

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY**

**HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY
7171 Fenwick Lane, Westminster, California**

**Thursday, March 11, 1999
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Arthur Coe, Chair – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Robert Miele, Vice Chair – *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Ing-Yih Cheng – *City of Los Angeles*
Robert Ghirelli – *Orange County Sanitation District*
Dennis Dickerson – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Stan Martinson – *State Water Resources Control Board*
Stephen Mayville – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*
Gerard Thibeault – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*
Janet Hashimoto – *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
John Robertus – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
David Caldwell – *Administrative Officer*
Dan Hyde – *Legal Counsel*
M. James Allen – *Principal Scientist*
Steven Bay – *Principal Scientist*
Eddy Zeng – *Principal Scientist*
Kenneth Schiff – *Principal Scientist*
Jeff Brown – *Sr. Research Technician*
Molly Leecaster – *Sr. Scientist*

OTHERS PRESENT

Patricia Vainik – *City of San Diego*
Lucy Jao – *City of Los Angeles*
Catherine Kuhlman – *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
Anmin Liu – *Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation*
George Robertson – *Orange County Sanitation District*
Art Barnett – *MEC Analytical Systems*
Rose Collins – *City of Long Beach*
Jan Stull – *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 11, 1998**
2. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998**
3. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 31, 1998**
4. **MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 18, 1999**

Steve Mayville requested that the minutes of the December 11 meeting be amended to reflect that he, rather than Gerry Thibeault, represented the Santa Ana Regional Board at the meeting. Upon motion by Commissioner Coe and unanimously carried, the items on the consent agenda were approved and ordered filed.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director reported on the current activities of the Authority. Dr. Weisberg reported that the Authority is in the process of reviewing Y2K compliance. All computer equipment has either been updated or replaced as necessary and software is currently being updated. The updated computer network will operate under Windows NT with Y2K compliant software versions of all programs used. Additionally, the Authority is reviewing other hardware issues such as the telephone and alarm systems to guarantee Y2K compliance.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the Authority had recently hired a new computer programmer and has advertised for two additional personnel. One of these positions is a benthic ecologist to replace Mary Bergen; the other is a water quality modeler.

6. 1998 REGIONAL MONITORING SURVEY

The Executive Director indicated that Winter Microbiology Component of the Regional Monitoring Survey has been successfully completed and that the Summer Microbiology report has been submitted to the Bight'98 Steering Committee for approval. Commissioner Miele asked for a brief overview of the results. Dr. Weisberg indicated that there were three major conclusions:

1. Water quality on beaches was good, with 95% of the shoreline mile-days meeting all state bacterial standards
2. Water quality in ocean waters near storm drains was poor, with 60% of these areas failing state standards. Viral genetic fragments were also found at most of these sites.
3. There was poor correspondence among the three bacterial indicators proposed under AB411, with enterococci exceeding standards most often. The number of beach postings/closures could increase by as much as ten-fold if the present draft AB411 regulations are implemented.

Dr. Weisberg also indicated satisfaction with the intercalibration exercises which found comparability among different laboratories and methods. Commissioner Martinson asked for more information about the viral genetic fragments, which were found in the water sampling. Dr. Weisberg responded that the viral RNA is an indicator of human fecal input, allowing us to distinguish between human and animal inputs. Seven of fifteen samples tested, all of which were near storm drains, had viral genetic fragments.

7. CONTRACT APPROVAL

The Executive Director requested that the Commission endorse the following eight contracts that have been, or will be offered to the Authority:

1. *EMPACT* – A contract with EPA to support microbiological data exchange among NPDES dischargers and the San Diego County Health Department.
2. *EMAP* – A contract with EPA to support their Office of Research and Development’s initiative for an integrated assessment of west coast ecosystems.
3. *TMDL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER AND FOR SANTA MONICA BAY BEACHES* – A contract with the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board using City of Los Angeles SEP funds to assist in data collection and modeling in support of TMDL development for the LA River and Santa Monica Bay.
4. *ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION* – A contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to assess the contribution of contaminants from atmospheric deposition to the southern California ocean.
5. *CHOLLAS CREEK* – A contract with the City of San Diego to conduct toxicity tests in Chollas Creek.
6. *STORMWATER DISCHARGE FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA* – A contract from the State Water Resources Control Board to assist in the development of state-wide estimates of stormwater mass emissions to the ocean.
7. *CITY OF LONG BEACH STORM WATERS MONITORING PROGRAM* – A contract from the City of Long Beach to assist in developing their stormwater monitoring program.
8. *INTERJURISDICTIONAL EMPLOYEE EXCHANGE FOR MARIANNE YAMAGUCHI* – Renewal of a contract from the State Water Resources Control Board to support Marianne Yamaguchi as Director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that all of these contracts meet the guidelines that Commission had previously defined, with two exceptions. Both exceptions were to the geographic guidelines. The first exception is the EMAP contract, which will require SCCWRP to coordinate data management throughout the west coast study area. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he thought this was in the best interest of SCCWRP, allowing us to export the approaches we have developed in our own regional studies and learn from others about ways we might improve these procedures. The second exception is the stormwater discharge project, which requires SCCWRP to coordinate efforts of two other organizations outside of southern California to achieve state-wide estimates.

