

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2020

9:05 a.m. to 12:47 p.m.

Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, and Sahara Huazano 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 9:05 a.m. on October 8, 2020.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Laurel Firestone, Mary Castaneda, Sara Simpson, Dan Mefford, CJ Jasieniecki, Jose Cortez, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Adriana Godinez, Zak Owens, Reggie Tan, and Maria Davydova.

Interpreters/Translation Services

Mandy Roman, State Water Board Office of Public Participation (OPP)

Itze Abeyte, OPP

Aldo Renteria, OPP

Leticia Reyna, OPP

Virtual Public Attendance

Keith Shannon, Mitsubishi Cement Corp.

Nina Waszak, Coachella Valley Waterkeeper

Lauren Chase, Coachella Valley Waterkeeper

Patricia Leal-Gutierrez, Alianza Coachella Valley

Ryan Sinclair, Alianza Coachella Valley

Maria Pozar, Public

Ed Luna, Public

Sylvia Montenegro, Public

Manuela Ramirez, Public

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September 3, 2020 Board Meeting.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of September 3, 2020 Board meeting.

Uncontested Items

2. R7-2020-0016 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Mitsubishi Cement Corporation, Owner/Operator, Cushenbury Plant Landfill, San Bernardino County [Zak Owens, EG]
3. R7-2020-0027 – Consideration of adoption of Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for Order R7-2008-0033, Alamo Laundromat Wastewater Disposal Facility, San Bernardino County, and Order R7-2014-0038, City of Imperial Wastewater Emergency Standby Basins in Imperial County [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

Items 2 and 3 were voted on together.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0016 with changes in Response to Comments, and Order R7-2020-0027 as presented.

Workshop

4. Triennial Review Workshop [Maria Davydova, ES]

Maria Davydova, Environmental Scientist, gave a presentation on the 2020 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan). She provided an overview with information on the draft 2020 Triennial Review Staff Report and discussed the purpose and structure of the Triennial Review process. Ms. Davydova addressed questions and comments from the public and the Board. She encouraged the public to submit comments on the draft 2020 Triennial Review Staff Report formally through the public commenting process as outlined in the Public Notice. She mentioned that public comments that were submitted during the first comment period ending on May 27, 2020, were addressed in the Response to Comments contained in Appendix A of the draft Staff Report.

Virtual Speakers Cards: Lauren Chase, Attorney, Coachella Valley Water Keeper
Patricia Leal, Alianza Coachella Valley
Maria Conchita Pozar, Public (via Interpreter)
Ryan Sinclair, Alianza Coachella Valley
Ed Luna, Public
Sylvia Montenegro, Public
Manuela Ramirez, Public (via Interpreter)

Board Member Huazano requested that staff revise the Staff Report to clarify how public health is addressed in Appendix C – 2020 Triennial Review List Prioritizing Ranking.

Board Member Muzik requested that staff revise the Staff Report Appendix B – 2020 Triennial Review List by listing staff resources needed and time required to complete each project.

Board Member Satin requested clarification regarding staff resource availability and the use of staff resources for non-Triennial Review projects.

Informational Items

5. State Water Board Liaison Update [*Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison*]

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Water Board activities. She reported that there was a groundbreaking at Westside Elementary School in Thermal; the school received a \$880,000 grant issued through the new SAFER Program funding to ensure that the school has safe and affordable drinking water. She mentioned that the state is trying to get a handle on COVID-19 economic impacts on water systems, wastewater, and household systems throughout the state by voluntary surveys being conducted and by data collection efforts. She also mentioned that the Integrated Report, which includes the Colorado River Basin Region's list, is scheduled for adoption at the State Water Board Meeting on October 20, 2020. She noted that there was a fee increase for water quality permits to fund core water quality programs. She also reminded the Board of the annual Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) dates of October 27-28, 2020 and encouraged all the Board Members to participate.

6. Salton Sea Informational Update [*Arturo Delgado, Natural Resources Agency*]

Arturo Delgado, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy at the Natural Resources Agency, provided an update on the status of the Salton Sea Management Program and program priorities.

7. Tentative 2021 Regional Water Board Meeting Calendar Schedule

The Board discussed tentative dates for Board Meetings for the 2021 calendar year. It was suggested the dates to be revised and reviewed at the next Board meeting for adoption.

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

Ms. Rasmussen reported that staff continues working remotely, yet can come to the office when needed as long as staff capacity does not exceed 25%. Additionally, she explained that there is a furlough in place that reduces work time by 10%. She mentioned that on September 23, staff held a CEQA Scoping Meeting (via Zoom) for a TMDL project that would address water quality impairments in the Imperial Valley waters. At the meeting, concerns were raised about sources of pesticides coming from Mexico and issues concerning the Salton Sea, and the impact the TMDL would have on the Sea. Ms. Rasmussen also mentioned that staff held a meeting with the City of Calexico regarding

the New River Improvement Project and the potential Colorado River Basin Water Board permits needed. Staff will continue to work with the city to address project timelines and permit requirements. She noted that there was a recent change in the federal rule defining waters of the U.S. that has altered the implementation of dredge and fill permits. As a result, there may be a combination of 401 Certifications, Waste Discharge Requirements, and enrollments in State Water Board General Orders for dredged or fill discharges to waters outside the federal jurisdiction. She stated that this program has historically been under-allocated for the existing workload, and staff resources needed to work on these items continues to be challenging for both prioritization and timely issuance of permits. Lastly, there was a PFAS informational presentation at the State Water Board meeting last month that was informative, and the link for that presentation will be provided to the Board Members.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Vice Chair Powell thanked staff for their efforts in working out the Board Meeting logistics and for the translation provided.

Board Member Huazano thanked the public who participated in the public comment aspect of the Triennial Review workshop, and staff for the translation provided.

Board Member Muzik thanked Ms. Daydova for her presentation on the Triennial Review. He mentioned that last month, the California Fish and Game Commission moved forward with potentially listing the Joshua tree as threatened, which could have a costly significant impact on the development of vacant lots in the high desert.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright mentioned the Governor's bill that was signed for the Blue Ribbon Commission, and the WQCC is scheduled for October 27-28, 2020.

11. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Next Board Meeting/Workshop

November 12, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Location TBD