

---

## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Meeting Minutes

Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

No Physical Location

*Authorized by and in Furtherance of Executive Orders  
Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20](#)*

May 13, 2021

Chair Yee called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 on how to join the Zoom meeting for those wishing to provide comments during the public forum or on an agenda item.

#### ***Item 1 – Roll Call***

Board Members Present: Cynthia Guzmán, Michael Méndez, Irma Muñoz, David Nahai, James Stahl, Charles Stringer, and Lawrence Yee

Note: Board member Stringer departed at 2:25 pm

Staff Present: Renee Purdy, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Gerardo Rabelo, Khalid Abdullah, Tamarin Austin, Sophie Froelich, Adriana Nuñez, Milasol Gaslan, LB Nye, Cris Morris, Russ Colby, Yue Rong, Arthur Heath, Megan Kung, Rebecca Christmann, Jeong-Hee Lim, Don Tsai, Guangyu Wang, and Susana Lagudis

***Item 2 – Order of Agenda***

The EO announced that items 1 – 9 will be addressed in order. Item 10 is postponed until the June 2021 Board meeting. Item 11 will be followed by Item 13, a lunch break, and Closed Session. Item 12 will be heard after the lunch break and Closed Session. There were no objections to the proposed Order of Agenda from the Board members.

***Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the April 8, 2021 Board Meeting***

MOTION: Board member Stahl made a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 draft meeting minutes.

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

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea  
Michael Méndez – Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai - Yea  
James Stahl – Yea  
Charles Stringer – Yea  
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 Méndez** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported receiving an email from Mr. Ray Tahir. He did not open the email. He deleted it.

**Vice Chair Guzmán** reported on one ex parte communication:

- She reported she also received the same email as Board member Méndez from Mr. Ray Tahir. She forwarded the email to the Executive Officer, Renee Purdy. The email and attachments were made part of the record for the pending MS4 permit.

**Board member Stringer** reported on one ex parte communication:

- On May 5, 2021, he also received the same email from Mr. Ray Tahir and forwarded to Executive Officer Purdy and staff.

**Board member Nahai** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email with an attachment from Mr. Ray Tahir. He forwarded the email to Executive Officer Purdy. Board Member Nahai wrote back to Mr. Tahir requesting that Mr. Tahir send any communications to Board member Nahai's Water Board email address and not his business email address.

**Board member Stahl** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email from Mr. Ray Tahir. He forwarded the email to staff and legal counsel.

**Board member Muñoz** reported on one ex parte communication:

- She reported she also received the same email from Mr. Tahir. She forwarded the email to staff and deleted it.

**Board Chair Yee** reported on one ex parte communication:

- He reported he also received the same email from Mr. Ray Tahir. The email was forwarded to staff.

- 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.)

**Board member Méndez** reported on the following.

- On Friday, May 7, 2021, he attended the Los Angeles Water Board all staff meeting to introduce himself and discuss his book *Climate Change from the Streets: How Conflict and Collaboration Strengthen the Environmental Justice Movement*.

**Board Member Stahl** reported on the following.

- On Thursday, April 15, 2021 Board member Stahl attended a virtual tour of the LACSD's Clearwater Project, a 7-mile tunnel that will replace aging infrastructure.

**Chair Yee** reported on the following:

- On May 5, 2021, he attended two State Water Board webinars.
  1. Instream flow study on the Ventura River
  2. Nature-based solutions and the Governor's 30x30 climate action plan sponsored by the California Natural Resources Agency
- On May 10, 2021, he attended the Water Boards Regional Chairs meeting, three topics discussed:
  1. The upcoming Statewide Construction Stormwater General Permit

reissuance

2. The Governor's drought emergency proclamation
3. The Governor's May Revision to the 2021-22 budget

### ***Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report***

The EO reported on the following items:

- Water Resiliency and Water Recycling
  - Staff was invited by the City of Los Angeles, LASAN to participate in the Hyperion 2035 technical advisory group (TAG), formed to help oversee the transformation of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Facility, which discharges to Santa Monica Bay, to help the City achieve its goal of 100% water recycling.
    - Staff has been involved in reviewing and commenting on the Notice of Preparation under CEQA for the Hyperion 2035 program.
    - On May 4, 2021, staff attended a TAG meeting to discuss the influent flow projections for the facility.
    - The project meetings are held quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2021.
  - Direct Portable Use Regulations
    - On April 22, 2021, the Watershed Regulatory section staff members participated in the State Water Board workshop sponsored by the Division of Drinking Water regarding draft framework for regulating direct portable reuse in California.
    - Assembly Bill (AB) 574 requires the State Water Board to adopt uniform water recycling criteria for direct portable reuse through raw water augmentation on or before December 31, 2023.
    - The Division of Drinking Water has prepared an addendum to the framework that was released in August 2019. The addendum consists of the anticipated criteria for direct portable reuse. The Division of Drinking Water is currently taking comments on the addendum to the direct portable reuse framework.
- Ventura River Modeling
  - On May 5, 2021, staff participated in the first of three webinars on the Ventura River watershed modeling in collaborating with the State Water Board, Geosyntec and Daniel Stevens & Associates.
  - The webinar provided background and status updates on the ongoing groundwater and surface water hydrologic and nitrogen transport modeling efforts.

- The webinar was recorded and is available on the State Water Board YouTube page.
- On the mornings of May 19 and June 9, 2021 the second and third webinars will be held to address water demand and distribution, model calibration and validation.
- Virtual Summit on Watershed Health and People Experiencing Homelessness
  - On May 5, 2021, staff participated in a webinar on homelessness in partnership with several Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) agencies in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and agency partners, including the State Water Board. Topics discussed: legislative opportunities, State and Federal agency perspectives, local programs that address homelessness, underserved communities' water and sanitation services, water quality and watershed health, and funding opportunities.

