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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

No Physical Meeting Location

*Authorized by and in furtherance of Executive  
Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20](#)*

September 9, 2021

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

Chair Yee 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 Interpretation Instructions: Aldo Renteria provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

#### ***Item 1 – Roll Call***

Board Members Present: Cynthia Guzmán, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai, James Stahl and Lawrence Yee

Note: Charles Stringer absent and James Stahl early departure at 12:00 pm.

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Gerardo Rabelo, Khalid Abdullah, Tamarin Austin, Sophie Froelich, Adriana Nuñez, Milasol Gaslan, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Yue Rong, Arthur Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Susana Lagudis, Bobbi Valencia, Andrew Choi, Steven Webb, Ching To, and Xiaofei Cui

#### ***Item 2 – Order of Agenda***

The EO Renee Purdy recommended that Item 9 be moved to the uncontested calendar and that the uncontested calendar be moved prior to Item 7 (public forum). The EO reported there is no report from the State Water Board liaison for Item 6.

There were no objections on the recommendations.

LAWRENCE YEE, CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

***Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the July 8th, 9th, 16th, & 23rd, 2021 public hearings.***

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve the July 8, 9, 16, & 23, 2021 draft meeting minutes.

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

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea  
Michael Méndez - Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai - Yea  
James Stahl – Yea  
Charles Stringer - Absent  
Lawrence Yee – 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 reported.

- 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:

- Announced he was recently awarded the National Academies of Sciences Henry and Bryna David Endowment Award for his wildfire and migrant research. In October 2021, he will speak to the Academy on the impacts of wildfires on indigenous people.
- Board member Méndez mentioned the upcoming Wildfire (weather, water, weeds and wildlife) 3-Day Symposium arranged by the Council for Watershed Health, supported by University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and scheduled for September 16, 30 and October 14.

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

- On Sunday, September 12, 2021 he is interviewing Mark Arax, author of the book, The Dreamt Land, as part of LAANE's Summer Salon series.

**Chair Yee** reported on the following:

- On June 29, 2021, he attended his first Measure W Regional Oversight Committee meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2021.

- On July 12, 2021, Chair Yee attended the Alhambra City Council meeting with Regional Water Board staff to discuss a major development and site clean-up project.
- On August 18, 2021 he attended the LA Sanitation Town Hall meeting regarding Hyperion Plant 2021 recovery.
- On August 20, 2021 he attended the Regional Water Board All Staff meeting. Chair Yee and Vice Chair Guzmán discussed their draft Racial Equity Workplan and solicited staff feedback and input.
- On August 25, 2021, Chair Yee, Board member Stahl, Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman and Jeong-Hee Lim attended an onsite tour of the Hyperion Treatment Plant.
- On August 27, 2021 he participated in a call with Joaquin Esquivel, State Water Board Chair; Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison; and Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director along with Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, and Hugh Marley and Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officers, to discuss regional and state priorities.

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

- He attended the tour of the Hyperion Treatment Plant with Chair Yee and staff on August 25, 2021.

***Break – 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.***

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

The EO reported on the following items:

- Site Clean Up Program – City of Alhambra
  - On August 24, 2021, the Regional Water Board received a post closure vapor intrusion assessment workplan. The workplan included the collection of additional soil vapor and indoor air samples updating and validating the 2013 and 2017 investigations of three sites.
  - On September 3, 2021, the workplan was approved by the Regional Water Board.
  - On September 30, 2021, Regional Water Board staff will participate in a public meeting held by the City of Alhambra Council to discuss updated findings with the community.

- Update on Land Disposal Program
  - Regional Water Board land disposal team participated in a virtual meeting to discuss plans for Los Angeles County to manage the disposal of solid waste over the next 15 years.
- Statewide updates
  - California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program
    - Today, September 9, 2021, a State Water Board workshop will be held on draft guidelines.
    - The program will fund \$985 million for residential and commercial arrearages.
    - The funds are awarded to water systems with debt that accrued during the COVID-19 emergency. A credit will be added to customer's account.
    - If sufficient funds are available after providing for the drinking water customer debt, the State Water Board will adopt a wastewater program by February 1, 2022.
    - The surveys from all water systems on their customer arrearages and written comments on the draft guidelines are due by September 10, 2021.
    - State Water Board anticipates adopting the final program guidelines on September 21 and 22, 2021. Applications for the program may be submitted starting in October 2021.
    - State Water Board needs to complete payments to all drinking water systems by January 31, 2022.
    - State Water Board is utilizing information on current arrearages from water systems to develop and implement this new program.
- Update on Survey of Water Debt in Fall 2020.
  - Zip codes with the highest overall numbers of delinquent accounts are concentrated within the Los Angeles area. Customers in the areas of Colton, Orcutt, and Rancho Cordova also have high numbers of delinquent accounts.
  - Zip codes with the highest overall numbers of debt greater than \$1,000 dollars are all located in the Los Angeles area.

- Zip codes with the highest per capita numbers of debt greater than \$1,000 dollars are located in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Kern Counties.
- Zip codes with a higher percentage of Hispanic and Black/African American households show a higher percentage of household debt, a higher average of debt, and a higher percentage of households with very high debt.
- The survey indicated a strong correlation between the amount of debt and median household income across the state.
- Update of Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act
  - The Legislature is considering additional legislation that may extend the suspension of provisions requiring physical meeting locations through January 31, 2022.

#### ***Item 6 – Update from State Water Board Liaison Laurel Firestone***

No report from State Board Liaison Laurel Firestone.

#### ***Item 8 and 9 - Uncontested Items***

*The Chair identified the uncontested items as Agenda Items 8 and 9.*

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve uncontested calendar items 8 and 9.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Guzmán

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea

Michael Méndez - Yea

Irma Muñoz – Yea

David Nahai - Yea

James Stahl – Yea

Charles Stringer – Absent

Lawrence Yee – Yea

#### ***Item 7 – Public Forum***

Speaker

- Martha Tremblay, County Sanitation District of Los Angeles
- Jerry Desmond, Desmond & Desmond LLC
- Brian Ward, Metal Finishers Association
- Justin Guzman, Aircraft X Ray Laboratory/MFASC
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

- Benjamin Harris, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Charles Carter, Channel Islands Neighborhood Council

***Item 10 – Update on the July 11, 2021 Hyperion Treatment Plant Spill***

Staff Presentation: Jeong-Hee Lim, Chief Municipal Permitting Unit

Speakers:

- Hi Sang Kim, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment
- Tim Dafeta, Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment

***Break 12:05 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.***

***Item 11 - Presentation by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project on the Los Angeles River Flows Project: Development of Decision Support Tools for Flows in the Los Angeles River***

Staff Introduction: Jenny Newman, AEO, Surface Water Division

Speakers:

- Alexander Prescott, Environmental Scientist, TMDL and Nonpoint Source Unit
- Dr. Eric Stein, Head of the Biology Department, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)

***Item 12 – Closed Session***

Legal counsel Tamarin Austin announced that the Board was going into closed session to discuss Item 12.u. on the agenda, pursuant to (Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a)(1).)

*(The Board went into closed session at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m.)*

*The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m. (For more detailed information, 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 October 18, 2021*

***Signature on File (Helen Rowe)***