

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, September 12, 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*
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*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Kerry Ritter - *Scientist*

Commission Chair Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The Administrative Officer took roll, with Commissioners Hashimoto, Martinson, Thibeault, Dickerson, Dojiri, Stahl, Ghirelli and Langworthy being present.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 13, 2003**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2003**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2003**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2003**

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

At 9:33 Commissioner Coe arrived.

At 9:40 Commissioner Pratt arrived.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg reported that sampling for the Coastal Ecology portion of the Bight'03 program was nearing completion. Over 400 sites were visited this summer with sampling success exceeding 90%. Sampling for the Microbiology component had also been conducted successfully.

He reported that SCCWRP has had great success in three other microbiology initiatives. First, the microbial source tracking study has been completed and will be published as a special issue of the *Journal of Water and Health* in December. The journal issue resulted from collaboration by more 40 authors from around the country and the issue is receiving international attention even before it is published. Second, SCCWRP's work in developing rapid indicators is proceeding well. The final report on a national workshop that SCCWRP convened on the topic in May has been completed and is at the printer. Third, SCCWRP's Mission Bay Epidemiology study has been a great success, with the targeted number of swimmers recruited to the study and all water quality measurements having been successfully collected. The epidemiology study is unique because it focuses on urban runoff contamination of recreational waters and also includes measurement of new bacterial indicators and quantification of actual pathogens (i.e. viruses).

Dr. Weisberg reported that his CalEPA briefing to recommend coastal indicators for the state's Environmental Protection Indicators (EPIC) program was successful. He met with several of the Cal EPA Deputy Directors, as well as with the personnel responsible for implementing EPIC, and the suggestions developed by SCCWRP and CTAG were well received. He reported that further work on this project at CalEPA has been delayed until after the state election scheduled for October. Dr. Weisberg also reported that he had been invited to speak on cooperative regional monitoring at the EPA's Office of Water Annual Meeting, which consists of the water director within each EPA region, to be held in Seattle next week.

6. CTAG REPORT

Bruce Posthumus reported that CTAG held its regularly scheduled meeting on August 20th. At that meeting, CTAG discussed the director's report and received an update from Dr. Weisberg on the progress of Bight'03. Mr. Posthumus also reported that CTAG received an update of the Mission Bay Epidemiology study. Finally, CTAG discussed the implementation of the POTW model monitoring program for the Pt Loma Facility in San Diego. The City of San Diego, the RWQCB, and US EPA Region IX all felt that the model monitoring program was a positive influence on the permit renewal process. Although the model monitoring document was well-written, the need for ongoing training for new permit writers and permittees was discussed.

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

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

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:30 am for calendar year 2004:

March 5th
June 11th

September 10th
December 10th

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

9. CONTRACT APPROVAL

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

- 1) Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (\$600,000)
Bight'03

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Coe, this contract was approved.

- 2) The City of Los Angeles (\$368,000)
Ballona Creek Watershed Modeling

Upon the motion of Commissioner Stahl and seconded by Commissioner Coe, this contract was approved, with Commissioner Dojiri 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.

- 3) State Water Resources Control Board (\$100,000)
Orange County, Public Facilities & Resources Department (\$25,000)
Chevron Products (\$25,000)
Support for Bight'03 Regional Survey

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

10. 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 proceeding well, with the field sampling almost complete. He also indicated that the summer portion of the shoreline Microbiology component was completed last week. He indicated that the Water Quality component was scheduled for the rainy season and would be described in subsequent agenda items.

11. NEW TECHNIQUES FOR REMOTE OCEANOGRAPHIC MONITORING

Dr. Weisberg stated that remote sensing technologies for ocean monitoring are advancing rapidly and can provide a more temporally and spatially synoptic assessment than can be accomplished using shipboard methods alone. He further indicated that there were both federal and state initiatives that will enhance availability of this technology and the SCCWRP was helping with technology this process in two ways. First, the Water Quality Component of Bight'03 is investing nearly \$1M for tool evaluation by simultaneously use of shipboard and remote techniques to describe the spatial influence and temporal duration of storm water plumes. Seven ships will be deployed off of southern California's largest river systems for three days following each of two storms this winter. These river plumes will also be monitored using satellite imagery, high frequency radar, moored arrays and deployed drifters. The products from these two approaches will be compared to evaluate their relative contribution to plume assessment.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP was also assisting with technology development by his serving on Advisory Boards for several initiatives intended to develop portions of the federal program, including the Steering Committee for the US Global Ocean Observing System. He indicated that he has been invited to serve on these committees to represent the perspective of the water quality community.

