

**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**

**December 10, 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*  
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*  
Robert Horvath - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*  
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Lawrence Jackson - *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*  
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*  
George Robertson - *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Larry McKinney – *County of Orange*  
Larry Honeybourne – *County of Orange*  
Clay Clifton – *County of San Diego*  
Patty Vainik– *City of San Diego*

Commission Chair Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:38 am. Commissioners present were Martinson, Thibeault, Coe, Dojiri, Horvath, Ghirelli, and Sasaki.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 2004**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF AUGUST 25 AND 26, 2004**
- 5. 2004 ANNUAL AUDIT**

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

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Weisberg began his administrative update by presenting each Commissioner with SCCWRP's 2003-2004 Annual Report. He stated that approximately half of the articles in the Annual Report were already accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Dr. Weisberg next gave a status report about the agency's wet weather programs. Three of the programs had already been initiated in response to the early season rain events. The sampling window for the last project (Bight'03 water quality sampling and remote sensing) was set to begin with the first storm after January 1<sup>st</sup>. He next reported on the success of the Agency's external interactions, including organization of conferences, participation on advisory committees, and conduct of training programs. He described several recent examples, including the EPA Beaches Conference that SCCWRP helped organize, Dr. Weisberg's participation on NOAA's Science Advisory Panel for the Oceans and Human Health Initiative, and the two multi-day Freshwater Bioassessment Training for NPDES Permittees and RWQCB staff that SCCWRP recently organized. Dr. Weisberg next described the success of the recent CTAG Meeting, the goal of which was to have the member agencies present the status of their special studies to identify areas of potential integration with SCCWRP's research planning. Lastly, Dr. Weisberg gave an update from the Bight'03 Regional Monitoring Survey. Bight'03 has been progressing well, approximately 1 year ahead of schedule relative to previous surveys. Technical Reports will begin appearing in Spring 2005 for measurements with fast turnaround times (i.e. sediment toxicity) while measurements that require more time (i.e. benthic infauna) will be completed by September 2006. A synthesis Report is scheduled for December 2006.

### **7. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

Dr. Weisberg reported that the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was on track for member

agency approval. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Board of Commissioners had already approved the JPA. The JPA was schedule to go before the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Commissioners as a consent agenda item next week. The JPA would be going to the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor's Office for approval next month. The City of San Diego was mostly through their process of approving the JPA and did not foresee any problems.

## **8. CTAG REPORT**

George Robertson, Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's meeting of November 18. The meeting was devoted to discussing member agency's special projects and research needs that would be of interest to CTAG members and assessing how these fit into SCCWRP's current research planning. He indicated that the meeting was positive and that SCCWRP was already collaborating with member agencies on many of the projects. The meeting served to enhance the possibilities for more collaboration on future projects.

## **9. CONTRACT APPROVAL**

As an informational item, Dr. Weisberg described contracts with value of \$250,000 or less that the Authority has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept. While the governing agreement of SCCWRP requires no Commission action on these, the contracts were described to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 1) California Department of Health Services (\$50,000)  
Beach Watch
- 2) University of California, San Diego (\$26,000)  
SCCOOS
- 3) Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (\$48,500)  
Freshwater Fish Consumption Survey
- 4) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$9,000)  
BP West Coast Products (\$9,000)  
Arco (\$6,000)  
Los Angeles River Watershed Modeling
- 5) Arco (\$3,000)  
Newport Bay Food Web Study
- 6) US EPA (\$249,750)  
Development Of A Regional Monitoring Program For Southern California Wetlands
- 7) San Francisco Estuary Institute (\$40,000)  
Landscape Indicators

- 8) County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (\$16,644)  
Endocrine Disruption in Coastal Fish
- 9) San Diego Regional Harbor Monitoring for Copper (\$100,000)  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 10) Toxicity in the San Gabriel River (\$160,000)  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

At 10:15 Commissioner Jackson arrived.

## **10. MISSION BAY EPIDEMIOLOGY STUDY**

The Deputy Director presented results from the Mission Bay Epidemiology Study. This study was designed to answer three basic questions including: 1) Is there a health risk to swimmers in Mission Bay, 2) Is this health risk related to concentrations of traditional fecal indicator bacteria, or 3) Is it more related to any of several nontraditional measures of fecal pollution? Almost 9,000 swimmers and nonswimmers were recruited on summer weekends and holidays in 2003 and given health questionnaires. Over 2,000 water quality samples were collected on the same days as the beach recruitment to assess exposure. The recruits were contacted two weeks later by phone and queried about changes in their health status. Although 16% of the water samples exceeded water quality objectives, only two of the 14 symptoms evaluated (skin rash and eye irritation) had a statistically significant increase in risk for swimmers compared to nonswimmers. Both of these symptoms were less infectious compared to the more significant symptoms found in other epidemiology studies, such as highly credible gastrointestinal disease (HCGI) or significant respiratory disease (SRD). Diarrhea was also shown to have a statistically significant increased risk in swimmers compared to nonswimmers, but only in a single age class (5-12 yrs old). None of the traditional or nontraditional measures of fecal pollution correlated with the incidence of illness observed. The low swimmer risk, and the lack of correlation with fecal pollution measurements, was attributed to a lack of human specific sources of fecal pollution. The SCCWRP study found a nearly complete lack of measurable human specific viruses, consistent with a recent source tracking study sponsored by the City of San Diego. The Commission suggested that additional studies at other beaches might be an appropriate next step to better assess the effectiveness of presently used microbial indicators. Dr. Weisberg indicated that the agency was presently preparing proposals to hopefully gather the funding for such studies.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Dojiri asked if SCCWRP would consider developing guidelines for microbiological source tracking applications. The Executive Director responded that the US EPA was developing such a document and that SCCWRP staff had participated in development of that EPA publication. He volunteered to contact the US EPA to get a status report regarding publication of the document.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm until the next Commission meeting on March 11, 2005 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece  
Secretary