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## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

### MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

October 10, 2023, 9:05 a.m. to 1:04 p.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>

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### **Introductory Matters**

#### **1. Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Muzik at 9:05 a.m. on October 10, 2023.

Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Jayne Powell, Nancy Wright, Beatriz Gonzalez were present. Vivian Perez attended via Zoom.

The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

#### **State and Regional Water Board Staff Present**

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Emma Mc Corkle, Angela Garcia, Logan Raub, Michael Perez, Zak Owens, Fatima Alrahem, Julya Mestas, Hajer Dawoody, David Boyers, Wendy Wyles, and Laurel Firestone via Zoom.

#### **Public Attendance**

Michale Young, Phoenix 1, LLC  
Alex Sanchez, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition  
Peter Nelson, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition  
Lillian Garcia, United For Justice, Inc.  
Hector Munoz, Country Life MHRVP  
Pedro Alvarez, Country Life MHRVP

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EDWARD MUZIK, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Andy Malone, CV-SNMP Agencies  
Bob Stadum, Hi-Desert Water District  
Dave Commons, Valley Sanitary District

### **Remote Public Attendance**

Debbie Salas Rico, Niland resident  
Marta Mata, Niland resident  
Arturo Guevara, Niland resident  
Andra Dakota, Niland resident  
Victoria Russell, Slab City resident  
Angela Harrell, Slab City resident  
Kenneth Ingraham, Lower Canal-Camp Phoenix Niland  
Zach Henderson, Lower Cana- Camp Phoenix Niland  
Shannon Barlow, Slab City resident  
Dorothy Jerry, Slab City resident  
Jenn Nelson, Chasterus Foundation, Niland  
Melissa Brown, Rio Bend  
Peter Bhatka, Two-Nine Hospitality, Holiday Inn Express  
Ralph Beatty, Country Life MHRVP  
Ray Farris, Rio Bend  
Shannon Cronan, Rio Bend  
Marlee Nelson, Court Reporter  
Laura Neri, Interpreter  
Giselle Franco, Interpreter

## **2. Public Forum**

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

Debbie Salas Rico, Niland resident  
Marta Mata, Niland resident

*Break: A short break was taken 9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.*

Arturo Guevara, via Interpreter  
Debbie Salas Rico, Niland resident  
Marta Mata, Niland resident  
Andra Dakota, Niland resident  
Victoria Russell, Slab City resident  
Kenneth Ingraham, Lower Canal-Camp Phoenix Niland  
Zach Henderson, Lower Cana- Camp Phoenix Niland  
Shannon Barlow, Slab City resident  
Dorothy Jerry, Slab City resident  
Jenn Nelson, Chasterus Foundation, Niland  
Alex Sanchez, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition  
Lillian Garcia, United For Justice, Inc.

During the Public Forum, Alex Sanchez and Peter Nelson presented two letters on behalf of the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (Coalition). In the first letter, the Coalition stated that it would not be providing any further assistance in identifying former members that no longer maintained regulatory coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2020-0026 (General Order). In the second letter, the Coalition requested another one-year extension for fish tissue monitoring under the General Order, citing financial difficulties. The Coalition's representatives were met with questioning from the Colorado River Basin Water Board's counsel, David Lancaster. No decisions were made by the Board Members in response to these letters.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the August 10, 2023 Board meeting.

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

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

The motion was carried to approve the minutes of August 10, 2023.

### **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.

### **Uncontested Calendar of Items for Adoption (Items 5 and 7)**

#### **5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7–2023–XXXX and Monitoring Reporting Program Country Life MHRVP Asset Partners, L.P., Wastewater Treatment Plant, Imperial County (NPDES Permit No. CA0104264)**

Staff Contact: Fatima Alrahem, WRC Engineer

Prior to Board action on this item, the Board Chair requested a motion to add Agenda Item 7 for adoption as part of the Uncontested Calendar. Peter Satin moved, Jayne Powell seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote to Move Agenda Item 7: Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye

The motion was carried unanimously to move Agenda Item 7 to the Uncontested calendar. As a result, the following item was added to the Uncontested Calendar:

**7. Rescission and Substitution Order R7-2023-XXXX Substitution of Parties under existing orders (e.g., name changes and transfers, and/or rescissions of existing orders**

Staff Contact: Zakary Owens, Engineering Geologist

The Board Chair asked for a motion to adopt the Uncontested Calendar consisting of Agenda Items 5 and 7. Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote on Uncontested Calendar: Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye

The Motion to Adopt Agenda Item 5 and Agenda Item 7 was passed unanimously.

