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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

July 9, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 9:58 a.m. Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, and Sahara Huazano 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 July 9, 2020.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Laurel Firestone, Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Mary Castaneda, Sara Simpson, Dan Mefford, Jose Valle DeLeon, Kai Dunn, Jennie Snyder, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar.

Virtual Public Attendance

Wayne Lane, Imperial Irrigation District Mario Escalera, Imperial Irrigation District Theresa Dunham, Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition Gail Delihant, Western Growers Association

Public Forum

There were no public speakers during the Public Forum.

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

Laurel Firestone provided an informational update on various State Board activities. She reported that the first Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safer Program for safe and affordable drinking water was adopted. This plan outlines how the \$130 million will be utilized. She also confirmed the Salton Sea Workshop on August 19, 2020, and a Toxicity Workshop on July 29, 2020. Both workshops will be virtual.

Uncontested Items

2. <u>R7-2020-0019</u> - Consideration of adoption of Time Schedule Order for Imperial Irrigation District, Owner/Operator, El Centro Generating Station – Imperial County [*Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE*]

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

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Sahara Huazano – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2020-0019 with changes in response to comments.

Workshop

Coachella Valley Agricultural Workshop [Jennie Snyder, WRCE]

Jennie Snyder, Water Resources Control Engineer, discussed the draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that Are Members of a Coalition Group in the Coachella Valley. An overview of statewide requirements for irrigated lands regulation was provided. A comparison was made between requirements in the existing Coachella Valley Conditional Waiver and the draft General Order. The public review process, which included discussions with the coalition and a 60-day public review, was outlined.

Virtual Speaker Cards: Gail Delihant, Western Growers Association
Theresa Dunham, Law Firm of Khan, Soares and Conway (on behalf of Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition)

Informational Items

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

Ms. Rasmussen reported that three Administrative Civil Liability Complaints were issued by the Assistant Executive Officer. The complaints were for dischargers at cannabis facilities enrolled in the State Board General Order for cannabis. All three dischargers have submitted hearing waivers and are currently engaged in settlement negotiations with the prosecution team.

Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Vice Chair Powell commended Jennie Snyder, Regional Water Board staff, for an excellent and very informative presentation. She also appreciated and thanked the IT staff, Dan Mefford, for the technical assistance that he provided over the holiday weekend.

Board member Muzik also commended Jennie Snyder, Regional Water Board staff, on a great job on the presentation she provided to the Board.

4. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright concurred with the Boards comments and also thanked Ms. Snyder for her workshop presentation. She stated that she was looking forward to seeing how Regional Water Board staff and the coalition work together on some of the items discussed.

5. Closed Session

There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Next Board Meeting/Workshop

September 3, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. Location TBD

October 8, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. Location TBD