Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

The video of the Board Meeting is available to view video on Cal-Span

Board Meeting Video

Thursday, September 24, 2026

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. He mentioned that the Board's Spanish interpretation services were not available. He announced that the meeting was being recorded.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Item 1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Board Members Present: Sabrina Ashjian, Norma Camacho, Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez, and David Nahai

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Russ Colby, Jenny Newman, Helen Rowe, Khalid Abdullah, Gerardo Rabelo, Susana Lagudis, Amelia Carder, Axel Jurgens, Adriana Nuñez, Art Heath, Thizar Williams, Erum Razzak, Jillian Ly, Celine Gallon, Emily Duncan and Jeong-Hee Lim

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

There were no changes to the order of agenda.

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the July 23, 2026

There were no changes 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* – Approval of Tentative 2027 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting Schedule**

There were no changes to the tentative 2027 Board meeting schedule.

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

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

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

Item 5 – Board Member Communications

a. Ex Parte Disclosure - None

b. Board Member Reports

Board Member Christiansen reported on a story she heard about a landfill near Santa Clarita. The story was about the seepage of hot liquid garbage underneath the landfill as a result of things like lithium-ion batteries being thrown away. According to the story, a reaction happened with a toxic result. Board Member Christiansen asked members of the public to properly dispose of batteries. She requested the Regional Water Board staff to put together a list of disposal locations and post the information on the website.

Board Member Camacho reported that her reappointment to the Regional Water Board was confirmed for another four (4) years by the Senate on August 19, 2026. She reported that during her confirmation, she mentioned to the Governor's Office and the Senate that the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is one of her highest priorities.

On September 4, 2026, Board Member Camacho had a meet and greet with Jamie Whiteboard, Executive Director for the Ventura County Resource

Conservation District. The director and his staff showed Board Member Camacho the newly completed watershed resilience plan for the Ventura River. This plan was funded by the Department of Water Resources through the Watershed Resilience Grant program funded by Prop 4. Board Member Camacho requested that the findings of the program and the plan be presented at the November or December 2026 Board meeting.

Board Member Camacho mentioned that this year is the anniversary of September 11th and to remember the lives lost in New York and the first responders who gave their lives on that day.

Board Member Méndez reported that earlier this week he participated in the New York City climate week. He was part of a special invitation only briefing to the Spanish language media on emerging technologies and Latino communities. The other panelists for the briefing included the CEO of the Port of Long Beach, the Mayor of Taft in Texas, and the Executive Director of Climate Power, which is a non-profit environmental organization funded by several mainstream environmental organizations. The panel discussed the impacts and consequences of climate, disinformation campaigns, effective messaging around artificial intelligence data centers and other issue impacting Latino communities.

Vice Chair Ashjian reported on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) and what board members do in the meetings. The meetings are held every other month. The next meeting is on October 15, 2026. During the last meeting held in August 2026 the SMBRC worked on resolutions reaffirming support for disadvantaged communities and for protecting and preserving climate in the space of climate change. The SMBRC heard a presentation on Deep Ocean DDT and how scientists are working on cleanup efforts. The SMBRC heard a presentation on a Beach Ecology Basic course, funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The course explained the basics to the public about beach ecology.

Vice Chair Ashjian congratulated LADWP on the two groundwater projects in North Hollywood that opened in August 2026.

Chair Nahai reported that on October 1, 2026, the Los Angeles Business Council will hold their Sustainability Summit. Chair Nahai is the Chair of the Los Angeles Business Council. Chair Nahai will Chair the water panel at the summit. The panelists will include Joone Kim-Lopez, Executive Director LASAN, Anselmo Collins, Senior AGM, Water System LADWP, Lindsey Horvath, Supervisor, LA County Board of Supervisors, Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resilience & Innovation Officer Metropolitan Water District, Jennifer Pierre, GM, State Water Contractors and Joseph Nye, HDR Inc.

Chair Nahai, Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo and Russ Colby, Assistant Executive Officer attended the opening of two water treatment plants in the San Fernando Valley.