**Contested and Discussion Calendar of Items for Adoption (Items 6 and 8)**

**6. Cease and Desist Order R7-2023-00XX for Two-Nine Hospitality Inc., Holiday Express – Twentynine Palms / Joshua Tree Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, San Bernardino County**

Staff Contact: Michael Perez, WRC Engineer

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

Wendy Wyles, Environmental Program Manager from the Office of Enforcement summarized the waste discharge requirements which govern the facility, provided a location map, presented pictures of the wastewater treatment and disposal system, described the recent violations at the site, and actions taken by the discharger. A brief discussion was held, and staff addressed comments and questions from the Board.

Speakers: Peter Bhatka, Two-Nine Hospitality Inc., Holiday Express.  
David Boyers, Office of Enforcement

The Board Chair asked for a motion to adopt Item 6 with revisions.

Motion to adopt Item 6: Beatriz Gonzalez moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt item 6 with revisions as discussed.

*Break: A short break was taken 11:21a.m. – 11:35 a.m.*

**8. Waste Discharge Requirements and Monitoring Reporting Program Order R7-2023-XXXX for Westwind Enterprises, Ltd., Rio Bend RV and Golf Resort, and Storm's Crossing Mobile Estates Onsite Wastewater Treatment System- (OTWS), Imperial County**

Staff Contact: Julya Mestas, WRC Engineer

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

Staff gave an overview of the background and key permit requirements. She discussed the required updates for Board Order R7-2021-0024 and the fact that wastewater from Storm's Crossing was unregulated since the approval of their septic system in 1993 by Imperial County Department of Public Health Services but would be included in the update. Staff proposed the addition of dissolved oxygen monitoring and recommended that the proposed order be adopted with specified changes. A brief discussion was held, and staff addressed comments and questions from the Board.

The Chair asked for a motion to adopt Item 8 with change sheet.

Motion to adopt Item 8: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried to adopt Item 8 as with change sheet revisions.

**Information Items (Items 9-10)**

No action was taken on these items.

**9. Workshop on 2023 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region**

Staff Contact: Hajer Dawoody, Engineering Geologist

Staff presented the draft 2023 Triennial Review to the Board and the public. The presentation was bilingual in both the text of the presentation and oral translation. Staff highlighted the projects that have been completed and changes made to the 2023 Triennial Review List. Board members commented on the small number of staff resources available and on increasing the weight of the groundwater criteria. Staff addressed these comments at the meeting. No public comments were made.

**10. Coachella Valley Salt & Nutrient Management Plan Update  
Andy Malone, PG, Principal Geologist II, West Yost**

Staff Contact: Angela Garcia, Senior Engineering Geologist

Mr. Malone, PG, Principal Geologist II of West Yost Associated provided an overview and

update of the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Planning efforts. He indicated that the Goals of the Coachella Valley - Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV-SNMP) include managing salt and nutrient loading, maintaining reasonable costs, and overall protection of groundwater quality. He discussed the financial impacts on Coachella Valley's economy, associated with the uses of recycled water, Colorado River water, along with wastewater management and treatment. The implementation of the September 2021 CV-SNMP Development Work Plan has included stakeholder outreach, engagement meetings, development of a Technical Advisory Committee, and Tribal Government Engagement. He added that the success of this plan is dependent upon all stakeholders working collaboratively to ensure the finished product complies with the California Water Code, Recycled Water Policy, and Anti-Degradation Policy.

#### **11. Executive Officer's Report, Paula Rasmussen**

The Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen, presented 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 the Board Chair, Ed Muzik**

Chair Muzik reported that a Chair's meeting was not held this month. He thanked the staff for proving excellent presentations and requested that a Legal update be provided at the next Board meeting.

#### **Other Matters**

#### **14. Selection of 2024 Board Meeting Dates**

The Board discussed tentative dates for 2024 Board Meeting dates and agreed on the following:

February 13, 2024	July 9, 2024
March 12, 2024	September 10, 2024
April 9, 2024	October 15, 2024
May 14, 2024	November 12, 2024
June 11, 2024	December 10, 2024

#### **Closed Session**

There was no closed session held.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.