

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

## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

November 14, 2019, 10:03 a.m. to 3:12 p.m.  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
City of El Centro Council Chambers  
1275 W. Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

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### **Roll Call (Board members only) and Introductions**

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 10:05 a.m. on November 14, 2019 in El Centro, California. The Board Chair expressed her thanks to the City of El Centro for use of their facilities.

### **State and Regional Water Board Staff Present**

Paula Rasmussen, Frank Gonzalez, Katharine Buddingh, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Mary Castaneda, Hilda Vasquez, Zak Owens, Reggie Tan, Dan Mefford, and Laurel Firestone

### **Others Present**

Marissa Johnson, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Victor Lujan, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Jr. Echard, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Gilbert Rebolla, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District  
Matt Dessert, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District  
Tina Shields, Imperial Irrigation District  
Nicole Granquist, Downey Brand LLP on behalf of Imperial Irrigation District  
Sergio Cabanas, Ormat Nevada Inc.  
Rich Juricich, Colorado River Board of California  
Rachel Magos, Imperial County Farm Bureau  
Brea Mohamed, Imperial County Farm Bureau  
Al Kalin, Imperial County Farm Bureau  
Brian McNeece, International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Citizens Forum  
Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, County of Imperial  
Nancy Del Castillo, Member of the Public  
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District  
Trina Hamby, Member of the Public  
Nikola Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide

Felix De Leon, City of El Centro  
David Grauda, City of El Centro  
Abraham Campos, City of El Centro  
Javier Luna, City of El Centro  
Lillian Garcia, NBPC Local 2554  
JB Hamby, Public

## **Public Forum**

There were 6 speakers during the public forum.

Speaker cards: Nikola Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide  
Nancy Del Castillo, Public  
JB Hamby, Public  
Brian Mc Neece, IBWC Citizens Forum  
Matt Dessert, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District  
Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, County of Imperial

### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of September 19, 2019 Board Meeting  
Minutes of October 10, 2019 Board Workshop

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the September 19, 2019 Board meeting and minutes of October 10, 2019 Board workshop.

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

Laurel Firestone, State Water Board member, expressed her thanks to the Regional Water Board members who attended the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) in Sacramento. She provided updates on developments concerning the statewide toxicity provisions, emerging contaminants of concern PFOA and PFOS, the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), and an amendment to the statewide General Order for composting operations. She mentioned the upcoming Binational Water Conference in San Diego and the first meeting of an Advisory Group for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program.

### **Contested and Discussion Items**

### **3. R7-2019-0054 – Consideration of adoption of Clean Water Act listing recommendations for the Colorado River Basin Region portion of the 2018 California Integrated Report [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar]**

Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist with the Regional Water Board, presented an overview of the proposed listing recommendations for the Integrated Report. He also addressed the written comments received during the public comment period and responses to those comments. He noted that the steps for addressing water quality impairments involve the careful examination of pertinent data, identification of causes/sources of the impairment, public involvement, and the development of an

impairment control plan where warranted. The process could result in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load, a water quality standards change, the development of site-specific water quality objectives, or delisting of the impairment.

Speaker Cards: Nicole Granquist, Attorney, Imperial Irrigation District  
Zoe Rodriguez-Del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Rich Juricich, Colorado River Board of California

Regional Water Board members expressed concerns regarding using the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level in the listing process as the evaluation guideline for turbidity for the Colorado River and discussed the possibility of establishing site-specific turbidity objectives in the future for the Colorado River.

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Ed Muzik seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0054.

*\*Break: A short break was taken 11:53 a.m. – 12:06 p.m.*

**4. R7-2019-0006** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Imperial Irrigation District, El Centro Generating Station in El Centro, Imperial County [*Jose Valle De Leon*]

**Motion:** Chair Wright stated that this item will be continued to the next meeting in January 2020.

**5. R7-2019-XXXX** – Consideration of adoption of Short-Term Renewal of Order R7-2019-0008 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural Wastewater and Discharges of Wastes from Drain Operations and Maintenance Activities within the Imperial Valley, Imperial County [*Jennie Snyder*]

Jennie Snyder, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Regional Water Board, provided an overview of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and the Short-Term Renewal of the 2015 Conditional Waiver for Imperial County. She discussed the waiver requirements and summarized the reasons for adopting the proposed order.

Brea Mohammed of the Imperial County Farm Bureau presented a brief update on Coalition Group activities and successes in Imperial Valley. She also provided background information to the Regional Water Board pertinent to the tour of Imperial Valley irrigated lands, Item 11.

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-XXXX (subsequently assigned R7-2019-0056).

**6. R7-2019-0047** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Hi-Grade Materials Co., Indio Sand and Gravel Plant in Indio, Riverside County [*Reggie Tan*]

*\*\*This item was moved and considered for adoption prior to Item 3 as part of the Uncontested Items calendar.*

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0047.

**7. R7-2019-0018** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Ormat Nevada Inc., North Brawley Geothermal Power Plant in Brawley, Imperial County [Zak Owens]

Zak Owens, Engineering Geologist with the Regional Water Board, provided a presentation on the proposed order regarding the North Brawley Geothermal Power Plant.

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0018.

### **Informational Items**

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

Ms. Rasmussen gave an update on staff recruitment for the Regional Water Board in light of recent retirements in the Administrative and Site Cleanup units. She stated that Frank Gonzalez, Assistant Executive Officer, participated in the Imperial Valley Justice Task Force meeting, where he provided Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) List update. She noted that Mr. Gonzalez also attended an Environmental Health Leadership Summit hosted by Comite Civico del Valle along with Regional Water Board Environmental Scientist Emma McCorkle, where they hosted an informational booth. Jared Blumfield, the CalEPA Secretary, also made a presentation at this event regarding human right to water and air quality.

Ms. Rasmussen reported that she had recently attended the October 2019 Salton Sea Summit, the Bi-National Stakeholders meeting led by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, and the International Water and Boundary Commission Stakeholder meeting. She noted that she also met with representatives of the newly-formed Coachella Valley Waterkeeper for information on its key activities. Lastly, she mentioned that she attended the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) in Sacramento, and that Chair Nancy Wright and Board members Ed Muzik and Tom Davis were also in attendance.

**9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments**

Board member Ed Muzik commented that the Hi-Desert Water District now has 38 connections to its new sewer system and is making good progress towards getting more residents connected.

**10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report**

Chair Wright congratulated Board member Muzik on Hi-Desert Water District's progress. She mentioned that the Board meeting held on March 5, 2020 would be a joint meeting with the San Diego Regional Water Board and located in Temecula.

*(The Board adjourned for a tour at 1:01 p.m.)*

## **11. Tour of the Imperial Valley Irrigated Agricultural Lands**

Imperial County Farm Bureau provided a driving tour of various irrigated lands in Imperial Valley. Board members Nancy Wright, Ed Muzik, and Jayne Powell participated in the tour; Tom Davis did not participate in the tour.

## **12. Closed Session**

There was no closed session held, and no action was taken.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.