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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes  
In-person/Hybrid Meeting

Hall of Administration  
Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room  
Ventura, CA 93009

September 28, 2023

*Chair Camacho called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.*

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

Juan Carlos Juarez, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

*Chair Camacho thanked the Ventura County Board of Supervisors for allowing the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to use their Hearing Room for the Board Meeting. She thanked the Hall of Administration staff for assisting with coordinating the use of the facility.*

### **Item 1 – Roll Call**

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

**Note:** Marissa Christiansen and Michael Mendez arrived late, and Sabrina Ashjian departed early.

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Jenny Newman, Hugh Marley, Helen Rowe, Adriana Nuñez, Sophie Froelich (Remote), Tamarin Austin, Stephanie Yu (Remote), Amelia Carder, Khalid Abdullah, Aurel Agarín, LB Nye, Elisha Wakefield, Russ Colby, Bronwyn Kelly, Duong Trinh, Jeong-Hee Lim, Susana Lagudis and Brian Anderson

### **Item 2 – Order of Agenda**

There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

**Item 3 – Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for the August 16, 2023, Meeting.**

MOTION: Board Member Ashjian made a motion to approve the August 16, 2023, draft meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Vice Chair Nahai

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

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

*Chair Camacho asked Board members for any non-Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) ex parte communications.*

There were no non-SSFL communications reported by the Board members.

- 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 Ashjian** reported on the following: She reported on two events that occurred last week. 1) Climate Week 2023, There were several discussions related to water and water sanitation issues. There are articles related to the event posted online. 2) Board Member Ashjian had an opportunity to participate in a government appointment process workshop with Assemblymember Blanco Rubio and California Women Lead. They discussed the opportunity in boards and commissions such as, Los Angeles Regional Water Board.

Board Member Ashjian met the president of the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD). She was asked if the Regional Water Board would like a tour of their facilities. On October 14, 2023, a community event is scheduled at the WBMWD. The event will include tours of the facility and games for children. This event is free and open to the public.

**Board Member Méndez** reported on the following: He attended the naming ceremony for the Cindy Montanez Nature Parks in the cities of San Fernando and Los Angeles. He requested from Chair Camacho and the Executive Officer a resolution to honor Cindy Montanez who has for the last six to eight years been the CEO of Tree People. He would like the resolution to be presented at the October Board meeting.

**Vice Chair Nahai** reported on the following: He agreed and endorsed the resolution in favor of Cindy Montanez. As Chair of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), Vice Chair Nahai announced that on Friday, September 22, 2023, the Sustainability Summit for LABC held an all-day conference. The conference was devoted to both energy and how to get to zero carbon in the Los Angeles region. The issues of water were discussed. Vice Chair Nahai moderated the water panel. The panel included: Anselmo Collins Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System (LADWP), Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles Infrastructure, Randall Winston, Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency & Innovation Officer, (MWD of Southern California), Stephan Tucker, (WPD) and Julie Labonte, SVP, Global Director Program Management, HDR Inc.

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

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, provided updates of the following items:

- 1) *Update on the former Kast Property Tank Farm or Kast site located in the City of Carson.* Cleanup of shallow soil (up to 10 feet below ground surface) at all 285 residential properties is 100% completed. The deeper soil cleanup continues using a soil vapor extraction and bioventing treatment system. Concrete work on the sidewalk, curb and gutters, and asphalt paving is still in progress. Staff will provide the Board with an Information Item on the project soon.
- 2) *2023 Cleanup Summit – On September 5 - 7, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board hosted the first Cleanup Summit for the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup, Site Cleanup, and Department of Defense (DoD) Programs.* The Los Angeles Site Cleanup and Underground Storage Tank Program staff participated in the summit. Topics discussed included future training opportunities, accessing cleanup funds, providing legal perspectives, and updating the summit with our current State Board Racial Equity activities.
- 3) *Environmental Justice Roundtable and Tribal Affairs Meeting.* On July 19 – 21, 2023. Public Participation Specialist, Environmental Justice Representative and Tribal Coordinator Susana Lagudis, participated in the State Water Board Office of Public Participation’s quarterly Environmental Justice roundtable and a field trip in Clear Lake, CA.

In August and September of 2023, Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer attended several Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) meetings to reaffirm the Los Angeles Regional Water Board's commitment to participating in the Safe Clean Water program. This is the 5th year of the program, and the most recent call for projects ended on July 31, 2023.

