



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
SPECIAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 18, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Chair Dockstader, at 10:04 a.m., July 18, 2024, at County of Imperial Board of Supervisors BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Director Aguilar

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Gina Dockstader, Secretary
John Aguilar, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Director
John Aguilar, Director

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

V. Manuel Perez, Director
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President
Ex-Officio Samantha Arthur

AGENCY

Riverside County
Coachella Valley Water District
California Natural Resources Agency

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Altrena Santillanes, President
Yxstian Gutierrez, Treasurer
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
Thomas Tortez, Director
Luis A. Plancarte, Director

AGENCY

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

Note: Directors Tortez and Plancarte arrived after roll call.

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: Trina Hamby, Public Health, Imperial County, Vickie Doyle, IID, Terry Partida Rodriguez, The Desert Review, Mike Lueller, City of Calipatria Journalist, Felipe Vega, ICPHD and Miguel Hernandez, CNRA.

Via Zoom: Tom Sephton, Brittney Coronado, Jim Barrett, CVWD, Jasmyn Phillips, Stephanie Holstege, Leah Mathews, Ron Spears and Juan DeLara.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No Board Comments

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting June 26, 2024
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for June 30, 2024
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for May 31, 2024

On motion by Cardenas, second by Dockstader, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Dockstader, Director Tortez, Director Aguilar and Cardenas

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Plancarte, Kelley, Santillanes, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

B. Resolution in Recognition of Director’s Service to the Salton Sea Authority

On motion by Cardenas, second by Aguilar, the Board approved to move Item B. to the September 12, 2024 meeting and add item F, Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees for FY 2024-2025 to the agenda.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Dockstader, Director Tortez, Director Aguilar and Cardenas

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Plancarte, Kelley, Santillanes, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- C. Document Retention Policy – Review and Approve updated policy for retaining agency documents. Executive Director O’Dowd gave a brief update on the documents the Authority has accumulated in the last 30 years. Director Aguilar asked if counsel has reviewed the policy, Patrick stated that it was largely drafted by them.

On motion by Aguilar, second by Tortez the Board approved the Document Retention Policy.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Dockstader, Directors Tortez, Aguilar and Cardenas

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Plancarte, Kelley, Santillanes, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- D. UCR Salton Sea Summit (Summit) – Participation and Potential Support. Executive Director O’Dowd introduced this item to the board. This is important work, and our participation is equally important. Executive Director O’Dowd is requesting that the board approve a \$500.00 donation to the Summit and also asked for agency consideration for their individual support. President Dockstader, Directors Aguilar and Perez provided comments.

On motion by Tortez, second by Cardenas the Board approved \$500.00 in support of the UCR Salton Sea Summit.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Dockstader, Tortez, Aguilar, Perez, Plancarte, Estrada and Cardenas

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Directors Kelley, Santillanes, and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

- E. Project Updates

1. Executive O’Dowd stated there is a technical meeting in Sacramento to be held on August 12-13 with DWR and the state to discuss the current budget, technical challenges and other funding resources that may be out there. We are looking to revisit the scope and scale of the project to implement a 1st phase that meets the needs of the local community in a timely fashion and to address the grant expiration of December 2024 that needs to be extended. Vice President Estrada expressed an interest in being more closely informed of this effort .

Director Perez, expressed concerns about related matters that might affect this project.

2. Desert Shores, Executive O’Dowd stated a scope of work for the geotechnical studies needed to complete the CEQA analysis of this project has been developed intended to be funded under the USBR grant.

Ron Spears expressed concerns about the delays, the increasing cost of the project, and the availability of funds. He requested the oversight committee be afforded a chance to review the preliminary report before the outreach meeting.

3. Bombay Beach, Executive O’Dowd gave a brief update. Frank Ruiz is no longer with Audubon, he is now working with Congressman Ruiz and hoping that Frank can join us on a regular basis. President Dockstader congratulated Frank

Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees for FY 2024-2025

Executive Director O’Dowd introduced the proposed committees. Director Perez expressed a desire to be specifically included in legislative discussions of the Executive Committee, or to clarify the memo describing the responsibilities of the committees such that it is clear what committee has specific oversight of this aspect of the Authority’s work. Directors Aguillar and Estrada provided comments.

On motion by Cardenas, second by Aguilar the Board approved the Ad Hoc Committees with the motion to revise the Memo, per Director Perez’s request.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Dockstader, Tortez, Aguilar, Perez, Plancarte, Estrada and Cardenas

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Directors Kelley, Santillanes, and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave a brief update on the WRDA and the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies gave a brief update on the State’s budget, AB 2757, AB 2922, SB 1309 and SB583, the Salton Sea Conservancy’s deadline to be advanced to the Governor is August 30.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency gave an update on the Fall Projects and the State Water Board Meeting.

President Dockstader requested a copy of the community needs report so the Authority can post on their website and have a more in-depth discussion at the September meeting.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Cassandra Van Dyne, Interpreter & Educator, California State Parks gave a brief update. There have been 19,504-day visitors and 9,828 campers in the last 12 months. They had the Bombay nature club visit/campout, went on a night search for Scorpions and the North Shore Community Center did a nature walk. They are in the planning stages in putting together some field trips or visit the local schools. Director Cardenas was very interested in the Scorpion search, Cassandra said she is more than happy to set something up for him. Samantha also wanted to mention that there is a Youth Grant program open until August 14 with a series of workshops statewide. Miguel will send out the details to the board.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President gave a brief update on the Salton Sea Summit and that they are planning more tours at the end of October.

- D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority gave a brief update on the tours he is working on fact finding missions, including tours at Owens Lake, Pardo Dam and Salt Lake City in February.

Director Cardenas wanted to update everyone that the IID has initiated the environmental assessment period regarding the 2024-2026 temporary Colorado River System Conservation program. Comment period ends that last Sunday of July. IID unveiled a draft program plan for the deficit irrigation to help the hydrology issue. They are close to finalizing the system conservation implementation agreement “SCIA” and is requesting a presentation of these important updates be added to the agenda at the next Salton Sea Authority September board meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m.

at

Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Bldg.
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

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 located at 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4 Indio, CA 92201.