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## 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

June 22, 2023

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

She 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. She provided instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting for those wishing to provide comments on an agenda item, and she announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Sergio Morales, 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 (Remote), Norma Camacho, Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai and James Stahl

**Note:** Irma Muñoz departed after closed session.

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Adriana Nuñez, Sophie Froelich, Tamarin Austin, Khalid Abdullah, Alfredo Duran, Gerardo Rabelo, LB Nye, Russ Colby (Remote), Arthur Heath, Yue Rong, Susana Lagudis, Brian Anderson, Emily Wong, Milasol Gaslan, James Kang, Woonhoe Kim, Bronwyn Kelly, Randy Ly, Pavlova Vitale and Scott Landon

#### ***Item 2 – Order of Agenda***

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer asked that Item 8 be moved to the uncontested items calendar and Item 10 be heard before Item 9.

There were no objections to the recommended changes.

***Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the May 25, 2023, Meeting.***

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the May 25, 2023, draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Muñoz

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea  
Norma Camacho – Yea  
Marissa Christiansen – Yea  
Michael Méndez – Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai – Yea  
James Stahl – 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 reports from the Board members.

- 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 18, 2023, State Water Board is hosting a webinar on racial equity. Board Member Méndez will moderate a panel with community advocates on water justice issues. The webinar is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. The link to the webinar was sent to Board members by Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer. The public is welcomed to attend the webinar. On June 3, 2023, Board member Méndez attended a public open house hosted by the Los Angeles County Sanitations District in La Puente. He toured the wastewater treatment plant, the landfill, and the waste recycling transfer station. The Los Angeles County Sanitation District will host another public open house in August 2023.

**Board Member Muñoz** reported on the following: In May 2023, she attended a three (3) day symposium at the National Green Latinos Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The week of June 5, 2023, Board Member Muñoz had a discussion with Alf Brandt, the Chief of Staff to Speaker Rendon. Speaker Rendon is planning to speak down from his role as speaker next week. Board Member Muñoz thanked Heal the Bay for reporting on the health of beaches.

**Vice Chair Nahai** reported on the following: Vice Chair Nahai is unable to attend the July 27, 2023, Board meeting. He is traveling to Australia with a delegation led by Secretary Crowfoot.

**Board Member Christiansen** reported on the following: In May 2023, Board Member Christiansen attended a conference in Australia hosted by the Water Foundation. Karen Cohn with the Minderoo Foundation discussed wildfire resilience planning and how it intersects with issues of water, water quality and ecosystem restoration.

**Board Member Stahl** reported on the following: Board Member Stahl requested that board members be allowed to schedule tours to the different facilities within the Los Angeles Water Board region. And witness firsthand the complexity of the operations and challenges that the Los Angeles Water Board staff members monitor 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Legal Counsel, Sophie Froelich, responded to Board Member Stahl's request. She recommended discussing the tours with Hugh Marley, Assistant Executive Officer and Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer.

**Chair Camacho** reported on the following: On May 26, 2023, Chair Camacho and the Executive Officer (EO), Susana Arredondo attended, (virtually) the annual regional meeting for the Chairs and Vice Chairs. Three key updates were discussed at the meeting 1) Algal Bloom; 2) Strides made on the ocean acidification modeling and 3) Nutrient Management Strategies. The EO gave a brief overview of the ongoing work at the Los Angeles Water Board. On June 15, 2023, Chair Camacho attended the regional Oversight Committee for the Safe Clean Water Program. The Bi-annual Safe Clean Water Program progress report was discussed. The meeting was attended by members of the Los Angeles Waterkeepers. They expressed concerns with prioritizing hardscape, removal in schools and underserved poor communities, and developing a clear definition of disadvantaged community benefits received through the program. Nonprofit organizations that were represented at the meeting indicated that the grant process for safe clean water is difficult for small business entities. The next ROC meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chair Camacho made a statement thanking Legal Counsel, Sophie Froelich, for her exemplary service as legal counsel for the Los Angeles Water Board for the past 5 years.

Comments were made by: Sophie Froelich and Vice Chair Nahai.

**Board Member Ashjian** reported on the following: She mentioned that the State Water Board webinar on racial equity discussed by Board Member Méndez will be held on July 18, 2023. She encouraged everyone to attend the webinar. Board Member Ashjian offered to assist with the planning of future tours to the sanitation districts. Board Member Ashjian thanked Sophie Froelich for assisting her in her work as a new Board member.

c. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Work Plan

The Chair presented a final work plan based on the Board Members' feedback

at the January 26, 2023, Board Retreat and priority setting meeting.

