



Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

May 14, 2024, 9:01 am to 12:57 pm

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**
- 2. Public Forum**

No comments were received from the members of the public.

- 3. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the April 9, 2024, Board meeting.

Motion to approve Item 3: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024.

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

The State Water Board Liaison, Laurel Firestone was not able to attend the meeting, therefore an update on regional activities was not provided.

- 5. Introduction to Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board**

This item was moved to a future date.

Uncontested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Items 6-9)

- 6. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX for Southern California Edison, Lugo Mojave Riprap Structure Grid Reliability Maintenance Project, San Bernardino County**

Staff Contact: Logan Raub, Senior ES

- 7. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX for Southern California Edison, Multi TD Contour Terrace-Campanula Pole Replacement and Installation Project, San Bernardino County**

Staff Contact: Logan Raub, WRCE, Senior ES

- 8. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX and Monitoring and Reporting Program (NPDES Permit No. CA7000001) for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Centinela State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant, Imperial County**

Staff Contact: Fatima Alrahem, WRC Engineer

- 9. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX and Monitoring and Reporting Program for Salton Community Services District, Salton City Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility, Imperial County**

Staff Contact: Adrian Lopez, WRC Engineer

Motion to approve Items 6-9: Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried to approve Uncontested Orders Items 6 -9 as presented.

Contested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Item - 10)

- 10. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX and Monitoring and Reporting Program for Coachella Valley Water District, Water Reclamation Plant 10 – Riverside County**

Staff Contact: Kevin Gonzalez, WRC Engineer

The Chair administered the Oath to 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 description of the facility, location, processes, operations, and regulatory considerations. He

summarized the proposed updates, comments received, responses to comments, and staff recommendations. A discussion was held, and staff and Legal Counsel addressed questions and comments from the Board.

A presentation was also provided by Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, of the Coachella Valley Water District describing the facility operations, and location. She discussed the current waste discharge requirements, reasons for their opposition to the proposed order, and summarized their requests on the effluent limit changes, as well as other revisions to the Tentative Order presented to the Board for adoption.

Speakers:

Kevin Fitzgerald, Southern California Golf Association
Gretchen Gutierrez, Desert Valleys Builders Association
Sarah Rapolla, Desert Water Agency
Andy Malone, Coachella Valley SNMP Agencies

Vice-Chair Perez recognized the Discharger's effort to comply with the requirements and inquired about funding to assist with significant costs to the discharger.

Board member Wright recognized the Discharger's efforts with water quality issues and inquired about a funding option under a time schedule. She stated she was glad to see the various water quality resources that are now available.

Board member Muzik stated he was in favor of raising the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) effluent limit to address increases in salinity due to water conservation. He cited projected population growth in the Coachella Valley and increase in usage.

Board member Gonzalez thanked staff and the discharger for their presentations and recognized the Discharger's efforts in being transparent and in compliance. She echoed Board member Muzik's comments on raising the TDS effluent limit.

Chair Satin inquired about the process to build flexibility into the permit to accommodate SNMP findings and the peer review process. He also asked about the 530 mg/L TDS effluent limit carried over from the previous permit.

The Discharger stated they would be appreciative of a new 575 mg/L "interim" effluent limit, as discussed in their presentation.

During discussions, Staff and Legal Counsel, and the Discharger addressed questions and comments from the Board. Counsel advised the Board Members that the SNMP process envisioned by the State Water Board in the *Recycled Water Policy* presupposes the existence of numeric objectives for salinity (TDS), which does not yet exist in the Colorado River Basin Region. Further, assimilative capacity for TDS could not be determined without an established water quality objective (i.e., "how good is good enough"). Counsel further explained that although the Board could consider the SNMP participants' recommended numeric objective, the establishment of such an objective would ultimately be a policy decision made by the Board via Basin Plan Amendment, and subject to the requirements of Water Code section 13241. Counsel

further explained that any objective adopted by the Board would also be subject to scientific peer review under the Health & Safety Code, as well as approval by the State Water Board.

Legal Counsel recommended a 15-minute break to develop further revisions to the Tentative Order reflecting a higher 575 mg/L effluent limit for TDS. No further changes to the Tentative Order were discussed or requested by the Board Members.

Motion to take a 15-minute break and direct Staff and Counsel to revise the Tentative Order to incorporate a 575 mg/L effluent limit for TDS and make related changes to the findings:

Nancy Wright moved, Ed Muzik seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed.

Break: 11:35 am – 11:50 am

The Board reconvened, Chair Satin announced the return to the hearing for a motion to adopt the further revised tentative order.

Counsel read out certain proposed further changes to the Tentative Order. The proposed changes specifically pertained to Finding 66, Finding 69.b.iv, Section C.1 and Table 8. The changes included a change to the units in Table 8 of the Tentative Order; staff had previously agreed to change the units for “Average Daily Influent Flow” and “Average Daily Tertiary Effluent Flow” from “gallons per day” or “gpd” to “millions of gallons per day,” or “MGD.”

A brief discussion was held among Board Members and Counsel.

Motion to approve Item 10, subject to the changes to Finding 66, Finding 69.b.iv, Section C.1 and Table 8, as well as the higher effluent limit of 575 mg/L, as read out by Counsel:

Nancy Wright moved, Ed Muzik seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed. Tentative Order adopted with further revisions specified by Counsel.

Information Items

(No Actions on Items 11-13)

11. Report from Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen

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

12. Comments from Board Members

There were no comments from the Board members.

13. Report from Board Chair, Peter Satin

Chair Satin attended the monthly Chair's meeting and mentioned discussions on updates on SIGMA probationary and Bay-Delta Plan, and the plans for the upcoming Chair's meeting in May.

Closed Session

14. Closed Session

A closed session was held from 12:04 pm to 12:50 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Next Board Meeting:
June 11, 2024 at 9:00 am