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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Meeting Minutes In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Office

Carmel Room  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

February 22, 2024

*Chair Camacho called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.*

Chair Camacho explained the process for participation in the virtual 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.

#### ***Item 1 – Roll Call***

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

Note: Board Member Michael Méndez arrived late before, Item 4, the selection of the 2024 officers. Board Member Marissa Christiansen departed the meeting early, during the board recess in Item 12 and did not vote on the item.

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Stephanie Yu, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Khalid Abdullah, Gerardo Rabelo, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Art Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Brian Anderson, Danielle Robinson, Noman Chowdhury, Stefani Daryanto, and Augustine Anijiolo.

#### ***Item 2 – Order of Agenda***

*Chair Camacho asked the Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo if there were any changes to the agenda.*

The Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo asked that Item 10 be moved to the uncontested items calendar.

There were no objections to the requested change.

***Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the December 21, 2023, Meeting.***

*Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve to a approve the December 21, 2023, meeting minutes. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.*

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the December 21, 2023, draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Ashjian

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Absent

David Nahai – Yea

***Item 6 – 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.)

*Vice Chair Nahai reported on one communication.*

On January 20, 2024, Vice Chair Nahai attended a Zoom meeting with representatives from the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed). They discussed the upcoming CII permit. The meeting lasted approximately 40 minutes. Vice Chair Nahai reported his meeting to LARWQCB staff. He requested that staff contact the BizFed representatives to continue the discussion.

- 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.)

*Board Member Ashjian reported on the following:*

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, she attended her first meeting of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC). She is the governing Board member of the SMBRC from the Los Angeles Water Board.

*Board Member Christiansen reported on the following:*

Next week, she will attend a conference in New Mexico on remote sensing low orbit satellite technology, specifically reviewing evapotranspiration and in field technology, on water absorption and water quality for precision agriculture.

*Vice Chair Nahai reported on the following:*

Vice Chair Nahai is unable to attend the March 28, 2024, board meeting. He will be in India with a trade delegation meeting with Ambassador Garcetti, and government and business leaders. The trip will be for 8 to 10 days.

Vice Chair Nahai was appointed to a committee to assist with the selection of the next head of the Office Public Accountability in Los Angeles also known as the Rate Payer Advocate.

*Chair Camacho reported on the following:*

There were two Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meetings.

On January 31, 2024, the ROC approved the recommendations on the bi-annual report. The next process is for the report to go to the LA County Board of Supervisors for receiving and filing.

On February 15, 2024, the ROC held the second meeting. The committee discussed next steps for developing the framework for implementing the recommendations in the bi-annual report.

On March 20, 2024, the committee will meet for the first set of facilitated regional goal meetings for the LA County Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP). There will a subsequential meeting held on April 10, 2024.

*Board Member Méndez reported on the following:*

Last Week, Board Member Méndez was sworn in by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator, Deanne Criswell to the National Advisory Committee (NAC). Board Member Méndez will be serving on various subcommittees related to climate change and specifically one on gender-based violence during disasters.

c. Presentation of Staff Recognition Award

Celine Gallon presented Amanda Rosenblum with a staff recognition award.

**Item 4 – Selection of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2024**

*Chair Camacho asked for nominations for the 2024 Chair.*

Vice Chair Nahai nominated Norma Camacho as the 2024 Chair.

*Chair Camacho asked if there were any other nominations.*

There were no other nominations.

**Vote for Chair**

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

Chair Camacho nominated David Nahai as the 2024 Vice Chair.

*Chair Camacho asked if there were any other nominations.*

There were no other nominations.

**Vote for Vice Chair**

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

**Item 5 – Selection of Subcommittees**

*Chair Camacho asked legal counsel Stephanie Yu to read the list of current subcommittees for the record.*

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members discussion on the list of subcommittees.*

The Board members agreed to place the Industrial Task Force and Water Resilience subcommittees on hiatus. The Public Outreach (generally) will remain active. The SEPs and Racial Equity Environmental Justice subcommittees were combined into one subcommittee and will remain active.

There was no vote required for the subcommittee changes.

**Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report**

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, provided updates of the following items:

- 1) Update on Proposition 1 Groundwater Funding for Regional Site Investigation is south El Monte.
- 2) Update on sewage spills during the recent storms.
- 3) Update on Chiquita Canyon landfill.

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

Comments were made by Vice Chair Nahai. Chair Camacho asked questions. The Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo, and Assistant Executive Officer, Jenny Newman, responded to their comments and questions.

