

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

September 3, 2003  
City Council Chambers  
City of La Quinta  
78-495 Calle Tampico  
La Quinta, CA 92253

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Gary Johnson at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 2003, in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**1. Board Member Roll Call**

Present: John Benson, Gary Johnson, F. Thomas Kieley, Leon Lesicka, Gregory Pettis, Brenda Soulliere and Nancy Wright

Absent: None

**2. Staff Present**

Adnan Al-Sarabi, Jose Angel, Jeff Allred, Sheila Ault, John Carmona, Liann Chavez, Jose Cortez, Ron Falkowski, Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, Kristie Garcia, Teresa Gonzales, Phil Gruenberg, Kirk Larkin, Phan Le, Michele Ochs, Kola Olatunbosun, Robert Perdue, Maribel Rodriguez, Jon Rokke, Jennie Snyder, Joan Stormo and Doug Wylie

**3. Others Present**

Leo Alvarez, Lanning Associates  
Bill Bayne, City of Cathedral City  
Bob Doss, Pacific Gas & Electric  
Daniel J. Muller, Representative for the owners of Meaders Cleaners  
Dave Luker, Desert Water Agency  
Deems Padgett, Consultant for Palm Springs Landscape Company  
Felix De Leon, City of El Centro  
John Clairday, Metropolitan Water District  
Lavelle Lesicka, Private Citizen  
Linda Gonsalves, Pacific Gas & Electric  
Lola Green, Granite Construction Company  
Lori Gualco, Representative for Palm Springs Landscape Company  
Lori Okun, State Water Resources Control Board - OCC  
Lou Kershnerg, Private Citizen  
Mike Rutledge, CalEnergy  
Sam Milliken, Private Citizen  
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District

**4. Minutes**

Meeting of June 25, 2003

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Mr. Lesicka seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved as submitted.

**5. Public Forum**

No one from the public chose to speak.

**6. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements**

Waste Discharge Requirement

NOTE: *Proposed Board Orders No. R7-2003-0003, R7-2003-0004 and R7-2003-0015 were removed to be voted on separately.*

MO	R7-2003-0075	Magma Power Company, Owner, Desert Valley Company, Owner/Operator, Class II Solid Waste Management Facility – Northwest of Westmorland, Imperial County (Updated Order)
MO	R7-2003-0076	Magma Power Company, Landowner, CalEnergy Operating Corporation, Operator, J.J. Elmore Power Plant Holding Pond and Wellfield Basins (Mud Sumps) – Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, Imperial County (Updated Order)
MO	R7-2003-0077	Magma Power Company, Landowner, CalEnergy Operating Corporation, Operator, Leathers Power Plant Holding Pond and Wellfield Basins (Mud Sumps) – Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, Imperial County (Updated Order)
	R7-2003-0073	Rescission/Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements
		CS 97-001 Travel Centers of America
		CS 97-042 Lost Lake Resort
		JS 97-018 Holtville WMF

**MOTION:** Mr. Benson moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Board Orders No. R7-2003-0073, R7-2003-0075, R7-2003-0076, and R7-2003-0077, including the errata, be adopted.

NOTE: *Mr. Johnson recused himself from voting on proposed Board Orders No. R7-2003-0003, R7-2003-0004 and R7-2003-0015.*

JAS	R7-2003-0003	Massey Sand and Rock Company, Owner/Operator, Indio Closed Landfill, Class III Municipal Solid Waste Landfill - Indio, Riverside County (Updated Order)
JAS	R7-2003-0004	Granite Construction Company, Owner/Operator, Granite Inert Waste Facility – Indio, Riverside County (Updated Order)
DV	R7-2003-0015	Kaiser Eagle Mountain, LLC, Owner/Operator, Sewage Disposal Facility – Desert Center, Riverside County (Updated Order)

**MOTION:** Mr. Lesicka moved, Mr. Benson seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Board Orders No. R7-2003-0003, R7-2003-0004 and R7-2003-0015 be adopted.

**7. Consideration to Affirm, Reject, or Modify Proposed Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R7-2003-0072 for Seeley County Water District**

Kirk Larkin, Regional Board staff, explained the circumstances leading to the issuance of the CDO.

