
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only
No Physical Meeting Location

*Authorized by and in furtherance of Executive
Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20](#)*

June 10, 2021

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

Chair Yee explained the process for participation in the virtual meeting, noting that for those who only want to listen or watch the meeting, the Board's customary webcast was available and that the Board has Spanish translation services available through the Zoom platform for those who want to listen or participate in the meeting in Spanish. He provided instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting for those wishing to provide comments during the public forum or on an agenda item.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cynthia Guzmán, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai, James Stahl, Charles Stringer and Lawrence Yee

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Gerardo Rabelo, Khalid Abdullah, Tamarin Austin, Sophie Froelich, Adriana Nuñez, Milasol Gaslan, LB Nye, Cris Morris, Russ Colby, Yue Rong, Arthur Heath, Megan Kung, Rebecca Christmann, Jeong-Hee Lim, Don Tsai, Susana Lagudis, Rosario Aston, Veronica Cuevas, Xiaofei Cui, Alireza Rahmani, Adam Taing, Bobbi Valencia, and Bronwyn Kelly

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

The EO Renee Purdy recommended that Items 8, 9, 11 and 12 be moved to the uncontested items calendar and that Item 10 be postponed to a future meeting.

There were no objections on the recommendations.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the May 13, 2021 Board Meeting

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board member Muñoz
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea
Michael Méndez - Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
David Nahai - Yea
James Stahl – Yea
Lawrence Yee – Yea

Note: Charles Stringer stepped away briefly, so was not present for this vote.

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.)

Board member Stahl reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported receiving an email from Mr. Tahir. He did not open or read the email and did not recall the details.

Chair Yee reported on three ex parte communications:

- On June 4, 2021, Chair Yee received an email from Ray Tahir concerning the implementation of E/WMPs in the pending MS4 permit. He did not read the email. He forwarded the email to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy. The email was made part of the record for the pending MS4 permit.
- On May 22, 2021, Chair Yee received an email he was copied on to Arne Anselm from someone identifying themselves as Joe Namesake. The email addressed compliance with WMPs, EWMPs, and TMDLs in the MS4 permit. Chair Yee responded to the email by stating that he forwarded it to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy. The email was made part of the record for the pending MS4 regional permit.

On May 27, 2021. Chair Yee received an email from Joe Namesake. The email was signed Tail Gunner Joe. The email stated, “some bad stuff is headed your way, keep your head down.” Chair Yee did not respond to the email. He forwarded it to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy. Although it was a bit unclear whether the email pertained to the pending MS4 regional permit, the email was made part of the record for

the permit.

Board member Mendez reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported received two emails from Mr. Tahir. He did not read the emails. He forwarded the emails the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy.
- On Monday, June 7, 2021, he received a letter requesting party status for the MS4 Permit from NRDC, Heal the Bay, and LA Waterkeeper. He did not read it. He forwarded the letter to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy to determine ex parte communication status. The Board's legal counsel, Sophie Froelich, clarified that this email was not an ex parte communication and did not need to be disclosed. However, request for party status is part of the record for the pending MS4 proceeding.

Board member Muñoz reported on one ex parte communication:

- She reported receiving the same June 4, 2021 email as Chair Yee from Mr. Tahir. She did not read the email. She forwarded the email the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy.

Board member Nahai reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported receiving the same June 4, 2021 email as Chair Yee from Mr. Tahir. He did not read the email. He forwarded the email the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy.
- He also reported receiving a June 10, 2021 email from Mr. Tahir that he did not open but forwarded to Executive Officer Renee Purdy.

Vice Chair Guzmán reported on one ex parte communication:

- She reported receiving the same June 4, 2021 email as Chair Yee from Mr. Tahir. She did not read the email. She forwarded the email the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy.

Board member Stringer reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported receiving the same June 4, 2021 email as Chair Yee from Mr. Tahir. He did not read the email. He forwarded the email to Board Counsel Sophie Froelich.

- 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 Nahai reported on the following:

- On June 11, 2021, the 15th Annual Sustainability Summit will be held

by the Los Angeles Business Council. Every year the summit conducts a panel on water matters, and this year Board member Nahai will moderate the panel.

Board member Méndez reported of the following:

- In honor of Pride Month, Board member Mendez will be speaking to staff of the World Wildlife Federation to celebrate LGBTQ communities and environmentalism. He also attended the same meeting as Vice Chair Guzmán on May 20, 2021.

