

**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, December 9, 1999
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Janet Hashimoto - US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Arthur Coe, Chair - Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
Gerard Thibeault - Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region
Ing-Yih Cheng - City of Los Angeles
Bob Horvath - County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Robert Ghirelli - Orange County Sanitation District
Alan Langworthy - City of San Diego

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg - Executive Director
Bryan Nece - Administrative Officer
M. James Allen - Principal Scientist
Steven Bay - Principal Scientist
Eddy Zeng - Principal Scientist
Kenneth Schiff - Principal Scientist
Richard Marsh- Legal Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Coe called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 1999**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 1999**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1999**
- 4. ANNUAL AUDIT**

5. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Upon the motion of Commissioner Langworthy and seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Weisberg reported on the successful completion of the annual audit for the fiscal period ended June 30, 1999. He also mentioned that the Authority's new accounting software was fully operational and Y2K compliant.

Dr. Weisberg reported on the continued strong financial health of the organization. He pointed out that the agency already had contracts in-hand covering 100% of the budgeted revenue for the current year. Many of these contracts have multi-year terms, such that 50% of the estimated external revenue requirements for the next fiscal year have already been booked.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that development of the 1999-2000 Annual report has begun. He anticipates a sizeable increase of annual report articles over last year. Staff have identified 32 articles that they intend to submit for consideration. Dr. Weisberg anticipates that approximately 25 of these will be accepted for inclusion, a 40% increase over last year's report, which was the largest previously produced by the agency.

7. STORMWATER AGENCY LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Dr. Weisberg reported on the cooperative agreement the Authority is about to enter into with southern California's stormwater agencies to develop cooperative stormwater research programs. Dr. Weisberg said that he viewed this as a major advance for the Authority in its goal of broadening agency participation. The first task of the cooperative agreement will be a project to develop a research agenda for the southern California stormwater research/monitoring program and will involve convening panel of experts from around the country as a starting point. Dr. Weisberg believes that SCCWRP will be asked to coordinate that activity.

8. CONTRACT APPROVAL

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

- 1) A \$50,000 contract from the State Water Resources Control Board regarding an Atmospheric Deposition Study for Santa Monica Bay. (State agreement number 9-087-140-0)

Commissioner Ghirelli moved to approve this contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault and carried unanimously.

2) A contract for \$122,000 to coordinate the development of a research agenda for the cooperative southern California stormwater research/monitoring program. Also for the Agency to except the coordination or implementation role in the group's future activities.

Commissioner Ghirelli moved to approve this contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langworthy and carried unanimously.

3) The Director also informed the Commission of an \$8,000 award from Sea Grant to supplement a study examining bacterial degradation rates. This was an informational item, since Commission action is unnecessary for contracts valued at less than \$50,000.

9. MARINE DEBRIS ON ORANGE COUNTY BEACHES

Dr. Weisberg presented the findings from the Authority's recent project to assess the amount and types of trash along the Orange County coastline. He indicated that during the summer of 1998 there was an average of 60 tons of debris on Orange County beaches. Plastics made up the largest portion of the debris.

10. PRESS RELEASES

The Executive Director asked for guidance from the Commission as to whether, and under what circumstances, the Authority should issue press releases concerning its findings. The issue was tabled and the Commission requested that the Executive Director draft a recommended position for discussion at the next meeting.

11. YEAR 2001 JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

The Executive Director presented to the Commission a draft of the Fifth Joint Powers Agreement for the Authority to take effect in July, 2001. He then summarized the differences between the present and proposed JPA, which entailed a broadening of the Authority's purpose, a process for adding new members, setting a new annual funding level and increasing the dollar limit of the Director's contract authority.

Personnel and Finance Committee Chair Ghirelli indicated that the P&F Committee had reviewed the document and recommended that it be forwarded in its present form to the member agency's legal departments for review. Upon receipt of member's legal comments the Agreement would be presented back to the Commission for final changes. The Commission accepted the personnel and Finance Committee recommendation.

12. MODEL POTW MONITORING PROGRAM: DOCUMENT REVIEWING EXISTING PROGRAMS

Dr. Weisberg provided a status report to the Commission on the Model POTW Monitoring Program document. He mentioned that the Authority's staff had revised the document, including adding a water quality chapter, and met with CTAG to discuss it. CTAG subsequently provided comments on the document to the Commission. Dr. Weisberg indicated that it is the Authority's plan to publish the document and include CTAG's comments in the appendix. The Commission approved this recommendation and requested that staff enter the next phase of the program, which should be to develop consensus with CTAG about what should be included in a model program. The Commission requested an oral presentation about progress toward this goal at the next Commission meeting.

13. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

14. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Two future agenda items were requested. 1) A progress report about implementation of the next steps in developing a model program regarding the POTW Model Monitoring Program. 2) Discussion of press releases.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Coe adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary