Member Stahl made a motion to approve the December 8, 2022, draft meeting minutes.

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

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

Item 4 – Selection of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2023

Chair of the nomination committee, Board Member Méndez, presented the officers nominated for the 2023 calendar year, which were the same as the current officers for Chair (Norma Camacho) and Vice Chair (David Nahai).

Board Member Méndez opened the floor for discussion. Chair Camacho asked if there were any changes or additional nominations for Chair.

There were no changes or additional nominations.

Vote for Chair

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

Chair Camacho asked for any changes or additional nominations for Vice Chair.

There were no changes or additional nominations.

Vote for Vice Chair

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

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

Item 5 – Board Member Communications

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

Chair Camacho reported on one ex parte communication.

On February 19, 2023, the Board members received an email from Mr. Dan Medina, of the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. The email related to the pending NPDES permit for the Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company. Chair Camacho received the email. She opened the email but did not respond to the email. She forwarded the email to Regional Water Board staff.

Vice Chair Nahai reported on two ex parte communications.

He did not recall receiving the email from the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. But if he did, he would have forwarded the email to the Executive Officer and legal counsel.

He received an email from Ray Tahir at his business email address. Board Member Nahai forwarded the email to the executive officer and legal counsel.

Board Member Ashjian reported on one ex parte communication.

She received the email from the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. She did not open or read the email.

Board Member Stahl reported on one ex parte communication.

He received the same email from the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. He opened the email, read it and forwarded the email to Regional Water Board staff.

Board Member Muñoz reported on one ex parte communication.

She received the same email from the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. She did not read the email. She deleted the email.

Board Member Méndez reported on one ex parte communication.

He received the email from the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. He reviewed the email. He believed that staff was cc'd on the email and did not forward it to

staff.

Legal Counsel, Sophie Froelich, mentioned she received the email and a copy of the letter from the Gardena Valley Democratic Club. She read the letter. The Tesoro permit is not a pending matter and communications regarding that facility are not ex parte. Legal counsel, Tamarin Austin, pointed out that the letter referenced the Carson Odor incidents for the Dominquez Channel, which are pending ACLC numbers R4-2022-02170-A1, 0218-A1, and 0219-A1. The letter received from the Gardena Valley Democratic will be part of the record for the Tesoro and ACLC matters.

b. Board Member Reports:

There were no Board member reports.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition
- Mark Pestrella and Matthew Frary, Los Angeles County Public Works
- Benjamin Harris, LA Waterkeeper
- Heather Merenda, DAC Implementation Task Force (USCR IRWM, Greater Los Angeles County)
- Lynn Rodriguez, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County
- Margot Griswold, Ph.D., Los Angeles Audubon Society
- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
- Jeanette Vosburg, Public Outreach Director, Grassroots Coalition
- Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project

Legal Counsel, Tamarin Austin, responded to Mr. Tahir's statement regarding ADA compliance accessibility.

Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez, addressed stormwater infiltration/water rights statements made by Ray Tahir.

Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board member questions.

Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, and Jenny Newman, AEO, responded to comments and questions from Board Member Stahl.

LB Nye responded to comments made by Margot Griswold.

Break: 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board [Board Member Nichole Morgan]

The State Water Board Liaison provided an update on the following items: (1) the December 2022 and January 2023 storms water allowed California to increase water storage above ground. (2) On January 10, 2023, Governor Newsom released the administrative proposed budget. The budget may be modified. The final budget must be adopted by the legislature by July 2023. (3) On January 18, 2023, State Water Board staff presented the 2023 State Board Strategic Board Plan and the 2023-2025 Racial Equity Action Plan. (4) On February 3, 2023 a public webinar was held for stakeholders to review and discuss proposed changes to the 2023, drinking water needs assessment. (5) The first Safer Drinking Water Advisory Group meeting will be held on March 2, 2023. (6) The Division of Financial Assistance held three workshops for a new proposed program, the Expedited Drinking Water Grant funding program. This program will be presented to the State Water Board for consideration on June 30, 2023. (7) The statewide water use dropped by 17.1% relative to December 2020. (8) The first meeting for the statewide strike team that identifies and resolves obstacles for recycled water projects was held on January 31, 2023.

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

There were no comments or questions from the Board members.

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

Item 8 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for the Metropolitan Stevedore Company, Bulk Marine Terminal, Long Beach, CA

There was no staff presentation.

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Regional Water Board staff Duong Trinh, Water Resource Control Engineer, and legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, responded to comments made by Ray Tahir.

Motion: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve Item 8.

Seconded by: Board Member Stahl.

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

Chair Camacho announced agenda Item 9, read an opening statement and administered the oath.

Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for the City of Los Angeles, Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant, Los Angeles, CA

Staff Presentation: Steven Webb, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

There were no public comments allowed for Item 9. The public comment period closed in November 2022.

Chair Camacho asked the Board if they had any clarifying questions of regional Water Board staff or USEPA representative Peter Kozelka.

Comments and questions were made by Vice Chair Nahai, Board Member Stahl and Chair Camacho. Hugh Marley, Steven Webb and Jenny Newman responded to Board Members' comments and questions.

Board Recess 12:15 p.m. to 12:35 p.m.

During the Board recess, staff and representatives from the City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environmental discussed permit changes regarding spill notification per direction from Vice Chair Nahai.

Jenny Newman stated the language changes agreed to by the Regional Water Board staff and City of Los Angeles representatives.

Chair Camacho closed the discussion and asked for a vote on Item 9.

Jenny Newman and Steven Webb read the permit changes requested by Board Member Stahl.

Legal Counsel, Sophie Froelich made a recommendation for the motion on Item 9 to include the change sheet and the changes that the Board members made during the hearing to the permit.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve Item 9 as recommended by Legal Counsel.

Seconded by: Board Member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Abstained,
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent

David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Lunch Break/Closed Session

Item 13 – Closed Session

Legal counsel, Sophie Froelich, announced the Board were going into closed session to discuss Items 11.t (iii) appointment of an executive officer.

(The Board met in closed session from 12:53 p.m. to 2:34 p.m.)

Chair Camacho: Announced agenda item 10 and introduced the staff presenter.

Item – 10 Information Item, Municipal Stormwater Unit staff will provide an update on implementation of the Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit

Staff Presentation: Ivar Ridgeway, Supervisor, Municipal Stormwater Permitting Unit

Speakers:

- Benjamin Harris, LA Waterkeeper
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates on behalf of the Los Cerritos Watershed Group
- Mark Lombos, Los Angeles County Public Works
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Dr. Gerald Greene, Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 Watershed Management Area
- Darin Seegmiller, City of Santa Clarita
- Jeanette Vosburg, Grassroots Coalition
- Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition
- Margot Griswold, Los Angeles Audubon Society
- Shontel Johnson, Fountain Park and Playa Vista Resident
- John Hunter, The Lower Los Angeles & Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Group

Chair Camacho opened the floor for discussion and Board member questions.

Board Members Muñoz, Stahl, Méndez, Chair Camacho and Vice Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Responses to Board member comments and questions were made by Ivar Ridgeway, Erum Razzak, Jenny Newman, Adriana Nuñez, Hugh Marley and Mark Lombos.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 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: March 27, 2023

Signature on File: Helen Rowe