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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only  
No Physical Location

*Authorized by and in Furtherance of Executive Order  
N-29-20 and N-33-20*

June 11, 2020

Chair Munoz called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Chair Munoz 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. She 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, Irma Muñoz, 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, Steven Webb, Russ Colby, Eric Wu, Peter Raftery, Thomas Siebels, Céline Gallon, Amanda Rosenblum, Jun Zhu, Augustine Anijielo, Namiraj Jain, Dan Kippen and Kailyn Ellison

**Item 2 – Order of Agenda**

There were no changes made to the order of agenda.

**Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the May 14, 2020 Board meeting**

MOTION: Board Member Stringer made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes

Seconded by: Vice Chair Yee

Motion carried: approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

**Item 4 – Board Member Communications**

- a) **Ex Parte Disclosures** *(Board Members will identify and discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40.)*

There were no ex parte disclosures from the Board.

- 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 Stahl reported on May 21st he attended the Watershed Area Steering Committee meeting for Central Santa Monica Bay to provide his support for the Ballona Creek Project submitted by the City of Los Angeles for funding through the Safe Clean Water Program. He stated that the project would be a significant positive contribution to MS4 permit compliance and treating dry weather flow. He noted, however, that the project was pulled from consideration during this round of funding for reasons not fully known to him and expressed his concern about this development.

Board Member Stringer expressed his gratitude to staff for continuing to move the important work of the Water Board forward in the midst of a very tumultuous time. He shared that he was inspired by everyone's focus on what the Board is doing in supporting those in our community and each other to ensure that Los Angeles continues to be in the forefront and that the most vulnerable among us are taken care of.

Board Members Stahl and Guzmán echoed Board Member Stringer's comments. Board Member Guzmán said that she wants to challenge herself, fellow Board Members and staff to think about how to use the Board's position to question and help change institutions to serve people more equitably. She expressed her

belief that the Board has a role to play. Board Member Guzmán also thanked staff for continuing to do the work of the Board during these abnormal times.

Board Member Stringer followed up with a suggestion that the Board do a “deeper dive” into environmental justice issues in the region around water quality to make sure the Board is fully educated on the efforts of the Water Board to address environmental justice issues in areas under the Board’s jurisdiction that are most vulnerable. Board Member Guzmán stated that she would be willing to help identify those that would be interested in speaking to this issue.

Chair Muñoz echoed the sentiments of the other Board members, including that environmental justice needs to be at the forefront. She said the Board needs to give thought to looking at the Board’s work through a different lens, including the economic impacts of COVID-19. She also said that the Board’s responsibility is greater than it has ever been and that our work is more needed and meaningful than it has ever been.

### ***Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report***

The EO reported on the following items:

- Update on the status of requests for relief from Water Board requirements as a result of COVID-19 and the local and state stay-at-home orders.
  - As of today, a total of 120 requests have been received; ten new requests since the last Board meeting.
  - Reminder to regulated community to submit timely requests for relief utilizing the established process on the Water Board website.
- Water resiliency activities including:
  - Water Resilience Portfolio: With the support of the Water Boards, the California Natural Resources Agency is finalizing responses to comments received from the State Department of Finance on the draft portfolio. A final version of the portfolio is anticipated in July.
  - Implementation of the Statewide Recycled Water Policy -- Recent 2018 amendments include requirements for consistency in permitting non-potable and potable recycled water projects and updates to monitoring requirements for Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs). Recent policy implementation activities in the Los Angeles Region associated with these amendments include: (1) transition of two enrollees in the Regional Water Board’s General WDRs/WRRs for non-irrigation uses to the State Water Board’s General Order by the April 2020 deadline; (2) termination of Regional Water Board WDRs/WRRs; and (3) development of CEC monitoring requirements for recycled water facilities.
  - The status of final permitting by the City of Malibu for the Paradise Cove Wastewater Treatment Systems upgrade. On May 18th, the City of Malibu

Planning Commission voted to approve the CEQA Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the Coastal Development Permit for the construction of the upgraded wastewater treatment facility and water recycling facility. Staff is working on revisions to the Cease and Desist Order for the existing facilities given the changes to the timing of the abovementioned approvals. The revisions will be presented to the Board for consideration at an upcoming Board meeting.

- Outreach and engagement activities including:
  - UTC Canoga Park Facility – Staff is finalizing a community update and frequently asked questions document, which will be distributed to approximately 8,000 residents and business; planning for a virtual community meeting is ongoing
  - Industrial Sites Task Force meeting on May 28th – Participants included Chair Muñoz, Board staff, the cities of Industry, Bell, Pomona, Glendora, and Monrovia, the San Gabriel Valley COG, Pacoima Beautiful, LA Waterkeeper, Heal the Bay, SA Recycling, and the Metals Coalition. Board staff gave presentations on the status of Senate Bill 205 and the amendment to the Industrial General Permit, which becomes effective July 2020; discussion followed.

#### ***Item 6 – Update by State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire***

State Water Board Member Sean Maguire reported on the following items:

- Executive Order N-42-20 prohibiting the shutoff of residential water during COVID-19: The State continues to track this information to ensure that everyone has access to safe drinking water. The State is also sensitive to the economic impacts that water systems and wastewater systems are experiencing regarding revenue and their ability to maintain operations and solvency. The State Board sent out a survey to all water systems in the state inquiring about the financial impact of COVID-19, including revenue reductions, personnel workforce implications, and supply interruptions. The State Board will also send a survey to wastewater systems inquiring about these same items. The results will be shared with the Board when available.
- The proposed State Budget, including the projected \$54 billion deficit: The Legislature and Governor Newsom are in the process of finalizing the budget for 2020-2021. The Governor has proposed 10% salary reduction for all state employees. Additionally, the State has recruited 5% of all agency employees to become contact tracers to assist with addressing the COVID-19 public health emergency. This equates to over one hundred state and regional water board employees who are temporarily reassigned to contract tracing. While this work is critical, it will impact the Water Board's output over the next 6-9 months.
- Process of reissuing Phase 2 MS4 Permit: Public process starts next week. Zoom workshops scheduled. Consideration may be given to including school districts.

- Upcoming State Board meeting on Tuesday, June 16: Considering a proposal to adopt a new definition of microplastics in drinking water. A consistent definition and way to analyze and evaluate microplastics will assist the agency understand how microplastics affect human health and aquatic life and help inform actions the Water Board can take to address this emerging contaminant. The definition is for microplastics in drinking water, but this same definition may be used for other applications as it related to surface water quality and discharges.

### ***Item 7 – Public Forum***

#### Speakers:

- Rocco Belmonte, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council
- Adam Kurland, Orange County Coast Keeper

### ***Item 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 – Uncontested Items***

MOTION: Board Member Guzmán made a motion to approve Items 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

Seconded by: Vice Chair Yee

Motion carried: approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

### ***Item 13 – Information Item***

**Staff Introduction:** Russ Colby, Chief of the Compliance & Enforcement Section

**Presentation:** Dan Kippen and Kailyn Ellison of the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Enforcement gave a presentation on the penalty calculation methodology set forth in the statewide Water Quality Enforcement Policy.

Legal counsel Adriana Nuñez announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 14.b, 14.d, 14.j, 14.l, 14.m and 14.n on the agenda.

*(The Board went into closed session at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:25 p.m.)*

*The meeting adjourned at 1:30 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 may provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, if available.)*

*Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, then finalized on*