**MOTION:** Ms. Wright moved, Mr. Benson seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

The roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Benson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kieley, Mr. Lesicka, Mr. Pettis, Ms. Soulliere and Ms. Wright

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously that CDO No. R7-2003-00072 be adopted.

**8. Update Covering Prospective Remedial Actions at Meaders Cleaners**

Robert Perdue, Regional Board staff, gave a brief history of contamination and remediation at the site.

Deems Padgett, TRC, gave a brief update on remedial action projects at the Meaders Cleaners site.

Leo Alvarez, Century Insurance Company, reported the installation of additional monitoring wells at the site.

Lori Gualco, Esq., Representative of Palm Springs Landscape Company, reported the progress of the SVE system previously installed at the Meaders Cleaners site. She also expressed appreciation for cooperation and courtesy received from Regional Board staff.

Mr. Perdue stated that additional progress reports are forthcoming.

**9. Updated on Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Chrome VI Plume, Topock Facility**

Mr. Perdue gave a brief history of pollution issues at the site.

John Clairday, Esq., Metropolitan Water District, expressed thanks to the Regional Board, Board staff, and legal counsel for leadership taken in moving forward in a positive direction. He also expressed appreciation for efforts taken by PG&E. He stated that parties involved are now moving forward in a cooperative way, which will result in expeditious cleanup of the site.

Linda Gonsalves, PG&E, presented maps of the Topock site, including surrounding landowners and location of monitoring wells. She reported the Chromium VI concentration detected at each monitoring well. Ms. Gonsalves reported that the consultative working group, along with PG&E, has devised a schedule for a pilot pump and treat system, which is expected to start in December 2003.

**10. Border Pollution**

Joan Stormo, Regional Board staff, gave an overview of water quality concerns in the New River at the international boundary. She also discussed the status of the Mexicali I and Mexicali II sanitation projects, the acquisition of emergency equipment to eliminate raw sewage discharges into the New River, and the San Diego court decision regarding environmental documents for the Mexicali power plants.

#### **11. Informational Update on State Board Activities**

Pete Silva was unable to attend the meeting.

Lori Okun, Esq., State Water Resources Control Board, reported that Our Children's Earth Foundation has filed a petition to the SWRCB, regarding a backlog of NPDES permits at the Regional Boards. The petition was rejected by the SWRCB on procedural grounds. Ms. Okun stated that Region 7 does not have any backlogged NPDES permits.

Ms. Okun reported that, beginning in November 2003, she would be reassigned to Region 3. She stated that Catherine George, Esq., would then take over as legal counsel for Region 7.

#### **12. Regional Board Executive Officer's Report**

Mr. Gruenberg announced the introduction of Bill HR 2828, which would designate \$300 million for Salton Sea related issues. He added that he is drafting a letter of support, outlining specific remediation efforts for which the money could be used.

Regarding the ACLC previously issued to the City of Coachella, Mr. Gruenberg announced that the City has paid in full and waived their right to a hearing.

Mr. Gruenberg reported that a number of ACLCs have been issued to Imperial Valley sewage treatment plants. The dischargers have opted to do compliance projects in lieu of monetary fines.

Mr. Gruenberg stated that there were two significant raw sewage spills in the Coachella Valley. One was from Valley Sanitary District and the other from Coachella Valley Water District's sewage collection system. He added that ACLCs may be issued in the near future.

#### **13. Regional Board Staff Reports**

Ron Falkowski, Regional Board staff, gave a status update on the cleanup of a petroleum release at the golf cart maintenance facility at the Desert Springs Marriott Resort.

Doug Wylie, Regional Board staff, reported that this year the various grant programs under Prop 13, Prop 50, and CWA Section 319, were combined into eight different funds, totaling approximately \$138 million. Region 7 applicants were eligible to submit concept proposals for three of these funds. Six applicants from Region 7 have been invited to submit proposals for the final phase of the application process. Staff is currently assisting applicants with their final proposals.

Bill Bayne, City of Cathedral City, gave a status update on Cathedral City's onsite disposal system elimination project.

**14. Regional Board Member Comments**

Ms. Wright reported her attendance at the Colorado River Citizens Forum as well as the monthly New River Tour.

**15. Regional Board Chair's Report**

Mr. Johnson thanked Regional Board staff for their work on the PG&E remediation project. He announced that there would be a WQCC meeting, October 9–10, in Sacramento.

**16. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.