

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

April 11, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-720 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

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**Roll Call (Board members only) and Introductions**

Nancy Wright, Tom Davis, Ed Muzik, Jayne Powell, and Peter Satin were present. Buford Crites was absent. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 9:00 a.m. on April 11, 2019 in Palm Desert, California.

**State and Regional Board Staff Present:**

Paula Rasmussen, Frank Gonzalez, Abdi Haile, Katharine Buddingh, Kai Dunn, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Doug Wylie, Joan Stormo, Mary Castaneda, Terry Barnes, Kevin Heineman, Jose Cortez, Phan Le, Jose Valle-DeLeon, Cathy Sanford, Denise Leon, Natalie Taub, Sam Boland-Brien, and Natalie Stork.

**Others Present**

Manuel Castaneda, Centinela State Prison  
Christopher Aguilar, Centinela State Prison  
Bob Fischer, NAF El Centro  
Ignacio Colunga, Centinela State Prison  
Angela Patterson, NAF El Centro  
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District

**Public Forum**

There were no speakers during the public forum at this meeting.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes  
Minutes of March 7, 2019 Board Meeting

**Motion:** Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt minutes of March 7, 2019.

**Uncontested Items**

*\*Item 2 was removed from the Uncontested Calendar for further discussion*

2. R7-2019-0003 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES) for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Centinela State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant Imperial, Imperial County [Jose Valle De Leon, WRCE]

Board member Jayne Powell asked for clarification on the average design flow for the facility and on how the Spill Response Plan provisions were applied. Kai Dunn, Sr. Water Resources Control Engineer, addressed the questions. Clarifying language concerning the Spill Response Plan was added to the permit.

Speaker Card: Manuel Castaneda, Centinela State Prison

**Motion:** Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0002 with Errata.

*\*Items 3 and 4 were removed from Uncontested Calendar for further discussion and were heard together*

3. R7-2019-0034 – Consideration of adoption of Resolution Adopting an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at Sites within the Colorado River Basin Region [*Phan Le, WRCE*]

Joan Stormo, Sr. Engineering Geologist, provided an overview of the Resolution and General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) (Items 3 and 4). The presentation summarized the permit requirements related to *in-situ* groundwater remediation and discussed the advantages of regulation via General WDRs as opposed to individual WDRs, the types of *in-situ* groundwater treatments covered by the order, as well as antidegradation and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) considerations.

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0034.

4. R7-2019-0016 – Consideration of adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at Sites within the Colorado River Basin Region [*Phan Le, WRCE*]

**Motion:** Tom Davis moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-0016.

### **Informational Items**

5. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update  
[*Samuel Boland-Brien, Sr. WRCE, Natalie Stork, EG, State Water Board*]

Samuel Boland-Brien, Sr. Water Resources Control Engineer for the State Water Board's Groundwater Management Program, and Natalie Stork, Engineering Geologist, presented an informational update on the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This included an overview of the goals of the program, key components of Groundwater Sustainability Plans, triggers for state intervention in local groundwater management, and possible actions by the State Water Board if state intervention is triggered. Additionally, information was provided on the status of SGMA implementation in groundwater basins within the Colorado River Basin Region.

6. Department of Defense Program Update  
[*Jose Cortez, WRCE*]

Jose Cortez, Water Resources Control Engineer, presented an overview of the Department of Defense (DoD) Program. He provided a brief summary of the history and legal framework of the program, and discussed several active remediation sites in the program.

7. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level Basin Plan Amendment Update  
[Cathy Sanford, EG]

Cathy Sanford, Engineering Geologist, provided a status update on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment to add the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels from title 22 of the California Code of Regulations as groundwater quality objectives. She announced that a CEQA scoping meeting has been scheduled for May 16, 2019. She reported that the CEQA documents and amendment language were under development, with the adoption hearing currently planned for November 2019.

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

Paula Rasmussen reported that the two vacant Scientific Aid positions in the Region were filled. She introduced Denise Leon and Natalie Taub as the two newly-hired Scientific Aids.

She also noted that at the request of the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition, the tentative General Waste Discharge Requirements Order for agricultural discharges in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa will be presented to the Board for consideration of adoption at the May meeting in Blythe, California.

Ms. Rasmussen also mentioned that she attended the various meetings, including the State Water Board meeting held in La Quinta and North Shore. Key topics discussed were State Water Board priorities, the status of regulatory activities at the Salton Sea, and border pollution issues. Laurel Firestone was introduced as the new State Water Board member liaison for the Colorado River Basin Region, with Board member Tam Dodac as the alternate. Colorado River Basin Water Board staff presented at the meeting on border pollution issues and activities, and Board Chair Nancy Wright and Board members Jayne Powell and Ed Muzik were also in attendance. Ms. Rasmussen also mentioned attending a California-Mexico Border Relations Council meeting as well as a California-Mexico Border Strategic Dialogue meeting. Key topics discussed included border activities, the status of the New River Improvement Project, water quality at the border, and Tijuana River Watershed and bi-national border pollution issues and potential solutions. Additionally, she participated in the California Water Environment Association's Women Impacting Water event. She reported that staff attended a special forum held by The Desert Sun/Comite Civico del Valle in Palm Springs regarding air/water pollution impacts on the local community. Board Chair Nancy Wright participated in the forum as a panelist, and Colorado River Basin Water Board staff hosted an information table at this event.

Lastly, Ms. Rasmussen added that State Water Board issued an investigative order to certain facilities (landfills and airports) throughout the state that handled Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). These chemicals are used in consumer products as grease and stain repellents and are potentially toxic even at low concentrations. The order requires facilities to submit work plans for investigating potential PFAS contamination.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board member Jayne Powell stated that the Region was well represented at the State Water Board meeting held in Coachella Valley, which addressed ongoing regulatory activities at the Salton Sea. She appreciated the effort and preparedness demonstrated by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff at this meeting.

Board member Ed Muzik provided an update on Hi-Desert Water District's progress on the new wastewater treatment plant that will service the Town of Yucca Valley, mentioning that clean water testing of the plant starts in June 2019 and that the first customers will be hooking up to the system in September 2019.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Nancy Wright stated that she was pleased to have been a panelist for The Desert Sun/Comite Civico del Valle's forum on the air/water pollution held in Palm Springs. She stated that it was a good, well-attended event and brought the best political awareness thus far to efforts to clean up the New River. Other panel members consisted of the new International Boundary and Water Commissioner Jayne Harkins and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia. She was pleased to hear that one of Ms. Harkins' top priorities is sanitation at the border. Chair Wright also met Laurel Firestone, the new State Water Board liaison for the Colorado River Basin Region, who will be attending the Colorado River Basin Water Board meeting in June 2019 in Yucca Valley, California.

Additionally, she attended a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Section (CORBS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) in February, where awards were presented to various local water agencies. Coachella Valley Water District, Veolia Palm Springs, City of Banning, City of El Centro, and Mission Springs Water District were among the award recipients. She mentioned that she will also be attending the Chair's Meeting in Sacramento on April 30, 2019, along with Executive Officer Paula Rasmussen.

*\*The Board went into closed session at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 11:43 a.m.*

11. Closed Session

A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a), and no action was taken.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.