

AGENDA ITEM #1

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

Held At Orange County Sanitation District's Board Room
10844 Ellis Ave., Fountain Valley, California

Friday, March 7, 2003
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
Stan Martinson - *State Water Resources Control Board*
Gerard Thibeault - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*
Arthur Coe - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Dennis Dickerson - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*
Robert Horvath - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Alan Langworthy - *City of San Diego*
Jeff Pratt - *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg - *Executive Director*
Kenneth Schiff - *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece - *Administrative Officer*
B. Richard Marsh - *Legal Counsel*
M. James Allen - *Principal Investigator*

OTHERS PRESENT

Sally Coleman - *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
Michael Moore - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Bruce Posthumus - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Don Schultz - *Surfrider Foundation*
Michael Wellborn - *County of Orange Executive Office*

Commission Chair Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. The Administrative Officer took roll, with Commissioners Hashimoto, Martinson, Thibeault, Coe, Dickerson, Dojiri, Horvath, Ghirelli and Langworthy being present.

1. SEATING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Dickerson indicated that Ventura County Watershed Protection District had accepted the Commission's invitation to become an Associate Member of SCCWRP. He welcomed Jeff Pratt and Sally Coleman (Alternate) as Commissioners representing Ventura County.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 13, 2002

3. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002**
4. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 31, 2002**
5. **MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2002**

Commissioner Horvath motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Coe seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg expressed his pleasure at having Ventura County become a member of SCCWRP because of the additional perspective they will provide on the numerous stormwater-related projects that SCCWRP staff were working on. He provided an update about responses from the other stormwater agencies to the Commission invitation to join SCCWRP as Associate Members. Michael Wellborn, representing the County of Orange Executive Office, also spoke to the Commission about this subject. He expressed Orange County's desire to join but indicated that they were experiencing a new Executive Officer, two new supervisors and budget cuts, all of which have served to slow the process.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the Authority had recently held several nationally recognized workshops. The first was on microbial source tracking, about which he indicated he would be giving a more detailed presentation later in the Commission meeting. The second was on wetlands monitoring. The most prominent national experts in the field attended both of these meetings. Dr. Weisberg indicated that these workshops had the dual effect of bringing the best possible science to California and also of ensuring that California's perspective will be considered when these experts participate in national policy development.

The Executive Director provided a fiscal update, indicating that the Authority was facing a tougher financial environment due to the economic downturn, but was managing its resources appropriately and still envisioned a balanced budget for the year.

7. CTAG REPORT

Bruce Posthumus reported on CTAG's last meeting, held on February 18. He reported that CTAG discussed next year's Research Plan and reviewed the Director's Report. He indicated there would be a special SCCWRP/CTAG meeting on April 10 reviewing CalEPA's Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC) at the request of CalEPA Director Winston Hickox. Mr. Posthumus also responded to the Commission's prior request for CTAG to prepare a mission statement. Several Commissioners provided comments on the mission statement. Adoption was tabled until the next Commission meeting to allow time for a written response to Commissioner's comments.

8. CONTRACT APPROVAL

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve resolution number 03-01 regarding the following contract that would be offered to the Authority.

State Water Resources Control Board (\$350,000)
Evaluation of Chronic Sediment Toxicity Test Methods

Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath and seconded by Commissioner Coe, this contract was unanimously approved with Commissioner Martinson abstaining.

As an informational item, 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 SCCWRP requires no Commission action on these, the following contracts were described to the Commission to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 2) Centex Homes (\$30,000)
Bight'03
- 3) Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$29,199)
Newport Bay Food Web Study
- 4) South Coast Water District (\$30,000)
Microbial Source Tracking Method Evaluation
- 5) City of Los Angeles (\$300,000)
Wet Weather Monitoring and Modeling of the Los Angeles Watersheds
- 6) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$127,235)
San Gabriel River Model Development
- 7) City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (\$33,000)
ConocoPhillips (\$50,059)
Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminals (\$3,000)
Dominguez Channel Watershed modeling
- 8) Boeing (\$15,000)
Los Angeles River Characterization Study
- 9) U.S. EPA (\$270,000)
Development of a Regional Monitoring Program for Southern California Wetlands
- 10) Irvine Ranch Water District (\$20,000)
OP Pesticides from Residential Runoff

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

9. MICROBIOLOGICAL SOURCE TRACKING PROJECT

The Executive Director presented preliminary results from the Authority's Microbiological Source Tracking (MST) evaluation project. MST tools allow managers to discriminate between human and non-human sources of bacteria, providing a potentially powerful tool for targeting cleanup activities, but these methods have been subjected to limited testing. SCCWRP organized a national study involving 21 researchers from throughout the country to test 12 methods. The study involved providing researchers with blind samples spiked with varying levels of multiple fecal sources (human, dog, bird, and cow). He indicated that preliminary results were that no method was perfect, with the best method identifying the predominant source in about 75% of the blind samples. Many of the methods were prone to false positives, identifying fecal sources that were not present in the sample. The Commission discussed the conclusions, debating the merits of using these expensive methods when results were imperfect. Dr. Weisberg concluded by stating that the study has achieved international recognition and been so successful that the entire December issue of the *Journal of Water and Health* will be dedicated to the results from the study.

10. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission asked that CTAG provide a written document about the role of CTAG for Commission review. The Commission requested that SCCWRP staff provide a presentation on endocrine disruptors. The Personnel and Finance Committee asked that Dr. Weisberg's annual performance review be placed on the Commission agenda and asked that Dr. Weisberg provide to the Commission prior to the meeting a written self-evaluation with respect to last year's goals.

11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Wellborn, representing the County of Orange Executive Office, mentioned that he was Vice-President of the Watershed Network, which was holding a Watershed Day in Sacramento on April 2nd. Don Schulz with the Surfrider Foundation, acknowledged and thanked Janet Hashimoto of the US EPA, SCCWRP, and OSCD for supporting volunteer monitoring.

At 11:45 am, the meeting was adjourned for lunch. Commissioner Pratt and B. Richard Marsh, the Authority's Legal Counsel left at this time. Commissioner Dickerson called the meeting back to order at 12:30. Approximately 50 additional attendees were present to hear the next agenda item.

13. BIGHT'98 REGIONAL SURVEY RESULTS

Dr. Weisberg made a two hour presentation summarizing the findings from Bight'98 to the Commission. He explained that Bight'98 contained separate elements for coastal ecology (fish and sediment quality), water quality, and shoreline microbiology. He described each component, allowing time for questions after each one. He also handed out an Executive Summary report and indicated that the more detailed reports were available on the SCCWRP web site. Dr. Weisberg finished by describing preliminary plans for the Bight'03 regional survey.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm until the next Commission meeting on June 13, 2003 at SCCWRP.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary