

AGENDA ITEM #1

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, December 14, 2001
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
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*
Robert Horvath - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Stan Martinson - *State Water Resources Control Board*
Alan Langworthy - *City of San Diego*

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STAFF PRESENT

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

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OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

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Commissioner Horvath called the meeting to order at 9:41 am. Commissioners present at that time were Hashimoto, Thibeault, Coe, Cheng, Horvath, Ghirelli and Langworthy.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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1. MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

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2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

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3. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

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4. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

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5. ANNUAL AUDIT

6. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 15

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Commissioner Thibeault requested that the minutes for the September 7 meeting be corrected to reflect that he arrived at 9:42. Following this correction, Commissioner Thibeault motioned for

approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Hashimoto seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

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REGULAR AGENDA

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7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the Authority achieved this year the highest number of journal publications in its 32 year history. He said that this was a reflection on the staff's high productivity and also a reflection on the quality of our work. Every article submitted this year to a peer-reviewed journal by SCCWRP was accepted for publication, even though the typical acceptance rate for scientific journals is less than 50%.

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Dr. Weisberg stated that the Model Monitoring Program being developed jointly between SCCWRP staff and CTAG was nearing completion. Staff prepared a written report summarizing the material that was verbally presented to the Commission at a previous meeting. This written report was submitted to CTAG for their concurrence and comments. CTAG approved the report with minor modification. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he anticipated making these modifications and placing the document on the SCCWRP web site in early January.

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Dr. Weisberg reported that the agency had received an environmental achievement award from the EPA regarding its shoreline data system. He also mentioned that Steve Bay, head of SCCWRP's Toxicology Department, had recently been interviewed by National Public Radio about urban runoff issues.

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Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP would be co-hosting with EPA a microbiological source tracking workshop at the Irvine Marriott on February 5. The workshop would include presentations by the top researchers in the country. He stated that attendance at the workshop would be limited, but that he was reserving 50 seats for SCCWRP member organizations.

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Dr. Weisberg reported that the Authority continued to be in good financial shape and had finished its annual audit without any adjustments. He explained that with the economic downturn in California, he would be taking a more conservative approach to expenditures in the near term. He indicated that he had already seen indications of a reduction in State contracts due to the current state budget crisis.

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Dr. Weisberg reported that he has now received signed copies of the Joint Powers Agreement, which were then distributed to the Commission. He indicated that there was a discrepancy between the last version of the JPA discussed at the Commission meeting and the copy that was distributed for signature, with the discrepancy related to the requirement for equal financial participation by any new parties that are accepted as members of SCCWRP (Section IV and XIII of the JPA). The Commission agreed that this would have no effect on the daily operations or funding of the agency, but limited options about bringing new members onto the Commission. Dr. Weisberg also mentioned that he had recently interacted with Alexis Strauss, EPA Region IX Water Management Division Director, who had agreed to assume the role of SCCWRP Commissioner as called for in the JPA.

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Commissioner Ghirelli asked Dr. Weisberg if he was aware of differences in the approaches to TMDL development, particularly for bacteria, among the three southern California Regional Boards and whether he thought there was a role for SCCWRP in examining the scientific foundation for these differences. Dr. Weisberg responded that he was aware of differences in both the 303d listing process and in TMDL development but was not sure what role SCCWRP should have as some of the differences were policy-related, rather than science-related. He suggested that the Beach Water Quality Work Group that met at SCCWRP on a quarterly basis might be a better forum, with SCCWRP serving in a scientific support function. After further

discussion among the Commission, Dr. Weisberg suggested that a discussion with CTAG might also be an appropriate first step, with which the Commission agreed. Dr. Weisberg agreed to work with CTAG to place this item on their February agenda.

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Commissioner Martinson arrived at 10:23 AM.

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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.

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State Water Resources Control Board (\$1,500,000)

Rapid Indicators Testing

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Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Langworthy, this contract was approved with Commissioner Martinson abstaining.

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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.

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Western States Petroleum Association (\$100,000)

Dominguez Channel Watershed Modeling

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9. REGIONAL STORMWATER RESEARCH/MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT

Ken Schiff, Principal Investigator for SCCWRP's Sources Department, reported on the Agency's activities in support of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). Mr. Schiff reminded the Commission that the SMC was formed through a Memorandum of Agreement among SCCWRP, the three southern California Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the each of the principal stormwater permittees in southern California with the goal of working collaboratively to address regional stormwater issues. The first activity of the SMC was to convene a three-day workshop of experts, which was organized by SCCWRP, to establish a five-year research agenda for the SMC. The outcome of the workshop was a document identifying 15 potential projects, which Mr. Schiff described for the Commission. Dr. Weisberg indicated that Mr. Schiff would be briefing the SMC and receiving comments about the document on January 11 and that SCCWRP members were welcome to attend that briefing.

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10. INVITATION FOR STORMWATER AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN SCCWRP

The Commission expressed a desire at their September 6th special meeting to invite three stormwater agencies to participate as Associate Members of SCCWRP. Dr. Weisberg identified four issues which needed to be addressed by the Commission in order to achieve this goal. The first was deciding on a formal structure for inviting the stormwater agencies, as SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) does not provide for limited membership. The other issues involved deciding on the contribution that would be asked of the stormwater agencies, the term of their participation and approval of an invitation letter.

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Dr. Weisberg outlined two options for creating an Associate Membership. The first would be to amend the JPA. The second would be to create a stormwater advisory board, members of which would be given the title of Associate Members. The Commission reached agreement to create an advisory board for this purpose and next reached consensus to set the contribution amount at \$75,000 with a one-year term.

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The Commission proceeded to draft a resolution creating a Stormwater Advisory Board of Associate Members. Upon the motion of Commissioner Langworthy and seconded by Commissioner Coe, Resolution No. 01-14 was unanimously approved, with SCCWRP legal counsel given the authority to make subsequent minor wording changes to bring the Resolution into conformance with JPA requirements.

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The Commission next developed an invitation letter to the stormwater agencies. Upon motion of Commissioner Thibeault, seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli and carried unanimously, Dr. Weisberg was directed to work with Commission Chair Stahl to transmit the invitation letter to the three identified stormwater agencies.

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**11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS
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There was none.

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**12.FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS
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There was none.

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**13.PUBLIC COMMENTS
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There were no requests.

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**14.ADJOURNMENT
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Commissioner Horvath adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

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ATTEST:

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Bryan Nece
Secretary