Dr. Weisberg stated that SCCWRP has several partners in Bight'03 who bring specialized expertise. He introduced two of these partners as guest speakers to address the Commission on the status of the new technology and to receive feedback on the needs of the Commission agencies as end users. The first guest speaker was Dr. Paul DiGiacomo from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Paul described some of the new airborne and satellite remote sensing techniques which can be used to characterize pollution hazard impacts and indicated how they will be evaluated in the Bight'03 Water Quality Component. Dr. Weisberg next introduced Dr. Eric Terrill from Scripps Institute of Oceanography who described the predictive value of ground-based remote sensing techniques, such as high frequency radar and ADCP, to assess onshore incursions of plumes and associated elevated shoreline bacteria counts. The Commission asked these speakers numerous questions about the capabilities, availability and cost of this technology.

Dr. Weisberg was asked how SCCWRP's Bight'03 efforts intersected with Assemblymember Fran Pavely's Proposition 40 initiative to promote ocean observing technology. He responded that there was presently \$21M from Propositions 40 and 50 devoted to developing ocean observing technology of the type being evaluated in Bight'03, that the State Coastal Conservancy had responsibility for this initiative and that they were presently soliciting bids. Dr. Weisberg was asked whether SCCWRP was going to respond to the bid opportunity and he replied that SCCWRP had declined to do so, feeling that the bid process was too late for incorporation into Bight'03 and that other organizations were more qualified for the day-to-day operation of these technologies. Moreover, he thought SCCWRP could be more effective at meeting SCCWRP member needs by serving in an advisory capacity regarding water quality community needs. Several Commissioners expressed support for the initiative but expressed concern that individually they had not yet had success in interacting with Coastal Conservancy staff about direction of this program. They suggested that because of its consortium nature, SCCWRP could be an important vehicle for that input.

The Commission next discussed how they might use SCCWRP to enhance interactions with the Coastal Conservancy planning staff. The Commission agreed to invite Sam Schuchat, Director of the Coastal Conservancy, to brief them on the initiative's direction at the next SCCWRP Commission meeting. Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Stahl, a motion was unanimously approved to have Dr. Weisberg work with Commission Chair Dickerson to draft a letter inviting Sam Schuchat to speak at the next meeting. Dr. Weisberg asked whether this should be a letter from the Executive Director or from the Commission. Several Commissioners asked that the entire Commission sign it, with a copy sent to Fran Pavely so that she was aware of their support for the initiative.

12. WETLANDS AND WATER QUALITY

Dr. Martha Sutula gave a summary presentation on the recently published SCCWRP report on the potentially contradictory beneficial uses of wetlands for water quality treatment versus restoration of rapidly disappearing habitat. Wetlands are more frequently being used as a BMP for water quality improvements as part of watershed management plans, including state funded projects (i.e. Proposition 13 grants). This use potentially conflicts with the need for new wetland habitat, most of which has been lost to urban development in southern California. A risk-based framework was recommended for understanding the suitability of wetlands for both purposes. The report will be the focus of an October 1st workshop, cohosted with the Coastal Conservancy.

13. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to the next Commission meeting.

14. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Weisberg mentioned that the Commission had previously requested a presentation on the agency's approach to developing its Research Plan for the December Commission meeting.

15. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dojiri mentioned that Commissioner Wilson would be retiring on September 17th. The Commission recommended passing a Resolution honoring Commissioner Wilson for her professional service to the organization.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Stahl and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, a Resolution honoring Commissioner Wilson was unanimously approved. On behalf of the Commission, a plaque of appreciation would be presented to Commissioner Wilson at her retirement ceremony.

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner Coe and seconded by Commissioner Thibeault the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm until the next Commission meeting on December 5, 2003 at SCCWRP.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary