

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 19  
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT; AT  
THE LAKEWOOD CITY HALL AND  
AT THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS CITY HALL  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

October 8, 2025  
1:30 o'clock, P.M.

The Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 19 of Los Angeles County met in regular session both in person and via teleconference.

There were present: Frank Yokoyama, Director from Cerritos  
Dandy De Paula, Director from Hawaiian Gardens, via teleconference  
Jeff Wood, Alternate Director from Lakewood, via teleconference  
Suely Saro, Alternate Director from Long Beach  
Janice Hahn, Alternate Director from Los Angeles County

Absent: Ali Sajjad Taj, Chairperson, Director from Artesia

Also present: Kimberly S. Christensen, Secretary to the Board  
Robert Ferrante, Chief Engineer and General Manager  
Robert Kwong, District Counsel

Upon motion of Director Saro, duly seconded and unanimously carried by a roll-call vote, Director Hahn was elected Chairperson pro tem.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairperson announced this was the time for any questions or comments by members of the public.

The Secretary advised that there were two members of the public wishing to address the Board. The following individuals addressed the Board:

Mr. David Fahrion introduced himself as the Chief Executive Officer of the California Waste and Recycling Association (CWRA). He addressed the potential sale of the Mesquite Regional Landfill (MRLF) and Waste-by-Rail (WBR) System. Mr. Fahrion stated it made sense for the Districts to retain ownership of these assets due to the key findings of a 2018 report published in 2022. In his assessment, there were no immediate issues warranting a sale; therefore, the Districts should keep the assets. There is a future need for WBR within 25 years, which has been accelerated now that Chiquita Landfill has closed, along with the pending closure of Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Fire debris has decreased capacity and the Orange County landfills are also taking less solid waste. The MRLF is a valuable site for Los Angeles County in the future. He will continue to monitor this and appreciates the Districts' management for working with him on the matter. He believes the site's value will only grow in the next 10 years without regional landfills. He encouraged Directors to examine this issue closely.

Mr. Jordan Sisson introduced himself as the legal counsel for CWRA. He has worked with and appreciates the Solid Waste Management Task Force, which meets monthly to discuss the management of the region's solid waste. There is an impending disposal crisis. Los Angeles County manages four closed landfills and two transformation facilities. With Chiquita Landfill closing, the remaining two landfills are scheduled for expedited closure within the next five years. In 2040, three more will be closing. In 15 years, there will be only Burbank and Whittier Landfills, which are the only long-term facilities. CWRA appreciates that there is no rush to send a Request for Proposals or sell the MRLF and WBR. CWRA looks forward to being part of the process. He encouraged Directors to look at the options, including retaining the assets.

Additionally, CWRA electronically submitted for the public record the following documents:

1. LA County Sanitation District (LACSD), Solid Waste System's Financial Outlook (Oct. 2022)
2. LA County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (LACSWMC), Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee Minutes (Jul. 2025)
3. LA County Public Works (LACPW), 2024 Disposal Capacity and Impacts to Disposal Waste Flow Presentation (Jul. 2025)
4. LACPW, Municipal Solid Waste Fees Post CCL Closure Table (Jul. 2025)



He provided a summary of Carollo's rate study. Carollo is one of the nation's largest environmental engineering firms specializing exclusively in planning, design, and construction of water and wastewater facilities.

The next several slides showed details of Carollo's rates study and findings regarding the reserves forecasts. The proposed rates are expected to result in adequate reserves within five years.

In response to Director Hahn, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that there is little discretionary spending since the treatment plants need to treat all of the wastewater and operate continuously.

A slide displayed the proposed annual service charge increase by District, shown in dollars per month. The rate for District No. 29 also covers local sewers.

A slide displayed a bar graph showing the proposed FY 2026-27 breakdown for the JOS Districts. The JOS total is \$286, which means each District needs to contribute \$286 per single-family home toward JOS expenses. Each District's source of revenue varies depending on each District's AV Taxes, the portion of service charge used to cover annual expenses, annual expenses covered by excess reserves, and the portion of the service charge used to build up reserves. Districts Nos. 23 and 28 have high AV tax revenue and excess reserves.

Regarding industrial waste (IW) and other rates, approximately 1,000 IW customers are billed separately based on specific measurements or estimates of their flow and strength. They are not billed on the tax roll. The rate increase will use the same cost factors as those applied to residential and commercial rates. Similar to the service charge, the rate will stay lower than that of nearby agencies. Service charge rates also factor into connection fees and recycled water contract rates; those will also be updated.

A slide presented the competing factors taken into account when determining the recommended rates. These factors include building reserves at a reasonable pace, funding critical capital projects primarily through debt financing, generating revenue to cover increasing costs, and minimizing the impact on ratepayers.

A slide displayed affordability measures. The minimum number of wage hours needed to cover monthly wastewater charges is two hours for an average single-family home or one hour for an apartment. Eight hours is regarded as affordable. District residents are well below these thresholds.

A slide displayed a table of monthly service costs for other agencies with published increases for FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29. Districts' JOS service charge rates remain the lowest in comparison to the Inland Empire, City of Los Angeles, Orange County, and Sacramento.

A slide detailed outreach efforts, including presentations to commercial and governmental stakeholders; outreach to residential ratepayers; and Proposition 218 Notice, website, and information meetings.

The outreach schedule was shown on a slide. In summer 2025, staff will prepare outreach materials and Proposition 218 notices. Staff will contact Counsels of Governments (COGs), business groups, and other relevant parties in October 2025. Meetings and presentations for these groups will take place from November 2025 to February 2026. In January 2026, Proposition 218 notices will be mailed. A social media and advertising campaign will take place from January to April 2026. Public information meetings and tours will take place from February to April 2026.

Today, staff seeks concurrence for the 2026 rate package. From October to November 2025, staff will seek concurrence from the Boards. Outreach and implementation of the new rates will take place from winter to spring 2026.

In response to Director Ali Saleh, City of Bell, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the Personnel Committee concurred with the proposed 2026 rates. Staff is seeking each Board's concurrence, then outreach and Proposition 218 requirements will commence in spring 2026.

In response to Director Hahn, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the proposed rates will be collected on the property tax roll in late 2026.

In response to Director Saleh, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the table showing the monthly service costs for other agencies provides a total cost of sewer charges for an apples-to-apples comparison and is based on the type of user.

In response to Director Wood, the Chief Engineer and General Manager and Mr. Eaton stated that a 1–2-page fact sheet can be provided for outreach purposes.

In response to Director Saro, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the users can apply for the Low Water Use Rebate Program to get a reduction on the service charge rate. If property taxes are not being paid, then the issue is handled by collections and Los Angeles County.

In response to Director Denise Menchaca, City of San Gabriel, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the Districts' rates are the lowest because we benefit from economies of scale serving over five million people in Los Angeles County; there is a shared staff responsible for all facilities; much work is done in-house; solid waste management is integrated into our operations; and we have an exceptional, highly educated, and professional staff.

In response to Director Yokoyama, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that more than 50 percent of property owners would need to oppose the proposed rates, after which the Board would have to consider alternative rates.

In response to Director Hahn, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the proposed increase is less than \$3 per month.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the proposed rates may increase or decrease depending on the direction each Board provides.

Upon motion of Director Yokoyama, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

JANICE HAHN  
Chairperson pro tem

ATTEST:

KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN  
Secretary

/ee