

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, and Peter Satin were present. Sahara Huazano was absent. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 9:00 a.m. on November 12, 2020.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Laurel Firestone, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Hilda Vasquez, Adriana Godinez, Reggie Tan, Jose Cortez, Jose Valle De Leon, Kai Dunn, Jennie Snyder, and Nadim Shukry-Zeywar.

Virtual Public Attendance

Kenney Dickerson, Coachillin' Holdings, LLC
Matthew Renaud, Coachillin' Holdings, LLC
Ron Medina, City of Calipatria
Raul Bernal, City of Calipatria
Laura Hoffman, SoCalGas
Ellen Trover, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition
Tess Dunham, Attorney, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition
Gail Delihant, Western Growers Association
Zoe Rodriguez-Del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

1. Approval of Minutes of October 8, 2020 Board Meeting

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Ed Muzik seconded and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of October 8, 2020 Board meeting.

2. State Water Board Liaison Update [Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison]

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Water Board activities. She reported that the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) meeting was held last month, she encouraged those who were not able to attend to visit the State Water Board's website to view the meeting and learn the information that was provided. She mentioned that the State Water Board plans to adopt the new toxicity regulation on December 1, 2020. She also noted that a survey was sent out to over 500 public water systems around the state as part of a collaborative effort to learn about the economic impacts of COVID-19 on water systems. She stated that a workshop would be held on November 18th with other water associations focusing on the financial impacts at the system level to assist with recovery and relief efforts for federal advocacy and at the state level. She mentioned that there are several webinars as part of the SAFER Program scheduled for November and December 2020, all of which can be viewed on the State Water Board meetings calendar website. She further noted that the State Water Board released a drop tool for water rates for smaller systems containing between 500 and 3,000 service connections developed by the Environmental Finance Center to help consumers. Lastly, she added that the Annual Performance Report will be one of the items at the next State Water Board meeting, which includes review of the performance targets set by all the Regional Water Boards.

Uncontested Items

3. R7-2020-0029 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Coachillin' Holdings LLC, Coachillin' Business Park Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, Desert Hot Springs - San Bernardino County [Reggie Tan, WRCE]
4. R7-2020-0010 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for City of Calipatria, Calipatria Wastewater Treatment Plant, Calipatria - Imperial County [Jose Valle-DeLeon, WRCE]

Items 3 and 4 were voted on together.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Orders R7-2020-0029 as presented, and Order R7-2020-0010 with changes as described in Response to Comments.

Contested and Discussion Items

Item 6 was heard for discussion before Item 5.

5. R7-2020-0033 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Southern California Gas Company for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State for the Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan Line 2000 Blythe to Cactus City Hydrotest Project - Riverside County [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]

There were no questions or comments on this item, therefore considered for adoption without discussion.

Motion: Peter Satin moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0033 with changes in Response to Comments.

6. R7-2020-0026 – Consideration of adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that are Members of a Coalition Group in the Coachella Valley - Riverside County [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE*]

Jennie Snyder, Water Resources Control Engineer, gave a presentation. She provided an overview of statewide requirements for the irrigated lands program and a comparison between the Coachella Valley Conditional Waiver and the proposed General WDRs. She also summarized the public review process, public comments received, and staff responses to comments. Ms. Snyder also addressed questions from the Board and the public.

Virtual Speakers Cards: Ellen Trover, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition
Tess Dunham, Attorney, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition
Gail Delihant, Western Growers Association
Zoe Rodriguez-Del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0026 with certain changes in response to public comments; specifically, the Board approved of the changes enumerated in the Response to Comments prepared by staff, except that the Board extended the due date for submittal of the Farm Plans to March 1, 2023 and annually thereafter, and the initial submittal date of drinking water well monitoring results were changed to March 1, 2023.

Board member Peter Satin left the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Informational Items

7. Tentative 2021 Regional Water Board Calendar Schedule

The Board discussed and adopted the following dates for the 2021 calendar year: January 12, 2021, February 9, 2021, March 9, 2021, April 13, 2021, May 11, 2021, June 15, 2021, July 20, 2021, August 31, 2021, October 12, 2021, November 9, 2021, and December 7, 2021. Meeting locations TBD.

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

Ms. Rasmussen reported that the emergency telework program for all CalEPA staff has been extended through June 30, 2021, and that all Board meetings will continue to be held remotely until further notice. She mentioned that Regional Water Board staff facilitated a meeting with staff from the City of Calexico, the Regional Water Board, and the State Water Board Division of Water Rights. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure any potential water rights requirements would be addressed by the City in a timely manner to facilitate the schedule for the New River Improvement Project. She also mentioned that Regional Water Board staff met with Natural Resources Agency staff to discuss implementation of the various projects to restore the Salton Sea. She noted that staff are coordinating to ensure that any permits required by the Regional Water Board are understood by staff of both agencies at the outset of the planning and developing process. Lastly, she noted that the Integrated Report for the Colorado River Basin Region was adopted at a State Water Board meeting in October.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Vice Chair Powell thanked Regional Water Board staff Jennie Snyder and Nadim Shukry-Zeywar for their work on the Coachella Valley Agricultural General Order, and the presentation. She also mentioned the CalEPA “all hands” webinar would be held on November 20th.

Board Member Muzik echoed Vice Chair Powell’s comments and thanked the staff for their work on the Coachella Valley Agricultural General Order. He congratulated Patrick O’Dowd, former Board member of Coachella Valley Water District, for his new position as Executive Officer of the Salton Sea Authority. He also mentioned that staff at Hi-Desert Water District will be working directly with Regional Water Board staff on issues that may have an impact on Phase 2-3 of the sewer project.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

11. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next Board Meeting/Workshop

January 12, 2021