
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street
Carmel Room
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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

Chair Camacho explained the process for remote participation in the meeting and that the Board has Spanish interpretation services available through the Zoom platform. She announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Aldo Renteria, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Chair Camacho acknowledged that Board Member Ashjian was participating virtually.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Sabrina Ashjian, Norma Camacho, Marissa Christiansen, and David Nahai.

Board Member Absent: Michael Méndez and Eric Rodríguez.

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Russ Colby, Jillian Ly (virtual), Helen Rowe, Stephanie Yu, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Khalid Abdullah, Alfredo Duran, Susana Lagudis, LB Nye, Art Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Elisha Wakefield, Jim Kang, Enrique Casas, Bronwyn Kelly, Adriana Vallejo, Ana Thompson, Thizar Tintut-Williams, Ivar Ridgeway, Susana Vargas, Erum Razzak, Farzad Kasmaei, Alireza Rahmani and Jessica Pearson.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

Chair Camacho asked the Executive Officer (EO), Susana Arredondo, if there were any changes to the agenda

There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the September 26, 2024, Meeting

Chair Camacho asked if there were any changes to the minutes.

There were no changes made to the minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024 draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Christiansen

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Absent

David Nahai – Yea

Eric Rodríguez – Absent

Item 4 – Approval of Tentative 2025 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Schedule

Chair Camacho asked if there were any changes to the schedule.

There were no changes made to the schedule.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the tentative 2025 Board meeting schedule.

Seconded by: Board Member Christiansen

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Absent

David Nahai – Yea

Eric Rodríguez – Absent

Item 5 – 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.)

There were no ex parte disclosures reported.

- 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.)

Vice Chair Nahai reported on the following:

On Friday, October 18, 2024, the Los Angeles Business Council held their annual architectural awards ceremony. This was the 58th year of the awards. The focus of the awards was sustainability.

Board Member Christiansen reported on the following:

Board Member Christiansen attended the Wildfire Resilience Task Force meeting in Tahoe. The task force is governed by the State of California and includes nonprofits, tribal entities and the US Forest Service. The focus of task force event was the power of data in managing our forests for wildfire.

Board Member Christiansen mentioned that she read an article regarding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and nearby cancer cluster.

Chair Camacho reported on the following:

On October 7, 2024, the Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee, Water Quality Work group met. The group is making progress in developing water quality targets and goals.

On October 9, 2024, the Regional Oversight Committee held a meeting that focused on the municipal programs.

On October 15, 2024, Chair Camacho participated in an event in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Ms. Brenda Mallory from the White House Council on Environmental Quality and State Water Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel attended the event.

Susanna Arredondo, EO recognized Los Angeles Water Board staff Elisha Wakefield and Chirs Marquis. They worked on securing approximately \$3.5 million in grant funding for the San Gabriel River East Fork. The EO thanked Elisha and Chris for their collaboration with state and federal agencies and NGOs.

Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, addressed the following items:

- An update on questions asked by Vice Chair Nahai during the EO report at the September 2024 Board meeting. The questions were regarding the former United Technologies Corporation (UTC) site 6633 Canoga Park.
- An update on the former Berk Oil and Pacific Metal Craft Cleanup Under the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG). As of October 2024, the installation of the SVE system is completed and the SVE pilot test was initiated.
- Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer, Surface Water division, provided an update on questions asked by Board members during the September 2024 Board meeting regarding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill liner and groundwater.

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

Board Member Christiansen made comments and asked questions. Jenny Newman responded to her comments and questions.

Item 7 – Update from State Water Board [Board Member Laurel Firestone]

Board Member Firestone provided the following updates:

- At the end of the 2023 fiscal year the State Water Board released a press release regarding \$880 million distributed over the last fiscal for various projects. There is an online dashboard available to the public to see what projects have been funded.
- In September 2024, State Water Board voted to place the Tule Groundwater Sub Basin in probationary status.
- On September 20, 2024, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Water Use Efficiency regulations, which will become effective January 1, 2025.
- On October 17, 2024, State Water Board held a pre-hearing conference on the Delta Conveyance Project. The Sites Project Authority hearings have been held the last two months.
- State Water Board released a public notice for comments on proposed amendments to the Seawater Desalination Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California. The deadline for comments is November 13, 2024. The public scoping meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2024.
- On November 5, 2024, State Water Board will present an information item on the results of the 2023 Volumetric Annual Report of Wastewater and Recycled Water in California.

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

Vice Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Board Member Firestone responded to his comments and questions.

Item 8 – Public Forum

Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, who had reviewed the speakers' slides, cautioned Annelisa Moe that the Hyperion spill is a pending enforcement matter.

Speakers:

- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Mark Gold, NRDC

The speakers discussed enforcement progress and priorities. Chair Camacho requested an in-depth discussion on the speaker's topic for the upcoming Board Members January 2025 retreat.

Vice Chair Nahai and Board Members Christiansen and Ashjian made comments.

Speakers (cont.)

- Ray Tahir, City of Norwalk

Chair Camacho and Board Member Christiansen responded to comments made by Mr. Tahir.

Speakers (cont.)

- Walter Lamb, representing self and Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

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

Vice Chair Nahai addressed comments made by Ray Tahir.

Uncontested items

The Chair stated the uncontested items calendar as Items 9 and 10.

Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit for Urchinomics USA Inc., Channel Islands Urchin Co., CA. NPDES Permit No. CA0064696.

Item 10 – Consideration of Tentative Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Inglewood Oil Field Land Treatment Units for the treatment of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils (Order No. R4-2013-0023).

Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Items 9 and 10. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

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

Seconded by: Vice Chair Nahai

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen - Yea

Michael Méndez – Absent

David Nahai – Yea

Eric Rodríguez – Absent

Information Items

Chair Camacho: Announced Information Item 11.

Item 11 – Update on the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Enforcement Policy.

Introduction of Presenters: Russ Colby, Acting Assistant Executive Officer

Presentation: David Boyers and Catherine Hawe, Office of Enforcement

Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez asked Mr. Tahir to make general comments about the MS4 compliance and not to identify any specific MMP settlements that have been offered by the Office of Enforcement.

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, City of Norwalk
- Benajmin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

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

Board Member Christiansen, Vice Chair Nahai, Board Member Ashjian and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. David Boyers and Russ Colby responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

Break: 11:11 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.

Chair Camacho: Announced Information Item 12.

Item 12 – Municipal Stormwater Unit staff will provide an update on implementation of the Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit.

Staff Presentation: Ivar Ridgeway, Senior Environmental Scientist

Speakers:

- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay, and Benjamin Harris, LA Waterkeeper
- Mark Lombos, Los Angeles County Public Works
- Michael Scaduto, City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment
- Ray Tahir, City of Norwalk
- Mark Gold, NRDC

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

Board Members Christiansen and Ashjian, Vice Chair Nahai, and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. Ivar Ridgeway and Jenny Newman responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

Item 13 – Closed Session

Legal counsel, Stephaine Yu, announced the Board would discuss Item 13j in closed session.

Chair Camacho announced that the Board would go into closed session after a break. The meeting would be adjourned after closed session. And the webcast portion of the Board meeting was concluded.

Break: 12:58 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

(The Board reconvened to closed session at 1:15 p.m. and adjourned at 2:12 p.m.)

The meeting was adjourned after closed session. (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: January 6, 2025

Signature on File

Helen Rowe