

## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

### MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2025, 10:08 am to 3:31pm

In-Person and Zoom Video/Teleconference Meeting

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

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### Introductory Matters

#### 1. Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Due to Board Chair Vivian Perez's absence and Board Vice-Chair Beatriz Gonzalez's anticipated inability to lead the March public meeting (due to recent illness), Board Chair Perez nominated Board Member Peter Satin as "acting chair" prior to the meeting.

Acting Chair Peter Satin called the meeting to order at 10:08 am on March 4, 2025, at the Imperial City Council Chambers, in the City of Imperial, California.

The Board Clerk conducted a roll call of Board Members physically present at the meeting. Peter Satin, Beatriz Gonzalez, Ed Muzik, Nancy Wright, and Azucena Beltran-Serrano were present. Chair Vivian Perez was absent.

Peter Satin determined that a quorum was physically present at the meeting location.

#### State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Michael Placencia, Cassandra Owens, David Lancaster, Mary Castaneda, Dan Mefford, Michael Perez, Logan Raub, Daniel Echeverria-Palencia, Jose Cortez, Julya Mestas, and Bryanna Allen.

#### Public Attendance

Luis A. Plancarte, Western Mesquite Mines, Inc.  
Jose Angel, Western Mesquite Mines, Inc.  
Rachel Magos, Imperial County Farm Bureau  
Sara Solorzano, Representative - Raul Ruiz (CA)

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VIVIAN PEREZ, CHAIR | MICHAEL PLACENCIA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Note:** Additional public officials, dignitaries and members of the public attended in person for the Board Members' tour of the New River Improvement Project in Calexico (Item 12). A sign-in sheet was not implemented for this portion of the meeting. However, attendees included: United States Customs and Border Protection Calexico Border Patrol Station leadership; the Mexican Consulate in Calexico; and the Mayor of the City of Calexico.

### **Remote Public Attendance**

David Pierce, Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 2  
Nicole Granquist, Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 2  
Eli Villareal, Palm Springs Unified School District  
Marlee Nelson, Court Reporter

### **2. Public Forum**

Speaker: Rachel Magos, Imperial County Farm Bureau

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of February 11, 2025, Board meeting.

Motion to approve Item 3— Minutes for February 11, 2025 public meeting: Nancy Wright moved, Azucena Beltran-Serrano seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Azucena Beltran-Serrano – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

Motion passed.

### **4. Update from the State Water Resources Control Board Liaison, Laurel Firestone**

State Water Board Liaison Laurel Firestone was not present.

**Contested Calendar of Items for Adoption**

**(Items 5-7)**

**5. Revised Time Schedule Order R7-2020-0019-02**

Party: Imperial Irrigation District  
Subject: City of El Centro Generating Station  
Location: Imperial County  
Staff Contact: Logan Raub, Senior Environmental Scientist  
([Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov))

Peter Satin administered the Oath for those intending to speak.

Staff provided background information about the revised Time Schedule Order. This included the revised Order purpose, a description of the El Centro Generating Station, original Time Schedule Order, previous amendment, requested Milestone time extensions, Discharger diligent progress in completing their project, the need for an amendment, and public comment period for the tentative Order. Staff concluded their presentation with a recommendation to adopt the revised Time Schedule Order.

Motion to approve Item 5—Tentative Revised Time Schedule Order R7-2020-0019-02 (as presented): Nancy Wright, Ed Muzik seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Azucena Beltran-Serrano – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Sating – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye

Motion passed.

**6. Waste Discharge Requirements Order with Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Parties: Western Mesquite Mines Inc, Equinox Gold Corporation and Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 2  
Subject: Western Mesquite Mines  
Location: Imperial County  
Staff Contact: Bryanna Allen, Engineering Geologist  
([Bryanna.Allen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bryanna.Allen@waterboards.ca.gov))

Member Peter Satin administered the Oath for those intending to speak.

