

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

June 24, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 1:26 p.m.  
Virtual Board Meeting Via Zoom

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**Board Member Roll Call and Introductions**

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, and Sahara Huazano were present. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 9:30 a.m. on June 24, 2020.

Chair Wright introduced and welcomed new Board Member Sahara Huazano to the Regional Water Board.

**State and Regional Water Board Staff Present**

Laurel Firestone, Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Mary Castaneda, Sara Simpson, Dan Mefford, Adriana Godinez, Reggie Tan, Scot Stormo, Zak Owens, Jose Cortez, Jennie Snyder, Logan Raub, Francisco Costa, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Jose Valle DeLeon, Kai Dunn.

**Virtual Public Attendance**

Steve Charlton, Imperial Irrigation District  
Michael Shiang, SoCalGas  
Chanice Allen, SoCalGas  
Ben Olson, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition  
Cheryl Cloud, Bard Coalition Group  
Marissa Johnson, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Victor Lujan, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Fernando Huerta, Caltrans District 8  
Michael Lemke, Caltrans District 8  
Cindy Wingate, Wingate Company  
Carson Capps, Coachella Valley Water Keeper  
Matthew Hink, CalPortland Company  
John Blough, Coronet Concrete Products, Inc.  
Robert Huerta, Coachella Sanitary District  
Lisa Belenky, Center of Biological Diversity  
Monte Christie, Geo-Logic Associates  
Aren Hall, Castle Mountain Venture

Tom Rinaldi, Castle Mountain Venture  
Jose Angel, Castle Mountain Venture  
Susy Boyd, Mojave Desert Land Trust  
Kerry Shapiro, JMBM, LLP  
Chris Clarke, National Parks Conservation Association

## Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

### 1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of May 14, 2020 Board Meeting

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt the minutes of the May 14, 2020 Board meeting

### 1. **State Water Board Liaison Update**

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Water Board activities, including budget impacts from the COVID-19 crisis, allocated project funding to complete the New River Improvement Project, the redirection of certain staff to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing, furloughs and pay reduction for state employees, and the upcoming Salton Sea Workshop to be hosted virtually by the State Water Board and scheduled for August 19, 2020.

### **Uncontested Items**

2. **R7-2020-0011** - Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Mission Springs Water District Owner/Operator West Valley Water Reclamation Facility, Desert Hot Springs – Riverside County [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

*This item was continued to the July 9, 2020 Board meeting and no Board action was taken.*

3. **R7-2020-0014** - Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Imperial Irrigation District, Operator, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Owner, Imperial Dam Domestic Wastewater Oxidation Ponds, Winterhaven – Imperial County [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0014 with changes in response to comments.

4. **R7-2020-0015** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Southern California Gas Company, Blythe Compressor Station, Blythe – Riverside County [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0015 with changes in response to comments.

5. **R7-2020-0020** – Consideration of adoption of Short-Term Renewal of Order R7-2014-0046, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural Wastewater Discharges and Discharges of Waste from Drain Operation and Maintenance Activities Within the Coachella Valley – Riverside County [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE*]

Virtual Speaker Card: Ben Olson, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0020.

6. **R7-2020-0021** – Consideration of adoption of Amendment to Order R7-2019-0053, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that Are Members of a Coalition Group in Bard Valley – Imperial County [*Logan Raub, ES*]

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0021.

7. **R7-2020-0022** – Consideration of adoption of Amendment to Order R7-2019-0030, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated

Agricultural Lands for Discharges that are Members of a Coalition Group in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa – Imperial and Riverside Counties [*Francisco Costa, ES*]

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0022.

8. **R7-2020-0018** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for California Department of Transportation, Cactus City Safety Roadside Rest Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, East of Indio – Riverside County [*Jose Cortez, Senior WRCE*]

- *This item was removed from the uncontested items calendar by Chair Wright, who opened a public hearing to discuss the permit.*

Virtual Speaker Card: Fernando Huerta, Caltrans District 8  
Michael Lemke, Caltrans District 8

**Motion:** Jayne Powell moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0018 with verbal Errata.

*(A short break was taken due to technical difficulties from 10:05 a.m. – 10:13 a.m.)*

### **Contested and Discussion Items**

9. **R7-2020-0012** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Cindy Wingate d/b/a Wingate Company, Lime-Sulfur Processing Plant, Imperial – Imperial County [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

Scot Stormo, Engineering Geologist, provided a presentation summarizing the Wingate Manufacturing facility processes and updates to the Waste Discharge Requirements. He also discussed public comments received and responses to those comments.

Virtual Speaker Card: Cindy Wingate, Wingate Company

**Motion:** Jayne Powell moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0012.

10. **R7-2020-0013** – Consideration of adoption Waste Discharge Requirements for CalPortland Company, Owner, Coronet Products, Inc. d/b/a/ Desert Redi Mix, Operator, Chino Vista Sand and Gravel Plant, North of Thousand Palms – Riverside County [*Reggie Tan, WRCE*]

Reggie Tan, Water Resources Control Engineer, provided a presentation covering the background and history of the sand and gravel plant as well as the reasons for updating the facility's permit. He also discussed public comments received and responses to those comments.

Virtual Speaker Cards: Matthew Hinck, CalPortland Company  
Carson Capps, Coachella Valley Water Keeper

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0013 with verbal Errata.

*(The board took a short break at 11:42 a.m. and reconvened at 11:54 a.m.)*

11. **R7-2020-0008** – Consideration of adoption National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Coachella Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant, Coachella – Riverside County [*Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE*]

*This item was moved to the uncontested items calendar for Board action.*

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0008 with changes in response to comments.

12. **R7-2020-0004** – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Castle Mountain Venture, Operator, Equinox Gold Corporation and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Owners, Castle Mountain Mine – San Bernardino County [*Zak Owens, EG*]

*Board Member Satin recused himself from this item.*

*Castle Mountain Venture requested official notice of 2 documents from San Bernardino County be taken and made part of the record. The Board Chair granted this request.*

Zak Owens, Engineering Geologist, provided a brief background on the Castle Mountain Mine facility, which is re-opening from a period of closure to resume mining operations. He outlined the reconstruction of mining units at the facility and new permit requirements. He also discussed public comments received and responses to those comments.

Virtual Speaker Cards: Aren Hall, Castle Mountain Venture  
Lisa Belenky, Center of Biological Diversity  
Chris Clarke, National Parks Conservation Association  
Kerry Shapiro, JMBM, LLP

**Motion:** Jayne Powell moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Roll Call Vote:** Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Recused, Sahara Huazano – Aye.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2020-0004 with changes in response to comments and written and verbal Erratas.

### **Informational Items**

#### **13. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report [Paula Rasmussen]**

Ms. Rasmussen reported on some of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Five percent of staff will be redirected to contact tracing, ten percent salary cuts and furloughs for employees, and staff continues to work remotely with a bit of flexibility (up to twenty-five percent of staff able to come in to the office, while practicing social distancing and wearing masks).

Ms. Rasmussen mentioned that Joan Stormo, Senior Engineering Geologist, retired recently. Ms. Stormo takes with her many years of knowledge and expertise in her work and protecting water quality. Ms. Rasmussen stated that she will be missed.

Ms. Rasmussen also mentioned that the Governor's budget includes about \$20 million for the Salton Sea projects, in addition to the \$28 million for the New River Improvement Project.

#### **14. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments**

Board Member Muzik commented that the sewer project at the Hi-Desert Water District now has over 1300 connections, and the wastewater treatment plant is receiving over 200,000 gallons per day. Vice Chair Powell thanked the staff for their hard work and the thoroughness of the orders presented. Board Member Muzik and Chair Wright echoed Vice Chair Powell's comments. Board Member Huazano also appreciated the staff reports presented, and the positive interaction with the various dischargers and the community. Board Member Satin commended Jose Cortez, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, and staff on implementing more standardized monitoring and reporting formats for dischargers.

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

Chair Wright reported that the federal Farm Bill contains potential additional funding for both the Salton Sea and the New River. The Salton Sea Coalition sent a letter supporting the bill to California's two senators.

**16. Closed Session**

There was no closed session held.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.