

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, and Peter Satin were present. 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 January 12, 2021.

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, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Greg Middleton, and Maribel Pizano.

Virtual Public Attendance

Brian Tse, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)
Laura Hoffman, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of December 10, 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 the December 10, 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 there is a public hearing on January 19th for the State Water Board for a proposed order rescinding the General Waste Discharge Requirements for landscape irrigation uses of municipal recycled water. She noted that an update of the

COVID survey results will also be provided at this hearing. She further mentioned that General Waste Discharge Requirements for wineries will be considered for adoption on January 20th. She stated that State Water Board staff held two public workshops on the preliminary draft of the Construction Stormwater General Permit reissuance. Staff plan to issue notice of a 60-day public comment period on a revised draft on March 16th, hold public workshops in early April, and hope to adopt the order by mid-August. Ms. Firestone also mentioned that new members were appointed to the SAFER Advisory Group, due to terms expiring for former members. She also noted that a Q&A webinar was conducted and a workshop on the risk assessment and statewide analysis of which water systems are at risk of failure. She noted that a bill was passed for \$150 million for the US Army Corps of Engineers to carry out studies on water issues at the Salton Sea and elsewhere, with the focus on the Salton Sea perimeter lake analysis study. Similarly, with the Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) at the state level, the Salton Sea Authority Meeting on October 29th authorized a funding agreement with Department of Water Resources to receive a Proposition 68 grant for approximately \$19.3 million to implement the North Lake pilot demonstration project. Also, as a follow up to a question from Board Member Muzik regarding projects impacted by the Joshua Tree listing, she stated that there may be additional costs associated with mitigating impacts to Joshua Trees once the state Department of Fish and Wildlife acts on the request to list the trees as endangered at the state level. Lastly, she added that at the January 5th meeting of the State Water Board, there was an information item on hydrologic conditions around the state; most of the state is experiencing drought conditions already, with some of the most extreme drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin Region. She mentioned that the State Water Board will be looking to ensure the state is prepared for issues associated with a prolonged drought.

Uncontested Items

3. R7-2021-0001 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan (PSEP) L2000/L1SR1 W Section E Project, Riverside County [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE*]

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 Resolution R7-2021-0001 as presented.

Informational Items

Informational Item 5 was heard for discussion before Item 4.

4. Regional Water Board Priorities [*Paula Rasmussen, EO*]

Executive Officer Paula Rasmussen provided introductory remarks, explaining that the Management Team would be providing an update on the accomplishments of the last

fiscal year and priorities for this fiscal year. Ms. Rasmussen highlighted some key events for the last year, which included working remotely, furloughs implemented resulting in about a ten percent salary reduction for all staff, and Joan Stormo, Unit Chief for the Cleanup Program, retiring in June. She announced the appointment of Greg Middleton as the new Unit Chief for the Cleanup Program. She noted that work commitments have been modified due to furloughs and remote work, with a 15 percent reduction in targeted activities.

Presentations were made by individual managers of the Colorado River Basin Water Board staff on each of the following topics: Water Quality Standards and Planning, National Pollutant Elimination System and Stormwater Permitting, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Land Disposal and Landfills, Site Cleanup Program, Salt and Nutrient Management, and California-Mexico Border. A presentation on the Enforcement Program was also provided by Assistant Executive Officer Cassandra Owens.

The Board Chair commended staff on their presentations and work on the previous year's priorities and instructed staff to continue meeting the goals outlined for the next year. She stated that the information provided would be helpful to incoming Board Members assigned to the Colorado River Basin Region.

Board Member Muzik concurred and thanked staff for doing a great job.

Board Member Satin agreed, welcomed Greg Middleton, and thanked him for his presentation.

5. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair 2021

Board Member Muzik nominated Ms. Wright for Board Chair and Ms. Powell for Vice-Chair for the calendar year 2021.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

All voted in favor of re-election of Ms. Wright and Ms. Powell as Board Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021. The Board Members thanked Chair Wright and Vice-Chair Powell for their continued service.

Vice-Chair Powell left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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

Ms. Rasmussen reported that the stay-at-home order put in place last month due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended, and the Regional Water Board office is closed until further notice. Board Meetings will also continue to be conducted remotely until further notice. She stated that the Regional Water Board currently has two vacancies; a new position that was established for Caltrans support activities, and an Environmental Scientist for the NPDES Unit. The Caltrans position is designed to provide support for Caltrans activities for dredge and fill projects and serve as a liaison

for other Caltrans activities. She noted that the Regional Water Board is also recruiting for a Scientific Aid position. She also mentioned that for the Oberon Renewable Energy Project, letters were sent to tribes at the end of December advising them of the opportunity for consultation with the Regional Water Board on the project. This formal notification regarding the project is part of the process for preparing an Environmental Impact Report, which would analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the project.

7. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

There were no Board Member comments.

8. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright mentioned the Chair's call she participated in as mentioned by Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison. She stated that she was thankful to see that Substitute Environmental Projects (SEPs) for the Whitewater River were added to the region's SEP list.

9. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Next Board Meeting/Workshop

February 9, 2021