

**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**

**September 9, 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*
Deborah Smith - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Robert Horvath - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Larry McKenney – *Orange County*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative Officer*
B. Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*
Ken Schiff – *Deputy Director*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Jim Allen - *Principal Investigator*
Drew Ackerman – *Senior Scientist*

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
George Robertson - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Michael Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Xavier Swamikannu - *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, Smith, Hashimoto, Ghirelli, Horvath, Dojiri, Sasaki and McKenney.

Seating of the County of Orange Commissioner:

Commissioner Ghirelli indicated that the County of Orange had accepted the Commission's

invitation to become an Associate Member of SCCWRP. He welcomed Larry McKenny as the Commissioner representing the County of Orange.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 10, 2005**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2005**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24 AND MAY 24, 2005**

The Agency's legal counsel requested a modification to his comments regarding a new lease recorded in the June 30, 2005 minutes under the Executive Director's report section. The minutes will now state; "Mr. Marsh responded that it was not within Dr. Weisberg's authority and an empowering resolution would be required." Commissioner Martinson motioned to approve the consent agenda items with Mr. Marsh's modification. Commissioner Dojiri seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Administrative Report focused on two items. First, Dr. Weisberg reported that the Ventura County Watershed Protection District had signed a four-year Associate Membership agreement effective July 1, 2005. Second, he reported that the City of San Diego was expected to sign the JPA at their next City Council meeting on September 19th.

The Executive Director's Technical Report focused on four items. First, Dr. Weisberg outlined the Agency's recent nutrient-related research activities, including establishment of a partnership with EPA's regional nutrient criteria development team and being named coordinator for NOAA's southwest nutrient assessment activities. Second, Dr. Weisberg gave an update on the sediment quality objectives project. He indicated that SCCWRP was making excellent progress on assessment tools for the multiple lines of evidence approach. The progress was validated by a positive review from the Scientific Steering Committee during their three-day meeting in July. Third, Dr. Weisberg gave an update on the progress of Bight'03. Report submissions were progressing on schedule; the Toxicity report was finalized and the Chemistry report was in the late stages of preparation. Fourth, he indicated that the technical success of SCCWRP was so good that more groups were asking for our staff's time on Technical Advisory Committees. These advisory committees have proven to be a useful mechanism for incorporating SCCWRP's science into national environmental policy, keeping staff aware of initiatives in other areas of the country and for attracting outside interest and resources to the southern California region.

6. NEW FACILITY UPDATE

Dr. Weisberg described progress on procuring a new facility. The Agency had responded to a series of landlord lease proposals and signed a non-binding letter of intent that calls for the landlord to remove the property from the market while an architectural firm develops plans and estimate costs for tenant improvements. He also stated that the landlord has requested that a member agency provide a lease guaranty, as the potential lease exceeds the tenure of our present JPA. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he will need to have further discussion with the Commission about that should the tenant improvement cost estimates prove affordable.

7. CTAG REPORT

Michael Lyons, Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's August 23 meeting at which four main issues were discussed. First, SCCWRP staff described their activities to facilitate the Scientific Planning and Review Committee (SPARC) for the Statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), which is scheduled for the first week of October. The second item was a presentation by Steve Bay on Sediment Quality Objectives (SQO). Steve discussed the multiple line of evidence approach and the development of assessment tools for sediment chemistry, sediment toxicity, and benthic infauna. The third item was a description of SCCWRP's scientific activities associated with development of nutrient criteria. The last item was a presentation by Drew Ackerman on the application of watershed models for BMP evaluation. This presentation, which was a follow-up to the watershed modeling results presented in May, focused on the capability of various BMPs to improve water quality.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

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

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:30 am for calendar year 2006:

March 10th

June 9th

September 8th

December 8th

Commissioner Coe motioned to approve the Commission meeting dates. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved unanimously.

10. 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 (\$200,000)
EFDC Hydrology And Water Quality Model Support
- 2) State Water Resources Control Board (\$160,000)
Scientific Planning And Review Committee for SWAMP
- 3) NASA (\$360,000)
Coastal Ocean Biological Response To Urbanization And Climate Variability In The Southern California Bight: Impact Of Terrestrial Runoff In The Santa Monica And San Pedro Shelf Systems
- 4) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$75,000)
Measuring Load Allocations – Natural Drainages

Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, the contracts were approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Martinson abstaining on contracts 1 and 2, with Commissioner Smith abstaining on contracts 1 and 4, and Commissioner Hashimoto abstaining on all of them.

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.

- 5) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$105,778)
Los Angeles River Watershed Modeling
- 6) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$12,721)
Endocrine Disruption in Coastal Fish
- 7) South Orange County Wastewater Authority (\$4,500)
Bight'03

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

11. WATERSHED MODELING

Dr. Weisberg presented results from watershed models aimed at evaluating best management practices (BMPs) to improve water quality. SCCWRP staff had interviewed numerous CTAG representatives to assess what types of BMPs were being considered for watershed management, stormwater permit compliance, and total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation. Based on these planning efforts and member agency operating assumptions

about BMP placement and efficiency, SCCWRP conducted model runs to examine reductions in runoff volume and loads of suspended solids, copper, and *E. coli*. These model runs found that there was little reduction in loads observed for the suggested management strategies to be evaluated. The challenges were that the land uses that generate the most load (i.e. high density residential) are the ones on which it is most difficult to implement structural BMPs. Secondly, most of the load is derived from the later portions of large storms, whereas most BMPs are focused on removing contaminants from the early portion of storms. Dr. Weisberg indicated that staff were still in the early phases of BMP evaluation modeling and identified three activities that would be undertaken over the next six months: 1) re-examine modeled BMP strategies based on concentrations, not just loads; 2) evaluate alternate management scenarios based on feedback received during discussions with CTAG, and 3) augment the models to distinguish natural contaminant loads from anthropogenic additions to that load.

12. ESTUARINE MODELING

Dr. Weisberg described the Agency's approach to developing models that link watershed-based sources of pollutants with their fate and transport through an estuary to the ocean. This project is in its beginning stages and the presentation focused on project goals, design and anticipated products.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission requested an update from Ken Schiff who is serving on a SWRCB's Technical Advisory Committee examining the feasibility of numeric criteria for stormwater discharges. The Commission also requested an update on the rapid indicator project at a future Commission meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Brad Fowler, Director of Public Works for the City of Dana Point, spoke to the Commission. The City of Dana Point is committed to helping support a SCCWRP-organized epidemiology study at Doheny Beach. In order to secure the remaining resources needed for such a study, Mr. Fowler asked the Commission to write a letter to the SWRCB. The Commission agreed to draft the letter.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm until the next Commission meeting on December 9, 2005 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary