

State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

June 13, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Hi-Desert Water District
55439 Twentynine Palms Highway
Blythe, CA 92250

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 8:30 a.m. on June 13, 2019, in the Town of Yucca Valley, California.

Field Tour

Board members (Nancy Wright, Ed Muzik, Jayne Powell, and Peter Satin) and members of the public then proceeded to a tour provided by the Hi-Desert Water District of its Wastewater Reclamation Facility, currently under construction. The tour began at approximately 8:30 a.m.

The Board reconvened for the remainder of the meeting at Hi-Desert Water District's offices at 9:50 a.m.

Roll Call (Board members only) and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Tom Davis, Ed Muzik, Jayne Powell, and Peter Satin were present. Vice-Chair Buford Crites was absent. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

State and Regional Board Staff Present:

Paula Rasmussen, Frank Gonzalez, Abdi Haile, Katharine Buddingh, Doug Wylie, Kai Dunn, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Mary Castaneda, Terry Barnes, Dan Mefford, Maribel Pizano, Reginald Tan, Zakary Owens, Logan Raub, Jennie Snyder, Scot Stormo, Catherine Hawe, and Susie Loscutoff, Andrew Choi, Brian Elder, and Jim Fischer.

Others Present

Nancy Nichols, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Marjorie De La Cruz, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Joe Rose, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Brian Petty, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Bob Hargreaves, Best, Best, & Krieger Law
Ben Olson, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition
Veryl Wittig, County of San Bernardino
Chris Said, County of San Bernardino
Roger Mayes, Hi-Desert Water District
Sarann Graham, Hi-Desert Water District
John Powell, Peter Rabbit Farms
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District
Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District

Public Forum

There were no speakers during the public forum at this meeting.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Minutes of May 15, 2019 Board Meeting

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt the meeting minutes of May 15, 2019.

2. State Water Resources Control Board Activities Update
Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Member

** Item 2 was continued as State Water Board member Laurel Firestone was ill and could not attend the meeting.*

Uncontested Items

**Item 3 was moved to the Contested calendar, and Items 4, 5, and 6 were voted on in one motion without discussion.*

4. R7-2019-0031 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for College of the Desert, Cooling Tower Blowdown Wastewater Disposal Facilities, Palm Desert, Riverside County [Abid Khalaf, WRCE]
5. R7-2019-0032 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Peter Rabbit Farms, Carrot Washing Wastewater Disposal Facilities, Coachella, Riverside County [Reggie Tan, WRCE]
6. R7-2019-0044 – Consideration of adoption of Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Palm Springs Freeway Development, LLC Wastewater Treatment System, Riverside County [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Orders R7-2019-0031 with Errata, R7-2019-0032 with Errata, and R7-2019-0044.

Contested and Discussion Items

7. R7-2019-XXXX – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that Are Members of a Coalition Group in Bard Valley, Imperial County [Logan Raub, ES]

** Item 7 was continued to the July 11, 2019 Board meeting.*

8. R7-2019-XXXX – Consideration of adoption of Short-term Renewal of Order R7-2014-0046 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural Wastewater Discharges and Discharges of Waste from Drain Operation and Maintenance Activities Originating within the Coachella Valley, Riverside County [Jennie Snyder, WRCE]

Jennie Snyder, Water Resources Control Engineer in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, presented an overview of the short-term renewal of the 2014 Coachella Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver. The presentation covered the requirements for renewing a waiver and summarized the reasons for adopting the proposed order.

Speaker Card: Ben Olson, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-XXXX.

3. R7-2019-0013 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for the County of San Bernardino, Solid Waste Management Division, Landers Sanitary Landfill, San Bernardino County [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

Scot Stormo, Engineering Geologist, provided a staff presentation. He explained that Landers Sanitary Landfill currently consisted of four waste management units, including an inactive landfill, an active, Class III municipal solid waste landfill, a clean-closed septage disposal impoundment, and an active Class II surface impoundment. He noted that the Discharger planned to expand the active landfill to the northwest to extend the life of the Facility by more than 50 years. He noted that a liner would be installed under the expansion area, per Title 27 requirements, and that the Discharger would be required to update the Facility's monitoring well network. Additionally, two releases to groundwater had been identified at the Facility and were being addressed by the Discharger.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0013 with Errata.