***Item 6 – Update from State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire***

State Water Board Member Sean Maguire provided updates on the following items:

- California drought conditions and sustainable water supply
  - 93% of California is in an extreme drought designation.
  - Emergency drought proclamations from Governor Newsom: The first proclamation on April 21<sup>st</sup> focused on the Russian River Watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Governor issued a follow-up proclamation, focusing on the majority of California -- 41 counties in all -- including the San Francisco Bay Delta Watershed and the Klamath River Watershed. The drought declarations do not include Southern California at this point.
  - The proclamations provided new emergency authorities on procuring supplies for communities, providing emergency assistance to domestic well owners and small communities with limited groundwater dependent water supplies.
  - Governor's \$5.1 billion funding proposal for investments in water infrastructure, groundwater cleanup, and ecosystem restoration.
  - Senate's \$2 billion package for water and drought infrastructure readiness.
- COVID-19 Pandemic Relief
  - Governor's \$1 billion fund to help communities with households impacted by the pandemic, and water and wastewater systems financially stressed by the impact.

***Item 7 – Discussion of Draft 2021 Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Workplan for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board***

**Workplan Introduction:** Chair Yee

**Presentation of Workplan:** Vice Chair Guzmán

Components of the draft workplan to advance equity include:

- Develop mission, vision, and values statement
- Identify a series of internal and external actions, including actions related to recruitment, hiring and retention; planning, policy and regulatory practices; internal training and education; and outreach and relationship building with community based organizations
- Prepare written document to articulate the series of strategies, internal and external, the Los Angeles Water Board will take to advance equity and racial justice.

Chair Yee discussed next steps, including sharing the draft workplan with staff, creating a Region 4 steering committee to oversee implementation of the workplan, and preparing a Board resolution, following the State Water Board's efforts in this regard.

***Item 8 – Public Forum***

No comments were made during public forum.

***Item 9 – Uncontested Items***

*The Chair recommended moving Item 9 to the uncontested calendar if there were no objections.*

*There were no objections.*

MOTION: Board member Stringer made a motion to approve uncontested calendar Item 9.

Seconded by: Board member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea  
Michael Méndez - Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai - Yea  
James Stahl – Yea  
Charles Stringer – Yea  
Lawrence Yee – Yea

**Item 10**

Postponed to the June 2021 Board Meeting.

**Item 11 - Other Business**

Board member Nahai disclosed that he is listed as a partner at the Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith law firm. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) is a client of the firm. Board member Nahai does not provide any services for LACSD. He is not a member of the team that works for LACSD. He does not receive any income or share in any profits that are derived from the work with LACSD. Board member Nahai has no affiliation whatsoever with LACSD. He was advised by counsel that he has no conflicts that would prevent him from hearing or voting on the matter.

**Presentation Introduction:** Jeong-Hee Lim, Engineer, Unit Chief, Municipal Permitting Unit

**Presentation:** Martha Tremblay and Philip Markle, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

**Speaker:** Judy Huang, US EPA Region 9

**MOTION:** Board member Muñoz made a motion to approve the resolution.

Seconded by: Board member Nahai

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Cynthia Guzmán – Yea  
Michael Méndez - Yea  
Irma Muñoz – Yea  
David Nahai - Yea  
James Stahl – Yea  
Charles Stringer – Yea  
Lawrence Yee – Yea

**Item 13 – Information Items**

Acknowledgement of Dr. Guangyu Wang's 31 years of service and upcoming retirement.

- Renee Purdy, EO
- Board members Stahl, Nahai, Muñoz and Stringer, and Chair Yee

**Speaker Introduction:** Jeong-Hee Lim, Engineer, Unit Chief, Municipal Permitting Unit

**Presentation:** Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

**Item 14 – Closed Session**

Legal counsel Sophie Froelich announced that the Board was going into closed session to discuss Items 14.b., 14.c., and 14.d., on the agenda, pursuant to Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e).

**Lunch Break 12:45 p.m. to 1:05 p.m.**

*(The Board went into closed session at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:25 p.m.)*

**Item 12 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discussion**

**Staff Introduction:** Dr. LB Nye, Section Chief, Regional Programs Section

**Speakers:**

- Mayor Pro Tempore Gloria Crudgington, City of Monrovia
- Councilmember Margaret Clark, City of Rosemead
- Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, County of Ventura District 5
- Mayor Janice Parvin, City of Moorpark
- Councilmember Barry Waite, City of Lomita
- Councilmember Charlotte Craven, City of Camarillo
- Mayor Pro Tempore, Jim Dear, City of Carson
- Clete Saunier, City of Santa Paula
- Arne Anselm, Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program
- Cliff Finley, City of Thousand Oaks
- David Klotzle, City of Camarillo
- Phil Nelson and Peter Shellenbarger, City of Ventura
- Joe Deakin, City of Simi Valley
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay, Melanie Rivera, LA Waterkeeper, Daniel Cooper, LA Waterkeeper and Cori Bell, NRDC
- James Danza, Friends of the Santa Clara River
- Glen Kau, City of Norwalk
- Richard Watson, Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Group
- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

The Board members discussed the request by some Ventura County Permittees for another workshop. Chair Yee concluded the discussion by indicating that the Board would discuss the request further once the revisions to the tentative permit were distributed to Permittees and other stakeholders in several weeks.



*The meeting adjourned at 5:04 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](mailto:Helen.Rowe@waterboards.ca.gov), and she may provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, if available.)*

*Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on June 10, 2021.*

*Signature on File*  
Helen Rowe