
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board

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

Chair Nahai called the meeting to order at 8:59 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.

Giselle Franco, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Russ Colby, Helen Rowe, Alfredo Duran, Khalid Abdullah, Gerardo Rabelo, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Jeong-Hee Lim, Thizar Tintut-Williams, Angelica Castaneda-Jimenez, Ryan Nickerson and Jim Kang.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

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

There were no changes to the Order of Agenda.

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the March 27, 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: Board Member Camacho made a motion to approve the minutes.

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

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen – Abstained
David Nahai – Yea
Michael Méndez – 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: Nothing to report.

Vice Chair Ashjian reported on the following:

Vice Chair Ashjian participated in the CalEPA Earth Day celebration in Sacramento on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

She toured the Alondra Park Stormwater Project located in Los Angeles.

Next week is the Environmental Law Institute West Coast Bootcamp for new environmental law practitioners or people interested in environmental law. There will be a session on water law. Vice Chair Ashjian is teaching a session on environmental justice. The Bootcamp will be held Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Wednesday, April 30, 2025, and Thursday, May 1, 2025. Those interested in attending the Bootcamp should contact Vice Chair Ashjian for information.

Last week, Vice Chair Ashjian attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission meeting (SMBRC). The SMBRC had a discussion and voted on modifying the language in their current work plan to ensure federal grant funding for critical water quality projects.

Vice Chair Ashjian completed a tribal training course and encouraged other Board members to complete the course.

Vice Chair Ashjian acknowledged that today is Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

Board Member Christiansen reported on the following:

Board Member Christiansen hosted a Data and Technology in Wildfire conference in Marin, CA. The conference reviewed the data gaps that the insurance industries could use in reevaluating their risk modeling.

Board Member Christiansen hosted a climate week event in Altadena, CA. Board Member Christiansen requested the Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) help direct residents of the Eaton and Palisades fires to information to help answer their questions related to the impacts of ash, on the people in these neighborhoods and on water quality .

Board Member Camacho reported on the following:

Board Member Camacho attended the Alondra Park Multi-benefit Stormwater Capture project tour with Vice Chair Ashjian. She encouraged other Board members to take the tour.

On April 9, 2025, Board Member Camacho attended the Regional Oversight Committee of the Safe, Clean Water Program (ROC) meeting. The focus of the discussion was the Bi-annual Report. Board Member Camacho is participating on a subcommittee to ensure that water quality concerns are addressed.

On May 14, 2025, the subcommittee is on the ROC's agenda to discuss recommendations from the subcommittee work group.

Chair Nahai reported on the following:

Tomorrow, April 25, 2025, starting at 7:30 a.m., the Los Angeles Business Council will hold their annual Mayoral Housing Summit at the University of Los Angeles, Luskin Center.

Chair Nahai read a resolution for the record acknowledging Board Member Norman Camacho, former LARWQCB Chair, for her exceptional service and contributions to the Board.

Comments were made by Board Member Camacho.

c. Selection of Subcommittees

Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez read the two active subcommittees for the record:

- 1) The Public Outreach Committee. The Board members on this committee are David Nahai and Norma Camacho.

- 2) The Racial Equity and Environmental Justice/SEPs subcommittee. The Board members on this committee are Micheal Méndez and Sabrina Ashjian.

There are two subcommittees on hiatus. The Industrial Task Force and the Water Resilience subcommittees.

Chair Nahai recommended that the Industrial Task Force subcommittee not be reactivated.

Board Member Christiansen recommended adding a Wildfire Resilience subcommittee.

Board Member Camacho recommended broadening the focus of the Public Outreach Committee to include wildfire and water resilience.

Board Member Méndez expressed he would support the motion or proposal to expand the Public Outreach Committee to include issues of wildfire and water resilience. Board Member Méndez requested that maybe in a couple of months the Board could host an open forum with presenters agreed upon by the Board members.

