



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 27, 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., April 27, 2023, at Coachella Valley Water District, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Vice-President Santillanes

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

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

AGENCY

Imperial County
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Coachella Valley Water District
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Thomas Torte, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director
Ryan Kelley, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

V. Manuel Perez, Director

AGENCY

County of Riverside

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM (in person)
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (In Person)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Greg Wilkinson, Frank Ruiz, Audubon, Chuck Tobin, SSAC, Pat Cooper, Riverside Deputy Chief of Staff for Supervisor Perez, Alex Schriener, Jr. Earth Systems Pacific, Douglas Naimic, Cindy Byerrum, Eide Bailly.

Via Zoom: Samantha Arthur, CNRA Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA, Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation, Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies, Jasmyn Phillips, Nathan White, Tom Sephton, William Patterson, CVWD and 23 others.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments made in person by: Pat Cooper, Riverside Deputy Chief of Staff, for Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Greg Wilkinson, Frank Ruiz, Audubon, Chuck Tobin, SSAC.

Via Zoom: Jasmyn Phillips, Nathan White, Tom Sephton, Michael Cohen.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Cardenas, Directors Aguilar, Estrada, Dockstader shared their comments.

IV. 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 3/1/2023 – 3/31/2023
 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/1/2022 – 2/28/2023
 4. ACWA Region 9 Chair Nomination – G. Patrick O’Dowd

Motion made by Cardenas, 2nd by Dockstader, The Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed. Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: 7

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director’s Kelley, Tortez and Perez

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

B. Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Near-term Colorado River Operations.

G. Patrick O’Dowd introduced this item.

Lisa Moore, Greg Wilkinson, Tom Sephton, Nathen White, Director Aguilar, Treasurer Cardenas shared their comments.

Board directed staff to prepare written comments on SEIS.

C. State Legislative Bill Packet Review

Oracio Gonzalez/Ollin Strategies presented the following bills to the Board for consideration and direction:

1. Allen

i. [SB867](#) – Resources and Resiliency General Obligation Bond

Executive Director/GM G. Patrick O’Dowd introduced this item and asked Oracio from Ollin Strategies to present both SB867 and AB1567 concurrently to the Board for discussion and consideration. Due to the lack of funding for the Salton Sea, Staff recommended an Oppose unless Amend position, to conform this Bill with the request in AB1567.

Secretary Estrada and Treasurer Cardenas shared their comments.

2. Garcia

i. [AB1567](#) - Resources and Resiliency General Obligation Bond

On AB1567 Staff recommended that the Authority Support and Amended. Motion in favor of these Staff recommendations made by Treasurer Cardenas, 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes

Motion Passed

Without objection, Executive Director O’Dowd recommended that the following four bills (AB827, AB1593, AB1569, and AB1562) be considered and voted on collectively:

ii. [AB827](#) – Salton Sea Community Health Study

iii. [AB1593](#) – California Workforce Development Board:
Salton Sea Geothermal Resources Area: Equitable Access Program

iv. [AB1569](#) – Salton Sea Geothermal Resource Area: Lithium Valley Office of Development

v. [AB1562](#) – Southeastern California Desert Economic Zone

Staff recommended a Support position for AB827, AB1593, AB1569 and AB1562.

Chuck Tobin commented on AB827

Motion made by Treasurer Cardenas and 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes to approve all for Staff recommendations as presented.

AYES: 7

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director's Tortez, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

Director Ryan Kelley shared comments and his full support of the action taken and also expressed support for Palo Verde Valley's inclusion in this legislation.

3. Padilla

i. [SB583](#) – Salton Sea Conservancy

Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd introduced this item.

Secretary Estrada, Vice-President Santillanes, Treasurer Cardenas and Director Aguilar shared their comments.

Nathen White, Frank Ruiz and Pat Cooper, Riverside Deputy Chief of Staff shared their comments.

Secretary Estrada made a motion to oppose unless it is amended, with the specific request being the bill be made a two-year bill. This was 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes.

AYES: 4

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director's Kelley, Tortez, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 2 (Cardenas, Dockstader)

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- D. Proposed 2023-2024 Budget - Discussion. Staff recommendation: Approve Budget as presented subject to each member finalizing ministerial, operational, or other actions or approvals.

Director Dockstader commented.

Director Aguilar made a motion, 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes.

AYES: 4

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director's Kelley, Tortez, Estrada, Cardenas, Gueterrez and Perez

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- E. Schedule of Future Board Meetings – Discuss and potentially take action to change dates and times to address various conflicts.

Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd introduced this item, noting the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Salton Sea Authority, and Staff's intention to have this meeting held at an alternate location due to CWWD's Palm Desert Board Room not being available in June. Other possible date changes will be discussed at our next board meeting.

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, 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, Ollin Strategies provided a written report.

2. State of California

Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency provided an update.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities

Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks. No Report.

C. Local

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

D. Executive Director's Report and Comments.

E. Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd provided an update.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 12:48p.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

The Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting will be held:
Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 W Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
442-265-1020

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