
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2025

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th
Street Carmel
Room
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Chair Nahai called the meeting to order at 9:06 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.

Leticia Reyna, one of the Spanish interpreters, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting in Spanish.

Item 1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Chair Nahai explained that Vice Chair Ashjian requested to participate remotely in this meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act, specifically Government Code section 11123.2. Remote participation requires that a quorum of the Board Members be physically present at a single teleconference location that is open, visible and audible to the public.

Board Members Present: Sabrina Ashjian, (remote/virtual), Norma Camacho Marissa Christiansen, Michael Méndez, and David Nahai.

Chair Nahai confirmed the roll call and that a quorum was physically present.

Chair Nahai then explained that Vice Chair Ashjian may proceed with remote participation in the public meeting. Vice Chair Ashjian did not need to disclose her precise location, but she must disclose if there were any individuals 18 years of age or older present in the same room as she and the nature of her relationship with these individuals.

Vice Chair Ashjian responded that, “there was no one in the room with her.”

DAVID NAHAI, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chair Nahai continued to explain the requirements for Vice Chair Ashjian's remote participation. He mentioned that further, Government Code section 11123.2 requires that Vice Chair Ashjian remain on-camera for the entire open portion of the public meeting, unless there is a poor internet connection or it would be technologically impracticable to do so. If Vice Chair Ashjian needs to turn off her camera during the open portion of the meeting, she must announce her reason for doing so.

Chair Nahai asked legal counsel, are there any other legal issues with Vice Chair Ashjian's remote participation?

Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez indicated "no".

Staff Present: Susana Arredondo, Russ Colby, Helen Rowe, Jenny Newman, Jillian Ly, Alfredo Duran, Khalid Abdullah, Amelia Carder, Adriana Nuñez, Jeong-Hee Lim, Céline Gallon, Jim Kang, Elisha Wakefield, Rene De La Fuente, Adam Taing, Michelle Campbell, Art Heath and Steven Webb

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 July 24, 2025, Meeting

Chair Nahai asked the Board members if there were any changes to the minutes.

Chair Nahai requested that the minutes are dated and signed by the Board Clerk.

MOTION: Board member Christiansen made a motion to approve the minutes.

Seconded by: Board Member Méndez

Motion carried: Approved by roll call vote.

Sabrina Ashjian – Yea

Norma Camacho – Yea

Marissa Christiansen – Yea

Michael Méndez – Yea

David Nahai – Yea

Item 4 – Approval of Tentative 2026 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Schedule

Chair Nahai asked if there were any changes to the schedule.

There were no changes to the tentative 2026 schedule. Board Member Méndez requested that a Board meeting be held in Ventura County.

MOTION: Board Member Camacho made a motion to approve the tentative 2026 Board meeting schedule.

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

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

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.)

Board Member Méndez reported on one communication:

Board Member Méndez was contacted by a representative for the Long Beach utilities. He received good news that the city of Long Beach conducted a smoke test of the city's sewer system for potential leaks. This test is a part of their climate adaptation plan. There were positive results from the test. The city of Long Beach will share the test results with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) in the near future.

The representative from the city of Long Beach discussed an article about their recent rains and storm water runoff that is coming upstream. The city of Long Beach is working with the Los Angeles County and local governments to address the storm water issues coming up upstream in the city of Long Beach.

- 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 Christiansen: Nothing to report.

Board Member Camacho reported on the following:

Board Member Camacho is a member of the Regional Oversight Committee of the Safe Clean Water Program (ROC). She is working with the biannual report working group. Over the last two years, the working group has been putting together recommendations for the ROC. A final draft of their recommendations will go to the whole Regional Oversight Committee on December 10, 2025. The draft will be subject to a 30-day review. The final approval of the draft is scheduled for February 2026.

On November 12, 2025, there is a Scientific Advisory Committee that the ROC is going to initiate. The committee will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Public Works Alhambra office.

Board Member Camacho mentioned that the initial watershed plans that are being developed by the County of Public Works. She requested the LARWQCB staff provide three years water quality data by watershed to help complement the report. She asked if the data could be available in December 2025 or January 2026.

Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, responded that the LARWQBC staff could provide the data.

Board Member Méndez reported on the following:

On Tuesday, October 28, 2025, Board Member Méndez will be co-hosting the Under Fire: Protecting Climate Science in an Age of Uncertainty event. This event will be hosted by the School of Social Ecology, Social Impact Hub and the UC Irvine Climate Collaboration. Two senior administrative officials of the Biden administration, Martha Guzman Aceves, former U.S. EPA Region 9 administrator, and Justin Knighton, former Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) associate administrator will co-host this event with Board Member Méndez. This event is open to the public.

Vice Chair Ashjian reported on the following:

Vice Chair Ashjian apologized for not being able to attend today's Board meeting in-person. She is attending the American Bar Association's Environmental Law Conference. Vice Chair Ashjian will be attending the Environmental Law Institute and teaching, next week, on environmental justice.

Vice Chair Ashjian thanked Director Pestrella and all the staff for a great tour and the thorough explanation of the work this is being done in the Eaton Fire Recovery area. She also thanked Los Angeles County Supervisor Barger and her team who joined the LARWQBC Board members on the tour.

Vice Chair Ashjian mentioned, Chair Nahai and the Executive Officer, Susana Arredondo, attended the Chair/Vice Chair meeting with State Water Board. She stated that it was beneficial to hear what is going on in other regions and how to bring some best practices to the Los Angeles region.

Chair Nahai reported on the following:

A couple of weeks ago, the Los Angeles Business Council, (Chair Nahai serves as Chair) held its 19th Annual Sustainability Summit. The summit was held at the University of California, (USC). Chair Nahai mentioned that the summit was well attended, and it was heartening to see the amount of interest in sustainability issues and taking care of our environment.

