

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 22, 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 10:14 a.m., June 22, 2023, at the North Shore Beach and Yacht Club and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Luis A. Plancarte, President
Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer
Gina N. Dockstader, Director
Samantha Arthur, Ex Officio Board Member

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Yxstian Gutierrez, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director

AGENCY

County of Riverside
County of Riverside

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary
Ryan Kelley, Director
John Aguilar, Director
Thomas Tortez, Director

AGENCY

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

*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: Frank Ruiz, Audubon

Via Zoom: Mario Renteria, Office of Senator Padilla, Ruben Perez, Assemblymember Garcia's office, Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation, Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies, Juan De Lara, SSAC, Alan Pace, SSAC, Mario Lopez, Imperial County, Kristi Even, Eide Bailly, Jim Barrett, CVWD, Tina Shields, IID, Joanna Hoff, IID, Lee Hernandez, IID, Alejandro Espinoza, Evon Willhoff, DWR, Stephanie Holstege, SWRCB and 17 others.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments were made in person.

Comments made Via Zoom: Nathan White commented on Colorado River operational guidelines.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President Plancarte and Director Dockstader commented favorably on the venue and setup. Director Gutierrez requested staff provide a tour of the Sea.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting May 25, 2023
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for May 31, 2023
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2022 – 04/30/2023

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

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 4

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

B. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project – Proposition 68 Grant and Project update.

Douglas Ordonez, Sr. Management Analyst, Riverside County gave an update on the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project.

Director Perez requested more frequent public updates on the project from the County at Authority Board meetings.

Treasurer Cardenas requested that he be included in land access issues, especially those involving IID lands.

C. Colorado River Post-2026 Operational Guidelines – Environmental Assessment Comment Period. Discuss in relation to interim SEIS.

Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation provided an update on the Colorado River Operational Guidelines. Staff's Recommendation is that the Board directs staff to provide comments on the environmental impact statement (EIS) prior to deadline of August 13, 2023. Lisa mentioned that the public can also comment on the Bureau's website.

D. SB583 (Padilla) – Bill Status Report and Next Steps.

Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd gave a brief update. The Authority provided language to the Senator to shape legislation that addresses the challenges around the Sea without impeding existing work, including the SSMP and ongoing development on the feasibility study.

Treasurer Cardenas informed the Board of IID's position on the bill (Support if Amended)

Ex Officio Arthur advised that the State has not taken a position on the bill.

E. Salton Sea Authority at 30 – a brief look back and discuss moving forward.

Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd updated the Board on the 30-year Anniversary and advised that the Celebration will be been rescheduled for September or October.

F. Consideration of Appointments for FY 2023-2024 Officers for the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors (effective July 1, 2023)

a. Election of President of Board

On motion by Cardenas and second by Perez, the Board approved Santillanes as President.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Santillanes, Cardenas, Dockstader, Perez and Gutierrez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Tortez, Estrada, Aguilar and Kelley.

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

b. Election of Vice-President of Board

On motion by Cardenas and second by Perez, the Board approved Estrada, as Vice-President.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Santillanes, Cardenas, Dockstader, Perez and Gutierrez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Torte, Estrada, Aguilar and Kelley.

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

c. Election of Secretary of Board

On motion by Cardenas and second by Perez, the Board approved Dockstader as Secretary.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Santillanes, Cardenas, Dockstader, Perez and Gutierrez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Torte, Estrada, Aguilar and Kelley.

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

d. Election of Treasurer of Board

On motion by Perez and second by Cardenas, the Board approved Gutierrez as Treasurer.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Santillanes, Cardenas, Dockstader, Perez and Gutierrez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Torte, Estrada, Aguilar and Kelley.

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

G. Consider Approval of Resolution Updating Signatories on Authority's bank account at Pacific Western Bank.

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation

Lisa Moore gave her update during Item # IV.C.

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager
No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies, provided an update.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency. No Report
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 – Juan De Lara, SSAC President provided an update.

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

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

VI. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors meeting
is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Imperial County

Board of Supervisors Chamber

940 W. Main Street

El Centro, CA 92243

(442) 265-1020