
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

April 9, 2024, 9:01 am to 10:05 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 Satin at 9:01 am on April 9, 2024. Peter Satin, Vivian Perez, Beatriz Gonzalez, Ed Muzik, and Nancy Wright were present. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Kai Dunn, Hilda Vasquez, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Michael Perez, Emma McCorckle, Franciso Costa, Angela Garcia, Samantha Shapiro, Zakary Owens, Wendy Wyels, David Boyers, and Kevin Gonzalez. Laurel Firestone attended via Zoom.

Public Attendance

Michele Biane, Biane Guard, LLC
Roger Mayes, Hi-Desert Water District

Remote Public Attendance

Elmer Llamas, California Department of Transportation
Marlee Nelson, Court Reporter

PETER SATIN, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2. Public Forum

No comments were received from the members of the public.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 12, 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 March 12, 2024.

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.

Uncontested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Item – 5)

5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX for California Department of Transportation Cactus City Roadside Rest Area (0G850 I-10), Riverside County

Staff Contact: Logan Raub, Senior ES

** Chair Satin recused himself and Vice-Chair Perez presided over the meeting.*

Motion to approve Item 5: Nancy Wright moved, Ed Muzik seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried to approve Order R7-2024-XXXX as presented.

** Chair Satin rejoined the meeting.*

Contested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Item – 6)

6. Cease and Desist Order R7-2024-XXXX for Biane Guard, LLC, Smoke Tree Villas Wastewater Collection 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.

A presentation was provided by Wendy Wyels of the Prosecution Team staff describing the facility location, pertinent sections of the waste discharge requirements, and the history of violations. She then summarized the 2022 Notice of Violation and the actions taken by the Discharger in response. Additionally, she described the tentative Cease and Desist Order and the proposed revisions within the Change Sheet provided. A brief discussion was held, and Legal Counsel and staff addressed questions and comments from the Board and recommended the proposed Order be adopted with revisions identified in the Change Sheet provided by the prosecution team.

Speaker: Michele Biane, Biane Guard, LLC

Board member Muzik recognized the Discharger's effort to improve the system and recommended allowing the extra amount of time they requested to complete the repairs.

Motion to approve Item 6: Nancy Wright moved, Vivian Perez 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 to approve Cease and Desist Order R7-2024-XXXX was passed unanimously with changes reflected in the Change Sheet.

Information Items

(No Actions on Items 7–10)

7. Workshop on Proposed Non-Regulatory Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region to include Tribal Beneficial Uses and Administrative Updates

Staff Contact: Francisco Costa, Environmental Scientist

Staff presented an overview on the Tribal Beneficial Uses, Statewide Mercury Provisions, and Administrative Updates Basin Plan Amendment. Staff addressed questions from the board regarding tribal involvement and resource availability. There were no questions from the public. Staff stated that the comment period for this item ends on April 26, 2024.

8. Report from Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen

The Executive Officer, Paula Rasmussen, presented an update on activities and plans for the region. She welcomed and introduced new staff Samantha Shapiro, Environmental Scientist, and stated that Zakary Owens, Engineering Geologist, will be transferring to the Department of Water Resources.

9. Comments from Board Members

Board member Wright mentioned that the Energy and Sustainability Committee will hold a meeting on April 11, 2024 with speaker Barry Bean, Imperial County Natural Resource Agency, discussing Lithium Extraction at the Salton Sea.

Board member Muzik acknowledged Roger Mayes, Hi-Desert Water District for attending the Board meeting.

Board member Gonzalez congratulated Coachella Valley Water District and elected officials for obtaining \$100 million for water infrastructure in the unincorporated areas of the Eastern Coachella Valley. A celebration was held in the community, and she was pleased to see that this will now provide access to clean drinking water.

10. Report from Board Chair, Peter Satin

Chair Satin stated he attended the Chair's monthly meeting with discussions primarily related to tribal designations.

Closed Session

11. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am

Next Board Meeting:
May 14, 2024 at 9:00 am