

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

July 11, 2019, 9:30 a.m. to 10:54 a.m.
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
City of Brawley Council Chambers
383 Main Street
Brawley, CA 92227

Roll Call (Board members only) and Introductions

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 9:30 a.m. on July 11, 2019 in Brawley, California.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present:

Paula Rasmussen, Frank Gonzalez, Katharine Buddingh, Jennifer Fordyce, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Hilda Vasquez, Dan Mefford, Rosalyn Fleming, Francisco Costa, Logan Raub, and Jennie Snyder.

Others Present

Cheryl Cloud, Bard Water District
Steve Alameda, Bard Water District
Charles Sanchez, University of Arizona
Steve Charlton, Imperial Irrigation District
Al Kalin, Imperial County Farm Bureau
Brea Mohammed, Imperial County Farm Bureau
Rachel Magos, Imperial County Farm Bureau
Gustavo Rodriguez, Public

Public Forum

There was one speaker during the public forum at this meeting. Brea Mohammed, Executive Director of the Imperial County Farm Bureau, provided information on the joint coalition of Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County Farm Bureau. She also presented a letter to the Board Members regarding discharges of waste from irrigated agricultural lands for dischargers that are members of a coalition group in Imperial Valley. She requested an exemption to the irrigation and nitrogen management planning (INMP) and reporting requirements from the State Water Board's precedential Eastern San Joaquin Order (Order WQ 2018-0002). She also invited Board Members and Board staff to tour the agricultural fields of Imperial Valley.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Minutes of June 13, 2019 Board Meeting

Motion: Tom Davis moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt minutes of June 13, 2019.

Contested and Discussion Items

2. R7-2019-XXXX – Consideration of adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Imperial Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that are Members of a Coalition Group in Bard Valley (Bard Agricultural General Order), Imperial County [*Logan Raub, ES*]

Logan Raub, an Environmental Scientist with the Regional Water Board, gave an overview of the proposed Bard Agricultural General Order and its requirements. He discussed public comments received and responses to those comments. He provided details about requirements for the coalition and coalition members, and also described the difference between the proposed order and the expired waiver.

Speaker Cards: Steve Alameda, Bard Valley Water District
Charles Sanchez, University of Arizona, Environmental Sciences

Motion: Buford Crites moved, Tom Davis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2019-XXXX with Errata.

Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Crites-Yes, Member Davis-Yes, Member Muzik-Yes, Member Powell-Yes, Chair Wright-Yes. Approved by vote 5-0.

Informational Items

3. Informational Update: Integrated Report [*Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE*]

Rosalyn Fleming, a Water Resource Control Engineer with the Regional Water Board, gave an overview of the Integrated Report process, which functions as a health report for regional surface waters.

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

Paula Rasmussen reported that the Regional Water Board had a recent retirement, Doug Wylie, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer in the Landfill and Waste Discharge Requirements Unit. Doug was a state employee for 31 years and had worked at the Regional Water Board for 18 years. She mentioned that his knowledge and expertise would be missed.

Ms. Rasmussen reported the Regional Water Board issued a case closure for an Underground Storage Tank (UST) site in Needles, an active Texaco gas station.

Ms. Rasmussen mentioned that the State Water Board plans to conduct workshops on the recent Executive Order N-10-19 signed by Governor Newsom. The Executive Order directs CalEPA, the Natural Resources Agency, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to prepare a water resilience portfolio to meet the water needs of California through the twenty first century. She mentioned that the planned workshops would help identify the policy, data, and resource needs for a resilient water future, and that the State Water Board was tentatively scheduled to present the informational item at the September board meeting.

Ms. Rasmussen shared there would be a community meeting in Calexico to provide an update to stakeholders on the status of the New River Improvement Project. She noted that the meeting would be a significant milestone representing a hand off to the City of Calexico for the next phase of the project, i.e., the CEQA process for the pipeline in the diversion project.

Ms. Rasmussen also mentioned the next Board Meeting would be on September 19 in Palm Desert starting at 1 pm.

5. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board Member Ed Muzik mentioned there would be a ribbon-cutting on Thursday, October 3rd for the new sewer facility in Yucca Valley (time TBD), with all welcome to attend. He also thanked the City of Brawley for the use of its facility.

Vice-Chair Buford Crites mentioned he and Chair Wright met with the Riverside County Supervisor on July 10, and Chair Wright pointed out the need for the county to visit with the Salton Sea Authority, CalEPA, and federal EPA regarding Salton Sea issues.

6. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright confirmed she and Vice-Chair Crites attended a meeting with the Riverside County Supervisor, and she mentioned the county wanted to verify the feasibility of certain planned activities at the north end of the Salton Sea and to ensure the accuracy of information conveyed to the public.

Chair Wright mentioned the June 28 letter of support that the Salton Sea Authority sent to the Commissioner of IBWC, Jane Harkins. She noted that cities and water districts in the Coachella Valley may also be asked to provide similar support letters and provide information on various Salton Sea issues.

Chair Wright thanked Ms. Rasmussen for her written Executive Officer's report, which included a list of settlements of mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) under Water Code section 13385.

Chair Wright mentioned the next WQCC would be held on October 30.

7. Closed Session

There was no closed session held, and no action was taken.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.