

**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**

**Friday, March 10, 2000  
9:30 a.m.**

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Janet Hashimoto – *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*  
Stan Martinson – *California State Water Resources Control Board*  
Arthur Coe, Chair - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*  
Dennis Dickerson - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*  
Gerard Thibeault - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*  
Judith Wilson, Vice Chair - *City of Los Angeles*  
Bob Horvath - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*  
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Ing-Yih Cheng - *City of Los Angeles* (Replaced Judith Wilson at 11:00am)

**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 9:45am.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 9, 1999**
2. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DEC. 31, 1999**
3. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999**
4. **MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2000**

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

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director reported that the organization was meeting revenue goals and that operating expenses were in line with the operating budget. He pointed out that the agency had contracts in-hand to cover most of next year's operations.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the agency's new direct-line phone system was fully operational and had resulted in greater productivity by the administrative staff. Dr. Weisberg also reported that agency has been successfully implementing its strategy of replacing full time research technicians with part time laboratory assistants when new openings or replacements needs develop. He explained that a larger, flexible labor pool provides an advantage in meeting the agency's time-varying workload.

### **6. 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 contract for \$175,000 from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) to support their total maximum daily load (TMDL) development activities. The contract consists of two main components. The first component is coordination of scientific projects in the Los Angeles River and Malibu Creek watersheds to ensure that studies can be integrated to improve TMDL decision-making for these waterbodies. The second component is to conduct special studies, as needed, to fill data gaps that occur following the project integration component.

Commissioner Thibeault moved to approve this contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hashimoto. The motion was carried with Commissioners Martinson, Wilson and Dickerson abstaining.

2) A contract for \$38,000 (State Agreement No.9-138-190-0) with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) to support their total maximum daily load (TMDL) development activities. The SDRWQCB has an ongoing TMDL for toxicity on Chollas Creek, an urbanized watershed that drains to San Diego Bay. The goal of this contract is to begin identifying the constituents responsible for toxicity in sediments at the mouth of the creek. Sediment Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIEs) will be conducted in coordination with the existing municipal stormwater NPDES monitoring program.

Commissioner Thibeault moved to approve this contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The motion was carried with Commissioners Martinson and Coe abstaining.

### **7. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING ORANGE COUNTY INVESTMENT POOL**

The Administrative Officer requested the Commission's approval to adopt Resolution #00-1 which allows SCCWRP to enter into a settlement agreement and limited release with the County of Orange regarding distribution of net litigation proceeds and additional funds of approximately \$125,407. Also, to authorize the Executive Director to sign and enter into the necessary certificates and agreements required to finalize the matter.

Commissioner Wilson moved to adopt Resolution No.#00-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli and carried unanimously.

#### **8. ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION**

Ken Schiff presented preliminary findings from the Authority's recent pilot study project to assess mass emissions from the atmosphere to the ocean. The project has focused only on metals to date, but preliminary findings are that dry deposition is larger than wet deposition, which differs from other areas of the country, and that mass emissions from deposition rival that of stormwater and POTW inputs.

#### **9. MODEL POTW MONITORING PROGRAM: NEXT STEPS**

The Executive Director reported on the progress of developing a model POTW monitoring program. He indicated that staff had several recent meetings with CTAG and developed consensus that a model program should include three elements: 1) a core program to assess local effects of an outfall, 2) a regional component to define baseline conditions and to assess cumulative effects, and 3) a special studies component that allows dischargers to more readily address short-term defined questions that arise from the first two elements. He indicated that staff and CTAG had identified 10 potential sampling components for which these elements needed to be defined. Good progress had been made to date on two of these (benthos and effluent), but each component was taking about three meetings to arrive at consensus. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he would brief the Commission on various components as consensus was reached.

#### **10. PRESS RELEASES**

At the September 1999 Commission meeting, the Executive Director was asked to develop a staff recommendation on the desirability of the Authority issuing press releases about its activities. Dr. Weisberg presented that recommendation, which was for the Authority not to issue press releases as a normal part of its activities. He stated his concern that organizations that issue press releases typically have a policy goal associated with the release, which is inconsistent with the Authority's mission. He suggested that the Authority's approach to press releases should be similar to that used for release of the Bight'98 Summer Microbiology report, in which two of the Authority's member agencies (EPA and the SWRCB) jointly issued a release about the study. In this way, the policy implications of the study could be more appropriately directed towards the member agencies. Dr. Weisberg indicated that this approach would not preclude interactions with the press in response to their inquiries. He also indicated that the Authority would continue to publicize its studies through publication of its annual report, publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and presentations at scientific conferences. The Commission endorsed this approach, but left the Executive Director with the discretion to issue press releases, if appropriate. They also requested that Dr. Weisberg keep them informed of which Authority studies might be appropriate for press releases by the member agencies.

#### **11. YEAR 2001 JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

Dr. Weisberg presented the draft JPA agreement that the Personnel and Finance Committee had recommended as the version to be signed by their respective organizations. The Executive Director also described the required time schedule for authorizing the Year 2001 JPA. With the exception of two minor wording changes, the Commission expressed satisfaction with the proposed document.

Commissioner Ghirelli moved to approve this agreement in form with minor revisions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horvath and carried unanimously.

#### **12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

**13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

There were none.

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Coe adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece  
Secretary