

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

March 23, 2006  
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 Nancy Wright at 10:03 a.m. on March 23, 2006 in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**1. Board Member Roll Call at 10:07 a.m.**

Present: Jeffrey Hays, Leon Lesicka, Maurice Martinez, Ellen Way, and Nancy Wright

**2. Staff Present**

Jose Angel, John Carmona, Mary Castaneda, Liann Chavez, Jose Cortez, Ron Falkowski, Cecilia Irwin, Phan Le, Michelle Ochs, Robert Perdue, Jon Rokke, Hilda Vasquez, and Doug Wylie.

**3. Others Present**

Bob Doss, PG & E Topock  
Julie Eakins, CH2M Hill  
Yvonne Meeks, PG & E Topock  
Dave Gilbert, PG & E Topock  
Bob Lucas, PG & E Topock  
Steve Charlton, Imperial Irrigation District  
Jeffrey Long, Golden State Water Company  
Norman Shopay, CalEPA, Dept. of Toxic and Substance Control  
Alana Townsend, City of Palm Desert  
Marina West, Joshua Basin Water District  
Dave Estes, Dudek/Joshua Basin Water District  
Lee Pearl, Hi-Desert Water District  
Linsey Dale, Imperial County Farm Bureau  
Bill Long, Joshua Tree Water District  
Gary Lovelace, Joshua Basin Water District  
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Ron Difelice, Esterline Armtec  
Janet Coke, LA County Sanitation District  
Thereza Dodge, LA County Sanitation District

David Roth Bant, LA County Sanitation District  
Joe Gazzetta, Joshua Basin Water District  
Catherine George, State Water Resources Control Board - OCC  
Tom Vandenberg, State Water Resources Control Board - OCC  
Tracey Jirout (Court Reporter)  
Ruth Lopez, Concerned Citizens representative, Needles

#### 4. Public Forum

Two speakers were recognized: Linsey Dale, TMDL Director of Imperial County Farm Bureau and, Ms. Ruth Lopez, Concerned Citizens representative, Needles, San Bernardino County. Robert Perdue asked and they agreed to make their statements after their particular items of interest had been discussed.

#### 5. Minutes

Meeting of November 16, 2005

**MOTION:** Maurice Martinez moved, Jeffrey Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved as submitted.

#### 6. Resolution No. R7-2006-0024: Expressing Appreciation to Gary Johnson for his services as a Regional Board Chairman.

Nancy Wright, Regional Board Chair, read Resolution R7-2006-0024 for Gary Johnson.

#### Resolution No. R7-2006-0025: Expressing Appreciation to Greg Pettis for his services as a Regional Board Member.

Nancy Wright, Regional Board Chair, read Resolution No. R7-2006-0025 for Greg Pettis.

**MOTION:** Jeffrey Hays moved, Maurice Martinez and Ellen Way seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2006-0024 and R7-2006-0025 be adopted.

#### Resolution No. R7-2006-0034: Adoption of the FY 2006-2007 Emergency, Abandoned, Recalcitrant (EAR) Account Site List.

Nancy Wright, Regional Board Chair, read Resolution No. R7-2006-0034 for Adoption of the FY 2006-2007 Emergency, Abandoned, Recalcitrant (EAR) Account Site List.

**MOTION:** Jeffrey Hays moved, Maurice Martinez and Ellen Way seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2006-0034 be adopted.

## 7. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

- R7-2006-0007 Waste Discharge Requirements, County of Imperial, Owner/Operator, Salton City Class III Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility – SW of Salton City, Imperial County (Updated Order)
- R7-2006-0010 Waste Discharge Requirements, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Owner/Operator Parker Dam Sewage Treatment Plant Infiltration Basin Disposal Facilities – Parker Dam, San Bernardino County.
- R7-2006-0017 RRM Properties, LTD., Owner/Operator Robertson's Ready Mix Sand and Gravel Processing Plant Washwater Infiltration/Evaporation Basin Disposal Facilities – Banning, Riverside County.
- R7-2006-0018 Granite Construction Co., Owner/Operator Sand and Gravel Processing Plant Washwater Infiltration/Evaporation Basin Disposal Facilities – North of Palm Springs, Riverside County.
- R7-2006-0022 Waste Discharge Requirements, A-1 Aggregates, Inc., Owner/Operator, A-1 Aggregates Sand and Gravel Plant Washwater Infiltration/Evaporation Basin Disposal.
- R7-2006-0031 Change of Ownership of Facilities Having Waste Discharge Requirements, Mesquite Regional Landfill – Brawley, Imperial County.

**NOTE:** Nancy Wright requested that Item No. 6, R7-2006-0008 – Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Owner/Operator, Topock Compressor Station, Floodplain Reductive Zone in Situ Pilot Test - Needles, San Bernardino County be considered separately.

**MOTION:** Jeffrey Hays moved, Maurice Martinez seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Board Orders No. R7-2006-0007, R7-2006-0010, R7-2006-0017, R7-2006-0018, R7-2006-0022, and R7-2006-0031, including the errata for R7-2006-0010, and R7-2006-017 be adopted.

**NOTE:** Nancy Wright opened discussion of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company Item:

- R7-2006-0008 Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Owner/Operator, Topock Compressor Station, Floodplain Reductive Zone in-situ Pilot Test – Needles, San Bernardino County

Liann Chavez introduced Yvonne Meeks to present an update on the project and status report of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company Groundwater Cleanup. Ms. Meeks also discussed chromium chemistry, distribution by the River floodplain, and related issues.

Dave Gilbert and Bob Doss, Principal Engineers, Environmental Services and Julie Eakins Environmental Consultant for PG & E were present and answered questions from the Board, including how much chromium is still in groundwater and water quality trends.

Ms. Ruth Lopez, Concerned Citizens representative, Needles, addressed the Board regarding potential health effects of chromium on the community and River users and concerns about the dumping of hazardous and radioactive waste near water resources in San Bernardino County. She also questioned whether water from the Colorado River was being tested for chromium, downstream from Topock. Jose Angel reported that the Regional Board has been testing for it at various downstream locations and the analyses were "non-detect". The Board thanked Ms. Lopez for the information and her concerns about water quality.

Regarding the duration of the Pilot Test, Norman Shopay, Department of Toxic Substance Control, Project Manager stated there is a Finding in the WDR that might limit the pilot test to a six (6) month period. Tom Vanderberg proposed errata inserting language in the WDR under Provisions to provide the ability to request an extension for operation of the pilot test beyond the six (6) month time period.

**MOTION:** Jeffrey Hays moved, Leon Lesicka seconded and motion carried unanimously that Board Order No. R7-2006-0008 with the verbal and written errata be adopted.

#### **9. Informational Update on Meaders Cleaners, Palm Springs**

Ron Falkowski gave an update on Meaders Cleaners. He informed the Board about the progress of new well installations.

#### **10. Informational Item on Septic Tanks**

Jon Rokke gave the Board an update regarding septic tanks pollution issue throughout the region especially in the high desert area. He mentioned that the Regional Board efforts are a work in process, State Board is ready to adopt Statewide Septic regulations and State Board staff is hoping to present them to the State Board for adoption by November 2006.

Also, Lee Pearl, General Manager of the Hi-Desert Water District, Gary Lovelace, Joshua Basin Water District, and Barry Bierschbach, Consulting Engineer for Engineering Resources, discussed septic systems and related issues and answered questions from the Board.

**11. Informational Item on Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Management Practices for Reducing Drain Water Quality Impairment**

Linsey Dale introduced herself as the new TMDL Program Director of Imperial County Farm Bureau. She gave the Board an update on reduction of Silt and Sediment in the Agricultural Drain Water. Steve Charlton, IID Engineer, made a presentation on IID's efforts in reducing drain water quality impairment from drain maintenance activities.

**NOTE:** Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Wetland Project was removed from the consent calendar.

**12. Informational Item from L.A. County Sanitation District**

Janet Coke, representative from L.A. County Sanitation District gave the Board an update on development of the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County.

**13. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Report**

Robert Perdue reported he went on a tour of the Baja Gulf of California Delta region with Nancy Wright. He also stated that Catherine George, SWRCB, OCC is leaving Region 7, and will be missed. Tom Vandenberg has taken her place as Board legal counsel.

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

Nancy Wright reported that Water Education Foundation Executive Director, Rita Sudman asked Robert Perdue and her about placing the Water Education Foundation on a list of Supplemental Environmental Projects for the Board to consider when settling a portion of Administrative Civil Liability Complaints. Chair Wright joined in the tour of the Baja Gulf of California Delta region with Robert Perdue near the International Boundary. She encouraged everyone to come and visit the project. She also attended the Salton Sea Advisory Committee Meeting with Jose Angel on March 16, 2006. Chair Wright reminded the Board Members that Form 700 is due on April 1, 2006, and the WQCC Meeting for the Regional Board Members and State Board Members will be held in Sacramento on April 24 and 25, 2006, and encourages everyone to attend.

**15. Informational Update on State Water Resources Control Board Activities**

Tom Vandenberg reported the names of the three State Water Resources Board Members: Art Baggett, Tam Dudoc and Jerry Secundy.

**16. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comment**

There were no comments.

## **17. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes of 3/23/06-cmi