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments from the Board members. Comments were made by Board Member Stahl and Chair Camacho.*

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

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, provided updates of the following items:

1) Prop 1 Regional Site Investigation in South El Monte. The Los Angeles Water Board (LAWB) is currently conducting a site assessment at twelve (12) high priority sites within the U.S. EPA south El Monte Operable Unit. As of June 2023, the field work at nine (9) sites has been completed. Four (4) sites in the San Gabriel Basin WQA have submitted the final site assessment reports to the LAWB. Bi-weekly meetings are conducted with the San Gabriel Basin WQA and the LAWB to discuss project implementation status and issues needing attention.

2) The State Water Board recently reissued the Stormwater Construction General Permit. The public workshops were conducted by the LAWB Stormwater Compliance & Enforcement Unit on April 25, 2023, and May 16, 2023, and were attended by approximately 260 attendees. On July 11, 2023, State Water Board will conduct a similar hybrid public workshop at the LAWB office in the Carmel Room starting at 9:00 a.m. The informal workshop is open to dischargers, municipalities, and stormwater professionals.

3) The Alhambra Sanitary Sewer Overflow. The City of Alhambra has a 45-day report due to the LAWB on July 18, 2023.

Dr. LB Nye, Regional Program Section Manager concluded the executive officer’s report with a response to a presentation and comments made by Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Consultants to the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed at the May 25, 2023, Board meeting.

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments from the Board members.*

Vice Chair Nahai, Board Members Muñoz, Stahl, and Chair Camacho made comments. Board Member Méndez requested an update on the Long Beach Sewage Closure. The EO will follow up with an update to Board Member Méndez’s request.

### ***Item 6 – Public Forum***

#### **Speakers:**

- Annalisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

*Chair Camacho requested the EO to contact Safe Clean Water program staff to discuss concerns expressed by Ray Tahir. The EO responded that she and Jenny Newman would follow up with a report to the Board members.*

*Chair Camacho recommended to Ray Tahir that he express his concerns and issues to the WASC (Watershed Area Steering Committee). Mr. Tahir accepted the recommendation from Chair Camacho.*

**Speaker (cont.)**

- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
- Jeanette Vosburg
- Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition
- Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
- Mark Lombos, Los Angeles County Public Works

Board Members Muñoz, Stahl, Méndez and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer and Legal Counsel, Tamarin Austin, responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

***Items 7 and 8 – Uncontested Items***

*Chair Camacho read each uncontested item for the record. She asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Items 7 and 8. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.*

MOTION: Board Member Stahl made a motion to approve uncontested Items 7 and 8.

Seconded by: Board Member Muñoz

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea  
Norma Camacho – Yea  
Marissa Christiansen - Yea  
Michael Méndez – Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai – Yea  
James Stahl – Yea

**Break 10:32 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

*Chair Camacho announced Item 10 the Information Item*

***Item 10 – Review of the laws governing the issuance of time schedule orders and evaluation of the nature and frequency of their recent issuance.***

**Staff Introduction:** Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for any clarifying questions from the Board members. There were no questions from the Board members.*

**Speakers:**

- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

*Chair Camacho asked legal counsel to responded to comments made by Ray Tahir. Legal Counsel, Sophie Froelich responded to comments made by Ray Tahir and Benjamin Harris.*

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

Vice Chair Nahai, Board Members Muñoz, Méndez and Chair Camacho made comments. Jenny Newman, Sophie Froelich, Tamarin Austin, Hugh Marley and Adriana Nuñez responded to the Board members.' comments.

### **Lunch Break/Closed Session**

#### ***Item 11 – Closed Session***

*Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Item 11.t. (iii)*

*(The Board met in closed session from 11:57 a.m. to 1:14 p.m.)*

*Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 9 and administered the oath.*

#### ***Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Trancas Water Pollution Control Plant, Malibu, CA; File No. 61-061***

**Staff Presentation:** Jim Kang, Supervisor of the Groundwater Permitting Unit

#### **Speakers:**

- Coby Skye, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Public Works
- Pamela Eilerson, Board of Directors, Malibu West Homeowners
- Tracy Weirick, Malibu West Swimming Club
- David Jassby
- Annalisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

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

Board members Stahl, Ashjian, Vice Chair Nahai, and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. Coby Skye, Jim Kang, Milasol Gaslan, Jenny Newman and Jeff Bouriz responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve Item 9.

Seconded by: Board Member Christiansen

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - No

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Absent  
David Nahai – Yea  
James Stahl – Yea

*The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)*

**Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: 08/17/2023**

Helen Rowe

Signature on File