
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Office
Carmel Room

Los Angeles, CA 90013

August 16, 2023

Chair Camacho called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

She explained the process for participation in the virtual meeting and that the Board has Spanish interpretation services available through the Zoom platform. She announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Juan Carlos Juarez, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Stephanie Yu, Amelia Carder, Sophie Froelich, Jennifer Fordyce, Tamarin Austin, Khalid Abdullah, Alfredo Duran, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Yue Rong, Susana Lagudis, Brian Anderson and Luz Vargas

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

Chair Camacho made two announcements.

1. Water Board staff member Daniel Piroton passed away on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Chair Camacho commemorated his importance to the Board.
2. Board members Irma Mu?oz and James Stahl resigned from the Los Angeles Regional Water Board. Chair Camacho thanked them for their service.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the June 22, 2023, Meeting.

NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the June 22, 2023, draft meeting 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.)

Chair Camacho reported on one communication. On July 26, 2023, Chair Camacho, Executive Officer Susana Arredondo and Assistant Executive Officer Jenny Newman met with the Los Angeles City Sanitation District and Maria Mehranian who is a member of the Safe Clean Water Program Regional Oversight Committee. They discussed processes of the Regional Oversight Committee and water recycling.

- 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 Méndez reported on the following: On July 17, 2023, the State Water Board hosted a webinar on Climate and Racial Equity. He assisted with moderating the water justice panel for socially vulnerable communities.

He attended a public tour of the Carson Water Treatment Plant for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

Vice Chair Nahai reported on the following: He traveled to Australia with a delegation of 15 to 20 members led by Secretary Crowfoot. The trip was nine days long. He attended meetings that focused on renewable energy and what Australians are doing to advance their renewable energy programs.

On August 15, 2023, Vice Chair Nahai attended a signing ceremony between Governor Newsom and Ambassador Rudd in Sacramento. An MOU was signed for cooperation in all kinds of fields, especially climate change.

As Chair of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), Vice Chair Nahai announced that there will be a sustainability summit for LABC on September 22, 2023.

Board Member Christiansen reported on the following: She works for the Water Foundation. She had a discussion on water usage and irrigated agriculture in the Colorado River Basin. She learned that 80% of the water in the Colorado River goes to foraging crops to feed cattle and that much of the water is shipped overseas for cattle in other countries. The dire shortage of water that we are experiencing is not water conservation versus our food systems. There is lots of positive media information regarding the rain and how much relief that is given to our reservoirs and aquifers, but she emphasized the need for long-term water conservation.

Board Member Ashjian reported on the following: Next, week is World Water Week. There are a number of programs online to watch or listen to about some of the innovative changes taking place in water systems.

Chair Camacho reported on the following: On June 29, 2023, she other Board members attended the Mujeres de la Tierra celebration that honored Latina and Latino water pioneers. The celebration was held at the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Headquarters.

On July 19, 2023, Chair Camacho and Regional Water Board staff members attended the MWD and LA County Sanitation Districts' celebration of their receipt of \$8 million to help advance pure water in Southern California.

On July 7, 14 and 21, 2023, Chair Camacho had meetings on regional updates with Regional Water Board staff members.

On August 10 and 15, 2023, she had meetings with members of the Advisory Team.

Vice Chair Nahai congratulated Chair Camacho and Executive Officer Susana Arredondo on the recognition they received at the Mujeres de la Tierra event.

Item 8 – Uncontested Items

Chair Camacho announce uncontested Item 8, Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for the Ventura Oil Field Impoundment Remedial Activities. She asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Item 8. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve uncontested Item 8.

Seconded by: Board Member Méndez

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen - Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

Chair Camacho announced Item 10, the referral to the California attorney General.

Item 10 – Consideration of a proposed resolution authorizing referral to the Office of the Attorney General for judicial civil enforcement against Day to Day Imports Inc., Virgin Scent Inc. dba ArtNaturals, Akiva Nourollah, Yosef Nourollah, Yehuda Nourollah, Yaakov Nourollah, Liberty Property Limited Partnership, and Prologis, Inc. This item concerns the Dominguez Channel Odor Incident and the property located at 16325 South Avalon Boulevard in Carson.

Chair Camacho made opening remarks for Item 10.

Legal Counsel, Sophie Froelich read the Advisory Team's explanation of proposed changes to Resolution R23-004.

Prosecution Team Presentation: Naomi Rubin, Attorney, State Water Board, Office of Enforcement

Speakers:

- Virgin Scent and Day to Day Imports, represented by Rudy Perrino and Sandra Wootton, Kutak Rock, LLP
- Liberty Property and Prologis, represented by Navi Phillon, Paul Hastings
- Gardena Democratic Club represented by Ray Tahir

Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' questions.

Board Members Christiansen and Méndez, Vice Chair Nahai and Chair Camacho asked questions. Responses to the Board members' questions were made by Rudy Perrino, Navi Phillon, Kailyn Ellison, Sophie Froelich, Jennifer Fordyce and Jenny Newman.

Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' comments.

Comments were made by Board Members Ashjian and Méndez, Vice Chair Nahai and Chair Camacho.

Board Member Méndez made a motion to approve the Prosecution Team recommendation for the referral to the California Attorney General with amended language to Resolution R23-004 provided by the Advisory Team and to include the involvement of Bureau of Environmental Justice staff.

Board Recess 2:50 p.m. to 3:06 p.m.

Board recess for the Advisory Team to craft language for the proposed amendment requested by Board Member Méndez.

Legal counsel for the Advisory Team, Amelia Carder read the additional language to the proposed amended Resolution R23-004 requested by Board Member Méndez.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: October 2, 2023

Signature on File