

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 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 10:05 a.m., March 23, 2023, at Imperial County BOS Chamber, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Director Dockstader

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Luis A. Plancarte, President
Ryan Kelley, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer
Gina N. Dockstader, Director
John Aguilar, Director

AGENCY

Imperial County
Imperial County
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial Irrigation District
Coachella Valley Water District

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Thomas Torte, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director

AGENCY

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
County of Riverside
County of Riverside

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District

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)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, CNRA, Luis Olmedo, Executive Director Executive Director Comite Civico del Valle, Inc. Monika Galvez-Lua, Adonis Galarza, Alma Sanchez, Alondra Lara, David Villarino, Lillian Garcia, L. Sierra and Thomas Brinkerhoff.

Via Zoom: Jasmyn Phillips, Nathan White, Tom Sephton and 41 others.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments made in person by: Monika Galvez-Lua, Adonis Galarza, Alma Sanchez, Alondra Lara, David Villarino, Lillian Garcia, Luis Olmedo , Executive Director Executive Director Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.

Via Zoom: Jasmyn Phillips, Nathan White, Tom Sephton, Jose Barrera, Alex Zamora, Jose Garcia, Juan Serrato and Steven Belhumeur.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Cardenas, Directors Aguilar, Dockstader, Tortez and Perez shared their comments.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- A. Current research regarding microbial toxins at the Salton Sea and recommendation for an effective epidemiological study. – Dr. David Lo, Senior Associate Dean for Research at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, and a Distinguished Professor in the Division of Biomedical Sciences presented research and findings regarding health impacts to changes at the Sea. [Dr. Lo’s full presentation can be viewed online at Saltonsea.com ([click here](#)). Presentation begins at 28:50]

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. *CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File*
1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting March 23, 2023
 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for 2/1/2023 - 2/28/2023
 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 1/1/2023 – 1/31/2023
 4. Final executed “Agreement for the provision of non-tributary water to the Salton Sea Authority and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians through a public private partnership” – Acknowledge, Receive, and File

On motion by Perez and second by Cardenas, The Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed. Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Torte, Aguilar, Cardenas and Perez

ABSENT: Directors Estrada and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: Directors Kelley, Santillanes and Dockstader

MOTION PASSED

- B. Guiding Documents – Review of Salton Sea Authority organizing documents (as amended) and legislation which informs and directs the work of the Authority – G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/General Manager

G. Patrick O’Dowd opened the conversation. Treasurer Cardenas and Directors Perez commented.

- C. Oversight and Analysis – Discussion regarding proper role of Authority in assessing and mitigating risks to public health and economic impacts associated with changing conditions at the Salton Sea.

G. Patrick O’Dowd opened the conversation Treasurer Cardenas, Director Aguilar and Lisa Moore commented.

VI. REPORTS

- A. Federal

- 1. Federal Activities

- Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation provided a written report on Federal Matters.

- 2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks provided an update.

- B. State

- 1. State Advocacy Report

- Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies provided a written report on State Matters.

- 2. State of California

- Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency provided an update on the newly appointed Assistant Secretary, Samantha Arthur for Salton Sea Policy at the CNRA.

- 3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities

- Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks provided an update of activities and visitors at the State Park.

- C. Local

- 1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) Alan Pace, SSAC President – No Report

- D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held
Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
Coachella Valley Water District
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 398-2651

DRAFT