Chair Nahai chaired the panel on resilience. The panel discussed issues concerning water and energy. The members of the panel were Supervisor Hova, the general manager at LADWP, Jan Quin, the head of the Clean Power Alliance, Ted Barkey, Liz Croson, from the MWD, the new general manager of MWD, Shivaji Deshmukh and Jacquelin Mutter from HDR.

Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report

The EO provided an update on the following items:

- The former 4th Avenue Drill site Under the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG). A new 84-unit apartment building, with 42 units designated for permanent supportive housing, is expected to be ready for occupancy by the end of 2025. The owner has received over 40,000 applications for half of the units.

LARWQCB staff have been working closely with the property owner, DTSC, and stakeholders throughout the cleanup and redevelopment process, ensuring a successful project and supports the needs of the community.

- The former Berk Oil and Pacific and Pacific Metal Craft Cleanup Under ECRG grant. As of today, the excavation scope of work under the ECRG grant has been completed and the SVE pilot testing scope is still ongoing with an SVE Pilot Test Plan Addendum. The Board will be updated on future significant milestones.
- WaterReuse California Annual Conference. On September 21 thru 23, 2025, the Watershed Regulatory Section staff attended the annual conference in San Diego, California. This year 2025, the conference focused on several key areas, implementing data management with artificial intelligence and machine learning, updates to direct portable reuse strategies, advances in membrane bioreactors, source control and pretreatment, and research findings on constituents of emerging

concern, such as PFAS. In addition, the conference highlighted success stories in nonportable reuse and indirect portable reuse throughout California.

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

Board member Camacho made comments.

Item 7 – Update from State Water Board

State Water Board Member Firestone provided an update of the following items:

- Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan – On September 16, 2025, State Water Board (SWB) rescinded the August 22, 2025, Second Revised Notice of Opportunity for public comment and hearing on Revised Draft Sacramento/Delta Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed. A revised updated plan will be available in December 2025. Hearings are planned for late January 2026.
- Delta Conveyance Project –SWB is continuing to convene. The next advisory group meeting is tomorrow October 24, 2025, for the Wastewater Needs Assessment.
- Agricultural Expert Panel – A process SWB is utilizing for experts on nutrients and agricultural practices. There is a set of nine detailed panel charge questions. The panel of experts has had public sessions, listening sessions, and working sessions. The next panel session is scheduled for October 31, 2025.
- Wildfire and Resiliency Program – The SWB is continuing to implement the State of Emergency Proclamation to fast track critical fuels reduction projects and the Wildfire Forest Resilience Task Force. The deadline for eligible projects to apply is December 31, 2025.
- California Water Accounting Tracking and Reporting System for CALWATRS – was launched by SWB and has completely revamped how water rights, reporting, and tracking accounting system works.

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

Chair Nahai thanked Board Member Firestone for her service as liaison to the State Water Board.

Board Member Camacho asked a question. Board Member Firestone responded to her question.

Item 8 – Public Forum

Speakers:

- Ray Tahir, TECS
- Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Trust
- Annelisa Moe, Heal the Bay

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

Board Members Méndez, Camacho, and Christiansen, Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Annelisa Moe responded to comments and questions from the Board members.

Chair Nahai asked LARWQBC staff to respond to questions from Mr. Tahir and Mr. Lamb.

Jenny Newman, Assistant Executive Officer, responded to questions from Mr. Tahir and Mr. Lamb.

Board Member Christiansen asked questions. Jenny Newman and Legal Counsel, Amelia Carder, responded to her questions.

Board Members Méndez and Camacho made comments.

Chair Nahi announced contested Item 9 and administered the oath.

Item 9 – Consideration of a Tentative Amendment to Water Reclamation Requirements for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Long Beach Water Reclamation Plant (Long Beach, CA, File No. 69-80)), San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant (Whittier, CA, File No. 77-50), Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (Santa Clarita, CA, File No. 61-30), and Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (Valencia, CA, File No. 65-86), the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, Calabasas, CA, File No. 64-104), the City of Ventura (Ventura Water Reclamation Facility, Ventura, CA, File No. 57-68), and the City of Simi Valley (Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant, Simi Valley, CA, File No. 61-60).

Staff Presentation: Steven Webb, Municipal Permitting Unit Manager

There were no public comments on Item 9.

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

Chair Nahai and Board Member Camacho made comments and asked questions. Steven Webb, Jeong-Hee Lim, Jenny Newman and Legal Counsel, Adriana Nuñez, responded to their comments and questions.

Chair Nahai asked for a Motion to approve contested Item 09. He then asked for a Second and Roll Call vote.

MOTION: Board Member Méndez made a motion to approve contested Item 09.

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

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

Break: 10:49 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Chair Nahai announced information Item 11.

Item 11 – Update on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Staff will present the status of implementation of Order No. R4-2023-0353 and the Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group will give a demonstration of their member portal webtool, Clear Water.

Staff Presentation and Introduction: Elisha Wakefield, Senior Environmental Scientist

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.

Elisha Wakefield responded to Board members' comments and questions.

Presentation: Jodi Switzer, Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group

There were no public comments for Item 11.

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

Board Members Camacho, Méndez Vice Chair Ashjian and Chair Nahai made comments and asked questions. Jodi Switzer responded to Board members' comments and questions.

Item 12 – Closed Session

Legal counsel Adriana Nuñez announced that the Board would discuss Item 12.k. in closed session.

The Board went into closed session from 12:00 p.m. to 12:15 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: December 1, 2025

Signature on File
Helen Rowe