
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

October 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to adjournment at the conclusion of the off-site tour at 3:54 p.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

Jayne Powell, Peter Satin, and Nancy Wright were in attendance. Vice-Chair Ed Muzik attended via Zoom. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jayne Powell at 10:00 a.m. on October 11, 2022.

Board Member Vivian Perez arrived after roll call.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Laurel Firestone, Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Emma McCorkle, Hilda Vasquez, Francisco Costa, Jose Valle deLeon, Logan Raub, Dan Mefford, Reginald Tan, Fatima Alrahem, Hajer Dawoody, Julya Elena Mestas

Public Attendance

Luis Olmedo, Executive Director, Comité Cívico del Valle

Virtual Public Attendance

Nancy Nichols, General Manager, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Hamid Amini, Principal Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants
Christine Wong, Environmental Scientist, Ashworth Leininger Group

2. Public Forum

There were no public speakers.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 13, 2022 Board Meeting.

Motion to adopt: Nancy Wright 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 – not present, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Board meeting.

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

Laurel Firestone provided updates on State Water Board activities.

Contested and Discussion Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Items 6-8)

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0037 and Monitoring and Reporting Program Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Mountain Station Staff Contact: Reginald Tan, WRC Engineer

The Vice-Chair administered the Oath to those intending to speak on this item. Staff provided information relevant to the proposed as it pertains to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Mountain Station Wastewater treatment and disposal system. Staff described the facility, permit requirements, new monitoring requirements, the Discharger comments, and staff responses. Staff recommended that the Board adopt the proposed order.

Speakers: Nancy Nichols, General Manager Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
Hamid Amini, Principal Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants

Motion to adopt: Nancy Wright moved, Beatriz Gonzalez 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 R7-2022-0037 as presented.

6. Waste Discharge Requirements Special Order R7-2022-0022 to revise Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES Permit CA0104523), for the City of Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant Staff Contact: Jose Valle deLeon

The Vice-Chair administered the Oath to those intending to speak on this item. Staff provided information relevant to the proposed as it pertains to the Waste Discharge Requirements, Pretreatment Program and NPDES permit for the City of Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff described the facility, revised permit requirements for effluent limits, status and approval of local limits study and modifications for industrial users. Staff recommended that the Board adopt the proposed order with the verbal change request referenced in footnote 5 for local limits study approved April 18, 2022, by the Executive Officer in revision number 3 of the proposed order.

Speakers: Christine Wong, Environmental Scientist, Ashworth Leininger Group on behalf of the City of Brawley

Luis Olmedo, Executive Director, Comité Cívico del Valle

Luis Olmedo, Executive Director, Comité Cívico del Valle, provided comments and offered thanks to the City of Brawley.

Motion to adopt: Peter Satin made a motion to adopt the order incorporating the noted changes, 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 R7-2022-0022.

Information Items

(No Actions on Items 7 – 12)

7. Water Quality Report Cards, Emma McCorkle, Senior Environmental Scientist

Staff presented an informational item on Water Quality Report Cards. Staff provided information about their background, purpose, a section-by-section report description, status of current activities, and examples of the published Colorado River Basin Region's cards.

8. Species Conservation Habitat Update, Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer of the California Natural Resources Agency (CRNA) Salton Sea Management Program

Mr. Hernandez presented an introduction of the key priorities and future projects at the Salton Sea and the Species Conservation Habitat Project (SCH) at the south end of the Salton Sea.

9. Report from Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen

Ms. Rasmussen reminded the Board that the Water Quality Control Committee meeting will be held in Sacramento October 27-28, 2022.

10. Comments from Board Members

Board member Wright thanked the presenters for their presentations and is happy to be back in Brawley after the long absence due to COVID 19. Board member Muzik apologized for not being present in person and is sorry he won't be able to participate in the tour. Board member Gonzalez likes the idea of having meetings in various cities in the region and would encourage more remote meetings in the future. Board member Gonzalez has toured the Salton Sea and is excited to see all of the work being done in and around the area and the efforts of our elected representatives in generating financial support for the Salton Sea and New River projects that benefit the community and the State.

11. Report from Chair, Jayne Powell

Chair Powell encouraged attendance at the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) meeting later this month. A Chair's call was held on October 4th during which John Russell presented an informative overview of the budget with handouts which will be distributed to the Board Members. Additional topics discussed on the call were the 2 million dollars in drinking water and wastewater funds from the federal government, appointment and position allocations,

a discussion about the water supply strategy, and a legislative update. The legislative update will be distributed to the Board Members once it has been finalized.

Closed Session

12. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The meeting in the Board Room ended at 11:20 a.m. The off-site tour ended at 3:54 p.m.

Next Board Meeting:

November 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Regional Water Quality Control Board
Palm Desert