Staff provided brief background information and discussed the proposed changes to the Tentative Order. This included increasing the Facility's horizontal footprint of the construction of HLP-8, to extend the solution conveyance system, and to construct a new surface impoundment to contain excess infiltration to HLP-8 during storm events. Staff discussed the comments received, responses to comments, summarized the changes as per the Change Sheet provided, and recommended adoption of the Tentative Order.

Peter Satin inquired about the number of pads the surface mining permit allows, and whether the mine will expand in subsequent years.

Speaker Jose Angel, appearing on behalf of Western Mesquite Mines, Inc., addressed questions from the Board and stated he supports staff's recommendation to adopt the Tentative Order presented.

Motion to approve Items 6—Tentative Order, subject to Change Sheet (as presented): Ed Muzik moved, Nancy Wright seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Azucena Beltran-Serrano – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

Motion passed.

## **7. Waste Discharge Requirements Order with Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Party:	Palm Springs Unified School District
Subject:	Rancho Mirage High School Cooling Towers
Location:	Riverside County
Staff Contact:	Julya Mestas, WRC Engineer ( <a href="mailto:Julya.Mestas@waterboards.ca.gov">Julya.Mestas@waterboards.ca.gov</a> )

Acting Chair Peter Satin administered the Oath for those intending to speak.

Staff gave an overview on the changes proposed in the Tentative Order which included a revised total dissolved solids effluent limit, more detailed description of the disposal facilities, and a change in the reporting frequency in the Monitoring and Reporting Program. Staff discussed proposed changes in the Change Sheet accompanying the Tentative Order, as well as an additional change identified in the presentation; addressed Board member questions; and recommended adoption of the Tentative Order, subject to the Change Sheet and an additional revision discussed in the staff presentation (i.e., changing “adopted” to “issued” in Finding 13 of the Tentative Order).

Motion to approve Item 7—Tentative Order, subject to the changes specified in the accompanying Change Sheet and the additional change identified in the presentation: Peter Satin moved, Ed Muzik seconded, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Azucena Beltran-Serrano – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Nancy Wright – Aye.

Motion passed.

**Information Items**

**(No Actions on Items 8 - 10)**

**8. Report from Executive Officer, Michael Placencia**

The Executive Officer, Michael Placencia, provided an update on activities and plans for the region. He reported that in January staff held two CEQA Scoping Meetings at the Salton Sea and participants and the public were able to ask questions and voice their concerns. Staff also attended a virtual meeting for the Community Steering Committee for Assembly Bill 617 hosted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and targeted at the Eastern Coachella Valley. He also reported that the New River Improvement Project has begun testing their pumps with the treated effluent water being directed to an alternative discharge point. He mentioned that efforts to fill staff vacancies are still underway and vacancies should be filled soon. He stated that Governor Newsom has ordered state employees to return to work four days a week starting July 1st.

**9. Comments from Board Members**

Member Muzik thanked Jose Angel for his efforts in organizing the Board tour of the New River Improvement Project following the Board meeting.

Member Satin concurred and stated he was looking forward to the tour.

**10. Report from Board Chair, Vivian Perez**

There was no report due to the Chair's absence.

**Closed Session**

**11. Closed Session**

No closed session was held. The Council Chamber portion of the public meeting ended at 11:05 am. A recess was taken for lunch and travel to Calexico for the New River Improvement Project Tour.

**12. New River Improvement Project Tour**

After a recess for lunch and travel, the public meeting resumed along the New River near the United States/Mexico border. Whereas the Board Members proceeded to a tour of the New River Improvement Project. Regional Board staff provided transportation, and as previously noted the tour will not be streamed online or remote participation allowed.

**Adjournment**

The offsite tour ended at 3:31 pm, whereupon Acting Chair Peter Satin formally ended the public meeting.

Next Board Meeting:

April 1, 2025 at 9:00 am

Location: Palm Desert, California.