

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

September 8, 2005  
City Council Chambers  
City of La Quinta  
78-495 Calle Tampico  
La Quinta, CA 92253

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Vice Chair Nancy Wright at 10:00 a.m. on September 8, 2005 in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**1. Board Member Roll Call**

Present: Marie Barrett, Jeffrey Hays, Leon Lesicka, Maurice Martinez, Gregory Pettis, Ellen Way, and Nancy Wright

Absent: Gary Johnson

**2. Staff Present**

Jose Angel, Sheila Ault, John Carmona, Mary Castañeda, Liann Chavez, Jose Cortez, Francisco Costa, Jeff Geraci, Abdi Haile, Chris Igbinedion, Cecilia Irwin, Eliza Laws, Ivory Reyburn, Robert Perdue, Jon Rokke, Jennie Snyder, Joan Stormo, Hilda Vasquez, Soni Wells and Doug Wylie.

**3. Others Present**

Martin Barackman, CH2MHILL (PG&E)  
Steve Bigley, CVWD  
Ted Cobb, State Water Resource Control Board - OCC  
Felix De Leon, City of El Centro  
Randy Hines, City of El Centro  
Bob Lucas, PG&E  
Yvonne Meeks, PG&E  
Jesus Montano, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribe  
Mitch Nieman, Mission Springs Water District  
Michael Pollace, SCWC  
Jim Rodkey, City of Blythe  
Norman Shopay, DTSC

#### 4. Minutes

Meeting of June 29, 2005

**MOTION:** Mr. Hays moved, Mr. Lesicka seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved as submitted.

#### 5. Public Forum

No one from the public chose to speak.

#### 6. Resolutions

No Resolutions to report at this time.

#### 7. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

R7-2005-0103	City of Blythe, Owner/Operator, Blythe Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facilities – Blythe, Riverside County
R7-2005-0108	Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Owner/Operator, Topock Compressor Station, Floodplain Reductive Zone In-situ Pilot Test – Needles, San Bernardino County
R7-2005-0109	Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Owner/Operator, Topock Compressor Station, Upland Plume In-Situ Pilot Test Needles, San Bernardino County
R7-2005-0110	Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements 05-078 Imperial Valley Resource Recovery

**NOTE:** Proposed Order No. R7-2005-0108 was removed from the consent calendar to be considered at a future Board Meeting.

Proposed Order No. R7-2005-0109 was removed from the consent calendar to be considered at a future Board Meeting

**MOTION:** Mr. Hays moved, Mr. Martinez seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Board Orders No. R7-2005-0103 with Errata and R7-2005-0110 be adopted.

#### 8. Contested Enforcement Action

R7-2005-0112	Mandatory Minimum Penalty in the matter of Niland Sanitary District, Owner/Operator Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant – Imperial County
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**NOTE:** Proposed Order No. R7-2005-0112 was removed from the contested calendar to be considered at a future Board Meeting.

**9. Uncontested Enforcement Action**

Public Hearing for Consideration to Affirm, Reject, or Modify Proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order (ACLO) as follows:

R7-2005-0107            Mandatory Minimum Penalty in the matter of City of El Centro, Owner/Operator, Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant - Imperial County

**MOTION:** Mr. Hays moved, Mr. Martinez seconded, and motion carried unanimously that ACLO No. R7-2005-0107 be adopted.

**10. Informational Update from the Citizen Congressional Task Force on New River about Wetlands**

Mr. Lesicka gave an overview along with a PowerPoint presentation of the clean up process and progress of the New River and the Alamo River using manmade wetlands. He also outlined potential future wetlands at various sites throughout the Imperial Valley to address point and non-point pollution.

**11. Informational Update on PG&E Topock Project Activities**

Martin Barackman of CH2MHILL, representing PG&E, addressed the Board on cleanup activities for the hexavalent chromium groundwater plume at the Topock Compressor Station Facility near Needles. Current focus on Interim Measures under RCRA require establishment of hydraulic control of the plume to prevent discharge to the Colorado River. One extraction well is currently pumping at 70 gallons per minute. As a result, landward gradients have been measured between key well pairs, indicating plume movement away from the River. However, MW-34-100, located 60 ft from the River shows steadily increasing concentrations of hexavalent chromium. To address this, the extraction well pumping rate will be increased to the maximum capacity of 90 gallons per minute.

**12. Informational Update from Department of Toxic Substances Control (lead agency in this clean-up)**

Norman Shopay, Project Manager for DTSC, stated that this project is one of their highest priorities. DTSC has requested installation of an additional extraction well to increase pumping capacity.

**13. Reportable Violations of the California Water Code**

No comments to report at this time.

**14. Informational Update on Meaders Cleaners Site**

Mr. Perdue stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

**15. Informational Update on Border Pollution**

Mr. Angel reported that construction of the New Mexicali II Wastewater Treatment Plant is ongoing and may be completed by the end of this year.

**16. Informational Update on State Water Resources Control Board Activities**

Ted Cobb served as Legal Counsel and provided an update on ongoing activities in Sacramento.

**17. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report**

The Regional Board Executive Officer stated that the current condition of the New River at the US/Mexico Border is unacceptable. The Executive Officer and the SWRCB Executive Director, Celeste Cantu, attended an Environmental Justice Project Meeting in Calexico on September 1, 2005. Environmental Justice requires directly involving the local impacted population in the decision process for New River issues. Regional Board staff will be attending these meetings on a regular basis.

Ted Cobb, Legal Counsel stated that Environmental Justice is a priority issue for the SWRCB.

Ms. Wright reported that Regional Board staff has a lot of available water quality information documenting problems associated with the New River.

**18. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report**

Nancy Wright, Vice Chair presided over this meeting due to the absence of Gary Johnson, Chair.

Ms. Wright informed everyone that the Water Quality Control Committee Meeting in Sacramento is on September 19 & 20, 2005. Attending will be Ms. Wright, Mr. Perdue and Mr. Martinez. It will be very informative and all are encouraged to attend.

Ms. Wright also reported that she attended the Urban Water Institute Conference in San Diego and a Colorado River Board Meeting, with several states in attendance.

**19. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.