
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
N-29-20 and N-33-20*

November 12, 2020

Chair Muñoz called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Chair Muñoz 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 interpretation 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 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

Note: Board Chair Irma Muñoz departed at 1:24 p.m.

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, Adriana Renteria, Don Tsai, Rosario Aston, Thomas Siebels, Ginachi Amah, Thizar Tintut-Williams, Jeong-Hee Lim, Megan Kung, Jeanette Liu, Su Han, Wen Yang, Ana Veronica Cuevas, and Ashley Olmeda

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

The EO noted that Items 1-6 would be taken in the order on the agenda, followed by Public Forum (Item 9), then Item 14 on the Status of the PFAS Investigations, and then Item 8 and 8a, the State Board liaison update and an update on the Water Boards' racial equity initiative. The EO noted that the Board would then hear Items 10-13 and end with a short EO report.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the October 8, 2020 Board meeting

MOTION: Vice Chair Yee made a motion to approve the October 8, 2020 draft meeting minutes

Seconded by: Board member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 4 – Approval of Tentative 2021 Los Angeles Water Board Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve the tentative 2021 Los Angeles Water Board Meeting Schedule

Seconded by: Board member Stringer

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 5 – Appointment of a Committee to Nominate Regional Water Board Officers for 2021

The Chair appointed herself and Board member Stahl as the Nominating Committee for the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair for 2021.

Item 6 – 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 communication disclosures.

- 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 attending the following events:

- October 19, 2020 - the MWD engineering and operations committee meeting.
- October 21, 2020 - the Urban Water Institute webinar.
- October 22, 2020 – a meeting of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board as the Regional Water Board representative.
- October 27 and 28 – the Water Boards' annual WQCC meeting.
- November 5, 2020 – a virtual tour of the MWD AWT facility adjacent to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Joint Water Pollution Control Plant.
- November 10, 2020 – a virtual inspection of the Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant.

Vice Chair Yee reported on attending the following events:

- October 6, 2020 – Attended State Water Board's workshop on the Proposed Order related to the WMPs/EWMPs under the 2012 LA County MS4 Permit.
- October 27 and 28 - the Water Boards' annual WQCC meeting
- November 10, 2020 - a virtual inspection of the Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant

Board member Guzmán reported that she also attended the Water Boards' annual WQCC meeting on October 27 and 28.

Chair Muñoz reported on a telephone call with Jim Simonelli, Executive Officer of the Metals Coalition, regarding the Industrial Task Force and expansion of the task force to other regions.

Item 9 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Lara Shellenbarger, representing Ventura County's Coalition for Coastal & Inland Waterways
- Katherine Pease, Heal the Bay
- Chuck Carter, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council
- Adam Smith, City of Oxnard

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Item 14 – Information Item – Status of statewide and Los Angeles Water Board investigations on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Staff Introduction: Hugh Marley, Assistant Executive Officer, Groundwater Division

Group Presentation Speakers:

- Wendy Link, State Water Board Division of Water Quality
- Jeff O’Keefe, State Water Board Division of Drinking Water
- Dr. Wen Yang, Los Angeles Water Board
- Thizar Tintut-Williams, Los Angeles Water Board
- Brian Partington, Water Replenishment District of Southern California
- Jane Williams, California Communities Against Toxics

Additional Q&A Speakers:

- Shahla Farahnak and Annalisa Kihara, State Water Board Division of Water Quality
- Dr. Arthur Heath, Milasol Gaslan, Cris Morris and Dr. Jeong-Hee Lim, Los Angeles Water Board

Wrap Up:

Hugh Marley, Assistant Executive Officer, Groundwater Division

Item 8 – Update from State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire

State Water Board liaison Sean Maguire provided an introduction and context for the update on the Water Boards’ Racial Equity Initiative and introduced the first two speakers for Item 8a, Adriana Renteria and Sophie Froelich.

Item 8a – Update on Water Boards Racial Equity Initiative

Staff Presentation:

- Adriana Renteria, Director, Office of Public Participation
- Sophie Froelich, Office of Chief Counsel and Racial Equity Steering Committee member
- Renee Purdy, Los Angeles Water Board Executive Officer

Item 15 – Closed Session

Legal counsel Adriana Nuñez announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 15.b., 15.d., 15.n., 15.o., 15.p., 15.q. and 15.r. on the agenda.

(The Board went into closed session at 12:45 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.)

Item 10 – Uncontested Items

The Vice Chair stated the uncontested items calendar as Item 10.

MOTION: Board member Stringer made a motion to approve uncontested calendar, Item 10.

Seconded by: Board member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Absent

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Items 11, 12.1 and 12.2

The Vice Chair administered the oath for Items 11, 12.1 and 12.2 on the renewal of waste discharge requirements that serve as individual NPDES permits for the Ormond Beach Generating Station and the Alamitos Generating Station and the renewal of a time schedule order for the Alamitos Generating Station.

Staff Presentation: Items 11, 12.1 and 12.2: Thomas Siebels

Item 11 (NPDES Permit for Ormond Beach Power, LLC, Ormond Beach Generating Station)

Speakers:

- Casey Bradford, GenOn
- Alexander Nguyen, City Manager, City of Oxnard
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve Item 11.

Seconded by: Board member Guzmán

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Absent

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 12.1 (NPDES Permit for AES Alamitos, LLC - Alamitos Generating Station) and 12.2 (Time Schedule Order for AES Alamitos, LLC - Alamitos Generating Station)

Speakers:

- Coury McKinlay, AES
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve Item 12.1.

Seconded by: Board member Stringer

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Absent

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve Item 12.2.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Yee

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Absent

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 13 – Basin Planning

Staff Presentation: Dr. Ginachi Amah

Speakers:

- Matthew Teutimez, Tribal Environmental Director, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation (Mr. Teutimez also read statements from other members of the Tribal Beneficial Uses Working Group, the Honorable Eleanor Fishburn, Chairwoman of the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians, and the Honorable Donna Yocum, Chairwoman for the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians.)
- Eric Van Genderen, International Zinc Association
- Paul Alva, Los Angeles County, Public Works
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, representing the Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Management Program Group

- John Hunter, Lower Los Angeles and Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Management Program Groups
- Glen Kau, Director of Public Works, City of Norwalk
- Heather Merenda, City of Santa Clarita
- Arthur Pugsley, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Board member Stahl requested an amendment to the tentative resolution in response to comments by Mr. Watson regarding the project on updating the freshwater quality objectives for copper. Specifically, Board member Stahl asked for an amendment adding an evaluation of steps necessary to address zinc in a similar manner.

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve Item 13 with the proposed amendment as noted above.

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

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
James Stahl – Yea
Charles Stringer – Yea
Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report

There was no EO report.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 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 December 14, 2020

Signature on File

Helen Rowe