
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

September 14, 2021, 10:01 a.m. to 1:48 p.m.

Zoom Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

Archived audio and video webcasts of Board meetings are available at the following link:

<https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Beatriz Gonzalez, and Vivian Perez were in attendance. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 10:01 a.m. on September 14, 2021.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Hilda Vasquez, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Adriana Godinez, Logan Raub, Kai Dunn, Reginald Tan, Jose Cortez, Maribel Pizano, Jose Valle de Leon, Jose Acevedo Figueroa, Cathy Sanford, Greg Middleton, Paul Ciccarelli, Laurel Firestone.

Virtual Public Attendance

Mike Buckantz, Associates Environmental
Steve Charleton, Imperial Irrigation District
Scott Dawson, Recurrent Energy
Jennifer Fieber, Associates Environmental
Jeff Lamoure, Imperial County Environmental Health
Taylor Lee, Werner Corp.
Andy Malone, West Yost
Luis Olmedo, Comité Civico del Valle, Inc.
Todd Pendergrass, Werner Corp.

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jorge Perez, Imperial County Environmental Health
Meghan Quinn, Downey Brand LLP
Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District
Tina L. Anderholt Shields, Imperial Irrigation District
Camille Wasinger, Intersect Power

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the public forum.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of July 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried to adopt the minutes of the July 20, 2021 Board meeting.

2. State Water Board Liaison Update [*Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison*]

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Water Board activities.

Uncontested Items

3. R7-2021-0047 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State issued to Blythe Mesa Solar II, LLC for the Blythe Mesa Solar II Project, Riverside County [*Logan Raub, WRCE*]

A representative from the discharger was available for questions from the Board. There were no questions from the Board or public comments for this agenda item.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0047 as proposed.

Contested Items

4. R7-2021-0040 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Coachella Valley Aggregates Wash and Screening Plant and Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operation, Coachella Valley Aggregates, Inc., owner/operator, Riverside County [*Reginald Tan, WRCE*]

Reginald Tan, WRCE, provided an overview of permit requirements for the facility, which is a sand and gravel mine that includes an aggregate wash and screening plant with plans to begin an Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operation.

Speakers: Mike Buckantz, Associates Environmental
Jennifer Fieber, Associates Environmental

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0040 as proposed.

5. R7-2021-0021 – Consideration of adoption of Change of Name and/or Ownership for Waste Discharge Requirements for Crimson Solar Project [*Kai Dunn, Sr. WRCE*]

Representatives from the discharger were available for questions from the Board. There were no questions from the Board or public comments for this agenda item.

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

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0021 as proposed.

6. R7-2021-0006 – Consideration of adoption of Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order in the Matter of Imperial Irrigation District, owner/operator El Centro Generating Station and Grass Carp Hatchery, Imperial County [*Maribel Pizano, Sanitary Engr. Assoc.*]

Maribel Pizano, Sanitary Engineering Associate, provided an overview of the settlement agreement and stipulated order imposing an administrative civil liability in the amount of \$549,000. The parties agreed that this amount would be suspended pending the funding and completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) proposed by the Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health. Ms. Pizano explained that the SEP would provide additional funding for the second phase of a pilot project providing for the construction and maintenance of at least 25 point of entry (POE) water treatment systems for rural households in remote areas that obtain their residential water supply from an IID irrigation canal that delivers raw and untreated Colorado River water.

Speakers: Meghan Quinn, Downey Brand LLP
Luis Olmedo, Comité Civico del Valle
Jeff Lamoure, Imperial County Division of Environmental Health
Jorge Perez, Imperial County Division of Environmental Health

Motion: Peter Satin moved, Jayne Powell seconded, with Beatriz Gonzalez noting the verbal commitment by Imperial County for ongoing community outreach in collaboration with Comité Civico Del Valle related to the SEP. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0006 as proposed.

Informational Items

7. Coachella Valley Salt Nutrient Management Plan Update [*Greg Middleton, Senior EG*]

Chair Nancy Wright recused herself from this item, and Vice-Chair Powell continued the meeting.

Greg Middleton, Senior Environmental Geologist, introduced the item and provided background on the history and current status of salt and nutrient management planning for the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin.

Andy Malone of West Yost Associates, on behalf of several Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV-SNMP) stakeholders, provided a presentation concerning the structure and scope of the proposed workplan to develop the CV-SNMP, with a target completion date of the plan by 2025. He noted the need for site specific, numeric water quality objectives for total dissolved solids (TDS) in the basin. He explained that the objectives of the CV-SNMP will be to comply with state law and policies, protect and maximize beneficial uses of groundwater, and implement cost effective salt and nutrient management strategies targeted to meet numeric objectives for salts and nutrients.

Chair Wright returned to session.

8. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report [*Paula Rasmussen, EO*]

- The Regional Water Board office continues to operate with most staff working remotely. The lobby is open during business hours, and staff come in as needed to support their work. Plans are to continue with remote Board Meetings for now.
- One Stop Fuel, a former retail fuel station located in Blythe, had underground storage tanks (UST) that were removed in 2006. The site does not pose a risk to human health, safety or the environment and qualifies for closure pursuant to the State Water Board's *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy*.
- A second site that qualifies for closure pursuant to the State Water Board's *Low-Threat Closure Policy* is the former Coachella Valley Minimex underground storage tank site.
- A "no further action" letter indicating the satisfaction of the requirements of Cease and Desist (CDO) R7-2018-0019 was issued to the Walmart store in Yucca Valley.
- A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was issued for the Oberon Solar Energy Project on August 13 for public comment. That project manager is Logan Raub, ES.
- A CEQA scoping meeting was held for Alamo River TMDLs for chloride, indicator bacteria, and toxicity on August 10.

- Staff participated in a meeting with California Department of Health Services, the State Water Board, the City of Calexico, and other stakeholders regarding a wastewater surveillance system project. Funding from the Centers for Disease Control has been provided to the Department of Health Services for participation in a sewer surveillance system for the COVID virus. The City of Calexico has been selected to participate in this study. This project should start in mid-September and continue through July 2022.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board Member Muzik provided information that the City of Twentynine Palms is looking at consolidating with the Twentynine Palms Water District and the public cemetery district.

Board Member Powell requested that the Board consider using electronic documents rather than paper documents in agenda binders, which use substantial amounts of paper and require staff time to assemble.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright reported that the Water Quality Coordinating Committee scheduled for October 21 and 22, 2021 is now all virtual and that attendance is encouraged. The topic is 50 years of the Clean Water Act and the impact of that Act on Californians.

Chair Wright congratulated Board Member Gonzalez on her confirmation and mentioned that Board Member Perez will be on the docket for confirmation in January 2022.

Closed Session

11. The Board adjourned to a closed session meeting at 1:23 pm to discuss a personnel matter under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a). Board Member Perez did not participate in the closed session. No action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned closed session and ended the meeting at 1:48 pm.