

**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**

**March 11, 2005
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*
Jim Stahl - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Alan Langworthy - *City of San Diego*
Darla Wise - *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
John Robertus - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Robert Horvath - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*

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*
Jim Allen - *Principal Investigator*

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
Michael Moore - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Walter Konopka– *City of San Diego*
Michael Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*

Commission Chair Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Commissioners present were Martinson, Thibeault, Coe, Stahl, Hashimoto, Langworthy, Wise and Sasaki.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 10, 2004**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 30, 2004**

3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 30, 2004

4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2004

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

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg began the Director's Report by summarizing the sound fiscal status of the Authority. He mentioned that in doing the budgeting for the next fiscal year, he noticed that both he and the Deputy Director had spent almost 20% of their time participating on advisory committees during the last year. He indicated that this initially concerned him, but he had concluded that this was actually time well spent based on three considerations: 1) Most of these advisory committees are at a high level and provides a means for ensuring the Authority's work is used as part of the technical basis for development of national and state policy; 2) They provide perspective about national issues that allow the Authority to focus on its research on issues of interest to scientists and managers; and 3) They are an excellent networking opportunity that has allowed the Authority to find new employees, become aware of continuing education opportunities for the Authority's personnel and that of our member agencies, and attracting visiting scientists that infuse new ideas into the Authority's studies.

6. UPDATE ON THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Dr. Weisberg reported that the 6th Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was on track, with three of the four member agencies having already approved the JPA. The City of San Diego was mostly through their process of approving the JPA and they did not foresee any problems in having it signed by June.

7. CTAG REPORT

Michael Lyons, Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's February 24 meeting. Frank Palmer of the State Water Resources Control Board had retired and has been replaced on CTAG by Dominic Gregorio. Gerry McGowan was the new CTAG member from the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Lyons discussed how the reputation of SCCWRP was growing and provided the Authority's interaction with the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) as an example. CTAG reviewed the first draft of the Authority's Research Plan for 2005/2006. CTAG felt that the Authority had anticipated the needs of the member agencies well and had integrated most of their special studies into their Research Plan. He indicated that Burt Jones (USC) provided an update about SCCOOS and that CTAG was pleased to see that state funds had been dispersed and that the project was underway. Mr. Lyons described Steve Bay's update to CTAG on the Sediment Quality Objectives project, which CTAG felt was important and likely to affect future sediment management (i.e. 303d listing, TMDLs, Clean-up and abatement, etc.). He reported that the CTAG meeting concluded with a presentation on Atmospheric Deposition and its profound affects on stormwater runoff.

8. CONTRACT APPROVAL

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

- 1) San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$520,000)
Chollas & Paleta Creek Source Analysis and Modeling
- 2) San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$260,000)
Supplemental Environmental Project funds to support source analysis and modeling of Switzer Creek

Upon the motion of Commissioner Stahl and seconded by Commissioner Thibeault, these contracts were approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Coe, Langworthy and Hashimoto abstaining.

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.

- 3) Orange County Resources and Development Management Department (\$120,000)
Relationships Between Dissolved Oxygen and Algae Distribution in Newport Bay
- 4) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$75,000)
Los Angeles River Watershed Modeling
- 5) Ventura County Waterworks District (\$78,985)
Endocrine Disruption in Coastal Fish
- 6) Everest International Consultants (\$36,768)
Dominguez Channel Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Study
- 7) Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$100,000)
Bird Egg Study
- 8) County of Orange (\$25,000)
County of Los Angeles (\$25,000)
San Bernardino County Flood Control District (\$25,000)
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (\$25,000)
Ventura County Watershed Protection District (\$25,000)
County of San Diego (\$7,500)
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (\$7,500)
Bioassessment Monitoring Program
- 8) CICEET (\$25,000)
Evaluation of Rapid Microbiological Indicator Methods
- 9) Santa Monica BayKeeper (\$6,000)
Santa Monica BayKeeper Database Support

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

9. SEDIMENT QUALITY OBJECTIVES

The Executive Director reported on SCCWRP's project to provide a scientific foundation for the State's sediment quality objectives (SQOs) for enclosed bays and estuaries. Dr. Weisberg explained that the effects of SQO's are potentially large and it was nationally groundbreaking work. He pointed out that previous national efforts to develop SQOs had failed because they had focused entirely on chemistry, which is difficult to interpret because bioavailability of chemicals in sediments is confounded by many factors. Instead, SCCWRP is working with the State Board to develop a multiple line of evidence approach, in which sediment chemistry is used jointly with toxicity and benthic infaunal assemblage information to assess whether there is both chemical exposure and biological effect. Dr. Weisberg described how SCCWRP was working closely with the SWRCB and three Advisory Committees (Scientific Steering Committee, Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Interagency Coordination Committee) to develop this SQO approach in an open and transparent process. Dr. Weisberg concluded by expressing concerns that this project was the closest SCCWRP has ever come to working directly on regulatory issues, but that staff recognized and respected the difference between developing a technical approach and implementing state policy, which will be done by the SWRCB.

At 11:00 Commissioner Stahl left the meeting.

10. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Weisberg was asked to provide an update on the Sediment Quality Objectives at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Ghirelli mentioned that the Agency's resolution governing compensation, Dr Weisberg's performance review and Dr. Weisberg's employment contract would be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm until the next Commission meeting on June 10, 2005 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary