

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:43 a.m.

Zoom Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

Archived audio and video webcasts of Board meetings are available at the following link:
<https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Wright introduced and welcomed new Board members Beatriz Gonzalez and Vivian Perez to the Regional Board.

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Beatriz Gonzalez, and Vivian Perez were present. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 9:00 a.m. on May 11, 2021.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Laurel Firestone, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Hilda Vasquez, Adriana Godinez, Kai Dunn, Jose Cortez, Kathleen Bindl, Emily Cushman, Andrew Tauriainen, and Heather Jidkov,

Virtual Public Attendance

Jonathon Kirby, Alta Mesa Wind
Chris Sowell, Southern California Gas Company
John Shimmin, Big Bear Wastewater Agency
David Lawrence, Big Bear Wastewater Agency
Lee Storey, Paradise Wellness Center, Inc.
Daron Colby, Lean Green Industries-Ins.

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 13, 2021 Board Meeting.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye. Beatriz Gonzalez and Vivian Perez abstained.

The motion was carried to adopt the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Board meeting.

2. State Water Board Liaison Update [Laurel Firestone, State Water Board Liaison]

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Water Board activities.

Contested and Discussion Items

3. R7-2021-0018 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State issued to AM Wind Repower LLC, Alta Mesa Wind Project, Riverside County [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]

**Board member Peter Satin recused himself from Item #3.*

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Recused.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2021-0018 as proposed.

**Board member Peter Satin rejoined the meeting.*

4. R7-2021-0020 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State issued to Southern California Gas Company, Line 4000 Phase I Remediation Digs Project, San Bernardino County [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0020 as proposed.

5. R7-2021-0023 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Big Bear Regional Wastewater Agency, Export of Recycled Water to Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, provided a presentation on the proposed Order and discussed the key permit requirements for the facility, as well as comments received from the Discharger. She also summarized staff's written response to comments and corresponding changes made to permit terms.

An additional verbal Errata was provided by Katharine Buddingh, Legal Counsel.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0023 with changes identified in the written Response to Comments and the verbal Errata.

6. R7-2021-0027 – Consideration of adoption of Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order in the Matter of Paradise Wellness Center, Inc., Curtis Devine, San Bernardino County [Cassandra Owens, AEO]

Cassandra Owens, Assistant Executive Officer, provided introductory remarks, followed by presentations from Prosecution Team Members Andrew Tauriainen, Attorney in the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement, and Kathleen Bindl, Environmental Scientist with the Lahontan Regional Water Board. The Prosecution Team provided background on the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint issued against Paradise Wellness Center, Inc. for alleged violations of the State Water Board’s *General Waste Discharge Requirements and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities* for the site located in Needles. Following settlement discussions, the parties agreed to resolve the allegations through a Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order in the amount of \$18,885.44.

Lahontan Water Board staff addressed questions and concerns from the Board, and Andrew Tauriainen, State Water Board Attorney in the Office of Enforcement, provided clarification on specific terms of the settlement agreement.

Speakers: Lee Storey, Paradise Wellness Center, Inc.

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0027 as proposed.

7. R7-2021-0030 – Consideration of adoption of Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order in the Matter of Lean Green Industries-Ins., LLC, San Bernardino County [Cassandra Owens, AEO]

Cassandra Owens, Assistant Executive Officer, provided introductory remarks, followed by presentations from Prosecution Team Members Heather Jodkov, Attorney in the State Water Board’s Office of Enforcement, and Emily Cushman, Environmental Scientist with the Lahontan Regional Water Board. The Prosecution Team provided background on the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint issued against Lean Green Industries-Ins., LLC for alleged violations of the State Water Board’s *General Waste Discharge Requirements and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities* for the site located in Cathedral City. Following settlement discussions, the parties agreed to resolve the allegations through a Stipulated Civil Liability Order in the amount of \$ 35,000.

Lahontan Water Board staff addressed questions and concerns from the Board, and Heather Jidkov, State Water Board Attorney in the Office of Enforcement, provided clarification on specific terms of the settlement agreement.

Speakers: Deron Colby, Lean Green Industries-Ins., LLC.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell, and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0030 with Errata.

Informational Items

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

- Ms. Rasmussen echoed Chair Wright's welcome of the two new Board members Beatriz Gonzalez and Vivian Perez.
- Regional Water Board staff has been focused on completing fiscal year end priority projects and permits, including site cleanup activities and closures as well as Underground Storage Tank activities which are not presented to the Board.
- Staff changes and new hires for the region: Logan Raub, Environmental Scientist, has transferred from the TMDL Unit to the NPDES Unit, and a new Scientific Aid has been hired and will begin at the end of May.
- Last month, staff worked with the State Water Board and developed a press release regarding harmful algal blooms (HABs) at the Salton Sea. Warning signs are being posted to inform visitors by local health agencies.
- The contract for the New River Improvement Project between the City of Calexico and Department of Water Resources was signed in April. Revised submittal dates will be provided to the Regional Water Board for regulatory permits as soon as they are available.
- The Water Boards are awaiting the Governor's direction on returning to work and in-person Board Meetings.

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board member Muzik welcomed the two new Board members and thanked staff for their preparation and presentations.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright also thanked staff for a job well done at the meeting and extended a welcome to the new Board members.

11. **Closed Session**

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.