

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4th Street
Carmel Room
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Chair Nahai called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

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

Leticia Reyna, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Chair Nahai explained that Board Member Méndez requested to participate remotely in this meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act, specifically Government Code section 11123.2. Remote participation requires that a quorum of the Board Members be physically present at a single teleconference location that is open, visible and audible to the public.

Board Members Present: Sabrina Ashjian, Norma Camacho, Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez (remote/virtual), and David Nahai.

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Russ Colby, Helen Rowe, Alfredo Duran, Khalid Abdullah, Aurel Agarin, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Jeong-Hee Lim, Céline Gallon, Jim Kang, Adam Taing and Emily Duncan.

Early Departures: Board Member Christiansen departed after Item 9 and Board Member Méndez departed during the presentation for Item 10.

Chair Nahai confirmed the roll call and that a quorum was physically present.

Chair Nahai then explained that Board Member Méndez may proceed with remote participation in the public meeting. Board Member Méndez did not need to disclose his precise location, but he must disclose if there were any individuals 18 years of age or older present in the same room and the nature of his relationship with these individuals.

Board Member Méndez responded, “no”.

Chair Nahai continued to explain the requirements for Board Member Méndez’s remote participation. He mentioned that further, Government Code section 11123.2 requires that Board Member Méndez remain on-camera for the entire open portion of his public meeting, unless there is a poor internet connection or it would be technologically impracticable to do so. If Board Member Méndez needs to turn off his camera during the open portion of the meeting, he must announce his reason for doing so.

Chair Nahai asked legal counsel, are there any other legal issues with Board Member Méndez’s remote participation?

Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez responded, “no”.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

Chair Nahai 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.

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the April 24, 2025, Meeting

Chair Nahai asked the Board members if there were any changes to the minutes.
There were no changes made to the minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Ashjian made a motion to approve the minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Christiansen

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea

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

Board Member Méndez: Nothing to report.

Board Member Christiansen: Nothing to report.

Board Member Camacho reported on the following:

On May 14, 2025, Board Member Camacho attended the Regional Oversight Committee of the Safe, Clean Water Program (ROC) meeting. The work group presented their proposal on developing water quality goals and objectives to the ROC. The proposal was accepted by the committee and the recommendation was to move the proposal immediately to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for their review. Board Member Camacho thanked Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer for her assistance. Jenny was part of the work group. She assisted with the technical issues of the proposal.

Vice Chair Ashjian reported on the following:

Vice Chair Ashjian attended the Water Quality Coordination Committee (WQCC) in Sacramento along with Board members from other regions. She mentioned that it was great to learn some of the best practices and discuss issues that were affecting the regions. She thanked the State for the convening of the WQCC.

Chair Nahai reported on the following:

Chair Nahai attended the WQCC along with three Board members and Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer. He mentioned that Ms. Arredondo made a stellar presentation on the fires in Altadena and Pacific Palisades.

He mentioned that Jenny Newman was not present at today's Board meeting. She was performing her civic duty as a juror.

Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer provided an update of the following items:

- On March 21, 2025, the EO approved a settlement with Robert French and Wahib Mikhail to resolve violations of a Health and Safety Code section 25296.10 directive issued by the Los Angeles Water Board on February 11, 2020. Mr. French and Mr. Mikhail agreed to pay \$43,283 dollars to the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account, in addition to other conditions including the installation of three new groundwater monitoring wells at the Site and at least three semi-annual groundwater sampling events to be conducted at new and existing wells.
- Site Cleanup Program – Proposed Grace Villas

On April 24, 2025, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) approved the Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

On April 28, 2025, the Los Angeles Housing Department (City of Los Angeles) issued a 15-day Notice for Public Comment to its Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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

Chair Nahai commended the LARWQCB staff for their work on the RAP.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board

State Board Member Firestone provided an update of the following items:

- State Board Member Firestone thanked the Los Angeles Water Board members and staff for participating in the WQCC meeting.
- Clean Water State Revolving & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – The State Water Board adopted amendments to the policy for implementing the funds. An update on the Funds and the Intended Use Plan is forthcoming in June 2025.
- Salton Sea Management Program – The annual management program workshop was held.
- Delta Conveyance – The hearing continues. A hybrid meeting was held to hear the policy statements on Monday, May 19, 2025. Policy statements will continue to be heard at upcoming hybrid meetings.
- Onsite Treatment and Reuse of Non-portable Water – A workshop was held on the proposed regulations.
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board biological objectives for the State of California – A workshop was held on flood control and altered streams.
- Upcoming Events – In June 2025 1) An information item on through cooling interim mitigation, Memorandum of Understanding, with the Ocean Protection Council. 2) A resolution on the State Water Board oversight of Cilla Sub-Basin. 3) A workshop on the Intended Use Plan for the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund.

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

There were no comments are questions from the Board members.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
The EO, Chair Nahai and legal counsel, Amelia Carder, responded to comments made by Mr. Tahir.

Speakers cont.

- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
The EO and legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez responded to comments made by Mr. Lamb.

Uncontested Items

Chair Nahai: Announced Uncontested Item 8

Item 8 – Resolution of Recognition for Norma Camacho (the Board will adopt a Resolution honoring Norma Camacho's dedication and service as Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board over the past two years.

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

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

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

Seconded by: Vice Chair Ashjian
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

Information Items

Chair Nahai announced information Item 9.

Item 9 – Updates on Regional Recycled Water Projects by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, City of Los Angeles, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

Presentation Introduction: Jeong-Hee Lim, Manager, Watershed Regulatory Section

Presentation: Five Presenters:

Joe McDermott, Assistant General Manager, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Johan Torroledo, Pure Water Los Angeles Team Manager, Los Angeles
Department of Water and Power
Robert Ferrante, General Manager, Sanitation District Los Angeles County
John Bednarski, Assistant General Manager, Municipal Water District
Hubertus Cox, Program Manager, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environmental

There were no public comments on information Item 9.

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

Vice Chair Ashjian, Board Members Christiansen, Méndez and Camacho, and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Joe McDermott, Johan Torroledo, Robert Ferrante, John Bednarski, and Hubertus Cox responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

Break: 12:01 p.m. to 12:12 p.m.

Chair Nahai announced information Item 10.

Item 10 – Update on the current Southern California harmful algal bloom and domoic acid event. We will hear presentations on the status of the algal bloom, its impacts and potential causes, current research, and efforts to reduce nutrient loading to the ocean.

Presentation Introduction: Dr. Emily Duncan, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, Regional Programs

Presentation: Four Presenters:

Dr. Martha Sutula, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)

Dr. Hannah Kempf Environmental Scientist, State Board Division of Water Quality, Ocean Unit.

Dr. Jeong-Hee Lim, Manager, Watershed Regulatory Section

Dr. Emily Duncan, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, Regional Programs

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Jared Voskuhl, Director of Regulatory Affairs, CASA

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

Vice Chair Ashjian made comments and Board Member Camacho asked questions. Dr. Sutula responded to questions from Board Member Camacho.

Item 11 – Closed Session

There was no closed session items announced for a closed session discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: July 25, 2025