



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

April 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:45

In-Person and Zoom Video/Teleconference Meeting

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

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

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Beatriz Gonzalez, Vivian Perez, Peter Satin, and Nancy Wright were in attendance. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present. (Vivian Perez arrived at 9:35 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jayne Powell at 9:00 a.m. on April 12, 2022.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Katharine Buddingh, Sean Maguire, Mary Castaneda, Dan Mefford, Adriana Godinez, Hilda Vasquez, Logan Raub, Maribel Pizano, Fatima Alrahem, Scot Stormo, Reggie Tan, Lauren Briggs, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Emma McCorkle, Greg Middleton, Jeff Fitzsimmons, and Alex Valentine.

Public Attendance

Bob Stadum, Hi-Desert Water District
Anoop Sukumaeen, CalEnergy
Danny Friend, Mission Springs Water District
Brian, Macy, Mission Springs Water District
Arden Wallum, Mission Springs Water District

Virtual Public Attendance

Chris Blandford, Desert Quartzite Solar Project
Stephen Carlton, Imperial Irrigation District
Steve Johnson, Desert Water Agency

JAYNE POWELL, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mark Krause, Desert Water Agency
Steve Ledbetter, Mission Springs Water District
Susan St Louis, Salton Sea Coalition

Public Forum

Speaker: Bob Stadum, Hi-Desert Water District

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 12, 2022 Board Meeting

Nancy Wright moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the April 12, 2022, Board meeting.

2. State Water Board Liaison Update [*Sean Maguire, State Water Board Liaison*]

Sean Maguire gave a presentation with updates on State Water Board activities.

Uncontested Items

Items 3 – 6 were voted on together.

3. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0004 - Desert Quartzite, LLC, Desert Quartzite Solar Project, Blythe, Riverside County [*Logan Raub, ES*]

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0004.

4. Waste Discharge Requirements Rescission Order R7-2022-0019 - Southern California Gas Company, Line 4000 Phase 1 Remediation Digs Project, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County [*Maribel Pizano, SEA*]

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0019.

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Rescission Order R7-2022-0027 - Apple Core Enterprises, Inc., Applebee's Restaurant Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0027.

Contested Items for Discussion

6. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0006 - Imperial Irrigation District Grass Carp Hatchery Wastewater Treatment Plant (NPDES), El Centro, Imperial County (Fatima Alrahem, WRCE)

The Chair Administered the Oath to those intending to speak on this Item.

Staff provided information relevant to the proposed Order R7-2022-0006, and which pertains to the NPDES permit renewal for the Imperial Irrigation District Grass Carp Hatchery. The presentation included an overview of the renewal process, permit requirements, modified and new effluent limitations, discharger comments, EPA comments, and staff responses. Questions from the Board were addressed regarding the Reasonable Potential Analysis process, and how it is utilized to create limits to protect the water quality and beneficial uses.

Motion: Peter Satin moved, Nancy Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0006 with changes identified in the change sheet.

7. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0008 - Mission Springs Water District, Alan L. Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant, Riverside County [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

The Chair administered the Oath to those intending to speak on this item.

Staff provided a presentation on the proposed order for Mission Springs Water District's Alan L. Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant in Desert Hot Springs. Key items presented included permit requirements, facility regulations, and comments received from the discharger. This included time extensions for Special Provisions requirements, revising the total dissolved solids (TDS) effluent limitation, clarifications on the basis for some requirements, staff responses, and revisions made to the permit based on the discussions. A verbal change to the change sheet was also incorporated to the proposed order in response to the Discharger's request for interim effluent limitations for Total Nitrogen and TDS to be on a 12-month rolling average instead of an annual average. A discussion was held, and staff addressed Board questions.

Speakers: Arden Wallum, Mission Springs Water District
Danny Friend, Mission Springs Water District

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0008 with changes identified in the change sheet and additional verbal changes.

8. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0011 - CalEnergy Operating Corporation, Vulcan BN Geothermal Power Company, and Magma Power Company Region 2, Calipatria, Imperial County [Scot Stormo, EG]

The Chair administered the Oath to those intending to speak on this item.

Staff gave a presentation regarding Order R7-2022-0011, which are Waste Discharge Requirements for the Class II impoundments at Cal Energy's Vulcan and Del Ranch Geothermal power plants. The presentation included an overview of how geothermal power is produced; the aspects that are regulated by the Regional Water Board; and summaries of the key changes incorporated into the new order, the public comments received, and the responses and changes incorporated in response to the public comments.

Speaker: Anoop Sukumaeen, CalEnergy

Motion: Peter Satin moved, Vivian Perez seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0011 with changes identified in the change sheet.

**A short break was taken 10:48 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.*

9. Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2022-0012 - Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order for Desert Water Agency, Riverside County [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

Regional Board and State Board Office of Enforcement staff provided an overview of the facility and the proposed order. The presentation covered the facility background, the unauthorized discharge of wastewater, the timeline of events, penalty calculation, supplemental environmental project, and prosecution team staff recommendation. It was recommended the board adopt the proposed settlement agreement and stipulated order with a total settlement amounting to \$181,947, and half of that (\$90,973) will go to the Proposed Supplemental Environmental Project.

Speaker: Steve Johnson, Desert Water Agency

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0012 as presented.

10. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0015 - California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 1H200 RIV I-10, Replace Existing Rock Slope Protection Project, Desert Center, Riverside County [Logan Raub, ES]

Motion: Nancy Wright moved, Vivian Perez seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2022-0015 as presented

Workshops

11. Workshop on Proposed Total Maximum Daily Load for Organophosphate and Organochlorine Compounds in Imperial Valley Surface Waters

Lauren Briggs, Environmental Scientist, provided a presentation on a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin to establish a Total Maximum Daily Load and Implementation Plan for Organophosphate and Organochlorine Compounds in Imperial Valley Waters. The presentation included an overview of the water quality control plan for the Colorado River Basin, also known as the Basin Plan. This included a project description, background information on Total Maximum Daily Loads, stakeholder involvement, scientific peer review process, and the draft tentative resolution that will be presented to the Board during the May 10, 2022, Board Meeting. The public was also encouraged to submit comments prior to the submission deadline on April 25, 2022.

Speaker: Susan St. Louis, Salton Sea Coalition

Other Informational Items

12. Executive Officer's Report [*Paula Rasmussen, EO*]

Ms. Rasmussen welcomed the Board back to the office after two years of remote meetings. She introduced and welcomed new Regional Board staff hires, and David Lancaster, Attorney with Office of Chief Counsel, who will provide legal support to the Regional Board. She also reported on the following:

Continued efforts to fill remaining vacancies within the office.

Issuance of Enforcement Settlement for the City of Calexico (Maribel Pizano, SEA).

Basin Plan Amendment for the Bacterial Water Quality Objectives (Emma McCorckle, Sr. ES)

Bi-National Meeting with CalEPA held on March 2, 2022, to discuss Border issues and focus on the New River. In attendance with Board member Nancy Wright.

Community Meeting held by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia on April 8, 2022, to provide status on the New River Improvement Project, start of the bidding process, and construction expected to begin this summer. Virtual attendance with Chair Powell.

State Board Salton Sea Workshop to be held on April 20, 2022 (virtual meeting).

13. Board Member Comments

Board Member Wright mentioned she also virtually attended the Community Meeting with Assemblyman, Eduardo Garcia. She also attended a Salton Sea Summit meeting on April 6, 2022. She welcomed new staff hires to the Regional Board.

Vice-Chair Muzik thanked staff for the excellent presentations.

14. Board Chair's Report

Chair Powell echoed Vice-Chair Muzik, and thanked staff on excellent presentations provided to the Board. She mentioned the State Board Public Workshop to be held on April 20, 2022, and a Chair's meeting on May 20, 2022, which is open to the Vice-Chairs this year. She also welcomed David Lancaster, Attorney for the Regional Board, and new staff hires.

Closed Session

15. There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

Next Board Meeting:

May 10, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.