
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

January 10, 2023 9:00 a.m. to 10:38 a.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

Bea Gonzalez, Peter Satin, Nancy Wright, Ed Muzik, and Jayne Powell. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present. Vivian Perez attended the meeting via Zoom and joined prior to the presentation for item 5.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jayne Powell at 9:01 a.m. on January 10, 2023.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Adriana Godinez, Zakary Owens, Hilda Vasquez, CJ Jasieniecki, and Don Nguyen.

Public Attendance

Jennifer Cusack, Hi-Desert Water District
Anoop Sukumaran, CalEnergy
Shelby Drye, Spreckels Sugar Company
Raymond Kellner, Spreckels Sugar Company
L. Garcia, UFJ

Virtual Public Attendance

Sagar Sunkavalli, Spreckels Sugar Company

2. Public Forum

There were no public speakers.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 13, 2022 Board Meeting.

Motion to adopt: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

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

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.

Contested and Discussion Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Items 5-7)

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2023-0001 Spreckels Sugar Company, Inc. Staff Contact: Adriana Godinez, WRC Engineer

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

Staff provided information relevant to the Spreckels Sugar Company WDR. Staff described the tentative order context and requirements. Staff recommended that the Board adopt the revised order.

Motion to adopt: Peter Satin moved, Nancy Wright 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 R7-2023-0001 as presented.

6. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2023-0011 J.J. Elmore CalEnergy Operating Corp. and Magna Power Co. Staff Contact: Zakary Owens

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

Staff provided information relevant to the J.J. Elmore CalEnergy WDR. Staff described the tentative order context and requirements. Staff recommended that the Board adopt the revised order.

Motion to adopt the Order R7-2023-0011, as revised on January 5, 2023: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright 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 R7-2023-0011 as presented.

**7. Revised Waste Discharge Requirements Order 2022-0014-01 Hi-Desert Water District
Staff Contact: Adriana Godinez**

The Chair administered the Oath to those intending to speak on this item. Staff provided information relevant to the revised Hi-Desert Water District WDR. Staff described the tentative order context and requirements. Staff recommended that the Board adopt the revised order.

Motion to adopt: Peter Satin moved, Nancy Wright 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 Revised Order 2022-00140-01 as presented.

Information Items

(No action on items 8-13)

8. Selection of the 2023 Board Chair and Vice-Chair

[This item was addressed during the public meeting after Item 11, the Chair's Report.]

The Board voted unanimously to select Ed Muzik as the 2023 Chair and Peter Satin as the Vice-Chair.

9. Report from Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen

The Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen, presented an update on activities and plans for the region and responded to Board Member questions. An underground storage tank site case closure was issued to the One Stop Shoppe in Indio under the Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy. Supervisor Perez announced a grant for distribution of water to residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Salton Sea Authority signed an agreement for a study to identify projects and actions for the long-term restoration of the Salton Sea. There will be no Board Meeting held in February of 2023.

10. Comments from Board Members

Vice-Chair Muzik asked the Board's counsel to comment on the meeting procedures for roll call votes. Board Member Wright added that a roll call vote increases individual transparency for members of the public. Vice-Chair Muzik asked if the Board Meetings could start at 10:00 am instead of at the customary 9:00 am. Board Member Wright inquired about whether there would be Board Meetings at offsite locations in 2023. Chair Jayne Powell noted that she would like to visit some of the sites that we are permitting, for example the geothermal plant.

11. Report from Chair, Jayne Powell

Chair Powell reported that there was a Chair's call last week with the topic of Waters of the U.S definition and the federal WOTUS policy. Also discussed was information concerning the State's emergency response plan. This year's Chair and Vice-Chair meeting in Sacramento is on Friday, May 19th and the WQCC will be October 23-24, 2023. She reminded the members of the Board to complete their ethics training before April 2023.

Closed Session

12. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Next Board Meeting:

March 14, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Palm Desert Regional Water Boards Office