



Director's Perspective

Over the past 20 years, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project—SCCWRP to her friends—has provided data and information on the effects of waste discharge in the coastal ocean environment.

The idea of a region-wide research agency was conceived in 1968 when it was realized that existing knowledge was sparse about the effects of industrial and municipal ocean discharges. With impetus provided by John Parkhurst of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Robert Bargman of the City of Los Angeles; Fred Harper of the Orange County Sanitation Districts, Richard King of the City of San Diego, and A.P. Stokes of the Ventura Regional Sanitation District, a non-profit agency was created in 1969.

The pilot program was established under the guidance of a highly-respected Scientific Consulting Board, headed by Dr. John Isaacs, and was governed by a Commission composed of local civic leaders and elected officials. Originally, the small group of scientists set out to

collect and summarize existing data, with some analyses of trace metals and other constituents. This three-year study culminated in a report entitled *The Ecology of the Southern California Bight: Implications For Water Quality Management* (March 1973), and addressed new areas of environmental concern, including recommendations for additional research.

At the same time this study was being conducted, State and Federal agencies enacted several pieces of legislation: the Federal Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and the California Ocean Plan. All were established in response to the growing concern over the protection of marine resources.

Since then, SCCWRP has provided innovative leadership in the marine sciences—developing new methods, establishing quality standards, fostering communication among marine scientists, and serving as a model program for other countries. Testimony to the volume and excellence of work are the hundreds of published manuscripts and reports generated

by the staff throughout the years.

In looking back over 20 years of outstanding research, the underlying reason for success is apparent. The extraordinary quality of the people here have made SCCWRP a leader in marine environmental research. Though my tenure as Interim Project Director is brief, I feel privileged to be in such good company. The entire staff, as well as the three previous directors (Dr. George Hlavka 1969-1973; Mr. Willard Bascom 1973-1985; Dr. Jack Anderson 1985-1990), Commissioners, and Consulting Board members have all contributed to a greater understanding of our coastal waters. I hope, in some small measure, that I am able to do the same.

It is with this historical perspective in mind and a renewed commitment to the future that we respectfully submit this Annual Report for fiscal year 1989-90.

Sincerely,

Frank F. Wada
Interim Project Director
August 1990