
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality
Control Board Office

Carmel Room
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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

Rafael Landa, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call

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

Board Member Absent: Sabrina Ashjian

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Russ Colby, Jillian Ly, Helen Rowe, Stephanie Yu, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nunez, Khalid Abdullah, Aurel Agarin, Gerardo Rabelo, Susana Lagudis, LB Nye, Art Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Brian Anderson, Elisha Wakefield, Yue Rong, and Milasol Gaslan

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 May 23, 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 May 23, 2024, draft meeting minutes.

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

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

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 (The Board Members may discuss communications, correspondence, or other items of general interest relating to matters within the Board's jurisdiction.)

Chair Camacho reported on the following:

On May 31, 2024, Chair Camacho attended the Water Boards Chairs meeting held in Sacramento. The topics discussed included nutrient management, AB 2108 compliance, the racial equity survey, and tribal beneficial uses.

On June 12, 2024, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) had an interview with LAist, a southern California news group, regarding the fireworks permit.

On June 12, 2024, Chair Camacho attended the Safe Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee meeting. The topics discussed included performance measurements and population indicators. The Watershed Plan Development timelines were reviewed. The committee set a goal for May 2025 to establish initial watershed plans for all nine watershed areas. The committee developed a WASC (Watershed Area Steering Committees) engagement plan. The engagement plan kickoff meeting will be held in July 2024. The meetings will continue through the Spring of 2025.

After the Regional Oversight Committee meeting, Chair Camacho met with Heal the Bay and Los Angeles Waterkeeper. They discussed updates. There was no discussion on anything regarding pending items.

Chair Camacho and LARWQCB staff attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Arlington Development. This site was contaminated with volatile organic compounds and was a former drill site. This site is being converted and developed into a four-story apartment complex with 84 affordable housing units.

Chair Camacho mentioned that from the developer's perspective, they had nothing but accolades for the hard work LARWQCB staff had provided in the guidance and oversight for this project and the timelessness of staff making this project a priority to start in four years.

Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report

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

1) Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

On June 6, 2024, LARWQCB staff issued a letter denying approval of a construction quality assurance report for Cell 8b of the CCL. The denial of the report does not allow CCL to place waste in Cell 8b. The denial does not preclude CCL from submitting a revised stability analysis to resolve the uncertainty. CCL is currently placing waste in Cell 8a adjacent to 8b.

2) Ballona Wetlands Restoration

On June 20, 2024, the lead agency for this project, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), gave a presentation to the Santa Monica Restoration Commission on the status of the project and revised EIR. The CDFW plans to have a draft revised EIR available for public comments by the Spring of 2025 and a recertified EIR by the end of 2025. Barring further litigation and available funding, the CDFW anticipates implementation of the initial project sequences in 2026.

3) Supplemental Environmental Projects Update (The River Park SEP)

As of today, June 27, 2024, SEP funds have been used to design portions of the overall project acquire permits and habitat enhancements. The final elements of the River Park SEP are projected to be completed by March 1, 2025. The San Gabriel River Park opened to the public on June 8, 2024.

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]

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

1) An update on the Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures (SACCWIS). SACCWIS does not recommend any additional extensions on once through cooling water.

2) Municipal Stormwater Permitting

The State Water Board (SWB) held a hearing on municipal stormwater cost policy and received public comments. Later in 2024, SWB will finalize the cost reporting framework.

3) Salton Sea Management Program

SWB held their annual Salton Sea Management Program workshop.

4) Upcoming Events

On July 1, 2024, public comments are due for the revised regulatory text on the conservation and efficiency regulations. The adoption of the consideration of the revised regulatory text and final regulations is scheduled for July 3, 2024.

- 5) **Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER)**
In May 2024, SWB held a SAFER advisory group meeting. The SAFER advisory group released their 2024 SAFER Drinking Water Needs Assessment.
- 6) **State Revolving Fund Intended Use (SRF) Plan**
SWB posted drafts for SRF and fund expenditure plan for drinking water SRF. A workshop is planned for the drinking water SRF, and the fund expenditure plan is scheduled for July 16, 2024. The written comments are due on July 24, 2024. The adoption of the plan is scheduled for August 20, 2024.
- 7) **Grant Program for Clean Water SRF Plan**
This program includes wastewater treatment, water recycling and storm water. A workshop is scheduled for July 2, 2024. The draft intended use plan was posted on June 17, 2024. The deadline to submit comments is July 17, 2024. The adoption of the plan is scheduled for August 6, 2024.

Before Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board comments and questions, she asked Board Member Firestone if she could comment on the current state budget and programs. Ms. Firestone made comments on PFAS and recycled water funding.

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

Board Members Christiansen and 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:

- Madelyn Glickfeld, Former LARWQCB, Chair

Comments were made by Chair Camacho, Vice Chair Nahai, and Board Member Méndez

Speakers (cont.)

- Ray Tahir, TESC Environmental
- Marcy Winter, Agua Dulce Neighbors

Legal counsel, Stephanie Yu and Chair Camacho addressed comments made by Marcy Winter.

Speakers (cont.)

- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

Chair Camacho asked LARWQCB staff to respond to comments made by Walter Lamb. Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer, responded to his comments.

Vice Chair Nahai asked questions and made comments. Jenny Newman responded to his comments and questions.

Item 8 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements for the Limoneira Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Santa Paula, CA. Order No. R4-2024-XXXX, File No. 66-066

Chair Camacho stated that Item 8 is uncontested.

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

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

Seconded by: Vice Chair Nahai

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Absent

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen - Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

Break: (10:08 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.)

Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 9 and administered the oath.

Item 9 – Basin Plan Amendments - Consideration of proposed amendments to incorporate a Water Effects Ratio for Copper in Marina del Rey Harbor, and to revise the Marina del Rey Harbor Toxic Pollutants TMDL.

Staff Acknowledgement and Recognition: Susana Arredondo

The EO acknowledged and recognized the following current and former LARWQCB staff members. Elisha Wakefield and LB Nye are current staff members. Jun Zhu and Shana Rapaport are former LARWQCB employees.

Staff Presentation: Elisha Wakefield, Senior Environmental Scientist

Speakers

- Tim Riley, Marina Del Rey, Lessees Association
- Gary Jones, Director, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors
- Themis Glatman, Recreational Boaters of California, RBOC
- Jim Haussener, Executive Director, California Marina Affairs and Navigation Conference
- Barnaby Baker, Marina Harbor Anchorage, Marina del Rey
- Shana Rapaport, Former LARWQCB Employee
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Benjamin Harris, Senior Staff Attorney, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Michael Queal, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Marvin Sachse, Brash Industries, Del Rey Yacht Club

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

Board Members Christiansen and Méndez, Vice Chair Nahai and Chair Camacho asked questions and made comments. Elisha Wakefield, LB Nye and Jenny Newman answered Board members' questions and responded to their comments.

Chair Camacho asked for a Motion to approve Item 9. Next, she asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Board Member Christiansen made a motion to approve Item 9.

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

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

Item 10 – Closed Session

Legal counsel, Stephanie Yu announced the Board would discuss litigation that the LARWQCB filed against other parties for Item 10j. in closed session.

Chair Camacho announced that the Board members would go into closed session and that the meeting would be adjourned after closed session. The webcast portion of the Board meeting was concluded. She mentioned that the regular Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024, is cancelled. The next regular Board meeting will be held on September 26, 2024.

The Board went into closed session from 11:50 a.m. to 12:45 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: September 26, 2024

Signature on File

Helen Rowe