



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 12, 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., September 12, at Coachella Valley Water District and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led By Director Plancarte

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Gina Dockstader, Secretary
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Altrena Santillanes, President
Thomas TorteZ, Director
Luis A. Plancarte, Director
Ex-Officio Samantha Arthur

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Yxstian Gutierrez, Treasurer
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
John Aguilar, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Director

AGENCY

Riverside County
Imperial County
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

Note: Director TorteZ arrived after roll call.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Tonya Marshall, CDFW, Ronald Spears, Bahia Del Mar POA, Pat Cooper, Rivco, Supervisor Perez, Eric Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad, Karina Quintanilla, City of Palm Desert, Kurt Leuschner, Collage of the Desert.

Via Zoom: Tom Sephton, Jasmyn Phillips, V. Doyle, Chuck Tobin, Burrtec, Leadership Counsel, ECV, Mario Llanos, CNRA, Nathan White, Agess, Inc. Darren Simon, SDCWA, Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute, Aydee Palomino, Alianza, Evon Willhoff, DWR and Kristi Even, Eide Bailly.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Spears spoke on behalf of Bahia Del Mar POA and the Desert Shores Channel Restoration Committee, expressed frustration with the lack of progress at Desert Shores, emphasizing the community's priority of building a berm and drilling a well. Ron also advised on a mini canyon seepage measurement project being undertaken by the community.

Eric Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad commented the IID SCIA.

Karina Quintanilla, Mayor of Palm Desert gave an update on the upcoming Salton Sea Summit.

Nathan White, Agess congratulated President Dockstader on her new role as President. requested the Authority be more involved in the Desert Shores project, and asked that the Army Corp take on other solutions and broaden their horizons and spectrum.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Perez expressed an interest in the projects committee meeting to discuss mitigation, South end of the Sea, Lithium, or anything else that is in the works. Also mentioned a CVAG meeting to discuss air quality.

Director Torteza asked about updated reports on bacterial hazards and whether they being relayed to the public.

Vice President Estrada stated that the Authority needs to get a better handle on communicating recruitment. What happened to the money from CNRA on the Outreach, did they keep or did they take it back? The Authority is the body of all the agencies to represent outreach, we need to get more serious. President Dockstader agreed.

President Dockstader presented the resolution for departing President Santillanes. Director Santillanes thanked everyone.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting July 18, 2024
 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification July 31, 2024
 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for June 30, 2024 and July 31, 2024

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

*Approved by the following vote:
AYES: 5*

NOES: 0
ABSENT: 5
ABSTAINED: 0
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

- B. Resolution in Recognition of Director’s Service to the Salton Sea Authority
- C. **On motion by Perez second by Plancarte, the Board approved the** Resolution in Recognition of Director’s Service to the Salton Sea Authority.

Approved by the following vote:
AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 4
ABSTAINED: 0
MOTION PASSED: 6-0

~~D. HD Presentation – System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA)~~
Postponed to a future meeting (date to be determined).

- E. SSMP – Monitoring Implementation Plan Presentation – Tonya Marshall, CDFW gave a brief presentation.

Ron Spears asked if we have information on the genetic makeup for the birds. Samantha Arthur stated that there has been a decline in fish eating birds, but a huge rise in shorebirds.

Nathan White asked that the mapping of the Pacific Flyway include the negative and positive impacts in some of these studies. There was a broader discussion regarding the same.

- F. Education, Outreach, and Advocacy – Review current priorities and budget allocations. Executive O’Dowd gave a brief overview. He proposed to reclassify 6 months’ worth of state advocacy to a public relations contract with CV Strategies. Director Perez asked Tara Bravo of CV Strategies to provide a history of CV Strategies and their accomplishments at and around the Eastern Coachella Valley.

Staff Recommended that funds allocated to State Advocacy in the 2025 Budget be reclassified for Education, Outreach, and Advocacy, and that a scope of work provided by CV Strategies to implement this work be approved and funded thereby.

On motion by Dockstader, second by Perez, the Board approved the Education, Outreach, and Advocacy budget reclassification and CV Strategies scope of work.

Approved by the following vote:
AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 5
ABSTAINED: 0
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

G. Salton Sea Authority Committees - Legislative Advocacy. Executive O’Dowd recommended the formation of a separate legislative advocacy committee to inform how we deal with both state and federal policy and issues as they come up.

Director Perez commented. Committee to be formed at the discretion of the President.

Director’s Perez, Plancarte and Santillanes excused themselves, they had prior commitments.

H. Project Updates

- a. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project, Executive O’Dowd gave a brief overview. The Authority, State, County and Dudek had a very productive gathering in Sacramento based on the geotechnical work done by Dudek. They are looking at different options and direction being further refined by the engineers. Also working on public engagement process to reintroduce the current thinking and direction of this project. Proposed meetings are set for September, October and November.
- b. Desert Shores, Executive O’Dowd gave a brief overview. Yesterday Gafcon and the Authority issued an RFP for technical services to evaluate the hydrology and geotechnical nature of the berm. The RFP was written specifically to address the request from the community to build a berm, drill a well and fill a hole. We are hoping to engage Tom Sephton in the process of reviewing those proposals as a community representative. The timeline to respond is October 11, contract is due October 25. Eric Reyes commented.
- c. Bombay Beach – Samantha Arthur mentioned there is a newsletter on the CNRA site to SAVE THE DATE for a community workshop on the wetlands project at Bombay Beach sometime in October. Eric Reyes recommended that the State have a presentation for the community, so they are involved.

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave update on Appropriations legislation for FY25, the Corp Feasibility Study and the Bicameral New River and Tijuana Cross Border Pollution Legislation that is being introduced.
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 SB 583, AB2757, AB2922 and Chapter 6.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency gave a brief update. They have completed their 1st update on the budget tracker, President Dockstader stated that she loves this report! Their next community meeting is set for September 26 at 10am, October 5th they will have a free tour of the SCH project.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Cassandra Van Dyne, Interpreter & Educator, California State Parks gave a brief update.

C. Local

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

- D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority gave a brief update. The Authority had a successful trip to the Prado Dam. We ran into an issue with the insurance company on the upcoming trip to Ownes Lake, unfortunately, we may need to postpone, he will know more by the Friday.

VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Approval of 2025 Meetings Calendar

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned 12:09 P.M.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10:00a.m.
Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 West Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
442-265-1020

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 at the front desk at 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4 Indio, CA 92201.