

**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, September 7, 2001
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Stahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Commissioners present at that time were Cheng, Hashimoto, Horvath, Dickerson, Stahl and Ghirelli.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 8, 2001**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2001**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2001**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETINGS HELD MAY 24 AND AUGUST 9, 2001.**

The Executive Director indicated that there was an amendment to the Commission minutes regarding the CTAG report, which he distributed to the Commissioners. Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Hashimoto, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

At 9:45 am Commissioners Thibeault and Coe arrived.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director reported that the Authority continues to do well and finished the fiscal year in strong financial health. The Authority already has enough signed contracts in-hand to meet this year's budget requirements.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that he was pleased with the agency's productivity and was particularly pleased that the recent Director's Report included three pages of external communications. He indicated that the agency's acceptance rate for peer-reviewed journal publications was extremely high.

The Executive Director presented the second draft of a brochure about the organization, which was revised to address comments provided by the Commission at their last meeting. The brochure was well received and Commissioner Stahl requested that all Commissioners provide any final comments within two weeks.

The Executive Director updated the Commission on the status of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). He indicated that signed copies of the JPA have been received from all signatories, except the City of Los Angeles. Commissioner Cheng, representing the City of Los Angeles, indicated that the JPA was approved by City Council yesterday and was being forwarded to the mayor's office.

The Executive Director stated that the National Water Research Institute (NWRI), a Joint Powers Agency located in Fountain Valley had recently changed their mission from one of water supply research to one that also included water quality research. He indicated that NWRI's changing mission, along with its geographic proximity to SCCWRP, would likely lead to more partnerships between the two agencies.

John Griffith, recently hired as a scientist with the Agency, was introduced to the Commission.

6. APPROVAL OF NEW LAW FIRM

The Executive Director explained that the Agency's legal counsel of 32 years, Dick Marsh, had recently switched law firms to Lewis, D'Amato, Brisbois & Bisgaard. Mr. Marsh briefed the Commission on the change and assured them that his high level of professional service would continue and that his billing rate of \$180 per hour would remain intact. The Executive Director identified a series of options with regard to Counsel, but recommended retaining Mr. Marsh at the new firm.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Cheng, Dr. Weisberg's recommendation was unanimously approved.

7. LEGAL COUNSEL OPINION ON COMMISSIONER'S POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN CONTRACT APPROVAL VOTING

The Authority's legal counsel, Dick Marsh, responding to a request from the Commission at their previous meeting, provided his opinion about potential conflict of interest issues arising during contract approval votes. Mr. Marsh indicated that this was a complex issue with Commissioner's generally free of concern unless they have a direct financial interest, but because of the complexities, he recommended that Commissioners abstain from voting on any contract in which their organizations had perceptible interest.

Commissioner Dickerson asked if the Commission's previous actions had been consistent with Mr. Marsh's recommendation and Mr. Marsh indicated that they were.

At 10:00 am Commissioner Martinson arrived.

8. CONTRACT APPROVAL AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

The JPA requires Commission approval on all contracts in excess of \$250,000. Also several organizations, particularly State of California agencies, require a resolution by our governing body authorizing the execution of contracts and amendments. The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve the following resolution regarding the following contracts that will be offered to the Authority.

State Water Resources Control Board (\$975,000)
City of San Diego (\$900,000)
Mission Bay Bacteria Study

Upon the motion of Commissioner Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Hashimoto, this contract was approved with Commissioners Martinson and Coe abstaining.

In addition, the Authority has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept the following contracts with value of \$250,000 or less. While the governing agreement of the Agency requires no Commission action on these, they were presented for discussion to ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

Estimates of Pollutants Inputs to Santa Monica Bay Via Aerial Deposition
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (\$100,000)

Orange County Sanitation District
Plume Mapping (\$35,000)

Orange County Sanitation District
Secondary Treatment Study (\$29,000)

Commissioner Stahl recommended that the Commission reorder the agenda and move to item number 10 because the item requires action and several Commissioners indicated that they needed to leave early.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement requires annual election of Commission Chair and co-Chair. Commissioner Ghirelli motioned for election of the Commissioner from Los Angeles County Sanitation District as the chair and for the election of the Commissioner from the Los Angeles Regional Board as the co-chair for the coming year. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault and unanimously approved.

11. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:30 am for calendar year 2002:

March 8th
June 14th
September 13th
December 13th

Commissioner Dickerson motioned for approval of the meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coe and carried unanimously.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Bruce Posthumus, Chair of the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee (CTAG), reported that CTAG's last meeting focused on discussion of the agenda items for the September 6th Special Commission meeting so that he would be in a good position to represent CTAG opinions at the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Martinson mentioned a pesticide monitoring issue the State was facing and requested assistance from the Authority. Dr. Weisberg indicated Steve Bay, Principal Investigator for SCCWRP's Toxicology Department, would be glad to provide assistance.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Stahl indicated that there were follow up items from the Special Commission meeting of September 6th that needed to be placed on the December agenda.

9. MODELING IN SUPPORT OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY BACTERIAL TMDL

Ken Schiff, Principal Investigator for SCCWRP's Sources Department, reported on the Agency's activities in support of the Santa Monica Bay bacterial TMDL. He indicated that SCCWRP is developing a dynamic watershed runoff model, that coupled with a fate and transport model, enables regulators and stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative management actions. Ken indicated that model development involved three major components: 1) Understanding runoff characteristics from different land use types, 2) Developing a hydrodynamic component that defines time of transport from locations within the watershed to Santa Monica Bay beaches, and 3) Quantifying transformation processes, such as bacterial degradation, that occur while runoff is being transported from the land use source to the ocean receptor site. Most of the data collection for the project has focused on characterizing how runoff differs among land use types and how it changes over the course of a storm and among storms. To date, SCCWRP has characterized runoff at hourly intervals from 21 different land use categories. These data have been integrated into a model that allows stakeholder groups to evaluate the relative effectiveness of capturing/treating water at the base of the watershed compared to focusing remediation activities upstream in selected land use categories. Ken pointed out that the project is being conducted in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board and Heal the Bay and that model development has facilitated cooperative, science-based discussion among these disparate groups about the best way to write and implement the TMDL.

There were numerous questions about this project. At 11:15 am Commission Chair Stahl left the meeting. Commission Co-Chair Dickerson facilitated further discussion about Mr. Schiff's presentation.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary