

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

February 9, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:35 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>

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**Board Member Roll Call and Introductions**

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, and Peter Satin were present. 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 February 9, 2021.

**State and Regional Water Board Staff Present**

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Laurel Firestone, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Hilda Vasquez, Adriana Godinez, Scot Stormo, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Greg Middleton, and Cathy Sanford.

**Virtual Public Attendance**

Tomatsu Maguchi, Earthrise Nutritionals  
Shuiichi Okamoto, Earthrise Nutritionals  
Charles Jackson, Vintage Pacific, LLC  
Bill McKibbin, Vintage Pacific, LLC  
Imad Aboudawjah, Vintage Pacific, LLC  
Carl Linder, Vintage Pacific, LLC  
Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District

**Public Forum**

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of January 12, 2021 Board Meeting.

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

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

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

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

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Water Board activities.

**Uncontested Items**

3. R7-2021-0011 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Earthrise Nutritionals, LLC, Microalgae Production Facility Class II Surface Impoundments, Calipatria, Imperial County [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0011 with Errata.

**Contested and Discussion Items**

*\*Item 4 was removed to the Uncontested Items calendar by Chair Wright and was voted on together with Item 3.*

4. R7-2021-0003 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State issued to Vintage Pacific, LLC, Arrowhead Estates Tentative Tract Map 33540 Project, Banning, Riverside County [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE*]

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0003 as presented.

5. R7-2021-0013 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station Wastewater Treatment Facility, Palm Springs, Riverside County [*Reggie Tan, WRCE*]

*\*This item was continued to a future meeting and no Board action was taken.*

6. R7-2021-0015 – Consideration of adoption of Resolution Identifying Regional Groundwater Basins Where Salts and/or Nutrients Threaten Water Quality [*Cathy Sanford, EG*]

Cathy Sanford, Engineering Geologist, presented an overview of the groundwater basins and subbasins evaluated for threats from salts and nutrients pursuant to the

Recycled Water Policy. She explained the findings and recommendations of the regionwide groundwater basin evaluation, including the identification of two subbasins with sufficient threats to water quality to warrant development of salt and nutrient management plans. Ms. Sanford also addressed questions from the Board.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0015 with verbal Errata to strike the petition language at the very end of the Resolution.

### **Informational Items**

*\*Chair Wright recused herself from Item 7.*

7. Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan for the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan [*Cathy Sanford, EG*]

Cassandra Owens, Assistant Executive Officer, gave introductory remarks and provided background information on the proposed workplan for the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan.

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District Program Manager, gave a presentation providing an overview of the proposed Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan – Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan on behalf of several stakeholder agencies. She discussed the implementation schedule, program costs, and estimated plan submittal dates for the workplan as part of a collaborative effort of numerous stakeholder agencies.

The Board thanked Ms. Rodriguez del Rey for her informational presentation.

*\*Chair Wright rejoined the meeting.*

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

Ms. Rasmussen reported that the stay-at-home order has now been lifted, and the office is open again. She noted that staff is now allowed in the office at a limited capacity of 25% maximum. Most staff continue to work remotely until further notice.

Ms. Rasmussen stated that the State Water Board provided direction regarding filling vacancies funded through the adopted Waste Discharge Permit Fee (WDPF). Recent fee increases did not sufficiently fund WDPF positions through the 2021 fiscal year. Ms. Rasmussen explained that the State Water Board is closely monitoring the status of the fund and has a system in place to prioritize vacancies statewide. She mentioned that the Colorado River Basin Water Board has not had any recent vacancies funded through these fees and has not been impacted by this process so far. She added that the region does have 16 positions funded through WDPF, and the core activities funded by these fees are Waste Discharge Requirements and the Land Disposal Program. She further added that any hiring hold in these programs could impact the Board's ability to

issue permits and to provide program oversight. Finally, she noted that State Water Board is scheduled to adopt a new fee schedule in September 2021.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board Member Muzik stated that he had received his first COVID vaccine shot and is scheduled to receive the second one at the end of the month. He also stated that Hi-Desert Water District should be announcing his replacement as General Manager soon.

Vice Chair Powell stated that she also received the COVID vaccine and is due for the second shot soon.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

The Chair had no comments.

11. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Next Board Meeting/Workshop

March 9, 2021