



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

March 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 11:28 a.m.

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>

1. Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Muzik at 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2023.

Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Jayne Powell, and Nancy Wright were present. Vivian Perez attended the meeting via Zoom.

The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present. Bea Gonzalez joined at 9:08 a.m.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Angela Garcia, Emma McCorckle, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Reggie Tan, Fatima Alrahem, Theresa Illare, Jessie Bagby, Tom Browne, and Jeff Fitzsimmons.

Public Attendance

Ramiro Barajas, City of Westmorland
Ezequiel Perez, City of Westmorland
Lillian Garcia, United for Justice, Inc.
Dr. Caroline Hung, University of Ca. Riverside
Dr. Charlie Diamond, University of Ca. Riverside
Eric Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad
Sylvia Montenegro, Coachella Resident
Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition
Nancy Del Castillo, Salton City Resident
Ruben Perez, Office of Assemblyman Garcia

Remote Public Attendance

Amor Garcia, Salton City Resident
Carolina Chavez Gonzalez, Salton City Resident
Jose Alfredo Salomon, Resident

EDWARD MUZIK, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2. Public Forum

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

Amor Garcia, Salton City Resident (via Zoom with Interpreter)
Carolina Chavez Gonzalez, Salton City Resident (via Zoom)
Jose Alfredo Salomon, Resident (via Zoom)
Lillian Garcia, United for Justice, Inc.
Dr. Caroline Hung, University of Ca. Riverside (Presentation)
Dr. Charlie Diamond, University of Ca. Riverside
Eric Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad
Sylvia Montenegro, Coachella Resident
Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition
Nancy Del Castillo, Salton City Resident (with Interpreter)

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Board Meeting.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to approve minutes of January 10, 2023.

4. Update from the State Water Resources Control Board Liaison, Laurel Firestone

**This item was heard prior to Item 2 - Public Forum.*

The State Water Board Liaison, Laurel Firestone, presented an update on State Board actions, strategies for statewide and regional activities, and responded to Board member questions.

Contested and Discussion Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Items 5-7)

5. Waste Discharge Order R7–2023–0002 City of Westmorland (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit CA0105007).

Staff Contact: Fatima Alrahem, WRC Engineer

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

Staff provided information relevant to the proposed Order R7-2023-0002, and described the permit renewal process, permit requirements, new monitoring requirements, and addressed comments received. The Discharger expressed concerns regarding the proposed monitoring frequency requirements. Staff and Legal Counsel responded to comments and questions from the Board members. After a brief discussion, staff recommended that the Board adopt the proposed order.

Speaker: Ramiro Barajas, City of Westmorland

****The Chair called for a break: 9:18 a.m. – 10:47 a.m.***

The meeting reconvened and Legal Counsel provided clarification on the Clean Water Act and regulations as pertains to effluent limitations, monitoring, and addressed questions from the Board.

Motion to adopt Item 5: Peter Satin moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2023-0002 as presented.

Board member Wright encouraged the Discharger to inquire about funding available to assist with the weekly monitoring expense and asked staff to provide guidance.

6. Revised Waste Discharge Requirements Order 2023-0014 and Monitoring and Reporting Program

Staff Contact: Reginald Tan, WRC Engineer

The Chair recommended moving item 6 to the Uncontested calendar items.

Staff and Legal Counsel responded to Board member questions and comments and provided clarification regarding the screening criteria for soils listed in Attachment E of the proposed order.

Motion to move Item 6 to the Uncontested calendar items: Nancy Wright moved, Jayne Powell seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to move Order R7-2023-0014 to the Uncontested calendar items to consider for adoption.

Motion to adopt Item 6: Nancy Wright moved, Peter Satin seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2023-0014 as presented.

7. Resolution R7-2023-0018 Approval of Colorado River Basin Strategic Plan

Contact: Paula Rasmussen, Executive Officer

Ms. Rasmussen gave a presentation on the Colorado River Basin Strategic Plan and the Resolution to implement the plan. She included a brief review of comments received during a Board Workshop, Regional Board programs, prioritization, and strategic objectives. Ms. Rasmussen recommended adopting the Resolution including the operative Strategic Plan.

The Board members unanimously thanked Ms. Rasmussen and staff for putting this plan together. They also suggested the Strategic Plan to be based on a Fiscal Year basis, develop a plan to have more interaction with the communities to relay the Board's role and responsibilities in regards to the Salton Sea, and to use this Strategic Plan as a living working document.

Motion to adopt Item 7: Jayne Powell Satin moved, Bea Gonzalez seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2023-0018 as presented.

Information Items

(No action on items 8-13)

8. An Overview on California Water Rights, Jessica Bean, State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights

Ms. Bean provided an overview of Water Rights and key points based off the 1913 Water Commission Act which establishes the processes in use today. She described various water rights, licenses, and permits process for beneficial purposes within the state of California.

9. Report from Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen

The Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen, presented an update on activities and plans for the region.

10. Comments from Board Members

There were no Board member comments.

11. Report from Chair, Jayne Powell

Chair Muzik reported that there was a Chair's call last week with topics including the Integrated Report concerning litigation regarding reports issued on surface waters and the election of Board officers, Chair Muzik stated that this Region has one of the most open election processes in comparison to other Regions.

Closed Session

12. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Next Board Meeting:

April 11, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Palm Desert Regional Water Boards Office