

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 26, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Luis A. Plancarte, President, at 10:20 a.m., January 26, 2023, at the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors Chamber, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Director Dockstader

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Luis A. Plancarte, President
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer
Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Ryan Kelley, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Gina N. Dockstader, Director

AGENCY

Imperial County
Imperial Irrigation District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
County of Imperial
Riverside County
Imperial Irrigation District

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary
Thomas Tortez, Director

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

DIRECTORS ABSENT

John Aguilar, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director

AGENCY

County of Riverside
County of Riverside

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM (in person)
Carlos Campos, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (in person)
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (via Zoom)

*(In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority bylaws, there being at least three of the five member agencies represented, *and a single director carrying the vote of both directors when the second director of the same agency is absent, a quorum was declared, and the meeting proceeded.)*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On site: Mario Renteria, Senator Padillas office; Lisa Bravata, Linda Thill, and Johnathan McDannell of Salton Sea Authority.

Via Zoom: Lisa Moore of Cultivating Conservation; Oracio Gonzalez of Ollin Strategies; and 47 others.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments in person by Mario Renteria, and via Zoom the Office of State Senator Padilla, Nathan White and Tom Sephton.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President Plancarte, Treasurer Cardenas, Directors, Perez and Tortez shared their comments.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of Outgoing Salton Sea Authority Board Members and welcoming New Board Members Special recognition and expressions of gratitude were shared by board members and the public for outgoing Board members James Hanks from the Imperial Irrigation District, Anthony Bianco from Coachella Valley Water District, and Jeff Hewitt of Riverside County. ***On motion from Board Member Cardenas, Second by Board Member Perez, resolutions of recognition and appreciation for each departing board member were passed unanimously.***

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. AB 361 Remote Meeting Authorization for January 26, 2023
2. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting January 26, 2023
3. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for November 2022
4. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2022 – 11/30/2022

On motion by Cardenas and second by Santillanes, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Cardenas, Santillanes, Dockstader, Tortez, Kelley and Perez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Aguilar and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION PASSED: 9- 0

B. Discussion and Board Direction Regarding “Commitment to Support Salton Sea Management Related to Water Conservation in the Lower Colorado River Basin”:

Board received a presentation from Federal, State, and Local representatives on the Colorado River issues and possible steps to prevent them. Presenters included:

Bureau of Reclamation

- Jacklynn “Jaci” Gould, Lower Colorado Basin Regional Director
- Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager
- Alan Butler, Hydraulic Engineer

State of California Department of Natural Resources

- Mario Llanos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, SSMP
- Lisa Lien-Maher, Deputy Secretary for Communications

Colorado River Board of California

- Peter Nelson, Director, Coachella Valley Water District

Imperial Irrigation District

- Tina Shields, Water Department Manager

Board members were afforded an opportunity to ask questions of presenters.

C. An update on US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study, Executed December 16, 2022 was provided by Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd.

D. Discuss Upcoming meetings and venues. CVWD board room unavailable for June and August Salton Sea Authority board meetings during remodel.

Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd mentioned that the Salton Sea Authority’s 30-year Anniversary falls on June 22 we will be planning a “special” meeting that day at a to be determined location, and the August meeting will likely be cancelled.

VI. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman provided a written report on Federal matters.

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies, provided an update on State issues.

2. State of California

Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency, provided an update on the SSMP and CNRA activities.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area (SSSRA) – No Report

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) – Juan DeLara provided an update.

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

1. Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd gave a brief update on the Desert Shores Project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held

Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Coachella Valley Water District
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