

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

June 11, 2004
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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 - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Alan Langworthy – *City of San Diego*
Lawrence Jackson – *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

John Robertus - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
Kenneth Schiff – *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative Officer*
B. Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Eric Stein - *Principal Investigator*
Lisa Sabin - *Scientist*

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*

Commission Chair Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Commissioners present at that time Martinson, Thibeault, Dickerson, Coe, Dojiri, Horvath, Ghirelli, Langworthy, and Sasaki being present.

Commissioner Dickerson requested the Commission take a moment of silence in memory of former President Ronald Reagan.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 5, 2004

2. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 30, 2004**
3. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT MARCH 30, 2004**
4. **MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2004**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg broke the Director's Report into three main areas: administrative, financial, and technical. Administratively, Dr. Weisberg reported that the Orange County RDMD (formerly PFRD) would likely join as an Associate Member, perhaps as soon as the next Commission meeting. He indicated that Ken Schiff had made a presentation to the County and their co-permittees in April, who passed their approval onto the city managers, who then approved the proposed membership. The next step in the approval process will be the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The next item Dr. Weisberg reported on was the recent direction given by EPA counsel to its staff to avoid participation on State of California Commissions. This direction resulted from a difference of opinion between the state and the federal government regarding the California Fair Political Practices Commission disclosure form. The EPA believes that federal employees acting in their official capacities representing federal agencies are not subject to state law and jurisdiction. Commissioner Hashimoto elaborated on Dr. Weisberg's explanation, affirmed her present unavailability to participate as a Commission member and expressed that it was EPA's desire to resolve this issue with the state as soon as possible. Commissioner Hashimoto indicated that she chose to attend today's Commission Meeting as a non-voting participating agency. The last administrative item Dr. Weisberg mentioned was the recent upgrades in the SCCWRP conference room to include teleconferencing capabilities and a live web camera, which he demonstrated.

Dr. Weisberg's financial update was positive, particularly with regard to the Authority's State of California contracts. He indicated potential concern that the State's financial hardship might translate to a reduction in contract funding to SCCWRP. He indicated that has not occurred because many of the Authority's state contracts are either associated with Proposition Grant funds (that are not directly tied to the state's general fund), or from State projects that have been less negatively impacted (such as TMDL-directed projects).

Dr. Weisberg's technical update focused on six items. First, Dr. Weisberg stated that he had been invited to serve on the planning committee for an EPA National Beach Conference in San Diego on October 13 -15. Second, Dr. Weisberg explained that the SCCWRP's evaluation of new rapid microbiological methods had been conducted the previous week. Initial results indicated that at least two methods were showing promise as replacements for existing methods, though none of the new methods worked perfectly. A more detailed presentation of the results will be given at the September Commission meeting. Third, Dr. Weisberg provided an update of the Bight'03 Regional Monitoring Program. He indicated that the Coastal Ecology group had made significant progress since the last Commission Meeting. Only one group had not met timeline milestones at this point and that was a conscious decision to add training and quality assurance tasks that will enhance data quality. Fourth, Dr. Weisberg described good progress on the Mission Bay Epidemiology Study, which he anticipates describing in detail at

the September Commission Meeting. Fifth, Dr. Weisberg talked about his participation in the California Ocean Summit, which was intended to assist in developing the Governor's response to the Presidential Ocean Commission Report released earlier this year. The Governor's response, partly based on testimony from Dr. Weisberg and 16 other experts assembled at the Ocean Summit, was for California to be a national leader on ocean issues and a call for action regarding coastal and ocean protection. Sixth, Dr. Weisberg indicated that partnerships were a central focus of SCCWRP's research activities and he pointed to two relationships that were evolving in a positive way. The first was with UCLA's Institute of the Environment. Dr. Weisberg met with the IOE's new Director, Mary Nichols, and they developed a series of action items to enhance partnership. The other was with the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF). Dr. Weisberg participated in their annual research planning efforts in Washington D.C. last month and identified six potential projects for partnering.

Commissioner Jackson arrived at 10:00 am.

Commissioner Dickerson shared with the Commission that June 30 would be his last day with the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board. He expressed that leaving was a challenge, but that it had been a wonderful experience serving on the Commission and being a part of the SCCWRP Commission. Dr. Weisberg thanked Commissioner Dickerson for his participation and personal effort over the years. Commissioner Ghirelli, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Commissioner Dickerson for his tremendous support to the Authority's mission and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

6. CTAG REPORT

Dave Montagne, on behalf of the chair and vice-chair of CTAG, reported that CTAG held its regularly scheduled meeting May 26. Three main issues were discussed at that meeting. First, CTAG reviewed the research plan and recommended endorsement to the Commission. Second, CTAG discussed how they might contribute to a monitoring workgroup proposed by the SWRCB to improve the Ocean Plan. These activities would be similar to their efforts undertaken as part of the Large POTW Model Monitoring Program (MMP), but focused on extrapolating the general framework of the MMP for the rest of the state. Third, CTAG heard a presentation from the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the California Coastal Conservancy (CCC). After agreeing to interact with SCCOOS and the CCC, CTAG decided to schedule a special meeting in August to discuss: 1) the use of data and products generated by SCCOOS; 2) integration of data generated by SCCWRP and its member agencies with SCCOOS; 3) collocation of SCCOOS equipment on CTAG agency easements; and 4) becoming partners in the development and implementation of the coastal observing system.