In July 2023, the Regional Water Board Staff and the Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo attended two community events. The Pacoima Beautiful Community event and panel discussion, and the DelAmo Action Committee Tour. These events allowed for community groups and individual connections with the waterboard. At

the DelAmo Action Committee event we invited concerned citizens to present at future Board meetings for public comment.

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board member questions.*

Board Members Méndez and Ashjian made comments and asked questions. The Executive Officer answered Board members' questions.

***Item 6 – Update from State Water Board***

There was no verb report. A copy of the written report was distributed to the Board members.

*Chair Camacho noted the public hearing mentioned in the report held on September 7, 2023, on direct portable reuse.*

***Item 7 – Public Forum***

**Speakers:**

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental
- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
- Glen Kau, City of Norwalk

*Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 8 and administered the oath.*

***Item 8 – Consideration of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands in the Los Angeles Region***

**Staff Presentation:** Elisha Wakefield, Senior Environmental Scientist

*Due to the late start of the hearing, Chair Camacho asked Elisha Wakefield to pause her presentation for elected official comments.*

**Speakers:**

- Steve Bennett, CA Assembly District 58
- Ventura County Supervisor, Vianey Lopez, District 5
- Kelly Long, Ventura County, District 3
- Lourdes Solorzano, representing Supervisor Matt LaVere, Ventura County

**Staff Presentation: (cont.)** Elisha Wakefield

**Speakers: (cont.)**

- Mark Perryman, Chief of Staff, representing Supervisor Jeff Gorell, Ventura County, District 2

**Break: 10:56 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.**

**Speakers: (cont.)**

- Jocelyn Cortes, Ventura County Farm Bureau
- Jodi Switzer, Water Program Director, Ventura County Farm Bureau

*Chair Camacho asked the Regional Water Board staff to respond to questions from Jodi Switzer. Elisha Wakefield and LB Nye responded to the questions.*

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for clarifying from Board members' questions. There were no questions from the Board members.*

**Speakers: (cont.)**

- Ariana McCray, Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Justin Breck, Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Jamie Whiteford, Ventura County RCD
- Christopher Shogren, UC Cooperative Extension
- Joan Tharp, Surfrider, Ventura County
- Louise Lampara, Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
- Lisa Tate, Rancho Filoso
- Logan Hardison
- Catherine Pinkerton Keeling, Strata Ranches
- Christian Laber
- Luis Calderon
- Chris Sayer, Petty Ranch
- Helen McGrath, Farm Bureau/Grower
- Patty Waters
- Gary Ohst
- Richard Cavaletto, Rancho Cream Inc., CTR Farming, LLC
- Devin Fiscalini, C&E Farming
- Michael Cravitto, Fuller Falls Mutual Water Company
- Edgar Terry, Terry Farms
- Carrie Fisher, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Ted Morton, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- Mike Court, District Supervisor Ventura County, District 4, representing Supervisor Janice Parvin
- Shelby Fredricks, Wood Clayton's Foundation
- Victor Friedman
- Guardo Spinelli, UC San Diego

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' questions and deliberations.*

Board Member Méndez asked questions. Elisha Wakefield, LB Nye, Adriana Nuñez, and Jenny Newman responded to the questions.

**Break: 1:17 p.m. to 1:23 p.m.**

**Board Members' questions and deliberations (cont.)**

Vice Chair Nahai, Board Member Ashjian, and Chair Camacho made comments and asked questions. Elisha Wakefield, LB Nye, Adriana Nuñez and Jenny Newman responded to the questions.

Vice Chair Nahai, Chair Camacho and Board Members Ashjian and Méndez proposed and recommended changes to the permit.

**Board Recess 2:20 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.**

Board recess for the Regional Water Board staff and legal counsel to craft language for the proposed requested permit changes by Board members.

Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer and Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez read the proposed Board members recommended changes to the NPDES permit renewal.

Board Member Méndez asked clarifying questions. Jenny Newman answered his questions.

Board Member Ashjian made a motion to approve Item 8 with Regional Water Board recommendation with the changes in both change sheets and the changes read into the record by Jenny Newman and Adriana Nuñez.