Board Member Christiansen agrees with incorporating wildfire resilience into the Public Outreach Committee and keeping its name the same. She requested communicating with the public that the LARWQCB be a source of information for the wildfire recovery efforts.

MOTION: Board Member Camacho made a motion to approve the expansion of the Public Outreach Committee to include activities related to the wildfires and water resilience.

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

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

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The EO provided an update of the following item:

The Carson and Wilmington, Refinery Cassation of Operations, Community Engagement and Cleanup Plans.

On April 16 and 17, 2025, the Site Cleanup Program staff and LARWQCB

management met with Phillips 66 representatives and their consultants. The topic of both meetings was the cessation of operations, decommission and eventual redevelopment of the two refineries under the Los Angeles Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Order 94-130 Carson and Wilmington.

During the meeting with the public interest groups, LARWQCB staff and management answered questions about the regulatory process that governs the remediation of these sites. The groups were primarily concerned with the timeline of redevelopment, the cleanup goals and the financial assurance needed for the work to be completed.

Both the Carson and Wilmington refineries are set to cease operations in the fourth quarter of 2025, opening the door for opportunities for enhanced remediation and eventual redevelopment.

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

There were no comments or questions from the Board members.

Item 6 – Update from State Water Board [Board Member Laurel Firestone]

Board Member Firestone provided an update of the following items:

- *Public Hearing on the 2026 Integrated Report* – The State Water Board received comments on the Draft 2026 303(d) list. The public comment period closed earlier this month. The consideration of adoption of the draft is scheduled for early 2026.
- *Utility Wildfire General Order* – The draft was released for public comments. The adoption of the draft is scheduled for the end of 2025.
- *Delta Conveyance Project* – The hearing continues. Additional information is available on the State Water Board website.
- *Sewer System Administrator Appointment for the East Orosi Community Services District* – A public meeting was held, and public comments are being accepted
- *Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)* – An update and information session was held on the work. The staff reported on the progress made and State Water Board is continuing to move through the basins that have been found inadequate by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).
- *The May 6, 2025, Board Meeting* – The consideration to adopt State Water Board updated policy for the drinking water and clean water state revolving funds will be discussed. An update will be provided on the underground storage tank cleanup fund program. A workshop on the biological objectives proposed by Region 9 for their basin plan update will take place.

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

There were no comments or questions from the Board members.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Jennifer Novak, on behalf of WORKS

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Ms. Novak. Susana Arredondo, EO responded to comments made by Ms. Novak.

Speakers cont.

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Mr. Tahir. Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez, Assistant Executive Officer, Jenny Newman, Board Members Méndez and Camacho and Chair Nahai responded to comments made by Mr. Tahir.

Speakers cont.

- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetland Land Trust
- Eric Claros, Los Angeles Housing Department

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Mr. Claros. Russ Colby, Acting Assistant Executive Officer, responded to comments made by Mr. Claros. Board Member Camacho made comments and asked questions. Susana Arredondo, EO responded to Board Member Camacho's comments and questions.

Chair Nahai: Announced Uncontested Item 8

Uncontested Items

Item 8 – Consideration of Tentative Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements for Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, San Clemente Island, CA (Order No. 97-128).

Chair Nahai stated the uncontested items as Item 8 for record.

Chair Nahai asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Item 8. He then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Vice Chair Ashjian made a motion to approve uncontested Item 8.

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

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

Enforcement item

Chair Nahai announced the enforcement item.

Item 9 – Overview of the Enforcement Process Including a Discussion of Settlement Components. [Office of Enforcement]

Presentation Introduction: Russ Colby, AAEO

Presentation: The Office of Enforcement: Kailyn Ellison, (Attorney IV) and Catherine Hawe, (Attorney IV).

There were no public comments on the enforcement item.

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

Board Members Méndez and Camacho, Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. David Boyer, Assistant Chief Counsel, Russ Colby, and Adriana Nuñez responded to the Board members' comments and questions,

Item 10 – Closed Session

There was no closed session items announced for a closed session discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: May 22, 2025

Signature on File

Helen Rowe