

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 25, 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., May 25, 2023, at Imperial County BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led By Treasurer Cardenas

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

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

AGENCY

Imperial County
Imperial County
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Thomas TorteZ, Director
Gina N. Dockstader, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director
Samantha Arthur, Ex Officio Board Member

AGENCY

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Imperial Irrigation District
County of Riverside
California Natural Resources Agency

DIRECTORS ABSENT

V. Manuel Perez, Director
Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary

AGENCY

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

*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.*

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Eric M. Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad, Isamay Pasillas, Comite’ Civico De Valle, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA and Mr Cortez, Los Amigos de la Comunidad.

Via Zoom: Juan De Lara, Tom Sephton, Melinda Dorin, Jessica Humes, Mario Llanos, Reed McConnell, Vickie Doyle, Nathan White, Darren Simon, Jasmyn Phillips, Kay Pricola, Tina Shields, Jenny Ross, Pat Cooper, Elizabeth Jachens, Evon Wilhoff, Lee Hernandez and 7 additional members of the public.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments made in person by: Eric Reyes and Eric Cortez of Los Amigos de la Comunidad and Isamay Pasillas of Comite’ Civico De Valle.

Via Zoom: Nathen White and Jasmyn Phillips.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Cardenas shared his comments.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

A. Scott Bruckner, Principal Policy Analyst, Riverside County gave a presentation on the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District.

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting April 27, 2023
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for April 2023
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2022 – 03/31/2023
4. Reclassification/Elimination of Fish Clean-up Fund to General Fund

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

AYES: 7

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director’s Estrada, Perez and Santillanes

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

- B. Desert Shores “Restoring Habitat and Improving Air and Water Quality at the Salton Sea” – USBR Grant and Project update.
Executive Director/GM G. Patrick O’Dowd provided an update on the project.
- C. SB583 (Padilla) – Governance Structure, Operations & Maintenance.
ED O’Dowd gave a brief update. Directors Cardenas, Aguilar, and Ex Officio Board Member Samantha Arthur shared their comments.
- D. Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Comment Letter – Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation informed the Board that the SEIS process was delayed to include an assessment of a voluntary plan submitted by the lower basin states.
- E. Future Dates and Locations for Salton Sea Authority Board of Director meetings.
Executive Director/GM G. Patrick O’Dowd provided an update.

VI. REPORTS

A. Federal

- 1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation provided an update on Item E. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Comment Letter.
- 2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager, discussed commitment agreements and scopes of work. The BOR is working with CNRA and the Torres Martinez Tribe on their agreements. He stated that they are still on track to have those agreements awarded in September of this year.

B. State

- 1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies – No Report.
- 2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency provided an update in person.
- 3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks – Provided an update.

C. Local

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

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

- 1. G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority, provided an update.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting will be held:
Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
North Shore Beach & Yacht Club
99155 Sea View Drive
Mecca, CA 92254

Any public record, relating to an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting is available for public inspection in the lobby at the front desk of the County Law Building located at 82995 Highway 111, Indio, CA 92201.