
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

November 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

Zoom Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

Archived audio and video webcasts of Board meetings are available at the following link:

<https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Beatriz Gonzalez, and Vivian Perez were in attendance. 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 2, 2021.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Sara Simpson, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Adriana Godinez, Logan Raub, Jose Valle de Leon, Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, Kai Dunn, and David Lancaster.

Virtual Public Attendance

Andrew Lee, City of Cathedral City
Jared Varonin, Stantec
Alissa Sanchez, Ormat Technologies, LLC.
Lindsay Nehm, NAVFAC Southwest
Justin Rhoads, NAVFAC Southwest
Blake Plourd, El Toro Land & Cattle
Scott Chapman, Brandt Company
Gary Mullin, Enviro-Ag Engineering, Inc.

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the public forum.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October 12, 2021 Board Meeting.

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

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

The motion was carried to adopt the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Board meeting.

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

Laurel Firestone was not present for the Board Meeting and did not provide an update.

3. Staff Award [*Paula Rasmussen*]

An award was presented to Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, for sustained superior accomplishment.

Uncontested Items

4. R7-2021-0004 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State issued to ORNI 33, LLC, Wister Solar Energy Facility Project, Imperial County [*Logan Raub, Sr. WRCE*]

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0004 as proposed.

Contested and Discussion Items

5. R7-2021-0045 – Consideration of adoption of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES No. CA0104906) for the U.S. Navy, Naval Air Facility El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant, Imperial County [*Kai Dunn, Sr. WRCE*]

Kai Dunn, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, introduced the item and provided background on the history of the facility, as well as an overview of new requirements in the proposed Order, the U.S. Navy's comments, and responses to those comments.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0045 as proposed.

6. R7-2021-0029 – Consideration of adoption of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and General Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES No. CAG017001) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) within the Colorado River Basin Region [*Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE*]

Vice-Chair Powell disclosed that an *ex parte* communication was received on November the 1, 2021 at 4:11 in the form of an email with an attachment from Mr. Joe Dan Cameron of Mesquite Cattle Feeders, Inc. The communication was substantially similar to and included a copy of the comment letter submitted by Mr. Cameron during the written comment period. Vice-Chair Powell did not respond to the email. A copy of the communication was distributed electronically via the Board's Lyris list on the morning of the meeting and is included as part of the administrative record.

Jose Valle de Leon, Water Resources Control Engineer, introduced the item and provided an overview of the proposed Order, including an explanation of the definition of CAFOs and covered facilities, as well as information on effluent and receiving water limitations for surface water and groundwater, monitoring and reporting requirements, and best management practices for pollution prevention. He outlined new requirements for groundwater trend monitoring and comments received during the public comment period.

Speakers: Blake Plourd, El Toro Land and Cattle, Heber, CA

Motion: Beatriz Gonzalez moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0029 as proposed.

Informational Items

7. Approval of draft 2022 Board Meeting Calendar

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Beatriz Gonzalez seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt the 2022 Board Meeting Calendar as proposed.

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

- Chair Nancy Wright has been reappointed to another term on the Board.

- The Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) meeting was held in a virtual format on October 21st and 22nd. The meeting featured discussions by USEPA, perspectives on the 50 years of the Clean Water Act, an update on the Racial Equity Program, and stories of water quality efforts for the last 50 years from each of the Regional Water Boards.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Ed Muzik offered Chair Wright congratulations on her reappointment. Vice-Chair Powell praised Paula Rasmussen for her excellent presentation at the WQCC meeting.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright added additional support for Paula Rasmussen's presentation at the WQCC virtual meeting. Chair Wright requested that a link to the video for the presentation and/or a copy of the PowerPoint be sent to members of the Board.

Closed Session

11. There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned and ended the meeting at 10:19 a.m.