



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 23, 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 10:00 a.m., February 23, 2023, at Coachella Valley Water District, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Director Aguilar

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Luis A. Plancarte, President
Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary
John Aguilar, Director

AGENCY

Imperial County
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Coachella Valley Water District
County of Riverside

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Thomas Tortez, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer
Gina N. Dockstader, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Yxstian Gutierrez, Director
Ryan Kelley, Director

AGENCY

County of Riverside
County of Imperial

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

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

*(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: Pat Cooper, County of Riverside; William Patterson, CVWD; Nikola Lakic; Lee Hernandez of IID; Claudia Lopez, Chuck Tobin of Burrtec; and Lisa Bravata of Salton Sea Authority.

Via Zoom: Miguel Hernandez of CNRA; Ruben Garcia of Asm. E. Garcia's office; Lisa Moore of Cultivating Conservation; Oracio Gonzalez of Ollin Strategies; Carlos Campos of BB&K; Kristi Even of Eide Bailly and 11 others.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments in person by Eric Reyes, Greg Wilkinson, Nikola Lakic.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President Plancarte, Treasurer Cardenas, Secretary Estrada; Directors, Perez, Aguilar and Tortez shared their comments. Treasurer Cardenas requested that Staff contact Secretary Crowfoot regarding the open Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy position and the plan to fill it.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Introduction to Salinity Webinar, focused on gaining an understanding of the amount and chemistry and fate of the salts entering the Salton Sea - Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute. Webinar scheduled for Thursday, February 23 at 12pm.
Michael Cohen gave a short presentation on the upcoming Salinity Webinar.

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 Perez 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, Estrada, Aguilar, Tortez and Perez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors, Dockstader, Kelley and Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: Director Aguilar.

MOTION PASSED: - 7-0

- A. Community Engagement and Outreach – Presentations by California Natural Resources Agency and Community Based Organizations. Discussion of best practices in reaching all stakeholders of the region in anticipation of future efforts, including the US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study.

Miguel Hernandez, CNRA Mr. Rodriguez, KDI, and Sylvia Paz provided a range of perspectives on the subject.

Secretary Estrada, and Director’s Perez and Aguilar commented.

- B. Continued Discussion regarding Colorado River conservation measures and measuring impacts. – G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director

Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd opened the conversation.

Secretary Estrada, Lisa Moore-Lehman of Cultivating Conservation, Treasurer Cardenas and Director Tortez commented.

VI. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman of Cultivating Conservation provided a written report on Federal matters.

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal of 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 New River diversion and SCH.

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

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) – Due to technical difficulties, SSA, Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd recommended that Josh Nickerson, V.P. of the SSAC submit their comments in writing.

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

1. Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd gave a brief update. The SSA is working to secure a venue for an Outreach meeting at Desert Shores along with the County of Riverside who is also working on setting a date for an Outreach meeting at the NLDP. Also discussed AB 361

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held

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

Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 W Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-1020