
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only No Physical Location

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

July 9, 2020

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

Chair Munoz 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. 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 Charles Stringer left the meeting at 2:30 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, Eric Wu, Eric Lindberg (R8), Ching To, Thizar Tintut-Williams, Barbara Guia, Susana Lagudis, Rebecca Christmann, Erum Razzak, Angineh Shahnazarian, James Ryan, Weixing Tong, Teklewold Ayalew, Ivar Ridgeway, Pavlova Vitale, Andrew Choi, Adam Taing, Lydia Kim, and Megan Kung

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

The EO announced Item 8 has been postponed and rescheduled for the September 10th Board Meeting.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the June 11, 2020 Board meeting

MOTION: Vice Chair Yee made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes
Seconded by: Board member Stringer.

IRMA MUÑOZ, CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Motion carried: approved unanimously 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 Disclosures *(Board Members will identify and discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40.)*

Chair Muñoz reported on May 28, 2020, she received a letter from Margaret Clark, Councilmember, City of Rosemead. Councilmember Clark responded to comments made during the May 14, 2020 Board meeting by senior staff member, Dr. LB Nye on the City of Rosemead's resolution 2020-16. This resolution urged Governor Newsom and the state legislators to request the Board to reduce the MS4 permit requirements for Los Angeles County.

Chair Muñoz reported on June 15, 2020, she received a PowerPoint presentation and email from Mr. Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental. Mr. Tahir's presentation and email contained information on the high flow suspension regulation, and its applicability to certain bacteria TMDLs. Mr. Tahir requested to present his PowerPoint during the June 11, 2020 Board meeting.

On June 23, 2020, Chair Muñoz received a letter dated June 22, 2020 from Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental. Mr. Tahir's letter was concerning the alleged invalidity of certain metals TMDLs.

On July 1, 2020, Chair Muñoz received a letter dated June 30, 2020 from Cheryl Garwood, Director of Public Works for the City of San Dimas. This letter requested a postponement of the issuance of the regional MS4 permit.

On July 6, 2020 Chair Muñoz received a letter from Brad Johnson, Community Development Department, City of Claremont. The letter requested a postponement of the issuance of the regional MS4 permit.

Chair Muñoz reported she did not reply to the letters or correspondence she received and thanked the attorneys for their guidance.

Vice Chair Yee reported he received the same letters, but he did not see the letter from Brad Johnson. He did not reply to the letters.

Board members Guzmán, Stahl and Stringer reported they also received the letters from Mr. Tahir but did not read or reply to the letters.

All Board members reported forwarding all correspondence received to staff.

Chair Muñoz informed the public that Board members do not respond to correspondence they receive. The correspondence is forwarded to lawyers and staff and reported as ex parte communication disclosures.

b) Board Member Reports

Board Member Stahl followed up on his June Board meeting report regarding his appearance before the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) of the Safe Clean Water Program on May 21, 2020. He reported that on June 18, 2020 he participated via videoconference in the Regional Oversight Committee meeting of the Safe Clean Water Program to provide comments in support of the Ballona Creek Project. Board Member Stahl reported that the Regional Oversight Committee voted eight to one to return the decision on these projects to the Central Santa Monica Bay WASC for reconsideration.

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The EO reported on the following items:

- Update on Channel Islands Harbor water quality monitoring
- Update on the Recycled Water Policy and implementation actions in the Los Angeles Region
- Update on Prop 1
- Update on Prop 68
- MS4 outreach
- Update on the status of requests for regulatory relief from Water Board requirements as a result of COVID-19 and the local and state stay-at-home orders

Item 6 – Update by State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire

State Water Board Member Sean Maguire reported on the following items:

- Update on statewide PFAS investigation
- Prop 1 funding
- Prop 68 funding
- Adoption of Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Expenditure Plan
- Executive Order N-42-20 prohibiting the shutoff of residential water during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Updates regarding emerging contaminants

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Kate Richards, GSI Environmental, representing the City of Torrance

Item 9 – Update on the Water Board’s Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory Program

Russ Colby, Section Chief, Compliance and Enforcement provided an introduction.

Staff Presentation: Eric Lindberg, South Coast Cannabis Unit, State Water Resources Control Board

After the presentation, Board member Muñoz indicated that she would like to see an update in a year or two.

Item 10 – Update on the Santa Monica Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Cris Morris, Section Chief, Watershed Regulatory Section provided an introduction.

Presentation: Guangyu Wang, Senior Environmental Scientist, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Speaker:

- Thomas Parker, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

After the presentation, Board member Stahl indicated that he would like to see a report that encompasses the whole coastline and which demonstrates what the coastline used to look like from a water quality standpoint, and where it is going now. Board member Yee also indicated he’d like to see the goals of the program and the metrics to determine when the Bay would be restored. Ms. Purdy indicated that the Board could provide input on the next State of the Bay report.

Item 11 – Overview of the 2019 Sustainable LA Grand Challenge Environmental Report Card for Los Angeles County Water (Members of the UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge team provided an overview of the 2019 report card for water.)

Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, introduced the UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge team.

Speakers: (Group Presentation)

- Eric Hoek, UCLA
- Felicia Federico, UCLA
- Anne Youngdahl, UCLA

A discussion on grades and the utility of the report card ensued. UCLA and the Board members agreed that, in advance of the next report card, UCLA and Board staff would confer early on how best to present the status of water quality in the region.

Item 12 – Progress Update on “Phase 2 White Paper: Tapping into Available Capacity in Existing Infrastructure to Create Water Supply and Water Quality Solutions.”

Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, provided introductory remarks.

Speaker:

- David Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Item 13 – Update on the status of the ongoing cleanup activities at the Former Kast Property Tank Farm Site (Carousel Tract) in Carson

Regional Board staff and stakeholders briefed the Regional Board on completing fifty percent of the cleanup activity.

Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, provided introductory remarks.

Speakers:

- Thizar Tintut-Williams, Senior Environmental Scientist, provided an introduction and project history.
- **Cleanup Implementation**
Deny Gomez, Shell Oil Company
- **Public Participation, Community Engagement**
Susana Lagudis, LARWQCB
Vanessa Kang, Nakatomi & Associates
John Raymond, City of Carson
Shannon Debes, Shell Oil Company

Item 14 – Further reflections on the comments from permittees and stakeholders at the July 2, 2020 Board meeting with regard to the timing of the Board’s issuance of a Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

Speakers:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County

- Arne Anselm, Ventura County
- Shahram Kharaghani, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment
- Glen Kau, City of Norwalk
- Rich Watson, RWA
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Travis Van Ligten, Rutan & Tucker
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Corinne Bell, NRDC

- Kelly Clark, LA Waterkeeper

Following the presentations, Board members discussed with staff several topics, including potential TMDL extensions.

Legal counsel Sophie Froelich announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 15.b., 15.c., 15.j., 15.k., 15.m., 15.n., 15.o., 15.p., and 15.q. on the agenda.

(The Board went into closed session at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:05 p.m.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 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, then finalized on, September 11, 2020

Original signed copy on file