**Item 8 – Update from State Water Board [Board Member Laurel Firestone]**

The State Water Board Liaison provided an update of the following items:

- 1) The once through cooling mitigation fees.
- 2) The SGMA fees and upcoming probationary basin hearing.
- 3) The release of proposed urban water use efficiency regulations and workshops to receive public comments.
- 4) The hexavalent chromium MCL for drinking water.

5) In April 2024, there will be the Bay-Delta and hexavalent chromium workshops.

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions.*  
Comments were made by Vice Chair Nahai, Board Members Méndez and Ashjian and Chair Camacho. Board member Laurel Firestone responded to their comments and questions,

### **Item 9 – Public Forum**

#### **Speakers:**

- Matt Frary, Los Angeles County, DWP

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

Comments were made by Vice Chair Nahai, and Board Members Christiansen, Ashjian and Méndez and Chair Camacho. Matt Frary responded to comments and questions from the Board members.

#### **Speakers (cont.):**

- Eric Batman, Los Angeles County, Public Works

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

Comments were made by Board Member Méndez, Vice Chair Nahai, and Chair Camacho. Eric Batman and Matt Frary responded to comments and questions for the Board members.

#### **Speakers (cont.):**

- Richard Watson, Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Group  
Jenny Newman and LB Nye responded to Mr. Watson's comments.

#### **Speakers (cont.):**

- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
Jenny Newman responded to Mr. Lamb's comments.

#### **Speakers (cont.):**

- Ray Tahir, TESC Environmental
- Candice Meneghim, Friends of the Santa Clara River

*Chair Camacho asked LARWQBC staff to respond to Ms. Meneghim's comments.*  
Assistant Executive Officer, Jenny Newman responded to comments made by Ms. Meneghim.

### **Item 10 – Uncontested Item**

*Chair Camacho stated that Item 10 was uncontested.*  
*Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve Item 10. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.*

MOTION: Board Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve Item 10.

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

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea  
Norma Camacho – Yea  
Marissa Christiansen - Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea  
David Nahai – Yea

**Break: (11:01 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.)**

*Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 11 and administered the oath.*

***Item 11 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal – General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Groundwater from Investigation and/or Cleanup of Volatile Organic Compounds-Contaminated Sites to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. General NPDES Permit No. CAG914001.***

**Staff Presentation:** Augustine Anijelo, Supervisor, General Permitting Unit

**Speaker:**

- Sunny Wang, City of Santa Monica

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

Vice Chair Nahai and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. Jenny Newman and Augustine Anijelo responded to their comments and questions.

*Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve Item 11. Next, she asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.*

MOTION: Board Member Méndez made a motion to approve Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal– General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Groundwater from Investigation and/or Cleanup of Volatile Organic Compounds-Contaminated Sites to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. General NPDES Permit No. CAG914001.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Nahai

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea  
Norma Camacho – Yea  
Marissa Christiansen - Yea  
Michael Méndez – Yea  
David Nahai – Yea

**Item 13 – Closed Session**

Legal counsel, Stephanie Yu, announced the Board would discuss Item 13c., k., q., u., and w.(iii) in closed session.

*Chair Camacho announced that the Board members would go into closed session after a short break.*

**Lunch Break: 11:40 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

*(The Board reconvened to closed session at 12:00 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:20 p.m.)*

*Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 12 and administered the oath.*

***Item 12 – Consideration of a Tentative Resolution regarding the selection of Basin Planning priorities for the 2023-2025 Triennial Review period. This item was postponed from the December 21, 2023.***

**Staff Presentation:** Stefanie Daryanto, Environmental Scientist

**Speakers:**

- Ray Tahir, Norwalk/Gardena Valley Democratic Club
- Benajmin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Mark Lombos, Los Angeles County, Public Works
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates for the Los Cerritos Watershed Management Group

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

Vice Chair Nahai, Board Members Christiansen, Méndez and Ashjian and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. LB Nye, Jenny Newman, Benjamin Harris, and Stephanie Yu responded to their comments and questions.

**Board Recess (2:34 p.m. to 2:56 p.m.)**

The Board recessed for LARWQCB staff to craft language to address the Board members' directed changes to the priority projects for the tentative resolution. After the recess, LB Nye read the staff-recommended changes to the tentative resolution for the record.

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

Chair Camacho made comments. Jenny Newman responded to her comments and provided additional information on the proposed recommended changes to the tentative resolution.

*Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve Item 12. Next, she asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.*

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the Tentative Resolution regarding the selection of Basin Planning priorities for the 2023-2025 Triennial Review period with the proposed changes to the tentative resolution.

Seconded by: Board Member Ashjian

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Absent

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 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](mailto: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: April 25, 2024***

Signature on File