7. 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 Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$120,000)
Evaluation of Suspended Sediment Potency Factors
- 2) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$120,000)
Toxicity in the San Gabriel River

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Coe, these contracts were approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Dickerson 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 and not requiring a resolution. While the governing agreement of SCCWRP requires no Commission action on these, the following contracts were described to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 3) Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$26,000)
Sediment Detention Basins
- 4) Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$50,000)
Bird Egg Study
- 5) Thrifty Oil (\$6,000)
Newport Bay Food Web Study

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2004/2005 RESEARCH PLAN AND BUDGET

Dr. Weisberg presented the 2004/05 Research Plan to the Commission for their approval. The presentation had two components. The first component was financial. He provided a budget breakdown of project costs by stormwater-related and wastewater-related activities, with the vast majority of resources allocated to projects that served both stormwater and wastewater agency needs. He indicated that most of the projects that were specific to stormwater, which were numerous than those related only to wastewater, were funded by the state. Dr. Weisberg also emphasized that number of projects that were conducted in collaboration with other organizations, which were at an all-time high for the organization and exceeded 90% on a project basis.

The second component of the Research Plan presentation was technical. 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.

Finally, Dr. Weisberg mentioned that the Salary resolution required Commission approval for an individual salary increase of more than ten percent. Dr. Weisberg recommended a 15% increase for Dr. Martha Sutula. Dr. Sutula's performance with the Authority had far exceeded expectations and she was now responsible for bringing in over \$1 million in grants.

The Commissioners discussed project A7 in the Research Plan regarding Trends in Disposal of Wastewater Biosolids. This study was aimed at assessing the fate of residual solids. There was mutual consensus to remove the project from the Research Plan since there were a number of agencies (i.e. CASA, SCAP, or AMSA) already mandated for working with solids-related issues that were much better equipped to conduct a study such as this. Upon motion of Commissioner Langworthy and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, the 2004/2005 Research Plan and Budget, including Dr. Sutula's increase and the removal of project A7, was unanimously approved.

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

Dr Weisberg reported on only two changes to the resolution from the previous year. One was to raise the upper end of the salary scale for all positions by 2.6% to reflect cost of living. The other was to adjust the number of authorized positions to reflect the current staffing levels.

Commissioner Langworthy indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee had reviewed the resolution and motioned for its approval. Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, resolution number 04-08, to be effective July 1, 2004 was unanimously approved.

10. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Dr. Weisberg outlined the material changes between the 5th JPA and the draft for the 6th JPA, effective July 1, 2005. The purpose statement had been modified to reflect the Authority's refined focus. An Associate Members clause had been incorporated into the document. The signatory funding levels had been increased. The text of a previous resolution granting the Deputy Director authority to enter into contracts was incorporated. The Commission discussed the draft and recommended a few subtle, but important changes. The Commission directed Dr. Weisberg to incorporate those changes and electronically distribute for additional comments. Comments would be returned to Dr. Weisberg by June 30. Those comments would then be incorporated and circulated to member agency' counsel, with the hope that a final version could be agreed upon at the September Commission meeting.

11. TRENDS IN DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER BIOSOLIDS

This item was dropped from the agenda.

12. ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION

Deputy Director Kenneth Schiff presented the Authority's progress and initial findings from its atmospheric deposition studies, which are conducted in collaboration with UCLA. The Deputy Director indicated that atmospheric dry deposition has been found to be an important source of nutrients, trace metals, and PAHs to coastal watersheds, exceeding the loads from local Water Reclamation Plants. Finally, the atmospheric dry deposition loading measured during this study was linked to wet weather runoff following subsequent storm events. Watershed transfer coefficients were on the high end of the range for studies conducted in less urban watersheds. He concluded the presentation by describing the next set of results due out this summer, which will quantify the mass balance of dry atmospheric deposition with stormwater runoff in a small urban catchment.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Weisberg suggested that he give presentations on the Epidemiology Study and Rapid Indicator Method Development project at the next Commission meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dickerson mentioned that John Bishop would be the interim Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Regional Board and would be his replacement as SCCWRP Commissioner until a permanent replacement was selected. He also asked about SCCWRP's experience in investigating the impact of desalination plants. Dr. Weisberg stated that the impact was two-fold. First, there was the impact of impingement where fish and fish larvae are killed when seawater is withdrawn through new plants. Second, there was the potential impact of the desalination brine produced after the reverse-osmosis treatment process. He indicated that SCCWRP had done some work on the latter about ten years ago, but had no ongoing work on either topic.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner Langworthy and seconded by Commissioner Coe the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am until the next Commission meeting on September 10, 2004 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary