

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

## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

January 16, 2020, 10:01 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
73-720 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 10:01 a.m. on January 16, 2020 in Palm Desert, California.

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

Paula Rasmussen, Katharine Buddingh, Abdi Haile, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Kai Dunn, Mary Castaneda, Reggie Tan, Jose Valle De-Leon, Hilda Vasquez, Sara Simpson, CJ Jasieniecki, Monica Ammann, Kevin Heinemann, and Don Nguyen.

### **Others Present**

Jessinda Valadez, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Valerie Luna, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Emily Gasswint, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Bianca Valadez, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Veronica Martinez-Ledezma, Salton City resident  
Brenda Amor Garcia Guzman, Salton City resident  
Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition  
Feliz Nunez, Salton Sea Coalition  
Sylvia Montenegro, Salton Sea Coalition  
Art Gertz, Salton Sea Coalition  
Alex Schreiner, Public  
Jeff Gow, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources  
Alex, Argueta, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources  
Mario Escalera, Imperial Irrigation District  
John Acuna, Imperial Irrigation District  
Wayne Lane, Imperial Irrigation District  
Patrick Weiss, Public  
Jaime Ashbury, Imperial Irrigation District  
Marolyn Gilbert, Imperial Irrigation District

Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Alexander Ramia, EcoMedia Compass  
Lillian Garcia, NBPC Local 2554  
Peter Carlstrom, Office of Congressman Raul Ruiz  
Miguel Romero, Office of Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia  
Nina Waszak, Coachella Valley Waterkeeper  
Patricia Leal, Alianza-KDI  
Christian Rodriguez, Alianza-KDI  
Robert Mueller, Salton Sea Coalition  
Patricia Leal, Alianza Coachella Valley

## **Public Forum**

Speaker Cards: Lillian Garcia, NBPC Local 2554  
Jessinda Valadez, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Valerie Luna, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Emily Gasswint, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Bianca Valadez, Salton Sea Youth Group  
Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition  
Patricia Leal, Alianza Coachella Valley  
Veronica Martinez-Ledezma, Salton City resident  
Brenda Amor Garcia Guzman, Salton City resident  
Sylvia Montenegro, Salton City Coalition  
Feliz Nunez, Salton City Coalition  
Art Gertz, Salton Sea Coalition  
Christian Rodriguez, Alianza-KDI  
Robert Mueller, Salton Sea Coalition  
Alexander Ramia, EcoMedia Compass

Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist with the Regional Water Board, provided an informational update regarding Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) activities as one of the tools to address Salton Sea water quality impairments. He addressed the following:

- The Regional Water Board adopted seven TMDLs for Salton Sea tributaries, including for indicator bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, sediment, and trash;
- Regional Water Board staff are in the process of developing several Salton Sea tributary TMDLs, including TMDLs for legacy and current-use pesticides, nutrients, ammonia, and toxicity;
- Regional Water Board staff also plan to address other Salton Sea watershed impairments through the Coachella and Imperial Valley agricultural general orders, planned for Regional Water Board adoption by December 2020;
- The Salton Sea salinity impairment will be addressed through the Salton Sea Management Plan, which is managed by the California Resources Agency; and
- As part of the Regional Water Board 2020 Triennial Review process, Regional Water Board staff are prioritizing Salton Sea impairments for TMDL development.

## 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of November 14, 2019 Board Meeting  
Minutes of December 12, 2019 Board Workshop

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the November 14, 2019 Board meeting and minutes of December 12, 2019 Board workshop.

## Uncontested Items

2. R7-2020-0001 - Consideration of adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Desert Center Sanitary Landfill in Desert Center, Riverside County [*Reggie Tan, WRCE*]

This item was pulled for discussion and re-entered for consideration of adoption after a brief discussion.

Board Member Powell expressed concern regarding the type of the waste landfill is allowed to receive, specifically tires and dead animals. Reggie Tan, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Regional Water Board, and Jeff Gow, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, addressed the issues raised, clarifying that most tires are transported to a separate recycling facility, and the only dead animals received are from local community residents, not businesses.

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0001 with Errata.

## Contested and Discussion Items

3. R7-2020-0006 (formerly 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, WRCE*]

The Board Chair reopened the hearing on the permit, which had been continued from the September 19, 2019, Board Meeting.

Jose Valle de Leon, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Regional Water Board, provided a staff presentation concerning additional recommended changes to the permit, made in response to issues raised by Imperial Irrigation District (IID) at the prior hearing. Specifically, staff recommended removing a single data point from each of the data sets for selenium and copper, due to laboratory and sample collection errors substantiated by IID. Staff also recommended moving the upstream, receiving water sampling location for hardness to be more representative of the receiving waterbody, as well as adjusting the hardness value used in the Reasonable Potential Analysis. Mr. Valle de Leon also described an additional Errata change to the effective date of the permit.

Mario Escalera, Energy Operations Manager of the Generating Station for IID, thanked Regional Water Board staff for their professionalism in working with IID towards a resolution of the issues raised at the last hearing.

**Motion:** Jayne Powell moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0006 with Errata.

### **Informational Items**

#### **4. Coachella Valley Waterkeeper [Nina Waszak]**

Nina Waszak of the Coachella Valley Waterkeeper presented an overview of the newly-formed Coachella Valley Waterkeeper's mission as it relates to addressing water-based issues impacting in the desert. The Coachella Valley Waterkeeper is a non-profit organization that is a part of the international Waterkeeper Alliance.

#### **5. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2020**

Board Member Davis nominated Ms. Powell for Vice Chair and Ms. Wright to continue as Board Chair for the calendar year 2020. Board Member Muzik seconded. All voted in favor of re-election of Ms. Wright as Board Chair, and election of Ms. Powell as Vice Chair. The Board members thanked Ms. Wright for her continued service, and Ms. Powell for accepting the role of Vice Chair.

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

Ms. Rasmussen reported that the Regional Water Board recently filled vacancies in the Administrative Unit, and she introduced new staff members Sara Simpson and Carol Jasieniecki. She also introduced the new Scientific Aid, Jessica Ammann. She mentioned that the vacancy in the Site Cleanup Unit has also been filled by Jessie Bagby, who was formerly a Scientific Aid with the Regional Water Board. She also reported that Frank Gonzalez, Assistant Executive Officer, retired in December. She noted that the Regional Water Board is actively recruiting for an Assistant Executive Officer and another Scientific Aid.

Ms. Rasmussen mentioned that the Water Resilience Portfolio is out for public comment, with a comment deadline of February 7, 2020. This portfolio outlines recommendations that will help build water resilience as resources become available and improve infrastructure and to protect natural ecosystems. She also reported that Regional Water Board staff attended a Desert Task Force meeting relating to municipal stormwater permits. She stated that staff will attend a 2020 Triennial Review Meeting concerning salinity held by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum in February 2020. Lastly, she added that the February 12 Board meeting has been cancelled, and the next Board meeting scheduled on March 5, 2020 will be a joint meeting with the San Diego Region in Temecula, CA.

## **7. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments**

Board Member Davis inquired regarding the current status of Board member appointments for the Regional Water Board, and stressed the importance of getting new members appointed. Board Member Muzik updated the Board on the status of the sewer project in Yucca Valley. Board Member Powell thanked the Board for selecting her as Vice Chair for the 2020 calendar year.

## **8. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report**

Chair Wright addressed Board Member Davis's question regarding new Board member appointments, stating that they were waiting to hear news at any time from the Governor's office regarding new appointments. She mentioned that the draft Water Resilience Portfolio is out for comment and will be voted on sometime in May 2020, which will coincide with finalization of the Governor's budget.

## **9. Closed Session**

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

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.