
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
City of South Gate
Council Chambers
8650 California Avenue
South Gate, California 90280

February 13, 2020

Chair Irma Muñoz called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Vice Chair Lawrence Yee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Muñoz invited Belén Bernal, Mayor of South Gate, to welcome the Board.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cynthia Guzmán, Irma Muñoz, James Stahl and Lawrence Yee

Board Members Absent: Charles Stringer

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Hugh Marley, Jenny Newman, Russ Colby, Helen Rowe Susana Lagudis, Khalid Abdullah, Gerardo Rabelo, Adriana Nuñez, Sophie Froelich, Tamarin Austin, Brendan O’Sullivan, Milasol Gaslan, Eric Wu, Pavlova Vitale, Nerissa Schrader, Ching-Yin To, Cris Morris, Cassandra Owens, Emily Duncan, Erum Razzak, Danielle Robinson, Céline Gallon, Jeong-Hee Lim, Raul Medina, Ginachi Amah, LB Nye, Ivar Ridgeway, Scott Landon, Erum Razzak, Angineh Shahnazarian, Ali Rahmani and Rebecca Christmann

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

The EO announced that Item 15 on the Regional MS4 Permit will be heard immediately after the Uncontested Items calendar; there were no objections.

Item 3 – Selection of 2020 Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair asked Board Member Stahl, member of the Nominating Committee for the 2020 Board officers, to present the committee's recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Board Member Stahl submitted to the Board for their consideration that the current officers remain in place for the 2020 term.

Chair Muñoz and Vice Chair Yee both accepted their nomination.

The Chair invited any discussion among the Board Members regarding the nominations. Board Member Guzmán acknowledged that the Board has been going through a transition period over the last year and expressed her support for the nomination of the current Chair and Vice Chair to continue as the 2020 Board officers.

Board Member Yee stated that he is honored to serve for another year as Vice Chair, particularly recognizing the changes the organization has been going through as noted by Board Member Guzmán. Board Member Muñoz thanked her colleagues for their vote of confidence. She shared her goals for the coming year, including going to communities and cities that have not traditionally attended Board meetings to listen to their concerns and encourage their involvement.

MOTION: Board Member Guzmán made a motion to approve the selection of 2020 Chair and Vice Chair.

Second by: Board Member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Absent

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 4 – Approval of draft meeting minutes for the December 12, 2019 Board meeting.

MOTION: Vice Chair Yee made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes from the December 12, 2019 Board meeting.

Seconded by: Board Member Stahl.

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Absent

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 5 – Board Member communications

There were no ex parte communication disclosures.

Board Member Guzmán shared an item not directly related to the Board, but significant environmental news about the death of Homero Gómez González and Raul Hernández Romero, two monarch butterfly activists. Board Member Guzmán expressed her deep respect for these two activists and her concern and regret for their passing. She expressed how proud she is to live in a state where we can still have a dialogue about our common goal, environmental protection, and specifically for the purpose of this Board, water quality protection regardless of a person's position or title. Board Member Guzmán asked Chair Muñoz for a few seconds of silence for these two activists.

Vice Chair Yee attended the 2020 annual conference of VerdeXchange in Los Angeles along with approximately 1500 other people. He attended sessions on stormwater and water in general.

Chair Muñoz also attended the VerdeXchange conference. She also gave a presentation at the annual meeting of WELL (Water Education for Latino Leaders) on water quality and the roles and responsibilities of Latino leaders in the positions they hold with regard to water quality.

Item 6 – Executive Officer's Report

The EO provided an update on water resilience activities. Ms. Purdy started by describing a tour of three LADWP groundwater remediation projects being funded by the Water Board under Proposition 1. The tour was held on January 24 and was attended by State Water Board Member Laurel Firestone, Board Member Stahl, Renee Purdy, Hugh Marley and other State and Regional Water Board staff members. The tour featured three groundwater remediation and drinking water treatment projects located in the San Fernando Valley. All three were awarded Proposition 1 grants, totaling over \$300 million. These projects will enable LADWP to restore some of the impaired drinking water wells in the San Fernando Valley. The EO also provided an update on Proposition 1 round 2 grants, announcing that the State Water Board completed review of the applications for groundwater clean-up and protection and awarded funding to six projects in the Los Angeles Region in the amount of \$267 million. This funding is in addition to \$73 million awarded in round 1, representing approximately 40% of the total \$800 million available under Proposition 1 for groundwater remediation. Finally, Ms. Purdy shared a brief update on two public notices that were issued for tentative water recycling permits (one for Oxnard's Aquifer Storage and Recovery project, and the other for the Vista Canyon Water Factory in Santa Clarita), which will be considered by the Board at the April meeting.

The EO also discussed some interagency activities with DTSC, highlighting a visit to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) site and the upcoming release on February 14, 2020, of the Draft Supplemental Guidance for Screening and Evaluating Vapor Intrusion. Next, she provided an update on the Carousel Tract cleanup, including the status of cleanup of Clusters 13, 14 and 15, noting that the cleanup of 52% of homes is complete, and the upcoming community tabling event on Saturday, February 15. She also provided

an update on the status of soil and groundwater cleanup at the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) site in Canoga Park, including the excavation and removal of contaminated soil and development of a soil management plan. She discussed UTC's request for a "soils only" closure at the site, the environmental and land use covenant that has been recorded for the property, and the Board's ongoing oversight of groundwater cleanup. She also identified next steps, including preparing a notice of opportunity to comment on a proposed "soils only" closure and planning an open house for the community.

Ms. Purdy concluded by reporting on the Board's performance during Fiscal Year (FY) 18-19, noting that the Board met or exceeded all its performance targets in every program area.

Item 7 – Enforcement Report

This item was heard after agenda Item 14. The report provided by Russ Colby Compliance & Enforcement Section Chief.

Mr. Colby introduced the three Unit Chiefs in the Compliance and Enforcement Section, Nerissa Schrader, Ching To and Pavlova Vitale, to the Board.

Mr. Colby provided an update on enforcement activities, including the Board's FY 18-19 performance with regard to enforcement actions. Mr. Colby also announced some recent and upcoming workshops and webinars. During Mr. Colby's discussion of outreach related to SB 205, Board Member Guzmán mentioned that her consulting firm acts as the Executive Director of the Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) and offered to help arrange a future presentation to the COG.

Item 8 – Update from State Water Board

State Board Member Sean Maguire shared information on the status of the statewide Water Resilience Portfolio, PFAS-related regulatory activities, and Governor Newsom's proposed budget for the upcoming year.

Item 9 – Public Form

Speakers:

- Rick Spalding, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Katherine Santana, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Carmen Zavala, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Steve Baird, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Nicholas Hernandez, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Rick Kaumeyer, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Grace Lara, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Sharon Levine, Valley Residents for a Safe Environment
- Jordan Sisson, California Communities Against Toxics (CCAT)

- Andrew Diss, Meruelo Group

Speakers representing Valley Residents for a Safe Environment and CCAT expressed concern about migration of contamination from the UTC site and requested full cleanup. Speakers delivered a petition signed by over 6500 individuals.

Items 10-12 – Uncontested Items

MOTION: Board Member Stahl made a motion to approve uncontested items 10, 11 and 12.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Yee

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Absent

Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 13 – Consideration of tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Ventura, Ventura Water Reclamation Facility, Ventura, CA

Chair Muñoz administered the oath to all those testifying on Item 13.

Staff Presentation – Introduction by Dr. Jeong-Hee Lim followed by a presentation by Raul Medina

Speakers:

- City of Ventura – Gina Dorrington
- Heal the Bay/Wishtooyo – Annelisa Moe and Tevin Schmitt

Board Member Stahl suggested that future NPDES permits consider language that requires communication and coordination between wastewater and stormwater agencies regarding the potential for permissive integration of the MS4 into the wastewater system. He expressed that this integration could be an important component of a diversified program for MS4 permit compliance. For the purpose of the permit before the Board, Board Member Stahl suggested that the transmittal letter to the City of Ventura reflect this discussion and the hope that this communication among departments and agencies begin. In response to this suggestion, Assistant Executive Officer Newman pointed out language in section VI.C.6.e of the revised tentative permit regarding “Activities Coordination.” Board Member Stahl supported referencing this provision in the transmittal letter.

MOTION: Vice Chair Yee made a motion to approve Item 13.

Seconded by: Board Member Guzmán
Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

Item 14 – Consideration of a tentative Resolution to adopt a Basin Plan amendment to revise Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan to update the bacteria water quality objectives and implementation provisions to align them with the statewide bacteria provisions as promulgated by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Chair Muñoz administered the oath to all those testifying on Item 14.

Staff Presentation by Dr. Ginachi Amah

Speaker:

- Heal the Bay – Annelisa Moe

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve Item 14.

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

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

Item 15 – Update on pending issuance of a Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for Los Angeles and Ventura counties

Staff Presentation – Introduction by Dr. LB Nye, Regional Programs Section Chief, followed by a presentation by Mr. Ivar Ridgeway, MS4 Unit Chief

Speakers:

- Margaret Clark, Mayor, City of Rosemead
- Lori Woods, Mayor, City of Signal Hill
- Kirk Allen and Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD)

- Arne Anselm, Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Assoc., representing Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Permittees (Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Paramount, Signal Hill, LACFCD)
- Susan Robinson, McGowan Consulting, representing Beach Cities Watershed Permittees (Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, LACFCD)
- Glen Kau, City of Norwalk
- Andrew Sheldon, City of Malibu
- Ray Tahir
- John Zhao, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay, LA Waterkeeper, and NRDC
- Vivian Marquez on behalf of Shahram Kharaghani, City of Los Angeles, LA Sanitation
- John Hunter, representing Lower Los Angeles and Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Permittees (Downey, Long Beach, Lakewood, Lynwood, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Signal Hill, South Gate, Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Diamond Bar, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, LACFCD)
- Konya Vivanti, City of Lakewood
- Travis Van Ligten, on behalf of City of Duarte
- Charles Carter, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council

The Board took a lunch break at 12:55 p.m. The Board resumed the meeting at 1:45 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Homero Gómez González and Raul Hernández Romero.

(For more detailed information on any matter at our meetings, you may contact Helen Rowe at (213) 576-6612 or by 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, then finalized on:



Helen Rowe

04/17/2020

Date