Item 6 – Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo provided an on the following item:

On August 19, 2026, Chair Nahai, Assistant Executive Officer Jenny Newman, and the Executive Officer met with the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Operations Deputy Director, and the South Coast Regional Manager. They discussed the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. During the meeting the group reviewed the letter dated April 20, 2026, from the Regional Los Angeles Water Board to the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the project's timelines and the need for restoration to implement the Ballona Wetlands sediment and invasive vegetations TMDL. The group discussed the status of certifying the revised EIR for the restoration project and the timing for subsequent actions and milestones to complete the project. Both parties agreed on their shared commitment to restoring the wetlands and ensuring the project is completed as soon as possible.

Item 7 **– Update from State Water Board** [Board Member Sean Maguire]

State Water Board liaison Sean Maguire provided an update on the following:

- Recent Staffing Changes – Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance, Joe Karkowski, retired in June 2026. He was replaced by Daniel Newton. The Deputy Director of Drinking Water Darren Polhemus retired in August 2026. In the Office of Chief Counsel, last week, Assistant Chief Counsel over Water Quality, Phil Wyels, retired. The new Assistant Chief Counsel is Sophie Froelich. Laurel Firestone stepped down from the State Water Board and Jared Blumenfeld, former CalEPA Secretary and former USPS Regional Administrator was appointed to the State Water Board.

- Sacramento Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan – The final draft plan was released in August 2026. The State Water Board will schedule two- or three-day hearings to make a decision on the plan update at the end of October 2026.

- The Sites Reservoir – A vote on the new water permit is scheduled for November 5, 2026.

- The State Water Board is conducting their triennial review of all plans and policies.

  Comments were made by Board Member Camacho.

Item 8 – Public Forum

Speakers

- Ray Tahir
- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
- Cyrus Peinado

UNCONTESTED ITEMS

Chair Nahai stated the uncontested items calendar as Item 9.

Non-NPDES Waste Discharge Requirements

Adoption

Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements for RV DEV, LLC for the Royal Vista Residential Development Project; File No. 24-084. (Comment submittal deadline was August 12, 2026)

Chair Nahai asked for a Motion and a Second, and then asked for a Roll Call vote, for the uncontested item 9.

MOTION: Vice Chair Ashjian made a motion to approve uncontested Item 9.

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

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

Chair Nahai announced information item 10.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 10 – Staff from the State Water Resource Control Board's Emergency Management Program will present an overview of their role and key responsibilities in an emergency. Staff from the Los Angeles Water Board will provide an update on the response efforts and water quality oversight regarding the Lineage cold storage facility fire in Boyle Heights. Staff will present a summary of water quality data collected by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, and Lineage during and after the fire. UCLA and Heal the Bay will also present their sampling results.

Staff Introduction: Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer

Presentation:

- Krystal Taylor, State Board Emergency Management Program
- Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer, Los Angeles Regional Water Board
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Sanjay Mohanty and Maxwell Finnegan, UCLA Samueli School of Engineering,
- Dr. Yoshira Van Horne, UCLA Dept. of Environmental Health Science
- Emmanuel Carrero, East Yards Member and Community Member
- Hannah Dewey, P.E., Los Angeles County Public Works
- Robert Potter, Assistant Director of LASAN (City of Los Angeles)

Speakers:

- Emmanuel Carrera Ruedas
- Laisha Ajtun, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Clara Solis, EYCEJ
- Maria Duran, Protect LA – Boyle Heights
- Silvia Corona, Boyle Heights Org.
- Babara Martinez, Protect LA- Boyle Heights
- Sofia Quinones, East Los Angeles Boyle Heights Coalition
- Maria Morales, Boyle Heights Alliance
- Tina Calderon, Sacred Placed Institute for Indigenous People

- Dr. Wilma Franco, Sela Collaborative
- Cindy Donis, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Abril Villanueva
- Casey Cooper
- Fatima Carrera, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Christ Philip
- Yesenia P.
- Brenda Benavides (Spanish Interpreter for Silva Corona and Maria Morales)

Board Member Méndez, Board Member Christiansen, Board Member Camacho, Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Jenny Newman, Hannah Dewey, Taraneh Nik-khah, LASAN, and Krystal Taylor responded to the Board members.

Item 11– Closed Session

Legal counsel Adriana Nuñez announced that the Board would discuss items 11.e, 11.d, and 11.m(ii).

The Board went into closed session from 1:30 p.m. to 2:50 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.c.a.gov and she will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: November 19, 2026

Signature on File

Helen Rowe