
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Boardroom

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

4232 Las Virgenes Road #1994

Calabasas, California 91302

May 12, 2022

Chair Yee called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 for Zoom participants interested in speaking about an agenda item or providing comment and how they can register using Zoom confirmation link or the board meeting agenda link online, and he announced that the meeting was being recorded and advised that participation in the recorded meeting will be deemed consent to be recorded.

The Spanish translators provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Norma Camacho, Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai and Lawrence Yee

Board Members Absent: James Stahl

Note: Irma Muñoz departed at 10:15 am. (after announcing that she was voluntarily recusing herself from all items following uncontested items) and did not return to the meeting.

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Amber Bolanos, Gerardo Rabelo, Aurel Agarin, Tamarin Austin (via Zoom), Sophie Froelich, Jeong-Hee Lim,

Steven Webb, Veronica Cuevas, Woonhoe Kim, James Kang, Milasol Gaslan, LB Nye, Michael Bustillo-Sakhai, Patrick Coldivar, Ivar Ridgeway, Susana Lagudis

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, stated that there are no changes to the order of the agenda.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the April 14, 2022, Meeting

Board Member Munoz requested that the Executive Officer's report along with her own comments from April 14, 2022, be included in their entirety. Chair Yee requested that his comments be included as well. With these changes, Chair Yee asked for motion to approve the April 14, 2022, minutes.

MOTION: Board Member Christiansen made a motion to approve the April 14, 2022, draft meeting minutes with the stated changes.

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

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen – Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Yea
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – 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.)

Board Member Christiansen reported on one ex parte communication:

Board Member Christiansen was involved in several different meetings related to water quality. She testified on SB 989, which is about greenhouse gas reductions but also has water-related elements. She also spoke with a community member regarding flows in the LA River. She also met with a board member of Friends of the Los Angeles River regarding a watershed management plan, and had a general conversation about it and opportunities for permeability across the LA River Watershed, but nothing specific.

- 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.)

Chair Yee reported on the following:

- On April 27, 2022, Chair Yee, Vice Chair Stahl, Executive Officer Purdy and the Assistant Executive Officers, Jenny Newman and Hugh Marley, met with the new Regional Administrator for US EPA Region 9, Martha Guzman, to share regional water board priorities and intersections with work where US EPA is involved.

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer reported that earlier in the month, the Office of Administrative Law approved the extensions of the compliance dates for nine TMDLs in the region previously adopted by the Board in March 2021. The final step in the administrative approval process is for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider the Board’s determination of no significant effect under the California Environmental Quality Act. Then, the TMDL extensions will go into effect.

The Executive Officer provided an update regarding two projects in the Site Cleanup Program: 1) the Sky Park commercial properties site in Torrance, where contamination has migrated into the City of Lomita, and 2) the El Monte Superfund Operable Unit. Staff recently provided another update to the Lomita City Council regarding the Sky Park site. This included the results of recent investigations and the status of proposed interim remedial action plans.

Staff also participated in a recent El Monte City Council meeting with Ray Chavira, the US EPA project manager for the El Monte Operable Unit Superfund site. The Los Angeles Water Board will be requiring investigations of properties in the area and issuing orders as needed for further assessments and cleanup of properties. Staff will also attend an upcoming community meeting June 15th hosted by EPA to address questions about the El Monte Superfund site.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

Break 9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board Liaison Laurel Firestone

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

- Update on Statewide Emergency Drought, including emergency regulations for water conservation and water rights curtailments
- Preview of Governor’s May Revised 22-23 Budget, particularly as it relates to drought and water conservation
- Status of State Water Board adoption of guidelines for allocation of \$130M in FY21-22 funding for groundwater cleanup and water recycling and \$100M for PFAS projects

- Update on revised needs assessment for at-risk drinking water systems as part of SAFER
- Update on State Water Board's Wastewater Arrearages Program, which was created to provide relief to community wastewater systems for unpaid bills related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Update on State Water Board's upcoming consideration of the renewal of the Statewide General Construction Stormwater Permit

Item 7 – Public Forum

Chair Yee noted that during public forum speakers should address items that are not pending or scheduled to appear on a future agenda or on current agenda.

Speakers:

- Robert Schultz (virtual), Geo Blue Consulting
- Barry Waite (virtual), Lomita City Councilmember & Carson Chamber of Commerce
- Steven Appleton (virtual), Water Institute of Science Policy + LA River Kayak Safari
- Ben Harris (virtual), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Jalaine Verdiner, Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works (in-person)

Counsel noted that the Dominguez Channel odor and impacts from the Taylor Yard Bridge infrastructure project, both of which were topics addressed during public forum, were impending or pending items and could not be discussed without notice to all interested parties.

Hugh Marley responded to Mr. Schultz' comments regarding the Smith Service Station UST case and noted that staff continue to work on site cleanup, including oversight of cleanup work done by the Smith's using approximately \$1.5M in funding from the State Water Board's UST Fund, and issuing investigative orders to four pipeline companies in the vicinity. Board Member Mendez requested an update when appropriate about the progress on investigating these other sources.

Uncontested Items

None

Break 10:16 a.m. - 10:21 a.m.

Item 8 - Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD), Valencia Water Reclamation Plant, Santa Clarita, CA. NPDES Permit No. CA0054216.

Item 9 - Consideration of tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD), Saugus Water Reclamation Plant, Santa Clarita, CA. NPDES Permit No. CA0054313

Items 8 and 9 were considered together. Chair Yee administered the oath.

Staff Presentation: Steven Webb, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer

Speakers:

- Martha Tremblay, LA County Sanitation Districts
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Kat Selm, The Nature Conservancy
- Candice Meneghin, Friends of the Santa Clara River
- Steve Cole, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency- Assistant General Manager
- Lynne Plambeck, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment.

Board Member Christiansen temporarily took over for Chair Yee and opened the floor for any comments, questions and deliberation.

Board Members Nahai, Camacho, Christiansen, and Mendez, and Chair Yee made comments and asked questions.

Brief Recess 11:29 a.m. - 11:34 a.m.

Brief recess to address technical difficulty with Zoom.

Lunch Break 11:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LA County Sanitation Districts and Los Angeles Water Board staff met during the lunch break to discuss a modified compliance schedule.

Continuation of Items 8 and 9

Staff proposed a modified compliance schedule with an overall 2-year reduction.

MOTION: Board Member Nahai made a motion to approve Items 8 and 9 including the change sheet and proposed modified compliance schedule.

Seconded by: Board Member Camacho

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

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

Item 10 - Consideration of tentative amendment to the Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order for the Santa Paula Water Recycling Facility

Chair Yee administered the oath.

Staff Presentation: Dr. James Kang - Senior Water Resources Control Engineer

Speakers:

- Clete Saunier, City of Santa Paula
- Katherine Malzacher-Maxwell

The Chair opened the floor for any comments, questions and deliberation.

Board Members Camacho and Nahai made comments and asked questions.

Responses to comments and questions from Clete Saunier.

Milasol Gaslan and the Executive Officer addressed questions.

MOTION: Board Member Nahai made a motion to approve Item 10.
Seconded by: Board Member Christiansen

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote

Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai - Yea
James Stahl – Absent
Lawrence Yee – Yea

Item 11 – Overview of the SB 1215 Wastewater Consolidation Program (septic to sewer) implementation within the Los Angeles Regional Water Board’s jurisdiction

Staff Presentation: Dr. James Kang - Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, Michael Bustillo-Sakhai, and Patrick Coldivar

The Chair opened the floor for any comments, questions and deliberation.

Board Members Camacho, Nahai, and Mendez, and Chair Yee made comments and asked questions.

Milasol Gaslan, Michael Bustillo-Sakhai and James Kang responded to comments and questions.

Item 12 - Update on implementation of the Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit.

Staff Presentation: Dr. LB Nye, Senior Environmental Scientist

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir on behalf of himself and Margaret Clark, Rosemead, and Glen Kau, Norwalk
- John Harris, Casso & Sparks

The Chair opened the floor for any comments, questions and deliberation.

Board Members Camacho, Mendez, and Nahai and Chair Yee had comments and asked questions.

Responses were made by LB Nye, Ivar Ridgeway and the Executive Officer.

Adjournment of current meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 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 Amber Bolanos, Acting Board Clerk on: July 1, 2022

Signature on File: Amber Bolanos
