

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, June 13, 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*
Jim Stahl - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Sally Coleman - *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*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Larry Cooper - *Principal Investigator*
Eddy Zeng - *Principal Investigator*

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
Michael Moore - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Bruce Posthumus - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Larry McKinney - *Orange County Public Facilities and Resources*

Commission Chair Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The Administrative Officer took roll, with Commissioners Hashimoto, Martinson, Thibeault, Coe, Dickerson, Dojiri, Stahl, Ghirelli and Coleman being present.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 7, 2003**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2003**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT MARCH 31, 2003**

Agenda item number four, approval of CTAG's minutes, was moved to later in the agenda.

Commissioner Martinson motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Stahl seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the staff has been doing an outstanding job of publishing their work in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The staff has met the Director's publication expectations for a two-year period during the first six months of the year and is very likely to have the most productive publication year in the agency's 34-year history. Dr. Weisberg attributed the success in part to the bonus system the Commission put in place three years ago that rewards publication. Dr. Weisberg also handed out an inspection copy of SCCWRP's most recent annual report, which is the largest in the agency's history.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP hosted a nationally recognized, highly successful workshop on development of rapid measurement methods for beach bacterial indicators in Monterey in May. He also indicated that he has received positive feedback about how SCCWRP's Model Monitoring Program Report, which was developed at the Commission's request, was a useful tool for helping the City of San Diego and the San Diego Regional Board reach agreement about permit monitoring requirements.

6. CTAG REPORT

Bruce Posthumus reported that CTAG held its regularly scheduled meeting plus two special meetings since the last Commission meeting. At the regular meeting, CTAG reviewed and endorsed the Authority's Research Plan. Mr. Posthumus also reported that CTAG had responded to the Commission's request for CTAG to formalize a mission statement, which he put forth for discussion and adoption. He indicated that the two special meetings were held to discuss proposed recommendations for coastal indicators to be included in the State's Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC) program, which was a later item on the Commission agenda.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Dojiri and seconded by Commissioner Coe, CTAG's mission statement was unanimously approved.

7. BIGHT'03 REGIONAL SURVEY UPDATE

Dr. Weisberg reported on progress of the Bight'03 Cooperative Regional Monitoring Survey. He indicated that the Coastal Ecology component was ramping up for a July/August field season. Intercalibration exercises were being conducted and the results were much more consistent than in 1998, suggesting that the investments made at that time to improve comparability were still paying off. He also indicated that planning for the Microbiology and Water Quality components was proceeding well, with those groups planning to initiate field collections in the fall and winter, respectively.

8. ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

Responding to a Commission request made at their last meeting, Steve Bay gave a presentation about SCCWRP's recently initiated endocrine disruptor project. He reported that endocrine disruptors are organic chemicals that mimic hormones and can regulate various biological processes. Drinking water effects on humans have been studied extensively, but there is much less known about the effects of endocrine disruptors in wastewater or runoff on marine biota. SCCWRP is working with scientists from three local universities to develop a three pronged program: 1) Development of improved endocrine disruptor measurement methods; 2) A field survey of regional prevalence in southern California fish (associated with Bight'03 sampling); and

3) Laboratory studies to assess exposure response. Preliminary investigations conducted near the OCSD and LACSD outfalls have documented the presence of endocrine disruptors in fish, but more research is needed to assess the effects of this material.

9. EPIC

Dr. Weisberg reported that CalEPA Director Winston Hickox had asked SCCWRP to provide suggestions for which coastal indicators CalEPA should incorporate into their Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC) program. He indicated that CTAG had dedicated two and a half meetings to helping meet this request and proceeded to brief the Commission on the resulting recommendations. Dr. Weisberg inquired if the Commission was satisfied with the recommendations and whether they wished to provide further guidance before he met with CalEPA staff. The Commission discussed a few of the proposed indicators and made some suggestions for minor changes to the list developed with CTAG, but expressed agreement with the overall structure and endorsed the briefing to CalEPA.

10. FISCAL YEAR 2003/2004 RESEARCH PLAN AND BUDGET

Dr. Weisberg presented the 2003/2004 Research Plan to the Commission for their approval. He noted that CTAG had reviewed technical aspects of the Research Plan and recommended acceptance. He remarked that the process for developing the annual plan and reaching agreement with CTAG had become easier as the Authority has successfully transitioned to developing a longer-term research agenda that emphasizes multi-year projects.

