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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

No Physical Meeting Location

*Authorized by Government Code section 11133*

December 9, 2021

Acting Chair Stahl called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Board member Stahl 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.

Language Translation Instructions: Marc Gutiérrez provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

#### ***Item 1 – Roll Call***

Board Members Present: Michael Méndez Irma Muñoz, David Nahai and James Stahl

Board Member Absent: Lawrence Yee

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Gerardo Rabelo, Khalid Abdullah, Tamarin Austin, Sophie Froelich, Adriana Nuñez, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Yue Rong, Arthur Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Susana Lagudis, Andrew Choi, Céline Gallon, Ching-Yin To, Ryan Vitug, Rebecca Christmann, Erum Razzak, Angineh Shahnazarian, Susana Vargas, Adriana Vallejo, Veronica Cuevas, Xiaofei Cui, Thizar Tintut-Williams, Thomas Siebels, and Alireza Rahmani

#### ***Item 2 – Order of Agenda***

The EO announced that Item 10, the Agua Dulce WDRs, is postponed to a future Board meeting and State Board Member Nichole Morgan would provide State Board updates.

***Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the October 14, 2021 Board Meeting***

MOTION: Board member Nahai made a motion to approve the October 14, 2021 draft meeting minutes.

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

Michael Méndez - Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai - Yea  
James Stahl – Yea  
Lawrence Yee – Absent

***Item 4 – Appointment of a Committee to Nominate Regional Water Board Officers for 2022***

Board member Stahl announced Board members David Nahai and Irma Muñoz as the Nominating Committee appointed by Chair Yee for the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair for 2022.

***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.)

*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 Nahai** reported on the following:

On December 16, 2021, the Los Angeles Business Council will hold two debates. One debate is for candidates running for City Attorney's office. Another debate is for candidates running for Council District 5. Board member Nahai will moderate both debates. Both debates will be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Beverly Hills from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Board member Muñoz** reported on the following:

Board members Muñoz and Nahai met with staff to discuss the next steps for the Industrial Task Force. A presentation is forthcoming in the future after the steps are finalized.

**Board member Méndez** reported on the following:

- On October 28, 2021, Board member Méndez presented as an individual at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.
- In October 2021 Board member Méndez participated in a workshop on wildfire and water supply in California sponsored by the UCLA Luskin Center and UC Division of Agriculture and National Resources. A scoping report based the on the workshop was released. Board member Méndez will forward the report to Renee Purdy to share with Board members.

**Board member Stahl** reported on the following:

- On October 21, 2021, he attended the WQCC meeting reviewing 50 years of the Clean Water Act. He attended the annual dinner meeting of the Southern California Water Coalition.
- November 10, 2021, he attended a webinar hosted by LACSD and the Council for Watershed Health titled Recycle the Runoff: A Roadmap for Stormwater Diversions. He also attended the LA County Department of Public Works online town hall meeting regarding the Dominguez Channel.
- On December 3, 2021 he attended the Heal the Bay ONE Water Day event. The president of Heal the Bay Shelly Luce led the panel discussion on water policy with an emphasis on sustainable water supply.

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

The EO reported on the following items:

- Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Performance Targets
  - The State average was 75% of target performance. The Regional Water Board met 100% of targets in permitting, inspections and all other targets for the fiscal year.
- Update on Hyperion Sewage Spill
  - An update was provided in the EO Report that is posted on the Regional Water Board website and available to Board members on the SharePoint website.
  - The investigation into this incident is ongoing by the Regional Water Board prosecution team.
  - A report from the investigative order is due to staff one week after the Board meeting.
  - On November 17 and 18, 2021, LASAN conducted preventative maintenance and testing of the Hyperion Treatment Plant one-mile emergency outfall to Santa Monica Bay as part of their wet-weather preparedness planning.
    - On November 10, 2021, a planning meeting was held regarding testing. Regional Water Board Municipal Permitting Program

Supervisor Jeong-Hee Lim and others from Federal, State, and County agencies, and nonprofit organizations participated.

- Hyperion Treatment Plant staff notified the Regional Water Board that the one-mile outfall testing was successfully completed.
- Update on Dominguez Channel Hydrogen Sulfide Odor
  - The high levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air have been reduced to normal levels at most locations.
  - On November 3, 2021, Renee Purdy, EO issued an order under Water Code section 13383 for monitoring and reporting to the City of Carson, the County of Los Angeles, and LA County Flood Control District. The order required documentation pertaining to the municipal storm drain outfalls that discharge to the Dominguez Channel, any recent illicit discharge investigations that were conducted by these three agencies and information on their MS4 maintenance activities in the surrounding drainage areas. The order required water quality monitoring in the Dominguez Channel to understand impacts in the channel and help isolate the hotspot of the hydrogen sulfide odor.
  - The odor hotspot appears to be in the vicinity of the outfall located at 190th Street which is upstream of Main Street.
  - The EO issued an amended monitoring and reporting order that required monitoring at two additional sampling locations, one that is directly upstream and one directly downstream from the outfall located at 190th Street.
  - The EO showed graphs of the dissolved oxygen levels in the Dominguez Channel provided by the County of Los Angeles.
  - From the monitoring data, Regional Water Board staff noted high levels of ethanol and acetone in the affected area of the channel not naturally found in surface water.
  - The County of Los Angeles has taken steps to reduce the odors and raise the dissolved oxygen levels in the water to reduce the production of hydrogen sulfide causing to odors in the air.
    - Epoleon, an odor reducer, was applied to the surface of Dominguez Channel.
    - Nanobubblers were installed in the channel to introduce more oxygen to the water.
  - On November 15, 2021, the Regional Water Board issued an investigative order to Exxon dba Shell Oil Products US with directions to assess their operations at the Shell Carson terminal for any discharge of waste that may be causing or contributing to the source of the hydrogen sulfide odor in the Dominguez Channel.

- The Regional Water Board staff participated in a technical advisory committee assembled by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works composed of local, state and federal agencies. The committee is a forum to share technical information, discuss potential causes of the odor and short and long term solutions to the odor.
- The investigation of the odor is focused a fire on September 30, 2021, from a company that stored hand sanitizer among other products. The company is located within the drainage area of the outfall at 190th Street.
- According to Los Angeles County, between May and September 2021 the County Fire Department issued four Notices of Violation to the tenant of the property for improper storage of hazardous materials on the property.
- The property is owned by Liberty Properties.
- On December 2, 2021, AQMD issued five Notices of Violation to the County of Los Angeles and the four companies or property owners associated with the facility where the chemicals were stored.
- On December 6, 2021, Regional Water Board staff inspected Liberty Property and Day to Day Imports facilities. Staff observed cleanup activities are taking place; however, a large amount of debris remains at the facility. The storm drains were blocked to prevent further releases of pollutants.
- On December 9, 2021, Regional Water Board staff issued an investigative order to Liberty Property and Day to Day Imports as suspected dischargers to provide information and reports of the facilities operations, runoff from the facility and specific information regarding the September 30, 2021 fire and post-fire cleanup activities.

- Staff Award Presentations

*Groundwater Division*

**Presenters**

Ching-Yin To

Thizar Williams

**Recipients of the**

**Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award**

Andrew Choi

Ryan Vitug

*Surface Water Division*

**Presenters**

Jeong-Hee Lim

Jenny Newman

LB Nye

**Recipients of the**

**Superior Accomplishment Award**

Veronica Cuevas

Jeong-Hee Lim

**MS4 Permit Team**

Ivar Ridgeway, Adriana Nuñez, Alireza Rahmani

Angineh Shahnazarian, Erum Razzak, Megan Kung,  
Rebecca Christmann, Sophie Froelich and  
Susana Vargas

### ***Item 7 – Enforcement Report***

The Enforcement Report is postponed until the February 2022 Board meeting.

### ***Item 8 – Update from State Water Board Member Nichole Morgan (Region 4 liaison alternate)***

The State Water Board Liaison provided an update of the following items:

- Update on Statewide Emergency Drought
  - State Water Board has proposed a Statewide emergency regulation to ban wasteful water practices. In January 2022, State Water Board will consider adoption of the emergency regulation.
  - On November 30, 2021, DWR and State Water Board made a report to the legislature recommending the standard for indoor residential water use be adjusted to 47 gallons per person per day starting in 2025 and 42 gallons beginning in 2030. Current standards for indoor water usage are 52.5 gallons for 2025 and 50 gallons per person per day in 2030. The recommended water use standards need legislative approval to be enacted into law.
  - On December 1, 2021, DWR and the US Bureau Reclamation submitted a new temporary urgency change petition (TUCP) that modifies certain terms of the Central Valley project and State Water project from February 1, 2022, through October 30, 2022. State Water Board will consider the TUCP in early 2022.
- Federal Infrastructure Bill
  - On February 2, 2021, USEPA sent a letter to Governor Newsom regarding federal water infrastructure funding for California. USEPA encouraged targeting resources to disadvantaged communities, addressing lead contamination and tackling forever chemicals.
  - State Water Board is waiting for USEPA to issue national program guidance and plans to roll out funding as soon as possible.
  - \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure investment jobs act will bring an estimated \$3.5 billion over the next 5 years through the State Revolving Funds.
- State Board Meeting
  - On November 16, 2021, State Water Board adopted the Racial Equity Resolution. Regional Boards presented on their racial equity efforts, and State Board Member Morgan acknowledged and thanked the Los Angeles Regional Board for its contribution to the State Board's Racial Equity Resolution.

**Item 9 – Public Forum****Speakers:**

- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Shahriar Eftekharzadeh, SEITec

**Items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 – Uncontested Items**

Board member Stahl identified the uncontested items as Agenda Items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

MOTION: Board member Nahai made a motion to approve the uncontested calendar items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

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

Michael Méndez - Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai - Yea  
James Stahl – Yea  
Lawrence Yee – Absent

**Break 12:00 p.m. to 12:10 p.m.****Item 16 – Contested Item**

Consideration of tentative Time Schedule Order for AES Redondo Beach LLC, Redondo Beach Generating Station, Redondo Beach, CA.

*Board member Stahl administered the oath.*

**Staff Presentation:** Thom Siebels, Project Manager

**Speakers:**

- Mark Miller, AES
- Nicholas Ghirelli, Richard Watson & Gershon for the City of Redondo Beach
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

Board members Muñoz, Nahai, Méndez, and Stahl asked a number of questions of staff and Mr. Miller and made comments regarding staff's recommendation to adopt the tentative Time Schedule Order as proposed.

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for Item 16.

Motion not seconded by a Board member.

Motion failed by roll call vote.

Michael Méndez - No

Irma Muñoz – No

David Nahai - No

James Stahl – Yea

Lawrence Yee – Absent

***Item 17 – Closed Session***

*There were no items announced for closed session discussion.*

*The meeting adjourned at 1:26 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 February 14, 2022*

*Helen Rowe*

***Signature on File***