Enforcement

**Enforcement Items 9, 10, 11, and 12 were heard together and voted on separately.*

Doug Wylie, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, gave the staff presentation for the Prosecution Team, with the assistance of State Water Board Office of Enforcement staff, including Attorney Catherine Hawe. The stipulated settlement agreements were in response to alleged violations of waste discharge requirements for untimely submittals of self-monitoring reports, and the settlements proposed assessment of administrative civil liability in the amount of \$70,549.50 for Mountain Station and \$83,920.00 for Valley Station Wastewater Treatment Plants. The stipulated Cease and Desist Orders (CDOs) proposed time schedules for the Discharger to design and install treatment systems for the Valley and Mountain Stations that could comply with the effluent limitations in their current permits.

Nancy Nichols, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway's General Manager, also provided a presentation to the Board.

9. R7-2019-0017 – Consideration of adoption of Cease and Desist Order for Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, Riverside County [*Reggie Tan, WRCE*]

Motion: Tom Davis, Ed Muzik seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0017 with Errata.

10. R7-2019-0019 – Consideration of adoption of Cease and Desist Order for Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, Riverside County [*Reggie Tan, WRCE*]

Motion: Peter Satin, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0019 with Errata.

11. R7-2019-0039 – Consideration of adoption of Proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order for Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station Wastewater Treatment Plant, Riverside County [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

Motion: Jayne Powell, Peter Satin, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0039 with Errata.

12. R7-2019-0040 – Consideration of adoption of Proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order for Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station Wastewater Treatment Plant, Riverside County [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

Motion: Peter Satin, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0040 with Errata.

13. R7-2019-0023 – Consideration of adoption of Conditional Settlement Offer for City of Imperial, City of Imperial Water Pollution Control Plant, Imperial County [Maribel Jernegan, SEA]

Maribel Pizano, Sanitary Engineering Associate, provided an overview and background information regarding the proposed Conditional Settlement Offer for City of Imperial. She summarized the history of the facility and the alleged effluent limitation violations. The original proposed Conditional Settlement Offer was for the amount of \$66,000; however, a revised Conditional Settlement Offer was issued with four additional Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) totaling \$12,000. As of the date of the Board meeting, approval from the City of Imperial's City Council on the revised penalty amount had not yet been obtained. The Prosecution Team requested that the Board delegate authority to the Executive Officer to approve the revised Conditional Settlement Offer, once accepted by the City of Imperial.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to approve Order R7-2019-0023 (as revised) in an amount up to \$78,000.00.

14. R7-2019-0037 – Consideration of adoption of Resolution to Establish Process for the Supplemental Environmental Project Program [Frank Gonzalez, AEO]

Frank Gonzalez, Assistant Executive Officer, gave a presentation that provided a framework to develop a Supplemental Environmental Project list.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Resolution R7-2019-0037.

Informational Items

15. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report [Paula Rasmussen, EO]

Paula Rasmussen reported that Regional Water Board staff Terry Barnes would be retiring at the end of June after 28 years of state service. She thanked Terry and wished her well in her retirement.

She reported that the State Water Board and all the Regional Water Boards would be implementing requirements of AB 434. This requires that all web content meet accessibility requirements, which allows people with disabilities to perceive, understand, navigate and interact with the web with assistive technology. Implementation begins July 1, 2019.

She noted that Regional Water Board staff participated in the Binational Committee meeting in Mexicali, Mexico. Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Member Liaison, and Board Chair Nancy Wright both attended this meeting, which included a tour of the collection system in Mexicali. Ms. Rasmussen also noted that she and Chair Wright attended a transboundary pollution meeting in San Diego that was put together by CalEPA, and included other agencies such as IBWC and the U.S. Border Patrol. Regional Water Board staff provided a presentation about the New River at this meeting. Additionally, the Regional Water Board hosted an Environmental Justice roundtable meeting; State Water Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel was in attendance. This meeting included a tour of St. Anthony's Mobile Home Park and San Jose Mobile Home Park, both in the process of conducting upgrades to their infrastructure funded by State Water Board bond money and other funds.

Lastly, Ms. Rasmussen reported that the Underground Storage Tank Unit closed a couple of sites that had completed site investigations and remedial actions. This was big accomplishment for the unit.

16. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board member Muzik thanked everyone for driving up to the Hi-Desert Water District to attend the meeting.

Board member Powell thanked Mr. Muzik for the tour of Hi-Desert Water District's Wastewater Reclamation Plant earlier that morning.

Chair Nancy Wright also thanked Mr. Muzik for the tour and for his hospitality.

17. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright mentioned that an email was sent to all Board members from Dorena Goding of the State Water Board, instructing members to identify topics that they may want covered at the Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting to be held in October 2019.

18. Closed Session

There was no closed session held, and no action was taken.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.