
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes

In-person/Hybrid Meeting

United Water Conservation District

Boardroom

Oxnard, CA 93030

April 27, 2023

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

She 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. She provided instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting for those wishing to provide comments on an agenda item, and she announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Sergio Morales, one of the Spanish translators, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Chair Camacho thanked the United Water Conservation District for allowing the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to use their facility for the Board meeting.

Mauricio Guardado, Jr., General Manager of United Water Conservation District welcomed the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to the facility.

Item 1 – Roll Call

Board Members Present: Sabrina Ashjian, Norma Camacho, Michael Méndez, David Nahai and James Stahl

Board Member Absent: Marissa Christiansen and Irma Muñoz

Staff Present: Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Adriana Nuñez, Sophie Froelich (Remote), Tamarin Austin, Khalid Abdullah, Alfredo Duran, LB Nye, Russ Colby, Arthur Heath, Jillian Ly, Veronica Cuevas, Kristie Kao, Kevin Lin, Anna Bellini, Elisha Wakefield, Steven Webb, Susana Lagudis and Brian Anderson

Chair Camacho introduced the newly appointed Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo.

NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Susana Arredondo thanked the Los Angeles Regional Water Board for selecting her as the newly appointed executive officer. She read a statement about her educational background and work experience.

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments from Board members.

Board Members Méndez, Stahl, Ashjian, Chair Camacho and Vice Chair Nahai made comments.

Item 2 – Order of Agenda

The Acting Executive Officer, Jenny Newman recommended that Item 12, the consideration of a referral to the Attorney General, be moved after Item 13, the Agriculture WDRs Workshop, and that Item 7, Public Forum, be moved to the end of the agenda after Item 12.

There were no objections to the recommended changes.

Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the March 23, 2023, meeting.

MOTION: Board Member Stahl made a motion to approve the March 23, 2023, draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Ashjian.

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen – Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Abstained
James Stahl – Yea

Item 4 – Board Member Communications

- a. Ex Parte Disclosures (Board members identified any discussions they had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40.)

There were no ex parte disclosures reports from the Board members.

Board Member Méndez reported on one communication.

Early April 2023, Board Member Méndez and Jenny Newman, Acting Executive Officer, met with Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. They discussed the Wetland Restoration Projects including the Ballona Creek area and the tour for Board members.

b. Board Member Reports:

Vice Chair Nahai reported on the following: 1) On March 22 - 24, 2023 he attended the Global Water Conference hosted by the United Nations (UN) in New York. He discussed Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program. The next UN Water Conference is scheduled for December 2023. 2) He spoke at the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) conference on April 20, 2023. He discussed how to work with environmental regulations, strategies that CMUA can adopt to make their voices heard and how the CMUA could collaborate and work together on water problem solutions. 3) Wade Crowfoot, California's Natural Resources Secretary will lead a delegation of approximately twenty members on a trip to Australia. Vice Chair Nahai was invited to join the delegation. He has committed to joining the delegation and travel to Australia.

Board Member Méndez reported on the following: 1) He attended the Author's meeting for National Climate Assessment in Washington, DC. He is a co-author of the Southwest Chapter which includes California. 2) He was invited to participate in Stanford University's Doerr School of Sustainability workshop on Environmental Justice. The workshop included scholars, practitioners and other experts. They discussed key water issues affecting California and the nation. 3) The week of April 24, 2023, Board Member Méndez was invited by the University of Virginia to the School of Architecture and Urban Planning. He discussed the California Climate Change Programs. 4) Board Member Méndez was a part of the delegation of the California Mexico Bilateral Climate Policy Summit. Attendees of the summit included both elected and appointed policy makers throughout California and their counterparts in Mexico.

Board Member Stahl reported on the following: 1) He attended the UCI conference. Megan Kung, Research Data Special II, Regional Water Board staff member presented at the conference. The title of her presentation was "The Storm Before the Calm - Stormwater Capture as a means of Addressing Racism and Environmental Justice in Los Angeles". 2) As a representative of the Regional Water Board, Board Member Stahl attended the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission governing board meeting on April 20, 2023. The Santa Monica Restoration Board adopted their annual work plan. 3) Board Member Stahl attended the Earth Day celebration of the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant in Whittier. The Earth Day celebration was attended by over two thousand attendees. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano spoke at the celebration. 4) On April 14, 2023, he watched (remotely) the Orange County Water District in conjunction with the Orange County Sanitation District as they initiated the operation of their final expansion of the Groundwater Recharge Projects.

