

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

September 19, 2019, 1:00 p.m. to 4:28 p.m.
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Roll Call (Board members only) and Introductions

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 1:00 p.m. on September 19, 2019 in Palm Desert, California.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Frank Gonzalez, Katharine Buddingh, Abdi Haile, Jose Cortez, Joan Stormo, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Hilda Vasquez, Dan Mefford, Kai Dunn, Jose Valle de Leon, Jessie Bagby, Moy Moreno Rivera, Justine Herrig, Joe Karkoski, Laurel Firestone.

Others Present

Juan Gonzulo Moreno, Cucapah Tribe
Mario Escalera, Imperial Irrigation District (IID)
John Acuna, IID
Wayne Lane, IID
Justina Arce, IID
Lillian Garcia, Public
Veronica Martinez Ledezma, Public
Miriam Juarez, Public
Stephanie Lopez, Public
Lissette Lopez, Public
Ruben Lopez, Public
Nancy Del Castillo, Public
Brenda A. Garcia, Public
Carmen Gonzalez, Public
Maria Maldonado, Public
Valerie Luna, Public

Arden Wallum, Mission Springs Water District (MSWD)
Monica Idnani, MSWD
Ashley Metzger, Desert Water Agency (DWA)
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)
Nina Wasiak, Coachella Valley Waterkeeper
Shayna Hernandez, Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Miguel Romero, Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia
Alan Dennis, Agess, Inc.
Nathan White, Agess, Inc.
Utaw Cuseo-White, Agess, Inc.
Miguel Hernandez, Comite Civico del Valle (CCV)
Maximiliano Felipe Ochoa, CCV
Sahara Hu, Alianza
Ryan Sinclair, Alianza
Art Gertz, Salton Sea Long Range Planning Committee
Sandra Maldonado, West Shores, H.S.
Mark T. Gran, CalEnergy
Ramon Aguilar, RVCOC
Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition
Bob Terry, Salton Sea Coalition
Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido Community Development Corporation
Gail Wadsworth, California Institute for Rural Studies (CIRS)
Erika Ramirez Mayoral, CIRS
Lesly Figueroa, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Public Forum

There were 11 speakers during the public forum. The speakers reported a decrease in wildlife as well as poor air and water quality in the areas surrounding the Salton Sea, affecting the health of the population, especially in children (allergies, eye irritation, rashes, and nosebleeds). The speakers asked for assistance to clean up the Salton Sea and invited the Board members to hold a meeting in the Salton Sea Beach area.

Agess, Inc. provided information regarding the Binational Restoration of the Pacific Flyway.

Speaker cards:

- Nathan White, Agess, Inc.
- Alan Dennis, Agess, Inc.
- Juan Gonzulo Moreno (Cucapah Tribe), Agess, Inc.
- Maria Maldonado, Public
- Carmen Gonzalez, Public
- Brenda A. Garcia, Public
- Nancy Del Castillo, Public
- Miriam Juarez, Public
- Veronica Martinez Ledezma, Public
- Lissette Lopez (9 years old), Public
- Bob Terry, Salton Sea Coalition

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of July 11, 2019 Board Meeting

Motion: Tom Davis moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the July 11, 2019 Board Meeting.

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

**Items 2 and 4 were combined.

Laurel Firestone, State Water Board member, presented information concerning the State Water Board's implementation of Governor Gavin Newsome's Executive Order N-10-19, California Water Resilience Portfolio. The Executive Order directs CalEPA, the Natural Resources Agency, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to prepare a water resilience portfolio to meet the water needs of California through the twenty first century.

Speaker cards:

- Miguel Romero, Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia
- Maximiliano Felipe Ocho, CCV
- Valerie Luna, Public
- Ryan Sinclair, Alianza
- Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition
- Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido CDC
- Erika Ramirez Mayoral, CIRS
- Gail Wadsworth, CIRS
- Art Gertz, Salton Sea Long Range Planning Committee
- Lesly Figueroa, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

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

Jose Valle de Leon, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Colorado River Basin Water Board, presented an overview of the proposed NPDES permit for IID El Centro Generating Station and its requirements. He discussed written comments received from IID during the public comment period and responses to those comments.

IID submitted a late comment letter, which Chair Wright did not admit into the record. IID also gave a presentation on the draft NPDES permit.

Speaker Cards: Mario Escalera, IID

Wayne Lane, IID

Motion: There was no motion was carried for this item. The item was continued to the November 14, 2019 Board Meeting in order for staff to address new issues raised at the hearing by IID concerning data outliers for copper and selenium and concerning copper variability in the plant effluent.

Informational Items

4. Informational Update: Executive Order N-10-19 [Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison]

**Items 2 and 4 were combined.

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

Paula Rasmussen reported that the Regional Water Board recently filled the vacancy in the Landfill and Waste Discharge Requirements Unit with Jose Cortez. She also introduced the new Scientific Aid, Jessie Bagby, and mentioned that the student intern, Constance Pawell, who was part of the student intern pilot program, had left the Regional Water Board. She mentioned that the Regional Water Board is actively recruiting for an Office Technician and will also be recruiting for the vacancy created by Jose Cortez leaving the Site Cleanup/Underground Storage Tank Unit.

Ms. Rasmussen gave an update on the development of the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) list. She mentioned staff provided an informational package to stakeholders in August describing how to submit a SEP proposal and the process used to create a SEP list. She mentioned there was a workshop in August in Palm Desert to discuss the SEP process, an additional workshop in September held in El Centro, staff attendance at the Environmental Justice task force in Coachella to provide information on the SEP list, and a similar outreach at the Imperial County Environmental Justice task force meeting. She explained that any SEP proposals received would be reviewed by staff to ensure they meet the State Water Board's SEP Policy and then projects would be placed on a list. The list would be available online.

Ms. Rasmussen mentioned there would be a workshop on October 10 focusing on the 2018 California Integrated Report, and the next Board meeting would be on November 14 in El Centro or Brawley. She also mentioned there would be a joint workshop in February with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board at an off-site location with the date still to be determined. She noted the 2020 Board meeting calendar schedule would be set either in October or November.

6. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Vice-Chair Buford Crites commented on Salton Sea issues as well as on the New and Alamo Rivers.

7. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright mentioned the upcoming Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting and confirmed she and Board member Powell would be attending. Board members Muzik and Davis indicated they would be attending.

8. Closed Session

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

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.