

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

April 1, 2025, 9:03 am to 11:26 am

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Perez at 9:03 am on April 1, 2025, in Palm Desert, CA.

The Board Clerk conducted a roll call of Board Members physically present at the meeting. Vivian Perez, Nancy Wright, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, and Azucena Beltran-Serrano were present. Beatriz Gonzalez arrived at 9:08 am.

Chair Perez determined that a quorum was physically present at the meeting location.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Michael Placencia, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Mary Castaneda, Dan Mefford, CJ Jasieniecki, Michael Perez, Fatima Alrahem, Logan Raub, Kevin Gonzalez, Jose Cortez, Jerry Rabelo, and Kevin Heinemann. Laurel Firestone participated remotely via Zoom.

Public Attendance

Vivien Maisonneuve, California Department of Water Resources
Martin Bermudez, City of Calexico
Jesus Marquez, City of Calexico
Bob Stadum, Hi-Desert Water District

Remote Public Attendance

Daniel Goicochea, Desert Knoll, HOA
Jon Coombs, Desert Knoll, HOA
Andy Watson, Desert Knoll HOA
Marlee Nelson, Court Reporter

2. Public Forum

There were no Public Speakers.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 4, 2025, Board meeting.

Motion to approve Item 3— Minutes for March 4, 2025 public meeting:

Peter Satin moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Vivian Perez - Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Azucena Beltran-Serrano, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

Motion passed.

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

State Water Board Liaison Laurel Firestone presented an update on State Board actions, and strategies for statewide and regional activities.

Agenda Items 5-6 were voted on together.

Uncontested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Items 5-6)

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order with Monitoring and Reporting Program) NPDES Permit No. CA104248

Party:	City of Calexico
Subject:	Wastewater Treatment Plant
Location:	Imperial County
Staff Contact:	Fatima Alrahem, WRC Engineer (Fatima.Alrahem@waterboards.ca.gov)

6. Rescission and Substitution Order for Multiple Facilities, Regionwide

Substitution of parties under existing orders (e.g., name changes and transfers), and/or rescissions of existing orders.

Affected Orders	Actions
R7-2021-0016 Colorado River Aqueduct Conduit Structural Protection Project Riverside County	Rescission of Order
R7-2021-0048 Oberon Renewable Energy Project Riverside County	Rescission of Order
R7-2024-0036 Antoine Garabet Onsite Wastewater Treatment System San Bernardino County	Rescission of Order
R7-2021-0003 Arrowhead Estates TTM 33540 Riverside County	Rescission of Order
R7-2021-0035 Crimson Solar Project – Battery Energy Storage System Riverside County	Rescission of Order

Staff Contact: Maribel Schiavone, Sanitary Engineering Associate
(Maribel.Schiavone@waterboards.ca.gov)

Motion to approve Items 5-6 as presented:

Ed Muzik moved, Beatriz Gonzalez seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Vivian Perez – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Azucena Beltran-Serrano – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

Motion passed.

Contested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Item 7)

7. Cease and Desist Order

Parties: Desert Knoll, Inc.
Subject: Desert Knoll Subdivision, Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System
Location: San Bernardino County
Staff Contact: Bryanna Allen, Engineering Geologist
(Bryanna.Allen@waterboards.ca.gov)

Chair Perez administered the Oath for those intending to speak.

David Lancaster, Legal Counsel stated that prior to the hearing the prosecution team submitted a document as rebuttal evidence which consisted of the State Waterboard's operative onsite wastewater treatment policy. The document will be shared with the Board to take official notice pursuant to Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, and he will discuss and advise relative parts of the law as needed.

Staff provided background information and discussed the tentative revised Cease-and-Desist Order (CDO) for Desert Knoll Inc. This included a description of the Facility as well as its location, the processes and operations at the Facility, regulatory considerations, a summary of recent inspections at the Facility, and the contents of the revised CDO. Staff addressed comments expressed by Desert Knoll representatives, questions and comments from the Board, and Legal Counsel provided clarification on policy. After a brief discussion, staff recommended adoption of the revised Cease and Desist Order.

Speakers: Jon Coombs, Desert Knoll, HOA (via Zoom)
Daniel Goicochea, Desert Knoll HOA (via Zoom)
Andy Watson, Desert Knoll HOA, (via Zoom)

Motion to approve Item 7 as presented:

Bea Goonzalez moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Vivian Perez - Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Azucena Beltran-Serrano – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

Motion passed.

Information Items

(No Actions on Items 8 - 11)

8. Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Update

Vivien Maisonneuve of the California Department of Water Resources Salton Sea Restoration office presented an overview of the Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project. The presentation provided information on completed projects, and an

update on current and future expansion of projects. The Board thanked Mr. Maisonneuve for an insightful presentation.

9. Report from Executive Officer, Michael Placencia

The Executive Officer, Michael Placencia, provided an update on activities and plans for the region. He reported updates for the month of February, staff coordinated New River sampling, participated in the Draft 2026 Integrated Report Public Workshop (associated staff were Ryan Culhane, Rosalyn Fleming, and Emma McCorkle). In March, staff had a booth at the Wildflower Festival. Both events provided staff with the opportunity for public outreach, meet with community members, and provide information on the Regional Board's activities. He mentioned that an Engineering Geologist position has been filled, and efforts to fill other vacancies continue.

10. Comments from Board Members

Member Wright mentioned she will be attending the California-Mexico Border Relations Council Meeting on April 8th in Imperial, and on May 9th she will also attend the Pacific Institute Conference on the Salton Sea.

Member Muzik inquired whether staff participate in any of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plans for the Coachella Valley meetings, if so, he would like to request a summary of their activities, which may be beneficial to the Board.

Vice-Chair Gonzalez mentioned that she has been approached by community members regarding the Polanco Mobile Home Park septic systems in Oasis, she submitted an email with more specifics to Michael Placencia, EO, who stated that he would investigate this and provide a future update for the Board.

11. Report from Board Chair, Vivian Perez

Chair Perez reported that she attended the Annual Agricultural Tour Event along with Michael Placencia, EO, and other Regional Board staff. She stated that she enjoyed the tour and was pleased she was able to attend the event.

Closed Session

12. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.

Next Board Meeting: subsequently canceled

May 6, 2025 at 9:00 am

Location: Palm Desert, California.