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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 Orders  
Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20](#)*

April 8, 2021

Chair Yee called the meeting to order at 9:03 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, Susana Vargas, Megan Kung, Jun Zhu, Snejana Toneva, Jeong-Hee Lim, Ginachi Amah and Don Tsai

#### ***Item 2 – Order of Agenda***

The EO Renee Purdy recommended that Item 9 be moved to the uncontested calendar if there were no objections from the Board Members.

There were no objections on the recommendation.

**Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the March 11, 2021 Board Meeting**

MOTION: Board member Muñoz made a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 draft meeting minutes.

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

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

Note that Michael Méndez stepped away briefly, so was not present for this vote.

**Item 4 – Selection of Subcommittees**

Chair Yee reviewed the current list of subcommittees with the Board members. He asked Board members for comments or questions regarding the subcommittees.

After discussion of the existing subcommittees, the Board members decided on which subcommittees to maintain, which to eliminate, and which new subcommittees to establish. Subsequently, Board members volunteered to serve on each of the subcommittees.

Board Counsel Sophie Froelich stated there is no requirement to vote on subcommittees but suggested a vote for record-keeping purposes. Ms. Froelich summarized the Board's changes to its open session subcommittees as follows:

Eliminated Subcommittees: Malibu Civic Center Area Onsite Wastewater Disposal System Discharge Prohibition/MOU, 2012 LA County MS4 Permit Implementation, and LA River Flow and Beneficial Uses

Established/revised subcommittees:

**Subcommittee**

Industrial Task Force  
Public Outreach (generally)  
River Flows and Beneficial Uses

**Board members**

Irma Muñoz and David Nahai  
Cynthia Guzmán and David Nahai  
Michael Méndez and James Stahl

MOTION: Board member Muñoz made a motion to revise the subcommittees as set forth above.

Seconded by: Board member Méndez

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 5 – 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.)

**Vice Chair Guzmán** reported on one ex parte communication:

- On April 2, 2021, she received an email with an attachment from Mr. Ray Tahir concerning Basin Plan amendments extending certain TMDL deadlines, voted on the Board last month. She did not read the email. The email and attachment were forwarded to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy, and added to the record for the pending Regional MS4 Permit.

**Board member Stringer** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email as Vice Chair Guzmán and took the same measures.

**Board member Muñoz** reported on one ex parte communication:

- She reported she also received the same email from Mr. Tahir. She did not read the email.

**Board member Stahl** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received emails from Mr. Ray Tahir and that any emails with ex parte are forwarded to legal counsel.

**Board member Méndez** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email as the other board members from Mr. Ray Tahir. He did not open the email and deleted it.

**Board member Nahai** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email with an attachment from Mr. Ray Tahir. He did not read the email and forwarded the email to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy. Mr. Tahir sent the email to Board member

Nahai's personal email address. Board member Nahai provided Mr. Tahir with his Water Board email address.

**Board Chair Yee** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email from Mr. Ray Tahir. The email was forwarded to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy.
- 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 Muñoz** reported she spoke with James Simonelli to discuss the next steps for the Industrial Task Force.

**Board Member Stahl** reported on the following.

- An upcoming virtual tour led by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) of the \$630 million outfall tunnel. He also asked that staff inform the Board of future tours such as this one.
- The release of a UCLA report, titled "The Human Right to Water in Poor Communities of Color: Urban Disadvantaged Community Water Systems in Southern Los Angeles County," co-authored by Madelyn Glickfeld.
- The upcoming retirement of Water Board staff member Guangyu Wang who serves on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission.
- On April 5, 2021 Board member Stahl testified as an individual at the Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee. He supported the City of LA's Ballona Creek dry weather diversion, first flush treatment project.

**Board Member Nahai** reported on a general meeting with Heal the Bay, LA Waterkeeper and NRDC. No pending items before the Board were discussed.

### ***Item 6 – Executive Officer's Report***

The EO reported on the following items:

- Working with Tribal Governments on Tribal Beneficial Use Designations
  - On March 26, 2021, staff met with representatives of three tribes in the Los Angeles Region to discuss the tribes' participation in designating Tribal Beneficial Uses for waterbodies in the LA Region. The tribes represented included the Kizh Nation, the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, and the Ventureño Band of Chumash Indians. The tribes received a CalEPA Environmental Justice small grant to help support their collaboration with the Los Angeles Water Board on this project.

- The Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Project
  - On March 25, 2021, staff participated in the fourth Stakeholder Working Group meeting for the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Project. The project team discussed the Draft Flow Recommendations Report, which provides ranges of flows (or hydraulic conditions) necessary to support beneficial uses to inform flow management decisions.
- Site Clean-Up Projects
  - The EO reported on the status of investigation and cleanup activities for the following Site Cleanup Program cases: Skypark Commercial Properties, Torrance, CA; Carousel Neighborhood/Former Kast Tank Farm, Carson, CA; Earvin Magic Johnson Park/former Athens Tank Farm, Willowbrook, CA; Pneumo Abex site, Oxnard, CA; and United Technologies Corporation site, Canoga Park, CA

### ***Item 7 – Update from State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire***

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

- California drought conditions and sustainable water supply
- American Rescue Plan, Infrastructure program investments and COVID-19 Relief bill, estimated \$195 billion allocated for broadband, water and wastewater, and other types of infrastructure investments. The plan includes \$550 million countrywide for debt relief in addition to \$638 million already allocated to the plan.
- American Jobs Plan
- Summary of three current State bills.
  - AB125 proposed by Assemblymember Robert Rivas
  - AB1500 proposed by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
  - SB45, proposed by Senator Tina Allen, Senator Hurtado and Senator Stern
  - If these bills pass state legislation, the bills may be on the November 20, 2022 State ballot for voter approval

Renee Purdy, EO, introduced and welcomed Nefretiri Cooley, State Water Board Director of Communications and Co-Chair of the Water Boards' Racial Equity Steering Committee, to the meeting. Ms. Cooley provided an update on the Statewide Racial Equality Initiative.

### ***Item 8 – Public Forum***

#### **Speakers:**

- *Ewelina Mutkowska*, Ventura County Public Works Agency-Watershed Protection
- *Adam Ryan*, International Zinc Association
- *Monica Briseno*, Elkins Kalt Weintraub Gartside LLP
- *Kenneth Ehrlich*, Elkins Kalt Weintraub Gartside LLP

**Presentation:**

*Frankie Orrala and Heather Curtis, Heal the Bay*

Topic: Outreach work through the Speakers Bureau Program, Volunteer Trainings, and Angler Outreach Program.

***Item 9 – Uncontested Items***

*The Chair stated the uncontested items calendar as Item 9.*

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve uncontested calendar item 9.

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 11 – Closed Session***

Legal counsel Sophie Froelich announced that the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 11.b., 11.c., and 11.d., on the agenda.

**Lunch Break 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

*(The Board went into closed session at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.)*

***Item 10 – Consideration of Short-term Renewal of Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands within the Los Angeles Region***

*The Chair administered the oath.*

**Staff Introduction:** *Jenny Newman, AEO*

**Staff Presentation:** *Dr. Jun Zhu, Unit Chief, and Snejana Toneva, Environmental Scientist*

**Speaker:**

*John Krist, Farm Bureau of Ventura County on behalf of the Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group*

MOTION: Board member Nahai made a motion to approve Item 10.

Seconded by: Board Member Stringer  
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

*The meeting adjourned at 2:23 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, Board Clerk on: May 14, 2021*

Signature on File  
Helen Rowe