
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 announced that Board Member Eric Rodriguez resigned on November 4, 2024.

Chair Camacho stated that the Board Clerk, Helen Rowe is out today. Valerie Aguirre is filling in for Ms. Rowe.

Item 1 – Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Russ Colby, Jillian Ly (virtual), Valerie Aguirre, Stephanie Yu, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Susana Lagudis, Art Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Woonhoe Kim, Don Tsai, Veronica Cuevas and Steven Webb.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

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

The EO stated that Items 9 and 11 were postponed to a future Board meeting.

NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the October 24, 2024, Meeting.

There were no changes made to the minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024, draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Christiansen

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Michael Méndez – Abstained (Board member Méndez did not attend the October 19, 2024, Board meeting.)

Item 4 – 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 (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:

Starting in 2025, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission will hold their monthly meeting on the third Thursday every other month.

Nothing to report from Board Member Christiansen.

Board Member Méndez reported on the following:

In October 2024, Board Member Méndez attended the California Safe Schools panel. The NGO promotes environmental stewardship in public schools, particularly in the LAUSD. He was a panelist along with the newly appointed DTSC Director, Katherine Butler.

Board Member Méndez was recently appointed to the Public Policy Institute of California which is one of California's premier nonpartisans think tanks.

Vice Chair Nahai reported on the following:

Vice Chair Nahai was honored by Governor Newsom's decision to reappoint him to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). The next step of his reappointment is the Senate confirmation.

On November 13, 2024, Vice Chair Nahai, Chair Camacho, Executive Officer Susana Arredondo, and Assistant Executive Officer Jenny Newman toured the

AES Alamitos facility in Long Beach.

Chair Camacho reported on the following:

Chair Camacho mentioned that she toured the AES Alamitos facility in Long Beach.

On November 13, 2024, and December 11, 2024, Chair Camacho attended Safe Clean Water, Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meetings. The water quality working group is continuing to make progress to outline water quality targets for the many watershed areas. The next ROC meeting will be held in January 2025.

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The EO provided updates of the following items:

- On October 18, 2024, the LARWQCB approved a settlement over 1.6 million dollars with the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment. The settlement resolved a 1.7-million-gallon sewage spill into the Los Angeles River that prompted local officials to close multiple beaches.
- On October 25, 2024, the LARWQCB approved a \$201,000 dollar settlement with the Long Beach Generating Station for effluent limit exceedances to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.
- On Sunday, November 17, 2024, Susana Lagudis, the LARWQCB’s Public Participation, Environmental Justice, and Tribal Coordinator and Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer attended a dedication and plaque unveiling ceremony honoring the late Chief Ernie Salas of the Kizh/Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians.

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

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

Board Member Firestone provided an update of the following items:

- December 16, 2024, marked the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- On January 23, 2025, the State Water Board is scheduled to hold a workshop discussing the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed proposed update.
- The January 7, 2025, SGMA Probationary hearing for the proposed designation of the Kaweah Subbasin is cancelled.
- The Kern County Subbasin probationary hearing is scheduled for February 20, 2025.
- On December 9, 2024, the State Water Board held a workshop on the Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks.
- The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Advisory Group held its last meeting of 2024 on December 5, 2024. New advisory group

members were appointed.

- On November 6, 2025, State Water Board held a workshop on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) proposed amendments.

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

Board Member Méndez, Vice Chair Nahai and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. Board Member Firestone responded to their comments and questions.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Lands Trust

Chair Camacho asked the legal team to address Mr. Lamb's question regarding the EIS. Legal Counsel, Amelia Carder, and Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer, responded to the question.

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 Amelia Carder responded to their comments and questions.

Speakers cont.

- Ray Tahir
- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Ed Cirino

Chair Camacho asked staff to follow up on Mr. Cirino's questions. The EO responded that staff would respond to Mr. Cirino's questions.

Chair Camacho: Announced Information Item 7.a.

Item 7.a. – Information Item Presentation by Save San Pascual Park on the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project.

Presentation: Mark Forbes, Save San Pascual Park

Speakers:

- Dawn Petschauer, City of Pasadena
- Danielle Garcia, City of Pasadena
- Timothy Brick, Stewards of the Arroyo Seco
- Clara Solis, Resident of San Pasqua Valley
- Yael Pardess
- Robert Acosta

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions. Chair Camacho, Board Member Christiansen, Vice Chair Nahai, Board Member Méndez and Board Member Ashjian made comments and asked questions. Dawn Petschauer and Jenny Newman responded to their comments and questions.

Break: 10:59 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.

Chair Camacho: Announced Uncontested Item 8

Uncontested Items

Item 8 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements for Metabolic Studio Water Treatment Plant, Los Angeles, CA.

~~**Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for City of Simi Valley, Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant, Simi Valley, CA. NPDES No. CA0055221.**~~ **Postponed to a future Board meeting.**

Chair Camacho stated the uncontested items as Item 8 for record.

Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Item 8. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Board Member Christiansen made a motion to approve uncontested Item 8.

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

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

Contested Items

Chair Camacho announced Item 10 and administered the oath.

Item 10 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for the Newhall Ranch Sanitation District, Newhall Ranch Water Reclamation Plant, Newhall, CA. NPDES No. CA0064556

Staff Presentation: Steven Webb, Supervisor, Municipal Permitting Unit

Speakers:

- Erica Bench, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
- Lynne Plambeck, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)

Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions. Chair Camacho and Vice Chair Nahai asked questions. Steven Webb and Erica Bench responded to their comments and questions.

Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve contested Item 10. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

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

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS

~~**Item 11 – Consideration of Tentative Resolution Authorizing the Executive Officer to Sign a Revised Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Malibu Regarding the Malibu Civic Center Area Basin Plan Prohibition; Resolution No. R4-2024-XXXX.**~~ **Postponed to a future Board meeting,**

Item 12 – Closed Session

Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, announced that the Board would discuss items 12.e, and 12.g. in closed session.

The Board went into closed session from 11:50 a.m. to 12:26 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 Valerie Aguirre, Acting Board Clerk on: March 27, 2025

Signature on File

Valerie Aguirre