The Executive Director also described the fiscal portion of the plan, indicating that he was going to be more conservative this year due to the economic downturn and concern about declining sources of outside funding. Overall salary expense was projected to be lower next year due to planned delays in replacing departing staff. He also indicated that at the request of the Personnel and Finance Committee, the average salary increase for next year would be only 2.7%, with nearly a third of the staff receiving no increase.

11. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES GOVERNING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND PERSONNEL, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Dr. Weisberg reported that the only change to the resolution from the previous year was to raise the upper end of the salary scale for all positions by 2.8% to reflect cost of living. He reminded the Commission that raising the bracket allowed for the possibility of a salary increase for people at the upper end of their range, but did not guarantee an increase for individuals.

Commissioner Ghirelli indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee had reviewed the documents for agenda items 10 and 11 and motioned for their approval. Upon being seconded by Commissioner Coe, the fiscal year 2003/2004 Research Plan and Resolution no. 03-02 were unanimously approved.

Agenda item number 12, performance review of the executive director, was moved to later in the agenda.

13. CONTRACT APPROVAL

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve resolutions regarding the following contracts that would be offered to the Authority.

- 1) State Water Resources Control Board (\$800,000)
San Gabriel Watershed Modeling

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Stahl, this contract was approved with Commissioners Martinson, Dickerson and Thibeault abstaining.

- 2) State Water Resources Control Board (\$310,000)
Investigation of Sediment Nutrient Dynamics in Newport Bay

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

- 3) State Water Resources Control Board (\$129,000)
Clean Beach Task Force

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

- 4) State Water Resources Control Board (\$160,000)
Recreational Use Survey

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

- 5) State Water Resources Control Board (\$125,000)
Los Angeles Harbor Bacterial Study

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Stahl, this contract was approved with Commissioners Martinson, Dickerson and Thibeault 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 are listed to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 6) Reliant Resources (\$33,333)
Bight'03
- 7) San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$13,538)
Development of a Model Ocean Discharge Monitoring Program
- 8) City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (\$12,000)
Royal Catering (\$52,500)
Los Angeles River Characterization Study
- 9) Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (\$29,000)
San Gabriel River Modeling
- 10) Center for Natural Lands Management (\$6,000)
Huntington Beach Generating Station Monitoring Review
- 11) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (\$110,000)
EMAP
- 12) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (\$120,000)
Personnel Agreement
- 13) Orange County Sanitation District (\$35,000)
Long-Term monitoring of OCSD Fish Populations

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

14. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT IN THE LAIF

Administrative Officer Nece indicated that the signature authority for SCCWRP's investment in the Local Agency Investment Fund was out of date and transference of signature authority to current personnel required a resolution from the Commission. Commissioner Ghirelli indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee had reviewed the resolution and recommended its approval. Upon the motion of Commissioner Stahl and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, Resolution No. 03-03 was unanimously approved.

15. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Personnel and Finance Committee asked that Dr. Weisberg place on the next Commission agenda a discussion about the Authority's approach to communication and outreach. The Commission also requested a December presentation on the agency's approach to developing the Research Plan.

4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 18, 2003

This consent agenda item was brought back for approval by the Commission Chairman and unanimously approved.

16. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

17. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Dickerson announced a water resource conference being held at Claremont College on June 20. Commissioner Hashimoto mentioned several staff changes within EPA Region 9 including the return of Alexis Strauss as Water Management Division Director and the opening of a new Los Angeles EPA office that is being headed by Mike Schultz. Commissioner Martinson announced that the SWRCB had a new board member.

12. PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Ghirelli reported that the Personnel and Finance Committee reviewed and agreed with Dr. Weisberg's written self-evaluation. Several Commissioners proceeded to make positive remarks about Dr. Weisberg's efforts. Noting that they were satisfied with the Director's performance and agreed with the self-evaluation, the Commission chose to forego a closed session discussion of performance.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner Stahl and seconded by Commissioner Coe the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm until the next Commission meeting on September 12, 2003 at SCCWRP.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary