Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
for

July 24, 2025
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

320 West 4th Street
Carmel Room
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Chair Nahai called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Chair Nahai explained the process for remote participation in the meeting and that the Board has Spanish interpretation services available through the Zoom platform. He announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Leticia Reyna, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Chair Nahai mentioned that the June 24, 2025, Board meeting was cancelled due to last-minute issues with the meeting location and an alternate location could not be found in time to relocate the meeting to another venue.

Item 1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Chair Nahai explained that Board Member Camacho requested to participate remotely in this meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act, specifically Government Code section 11123.2. Remote participation requires that a quorum of the Board Members be physically present at a single teleconference location that is open, visible and audible to the public.

Board Members Present: Sabrina Ashjian, Norma Camacho (remote/virtual), Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez, and David Nahai.
Chair Nahai confirmed the roll call and that a quorum was physically present.

Chair Nahai then explained that Board Member Camacho may proceed with remote participation in the public meeting. Board Member Camacho did not need to disclose her precise location, but she must disclose if there were any individuals 18 years of age or older present in the same room as she and the nature of her relationship with these individuals.

Chair Nahai continued to explain the requirements for Board Member Camacho's remote participation. He mentioned that further, Government Code section 11123.2 requires that Board Member Camacho remain on-camera for the entire open portion of the public meeting, unless there is a poor internet connection or it would be technologically impracticable to do so. If Board Member Camacho needs to turn off her camera during the open portion of the meeting, she must announce her reason for doing so.

Chair Nahai asked legal counsel, are there any other legal issues with Board Member Camacho's *remote participation?*

Legal Counsel, Amelia Carder indicated "no".

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Russ Colby, Helen Rowe, Jenny Newman, Alfredo Duran, Khalid Abdullah, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Jeong-Hee Lim, Céline Gallon, Jim Kang, Elisha Wakefield, Jamie Sayre, Joshua Cwikia, Don Tsai, Art Heath and Steven Webb

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

Chair Nahai asked the Executive Officer (EO), Susana Arredondo, if there were any changes to the agenda.

The EO asked for Item 12 to be moved to the uncontested items calendar.
There were no objections to the recommendation.

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the May 22, 2025, Meeting

Chair Nahai asked the Board members if there were any changes to the minutes.
There were no changes made to the minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Ashjian made a motion to approve the minutes.

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

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen – Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
David Nahai – 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 (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:

In early July 2025, Board Member Méndez attended the Hazards Application Workshop. Practitioners and scholars attended the workshop and engaged in hazard mitigation and recovery efforts. He mentioned that water issues are on the rise in disaster planning.

On July 1, 2025, Board Member Méndez became a tenured Associate Professor of Environmental Policy and Planning at UC Irvine. He received an honorific title of Chancellor's Fellow.

Vice Chair Ashjian reported on the following:

Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai met with some of the environmental protection groups. Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai appreciated the outreach from the public to set up meetings discussing general issues. Vice Chair Ashjian expressed that she is looking forward to future meetings with other groups.

Vice Chair Ashjian mentioned the upcoming tour of the Eaton Fire Recovery area. She is looking forward to the tour and discussing the tour in further detail at next month's Board meeting.

Board Member Camacho reported on the following:

On July 17, 2025, Board Member Camacho participated in the Regional Oversight Committee of the Safe, Clean Water Program (ROC) biannual report working group. She explained that the biannual report is a comprehensive document that summarizes the Safe Clean Water Program Progress and Expenditures. This report is usually due in December. The group requested an extension to February of 2026, because the group is currently reviewing the recommendation based on the group's review of the initial watershed plans, which are going to be presented to the ROC on August 12 or 13, 2025.

Board Member Christiansen reported on the following:

On July 16, 2025, Board Member Christiansen toured the Eaton Fire Burn area. The tour was led by Mark Pestrella, the Director of Public Works and Chief Engineer of the County Flood Control District, and his team. Board Christiansen stated that Mark Pestrella and his team did an excellent job with the tour. Mark Pestrella and his team provided information on the various water quality protection, precautions and mitigations that are in place.

The tour included a visit to the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) site where all the refuse and rubble is divided according to the type of material it contains. There was a walkthrough during the tour on the process of where the material goes and what happens to the material.

Board Member Christiansen was impressed with the tour and relieved to see such progress. She was relieved to hear from Mark Pestrella that the state of California has relaxed building standards for the purpose of rebuilding, but the County of Los Angeles is not relaxing building standards in the burned areas. She expressed that there is hope and there is progress.

Board Member Christiansen talked about Eaton Fire Residents United. This is a grassroots group made up primarily of residents in the area whose homes were spared from the fires. The primary concern of the group is contamination that their homes have absorbed. The group is requesting resources to understand the issues and problems that are affecting their homes. The Director of Public Works, Mark Pestrella is in contact with the group and there is a website the residents can access to request the resources needed. Board Member Christiansen plans to follow up with Eaton Fire Residents United to ensure the group is aware of the available resources.

Chair Nahai reported on the following:

Chair Nahai expressed that it was incumbent on the LARWQCB Board to tour the Altadena and the Eaton fire areas in-person and to gain some knowledge on what the community has been through and the efforts of the rebuilding and recovery process.

Chair Nahai and Board Member Christiansen were accompanied on the tour by the Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo, Acting Assisting Executive Officer, Russ Colby, Assistant Executive Officer, Jenny Newman and Legal Counsel, Amelia Carder.

Chair Nahai mentioned that next week Vice Chair Ashjian, Board Member Méndez and State Water Board Member Firestone would tour the same Eaton Fire Burn areas.

Chair Nahai conveyed that the tour provided firsthand experience, especially in terms of environmental issues. He understands the community and expresses solidarity and empathy on what the community is experiencing.

Chair Nahai met the colonel of USACE who has been on site ensuring that the debris removal and the removal of six inches of topsoil is completed. The USACE colonel provided Chair Nahai with information on the removal process and that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determines how much soil is removed. The tour ended at a One-Shop location set up by the County of Los Angeles where residents could apply for their rebuilding permits. The permits were processed within 56 days.

Chair Nahai ended his report by saying that he hoped Vice Chair Ashjian and Board Member Méndez would have the same experience of illumination, enlightenment, and compassion when they tour the burn areas.

Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo provided an update on the Eaton Fire Recovery Tour:

On July 16, 2025, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) Chair Nahai, Board Member Christiansen, and LARWQCB staff toured the Eaton Fire Recovery area. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works provided a briefing on the infrastructure recovery, regulatory compliance, and environmental stewardship addressing the Eaton Fire.

The Public Works Director, Mark Pestrella led the tour. At each tour stop, an assistant deputy director provided a description of a particular recovery project. The description included: bridge reconstruction, debris basin cleanout, or a summary on compliance with permit requirements during the fire response. At the last tour stop, a one-stop permit shop was set up where residents who had lost their homes to the fire could meet with multiple County of Los Angeles departments in one location. The one-stop permit shop provides residents with information on the rebuilding process.

On July 30, 2025, Vice Chair Ashjian, Board Member Méndez, State Water Board Member Firestone, LARWQCB staff and the Los Angeles County Supervisor, Chair Kathryn Barger are scheduled to tour the Eaton Fire Recovery areas.

Item 5.a. – The Department of Toxic Substances Control, (DTSC) provided an update on cleanup efforts at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Update presentation by: Mindy Mathais – DTSC

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions.

Board Member Camacho and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Mindy Mathais responded to their comments and answered their questions.

Chair Nahai asked the LARWQCB staff questions. The Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo, responded to his questions.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board

State Water Board Member Firestone provided an update of the following items:

- State Water Board Delta Plan – The updated plan will be released by State Water Board today, Thursday, July 24, 2025.
- Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and SAFER Drinking Water Program – Workshops were conducted on these programs in June and July 2025.
- Wastewater Needs Assessment – The Update for Phase 1 will include reviewing the methodology, data sets and developing a preliminary list for inadequate failing needs systems.
- Delta Conveyance Project – The project hearings will continue in August, September and October 2025.
- Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook – The amendment handbook was adopted by State Water Board.

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions.

There were no comments are questions from the Board members.

Break: 9:50 a.m. to 10:06 a.m.

Item 2 – Changes to Order of Agenda

Chair Nahai announced that he received speaker cards for Item 12. He asked for Item 12 to be moved back to the contested items calendar. He then asked for Item 12 to be addressed before Item 7 Public Forum.