Vice Chair Guzmán reported on the following:

- On May 20, 2021, Vice Chair Guzmán, State Board member Laurel Firestone and Board member Méndez met with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) and Los Angeles Water Boards Site Cleanup Program staff to learn about groundwater cleanup activities in the San Gabriel Valley and the collaboration among the WQA, Los Angeles Water Board, and State Board Division of Financial Assistance.

Chair Yee reported on the following:

- On May 19, 2021, he attended a State Water Board webinar on the hydrology study of the Ventura River. The webinar was the second in a series.
- On May 21, 2021, he attended the Statewide Regional Board Chairs' Meeting. Chair Yee reported the following:
 - There was a discussion with three State Secretaries: Secretary Jared Blumenfeld of Cal/EPA; Secretary Wade Crowfoot of the Natural Resources Agency; and Secretary Karen Ross of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.
 - A large amount of state and federal funding will be available for water resiliency and drought response programs and projects, \$5 billion will be available to support three areas of drinking water: (1) PFAS (2) A response to the drought and (3) Habitat improvement. \$1 million of the funds available will support customers with household water bill payment debt relief.
 - A draft resolution on racial equity will possibly be adopted by the State this summer.

Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report

The EO reported on the following items:

- State Water Board's Approval of the Regional Board's TMDL Basin Plan Amendments
 - State Board issued a notice and opportunity to comment on the approvals of the Regional Board's TMDL Basin Plan Amendments to extend TMDL deadlines for 9 TMDLs. The written comment deadline is Monday, June 14, 2021. State Board has scheduled consideration of this item for the July 6, 2021 Board meeting.
- Regional Draft MS4 Tentative Permit
 - Written responses to comments received on the draft Regional MS4 Permit and revisions to the draft permit and all attachments including the fact sheet in response to comment were released on June 4, 2021.
 - An MS4 Permit public workshop will be held on June 22, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Update on State Board's Racial Equity Resolution
 - The draft of the State Board's Resolution on Racial Equity is scheduled to be released for public review and comment during the week of June 21, 2021. A public workshop will be held by State Board on July 7, 2021. State Board plans to consider adoption of the resolution in August 2021.
- Site Cleanup Program
 - Update on the former Pneumo Abex Facility site investigation and cleanup in Oxnard. Additional soil vapor sampling was conducted early in 2021 of some residential areas to the south of the site. A report was submitted to the Regional Water Board in April 2021. Staff is reviewing the report and communication with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on evaluating any potential health risks.
 - A community update will be distributed after the review of the report.
 - A second round of sampling will take place in the coming months in the same area.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire

State Water Board Member Sean Maguire provided updates on the following items:

- Racial Equity Resolution
 - Draft resolution will be available for public comments in the upcoming

weeks.

- Tentative date for Public Workshop July 21, 2021.
- Draft Resolution for Board consideration by August 2021.
- Governor Newsom's \$5 Billion Budget Funding Proposal
- California drought conditions and sustainable water supply
- Construction Stormwater General Permit
 - On June 9, 2021, a Workshop was held to receive draft permit comments.
 - On July 7, 2021, there will be a public hearing during the State Board meeting.
 - There is no proposed date to adopt the permit.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speaker

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Item 8, 9, 11 and 12 - Uncontested Items

The Chair stated the uncontested items calendar as Items 8, 9, 11 and 12.

MOTION: Vice Chair Guzmán made a motion to approve uncontested calendar items 8, 9, 11 and 12.

Seconded by: Board member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Michael Méndez - Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

David Nahai - Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 13 – Enforcement Referral to the California Attorney General

Staff Presentation

- Russ Colby, Section Chief, Compliance and Enforcement Section
- Adam Taing, Water Resources Control Engineer, Underground Storage Tanks – LA River

Speakers:

- Anthony Cosio, representing Ralph Galvan, National Cleaners and Rocket Cleaners
- Carl Middleton, President of Northgate Gonzalez Real Estate Company
- Ernie Hernandez, City Manager, City of Lynwood
- Preston Brooks, Cox Castle and Nicholson on behalf of the City of Lynwood
- Blake Alsbrook, Los Angeles Superior Court-Appointed Receiver
- Leo Rebele, Ramboll US Consulting, Inc.

MOTION: Board member Nahai made a motion to approve the referral to the California Attorney General.

Seconded by: Board member Muñoz
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea
Michael Méndez - Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
David Nahai - Yea
James Stahl – Yea
Charles Stringer – Yea
Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 14 – Closed Session

Legal counsel Sophie Froelich announced that the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 14.b., 14.c., 14.d., and 14.h., on the agenda, pursuant to Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e).

Lunch Break 12:40 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(The Board went into closed session at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m.)

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 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 may provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, if available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on July 9, 2021

Signature on File (Helen Rowe)