
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

February 13, 2024, 9:00 am to 10:20 am

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>

Introductory Matters

1. Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Muzik at 9:00 am on February 13, 2024.

Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Beatriz Gonzalez, Vivian Perez, and Nancy Wright, were present.

The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Kai Dunn, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Jose Cortez, Logan Raub, Michael Perez, Fatima Alrahem, Adrian Lopez, Ryan Culhane, Tom Browne. Laurel Firestone attended via Zoom.

Public Attendance

Juan Garcia, Veolia Water
Joel Montalvo, City of Palm Springs
Ken Huntzing, Veolia Water
Doug Loar, Veolia Water
Lillian Garcia, United For Justice, Inc.

PETER SATIN, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Remote Public Attendance

Arnold Gerber, San Bernardino County Public Works
Candace Youngberg, Bombay Beach, Salton Sea Shoreline Community

2. Public Forum

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

Candace Youngberg, Bombay Beach, Salton Sea Shoreline Community

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 12, 2023 Board meeting. The Board's counsel, David Lancaster, proposed an amendment to the Draft Minutes to add information related to the unanimous approval of the uncontested calendar at the December 12, 2023 meeting. The results of the Board's vote on the uncontested calendar were omitted from the original draft minutes.

Motion to approve Item 3, subject to counsel's proposed revisions: Nancy Wright moved, Vivian Perez seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023, with the proposed amendments.

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

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.

Uncontested Calendar of Items for Adoption (Items 5 and 6)

The Chair called for a motion to summarily adopt the entire uncontested calendar (agenda items 5-6):

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX for San Bernardino County Dola Ditch Replacement Project

Staff Contact: Logan Raub, Senior ES

6. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX for San Bernardino County Lanzit Ditch Bridge Replacement Project

Staff Contact: Logan Raub, Senior ES

Motion to approve Items 5 & 6: Nancy Wright moved, Vivian Perez seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Items 5 & 6.

** Break: 9:40 a.m. – 9:48 a.m.*

7. Waste Discharge Requirements R7-2024-XXXX with Monitoring and Reporting Program for City of Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, Riverside County

Staff Contact: Adrian Lopez, WRC Engineer

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

Staff provided background information and relevant updates to reflect current operations and implementation of the current laws and regulations. This included a detailed description of the Facility, the processes and operations, and effluent characterization over the last five years. New effluent limits for total dissolved solids and total nitrogen were discussed, with the latter being subject to a time schedule for compliance. Additionally, special provisions were introduced requiring the Discharger to complete a total dissolved solids study and a groundwater monitoring network assessment and work plan to evaluate the adequacy of monitoring for bacteria. Comments received were addressed in the staff's response to comments. Staff, Legal Counsel, and the Discharger responded to questions and comments from the Board.

Speakers: Doug Loar, Veolia Water

Motion to approve Item 7 with a modification as proposed by Board member Wright: 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, Nancy Wright – Aye

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Item 7 subject to oral changes as discussed.

Information Items (Items 8-12)

No action was taken on these items.

8. Report from Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen

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

9. Comments from Board Members

Board member Wright reported that she participated in the California-Baja California Regional Coordinators meeting, and the Salton Sea Authority meeting held in January 2024. She also attended the January 2024 Chair's meeting on behalf of Chair Muzik, Vice-Chair Satin stated he attended the February 2024 Chair's meeting. Discussions primarily included the budget, racial equity, plans for the October 2024 Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting (WQCC), and the Board Chair's meeting in May 2024.

10. Report from Board Chair, Ed Muzik

Chair Muzik thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the past year, he was honored and privileged to do so.

11. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair 2024

The Board voted unanimously to select Peter Satin as the 2024 Chair and Vivian Perez as the Vice-Chair.

12. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 am