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

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

**Lunch Break: 2:49 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.**

*Chair Camacho: Announced agenda Item 9.*

***Item 9 – Consideration of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit Renewal for The Boeing Company, Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Canoga Park, CA, NPDES Permit No. CA0001309***

*Chair Camacho made an opening statement to start the hearing, administered the oath and asked Board members if they had any ex parte disclosures related to SSFL.*

**Chair Camacho** reported on two communications.

On September 6 & 25, 2023 she received emails from Ray Tahir. Chair Camacho did open the email, but she did not read the emails. She forwarded the emails to legal counsel.

**Board Member Méndez** reported on two communications.

He received the same two emails Chair Camacho received from Ray Tahir. He did not read the emails. He deleted the emails.

**Vice Chair Nahai** reported on two communications.

He received the same two emails Chair Camacho received from Ray Tahir. He did not read the emails. He forwarded the emails to legal counsel and the executive officer.

**Board Member Christiansen** reported on two communications.

She received the same two emails Chair Camacho received from Ray Tahir. She did not read the emails or respond to Ray Tahir.

**Background, Progress, and Cleanup Update Presentation:** Steve Becker, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' questions.*

Board Member Méndez, Vice Chair Nahai and Chair Camacho asked questions. The responses to their questions were made by Steve Becker, Melissa Kelly and Mindy Mathias.

**Staff Presentation:** Bronwyn Kelly, Industrial Permitting Unit Supervisor

**Parties:**

- Steve Shestag. Senior Director, Environmental Sustainability representing the Boeing Company
- Jenny Nack, Dr. Robert Dodge, Melissa Bumstead and Jeff Ruch representing the Parents Against SSFL, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

**Agencies:**

- Peter Kozelka, USEPA

*Chair Camacho opened the floor for Board members' questions.*

Vice Chair Nahai thanked Peter Kozelka for his presentation and asked questions. Peter Kozelka answered the questions.

*Chair Camacho made a statement regarding public comments for Item 9.*

**Speakers:**

- Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

*Chair Camacho asked Regional Water Board staff to respond to comments and questions. Board Member Méndez asked questions. Legal counsel attorneys Adriana Nuñez and Sophie Froelich responded to the comments and questions.*

**Speakers: (cont.)**

- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay
- Christina Walsh, Landrelief.org
- Kathleen Erickson
- Jason Baiz
- Steve Comstock
- *Rebecca Bertram, comments read by Chair Camacho*
- Chris Rowe, SSFL Technical Stakeholder for DTSC, the Federal EPA; NASA SSFL and section 106 consulting party.
- Adam Salkin
- Dori Raskin
- Gina Thornburg, Coalition for Valley Neighborhoods
- Kseniya Glukhovsky
- Michelle Murphy
- Candice Meneghim
- Justin Breck
- Theresa Brady
- Steve Andrews
- Milissa Ospina
- Allyson Blumberg
- Logan Goudreau
- Marisa Lopez
- Tevin Schmitt, Wishtoyo Foundation
- Tiffany Ruiz
- Shannon Rabi, Parents Against Santa Susana
- Lauren Hammersley

*Chair Camacho read public comments from the following participants for the record.*

- Katherne M.
- Holly Huff
- Laurie Winkler
- Marleen Gradle
- Greg Geory

**Speakers: (cont.)**

- Jeremy DeLaitte
- Joni Arends
- Hilary Milner



*Chair Camacho asked the Board members for their consensus on continuing Item 9.*

Vice Chair Nahai and Board Member Méndez made comments and asked questions. Legal counsel, Adriana Nuñez responded to their comments and questions.

*Chair Camacho read the names of registered speakers who will have the opportunity to comment on Item 9 at the continuation of this hearing.*

**List of Registered Speakers:**

- Craig Courtney, United Against SSFL
- Mary Anne Bonthron, Parents vs SSFL. C/O PSR-LA
- Laurie Winkler
- Robin Golbert
- Leah Tieger
- Lavonne Klea
- Catherine Rodriguez
- Cindi Gortner
- Michael Stenstrom, Civil Environmental Engineering Dept., UCLA

*Chair Camacho continued public comments except for the list of names read in the records.*

Due to the latest of the hour. There was no motion made or vote for Item 9. Item 9 will be continued until the October Board meeting.

*The meeting adjourned at 6:49 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 will provide an electronic copy of the transcript or audio, when available.)*

**Written and submitted by Helen Rowe, Board Clerk on: October 23, 2023**