Commissioner Miele expressed concern that SCCWRP may be competing with consultants with some of these contracts, particularly the one with the City of Long Beach. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he shared that concern and wanted to limit SCCWRP’s efforts towards novel and/or integrative work that could not be easily conducted by consulting firms. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had already informed the City of Long Beach that he is only interested in taking on a portion of their work, preferring that they contract the more routine tasks to a consulting firm.

After discussion of each contract, Commissioner Coe requested a motion to approve. Each contract was unanimously accepted, with several Commissioners abstaining on contracts for which they had a potential conflict of interest:

<u>Motioned to Approve</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
1) Ghirelli	Miele	Hashimoto
2) Miele	Ghirelli	Hashimoto
3) Ghirelli	Miele	Cheng, Dickerson
4) Ghirelli	Miele	None
5) Ghirelli	Martinson	Coe
6) Ghirelli	Miele	Martinson
7) Ghirelli	Miele	Dickerson
8) Ghirelli	Miele	Martinson

8. TMDL CONFERENCE

The Executive Director proposed that the Agency host a TMDL Conference in the fall. The proposed conference would be two days. The first day would focus on the regulatory framework and case histories from success stories in other parts of the country. The second day would be more technical, with talks addressing current issues such as modeling and biocriteria. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he would aim for an October conference with an anticipated audience of about 250 people.

Several Commissioners expressed concern about the amount of agency resources that would be expended in organizing such a conference. It was further suggested that there are other organizations that are more appropriate for conference facilitation, with SCCWRP resources better expended on conducting original science. After discussion, Dr. Weisberg withdrew his proposal to spearhead the conference and instead offered to support the effort of Commissioner Dickerson towards a smaller conference focused on TMDL issues in the Los Angeles region.

9. 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Executive Director presented the Authority's plans for a 30th anniversary celebration to be held on May 2, 1999 at the Long Beach Aquarium. This party would also celebrate success of the Bight'98 Project. Dr. Weisberg requested assistance from those present to help identify addresses of people associated with SCCWRP over the past 30 years so that invitations could be sent to them.

At this time, Commissioner Coe requested that agenda item number ten be moved to follow agenda item fourteen and that the meeting proceed with agenda item eleven. All in attendance agreed.

11. SCHEDULING OF A SPECIAL PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Commission requested scheduling of a special Personnel and Finance Committee meeting to: 1) Hear a report on the salary survey and to discuss next year's salary resolution, and 2) Plan for the 2001 Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Commissioner Miele suggested that the entire commission should meet for the JPA discussions. It was decided to schedule the JPA discussion for the morning with the entire Commission and the

afternoon with the Personnel & Finance Committee to discuss the Salary Survey. The meeting was set for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 14, 1999.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no other items of business or communications.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

No requests were made by Commissioners for matters to be placed on a future meeting agenda.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Coe asked if any members of the public wished to address the Commission. There were no requests.

10. MODEL POTW MONITORING PROGRAM

The Executive Director presented a critique of existing POTW Monitoring Programs, organizing his critiques around the five program elements held in common among all of the large POTW monitoring programs: 1) effluent, 2) ambient water quality, 3) bacteria, 4) sediment, and 5) fish. Dr. Weisberg provided a series of specific suggestions that were presented in a series of overheads distributed to each Commissioner. There were three recurring themes in the critique: 1) The programs should be more adaptive, 2) Some Program elements are more efficiently addressed through regional monitoring, and 3) Some monitoring questions require special studies, rather than repeated sampling.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. to the special meeting scheduled for Friday, May 14, 1999 at the offices of the Authority.

Arthur Coe, Chair

Attest:

David Caldwell
Secretary