

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 Camacho called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

Aldo Renteria, 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, Michael Méndez, and David Nahai.

Board Member Absent: Marissa Christiansen

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Russ Colby, Helen Rowe, Alfredo Duran, Khalid Abdullah, Gerardo Rabelo, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Susana Lagudis, Art Heath, Jeong-Hee Lim, Rosie Villar, Andrea Schmid, Adam Taing, Elisha Wakefield, Danielle Robinson, Weixing Tong, Erica Kono, David Biostad, Martin Duba, Amanda Duval, Veronica Cuevas and Steven Webb.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

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

The EO recommended moving Item 7 before Item 6.

There were no objections to the recommendation.

BOARD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the December 21, 2024, Meeting.

There were no changes made to the minutes.

DAVID NAHAI, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the December 21, 2024, draft meeting minutes.

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

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

Item 4 – Selection of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2025

Chair Camacho announced that she is stepping down as Chair of the regional Board.

Chair Camacho nominated Vice Chair David Nahai as the 2025 Chair.

Chair Camacho asked if there were any other nominations.

Vice Chair Nahai nominated Board Member Sabrina Ashjian as the 2025 Vice Chair

There were no other nominations.

Vote for Chair

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

Vote for Vice Chair

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

After the vote and approval of the 2025 officers. Chair Camacho, Vice Chair Nahai, Board Members Méndez and Ashjian made comments.

Item 5 – 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:

Board Member Méndez along with scholars from the University of Colorado, an indigenous scholar, as well as and an urban planner at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, assessed tribal engagement with urban planners and other governmental officials. The assessment involved land use and environmental projects.

Board Member Camacho reported on the following:

In February and March of 2025, Board Member Camacho attended the Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) meetings. The work group is close to completing a draft and plans to present the draft to the ROC in April or May 2025 for comments and review. The work group plans to include the recommendations in the Bi-annual Report that goes to the Board of Supervisors. The target date is December 2025.

Vice Chair Ashjian reported on the following:

Vice Chair Ashjian thanked the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, (LARWQCB) staff members for their work during the devastating fires and for collaborating with other agencies throughout Los Angeles during the unprecedented and devastating time.

The Environmental Law Institute, an environmental think tank based in DC, is conducting a West Coast bootcamp. The bootcamp is scheduled for the end of April 2025. Interested parties should contact Vice Chair Ashjian for additional information.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) selected new leadership for the next two (2) years. The next meeting for the SMBRC is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

Chair Nahai reported on the following:

On April 25, 2025, the Los Angeles Business Council will hold their annual Mayoral Housing Summit and the University of Los Angeles, (UCLA). The focus of the summit is the ongoing housing and

homelessness crisis.

- c. **Presentations of Staff Recognitions:** Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, (EO).

The EO and Section Managers acknowledged and recognized the LARWQCB staff members who have performed above and beyond their normal call of duty. The staff members received a Certification of Recognition Award. The staff members took group pictures with the regional Board members.

Managers

Rosie Villar, Administrative Section

Jeong-Hee, Watershed Section

Steven Webb, Municipal Permitting Unit

The EO presented awards to the UST Coastal Unit

Staff Members

Andrea Schmid

Adam Taing

Danielle Robinson

Weixing Tong

Erica Kono

David Biostad

Martin Duda

Amanda Duval

Dale Daley

Item 7 – Update from State Water Board [Board Member Laurel Firestone]

Board Member Firestone provided an update of the following items:

- State Board Strategic Work Plan – reviewing the plan to set forth highest priorities areas of work.
- Racial Equity Action Plan annual – reviewing the plan to assess progress made during the past year.
- The annual WQCC meeting is scheduled for all day on May 1 and half day on 2, 2025.
- Board Member Firestone attended a press conference in South El Monte, with the former Chair Camacho and the Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo, to recognize a project funded by millions of dollars from the State Water Board. The investment resulted in a great example of a Stormwater Capture Program.
- 2026 Integrated Report – State Water Board held a workshop to receive comments on the draft 303(d) list update for the 2026 California Integrated Report.
- Administrative Hearing Office – hearings are continuing on the Delta Conveyance Project and the Site Project Authority.

- The State Water Board is continuing to focus on water rights modernization and groundwater recharge. Board Member Firestone encourages interested parties to review the last meeting held on the project.

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. Board Member Firestone responded to their comments and questions.

Item 6 – Executive Officer's Report

The EO provided updates of the following items:

- The Former United Technologies Corporation (UTC) Site
The work plan submitted by RTX Corporation was approved on February 13, 2025. RTX successfully obtained access to multiple properties and began vapor intrusion testing in mid-March 2025. The LARWQCB expects to have results for a few properties in late May 2025.
- The Southern California Wildfires: Impacts, Response and Recovery Efforts
The LARWQCB collaborated with the State Water Board as part of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) incident command structure, ensuring coordination between federal, state, and local agencies. Seven members of LARWQCB staff members: Adam Taing, Christopher Marquis, Andrew Veloz, Emma Averill, Scott Lando, Laura Grigoryan and Michael Franco worked tirelessly at the Joint Field Office (JFO) providing technical expertise and support on 12-hour shifts, seven (7) days a week.
- The EO thanked the dedicated staff who worked relentlessly at the JFO. Additionally, she acknowledged the invaluable contributions of State Water Board Emergency Management Program staff: Krystal Taylor who played a critical role in coordination, technical analysis, and logistical support.
- The LARWQCB has implemented three (3) key monitoring initiatives to support further wildfire recovery.

Initiatives 1 and 2. Two beach water quality and sediment samplings.

Initiative 3. To contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Project (SCCWRP) to coordinate all post fire monitoring efforts of other states and local agencies, NGOs and academic institutions.

Staff Presentation: Emily Duncan, Acting Regional Program Manager provided information on the beach water and sediment sampling.

Presentation: Dr. Alvina Mehinto with Southern California Coastal Water Research Project provided information on the monitoring oversight project.

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. Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer, (AEO), Dr. Mehinto and Emily Duncan responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions. Board Members Camacho and Méndez, Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Ms. Moe responded to the Board members' comments and questions.

Speakers cont.

- Mary-Jane Wagle, Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services, (WORKS)

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Ms. Wagle. Russ Colby, Acting Assistant Executive Officer, (AAEO) responded to comments made by Mary-Jane Wagle

Speakers cont.

- Alina Razi, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Ms. Razi. Jenny Newman, AEO, responded to comments made by Alina Raza.

Speakers cont.

- Mike Dunn, Redondo Village Shopping Center

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Mr. Dunn. Russ Colby, AAEO responded to comments made by Mike Dunn.

Speakers cont.

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Chair Nahai asked LARWQCB staff to respond to Mr. Tahir. Jenny Newman, AEO responded to comments made by Ray Tahir.

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions. Member Méndez and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Jenny Newman, AEO, responded to their comments and questions.

Break: 11:08 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Nahai announced agenda Item 9.

Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Resolution Approving Proposed Special Study for Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility.

Presentation Introduction: Steven Webb, Municipal Permitting Unit Supervisor

Presentation: Josh Westfall, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, (LACSD)

Chair Nahai opened the floor for Board members' comments and questions. There were no comments or questions made by the Board members.

Chair Nahai asked for a Motion to approve Item 9. He then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Board Member Camacho made a motion to approve Item 9.

Seconded by: Vice Chair Ashjian

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Absent

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

Item 10 – Closed Session

Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, announced that the Board would discuss items 10.b, 10.f., 10.g., 10.o., and 10.p in closed session.

The Board went into closed session from 11:45 a.m. to 1:51 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: April 24, 2025

Signature on File

Helen Rowe