Chair Nahai asked if there was a staff presentation for Item 12.

Assistant Executive Officer, Jenny Newman, responded there was no staff presentation prepared for Item 12, but a written staff report was included in the Board agenda package and LARWQCB staff were available to respond to public comments.

Contested Items

Chair Nahai announced agenda Item 12 and administered the oath.

Item 12 – Consideration of Tentative Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and adoption of 13383 Investigative Order for AES Redondo Beach LLC, Redondo Beach Generating Station, Redondo Beach, CA; NPDES No. CA0001201

Speakers:

- Benjamin Harris and Hayden Fuchino – legal Intern, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

  Chair Nahai asked for a response to the comments and questions from Benjamin Harris and Hayden Fuchino. Jeong-Hee Lim, Section Manager, Watershed Regulatory Section and Jose Perez, AES Corporation responded to their comments and questions.

  Chair Nahai asked for a Motion to approve contested Item 12. He then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

  MOTION: Chair Nahai made a motion to approve contested Item 12.

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

  Sabrina Ashjian – Yea
  Marissa Christiansen - Yea
  Norma Camacho – Yea
  David Nahai – Yea
  Michael Méndez – Yea

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Michael Rincon, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles
- Benjamin Harris, and three legal interns, Los Angeles Waterkeeper Olivia Esse, Julianne Feuchter, and Perla Cervantes.

  Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to the speaker's questions. Assistant Executive Officer, Jenny Newman, responded to the speaker's questions.

Board Member Camacho suggested that maybe the integrated report or summaries of report progress of could be included in future Executive Officer Reports instead of a staff presentation. Board Member Méndez thanked the legal interns for attending the Board meeting and suggested the LA County Dashboard for the fire area and SCCWRP could be helpful for Board members.

Speakers cont.

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Melissa Bumtead, Parents Against SSFL
- Walter Lamb
- William Preston Bowling
- Jeni Knack, Parents Against SSFL
- Dorri Raskin

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions.

Vice Chair Ashjian, Board Members Christiansen and Camacho made comments. Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. The Board members thanked the student interns with Los Angeles Waterkeeper for attending today's Board meeting.

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer responded to Chair Nahai's questions.

Uncontested Items

Chair Nahai announced Uncontested Items 8, 9 and 10.

Item 8 – Resolution of Recognition for Norma Camacho (the Board will adopt a Resolution honoring Norma Camacho's dedication and service as Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board over the past two years.

Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements for Land Treatment Unit Operations for Halaco Engineering Company, Oxnard, CA; WDRs Order No. 80-058.

Item 10 – Consideration of a Tentative Amendment to Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements for the Camrosa Water District (Camrosa Water Reclamation Plant), Camarillo, CA; File No. 54-035.

Chair Nahai asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Items 8, 9 and 10. He then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Board Member Christiansen made a motion to approve uncontested Items 8, 9 and 10.

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

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen – Yea
Michael Méndez – Yea
David Nahai – Yea

Contested Items cont.

Chair Nahai announced agenda Item 11 and administered the oath.

Item 11 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements to RV DEV, LLC for the Royal Vista Residential Development; File No. 24-084

Staff Presentation: Valerie Zara, Engineering Geologist, PG

There were no public comments for Item 11.

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions.

Board Members Camacho, Méndez and Christiansen, Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Valerie Zara, Céline Gallon, Manager, Regional Programs Section, Thienan Pfeiffer, Applicant RV Dev, LLC, Jenny Newman and Jon Conk, Applicant RV Dev, LLC responded to Board members' comments and questions

Chair Nahai asked for a Motion to approve contested Item 11. He then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Chair Nahai made a motion to approve contested Item 11.

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

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea
Norma Camacho - Yea
Marissa Christiansen – No
Michael Méndez – Yea
David Nahai – Yea

Item 13 – Closed Session

Legal counsel Adriana Nuñez announced that the Board would discuss Items 13.d., 13.k., and 13.r.iii (evaluation of performance about a public employee) in closed session.

The Board went into closed session from 12:01 p.m. to 1:12 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned after closed session (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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: October 24, 2025

Signature on File
Helen Rowe