Board Member Ashjian reported on following: 1) She mentioned Earth Day and

thanks the Regional Water Board staff, colleagues, and stakeholders for their work on critical issues. 2) Tonight, April 27, 2023, she is attending an event at UCLA, Luskin Center. The event is for water climate and environmental justice with Catherine Flowers. Ms. Flowers is an environmental justice advocate who dedicated years of her career to clean water and clean sanitation. Joaquin Esquivel, California State Water Board Chair will attend the event. 3) Board Member Ashjian mentioned the tour to Ballona Wetlands and Ventura County farms. She thanked members of the community who have reached out to the Regional Water Board to visit these locations in-person.

Chair Camacho reported on the following: On April 20, 2023, she attended the Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee meeting. As the Regional Water Board Chair, the Board has a seat on the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) as a non-voting member. The ROC is preparing the Watershed Area Comprehensive Planning Effort and the Biennial review of the Regional Oversight Committee Guidance. The Board approved the Slate projects moving forward to the next step. The final approval of these projects will come from the Board of Supervisors.

Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

Jenny Newman, Acting Executive Officer, provided updates on the following items: 1) On March 29, 2023, Hugh Marley, Assistant Executive Officer issued an administrative civil liability complaint number R4 2023-0007 against the City of Los Angeles to address the July 2021 incident at the city’s Hyperion Treatment Plant. The complaint proposes \$21.7 million in administrative civil liability against the City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Regional Water Board’s prosecution team have agreed to enter into settlement discussions. 2) On April 3, 2023, the Office of Administrative Law approved the Los Angeles Water Board Resolution 2022-001 which added three new tribal beneficial use definitions for inland surface waters and closed bays and estuaries to the basin plan. The use definitions are tribal traditional culture, tribal subsistence fishing and subsistence fishing. This was the last step in the approval process for the amendment to the basin plan.

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

Board Member Laurel Firestone provided updates of the following items: 1) On April 18, 2023, the State Water Board adopted a resolution on their Site Cleanup Sub-Account Program (SCAP). 2) Governor’s Newsom executive order lifting proclamation on the State Water Board’s ability to adopt emergency curtailment regulations. 3) On March 22, 2023, the State Water Board held a workshop on Outdoor Water Use Efficiency Standards proposals. 4) State Water Board held a hearing on the draft Clear Water Act, Section 303D list of impaired water bodies; written comments were due on April 3, 2023. 4) State Water Board held a meeting on the proposed amendment to the enforcement policy; written comments are due on April 28, 2023. 5) On May 2, 2023, a public webinar will be held providing stakeholders an opportunity to review and discuss the results of the 2023

drinking water needs assessment. 6) On May 18, 2023, starting at 9:00 a.m., State Water Board will hold a public workshop for input on media actions that the state Water Board could take to incentivize wastewater agencies including clean water and water recycling agencies to evaluate the feasibility of nutrients and the discharge of treatment and removal of nutrients in their discharges as part of future planning for facility upgrades.

Chair Camacho opened the floor for questions from the Board members.

Board Members Stahl, Ashjian and Méndez made comments. Board Member Laurel Firestone responded to the Board Members' comments.

Items 8 – 11 – Uncontested Items

Chair Camacho read each uncontested item for the record. She asked for a Motion to approve uncontested Items 8-11. She then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve uncontested Items 8 - 11.

Seconded by: Board Member Stahl

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – Yea

Break: 10:00 a.m. to 10:13 a.m.

Item 13 – Board Workshop

Chair Camacho announced Item 13 the Board Workshop

Item 13 – Public Workshop on proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements of Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands in the Los Angeles Region

Staff Presentation:

Elisha Wakefield, TMDL and Nonpoint Source Unit Supervisor and
Anna Bellini, Environmental Scientist

Comments were made by Vice Chair Nahai and Boards Members Stahl and Méndez.

Regional Water Board staff members Jenny Newman and Elisha Wakefield responded to comments and questions from the Board members.

Speakers:

- Jodi Switzer, Farm Bureau of Ventura, on behalf of Ventura

County and VCAILG

Vice Chair Nahai and Board Member Stahl made comments. Jodi Switzer responded to comments and questions from Board members.

Speakers: (cont.)

- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Joy Downing Riley, Surfrider Foundation
- Ariana McCray, Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group
- Lisa Tate, Rancho Filoso
- Edgar Terry, Terry Farms, Inc.
- Luis Calderon, Rider Affiliated Companies
- Martin Gramckow, Southland Sod Farms
- Juan Prado, Southland Sod Farms
- Raul Flores, Southland Sod Farms
- Emilio Maldonado
- James Cortez
- Rafael Hernandez
- Fred Van Wingerden, Pyramid Flowers, Inc.
- Jocelyn Cortes
- Gordon Kimball, Kimball Ranches
- Ann DeMartini, DeMartini Enterprises, LLC
- Michael Sullivan
- Christian Laber, Consultant on behalf of the Wood Claeysens Foundation
- Helen McGrath, Flying M. Ranch/Farm Bureau
- Catherin Keeling, Strata Ranches
- Arne Anselm, Ventura County Public Works
- Roger Haring, Upper Santa Clara River
- Alyssa Terry, Amigos Fuerza, Inc.
- Edgar Gutierrez, Limoneira Company
- Myles Shoemaker, Limoneira Company
- Brooks Engelhardt, USDA-NRCS Oxnard Field Office
- Jamie Whiteford, Ventura County RCD
- Kerry Fisher
- Shelby Fredrickson, Numeric Solutions, LLC
- John Schoustra, Los Angeles Irrigated Land Group
- Danny Klittich

Lunch Break/Closed Session**Item 14 – Closed Session**

Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez, announced the Board was going into closed session to discuss Item 14.c.

(The Board met in closed session from 1:23 p.m. to 2:31 p.m.)

Item 13 – Board Workshop (cont.)

Chair Camacho opened the floor for a discussion, additional comments and questions from Board members.

Regional Water Board staff Jenny Newman and Elisha Wakefield responded to public comments and questions from the Board members.

Maureen McGuire and Jodi Switzer with the Farm Bureau of Ventura on behalf of Ventura County and VCAILG responded to questions from the Board members.

Chair Camacho announced Item 12 the referral to the California Attorney General.

Item 12 – Consideration of a proposed resolution authorizing referral to the California Attorney General office: the City Of Torrance; Hi-Shear Corporation/Lisi Aerospace; Magellan Aerospace, Middletown, Inc.; Excellon Industries, An Esterline Company; Excellon Acquisitions, LLC; Excellon Technologies, LLC; Esterline Technologies Corporation; Robinson Helicopter Company; Dasco Engineering Corporation -- Skypark Commercial Properties, Assessor Parcel No. 7377-006-906 (24701-24777 Crenshaw Boulevard And 2530, 2540, And 2600 Skypark Drive, Torrance, California).

Staff Presentation: Tamarin Austin, Attorney IV and Kevin Lin, WRC Engineer

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members.

Board Member Stahl made comments and asked questions. Kevin Lin and Jillian Ly responded to the comments and questions from Board Member Stahl.

Speakers:

- Jeff Poole, Hamrick & Evans, LLP
- Sonja Inglin, Cremak & Inglin, LLP
- Pat Rendo, Lamb & Kawakami LLP
- Alan Fenstermacher, Rutan & Tucker, on behalf of the City of Torrance
- Chris Johnson, Gordon Rees
- William Beverly, Law office of William Beverly, on behalf of Dasco Engineering Corporation.
- Carla Dillon, City of Lomita

Chair Camacho opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board members.

Board members Ashjian, Stahl and Nahai made comments and asked questions. Legal Counsel, Tamarin Austin, responded to comments and questions from the Board members.

MOTION: Vice Chair Nahai made a motion to approve the referral to the California Attorney General with staff recommendations of the Revised Tentative Resolution.

Seconded by: Board Member Méndez

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian - Yea
Norma Camacho – Yea
Marissa Christiansen - Absent
Michael Méndez – Yea
Irma Muñoz – Absent
David Nahai – Yea
James Stahl – No

Item 7 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Margot Griswold, Los Angeles Audubon Society
- Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition
- Jeanette Vosburg, Grassroots Coalition
- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
- Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
- Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates

*Chair Camacho closed the meeting in memory of Josefina Sotelo Felix Muñoz
(September 18, 1928 to March 19, 2023)*

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 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 and she will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)

Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: May 26, 2023

Signature on File: Helen Rowe