

**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 9, 2005  
9:30 a.m.**

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**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 Public Facilities and Resources Department*  
Gerhardt Hubner – *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*  
B. Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*  
Ken Schiff – *Deputy Director*  
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*  
Jim Allen - *Principal Investigator*  
Eric Stein - *Principal Investigator*  
Doris Vidal - *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*  
John Robertus - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*  
Tim Stebbins – *City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Division*  
Andy Moreno – *Cepheid*

Commission Chair Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. Commissioners present were Martinson, Thibeault, Coe, Smith, Hashimoto, Ghirelli, Horvath, Dojiri, Sasaki, Hubner, and

McKenney.

Commissioner Ghirelli welcomed Gerhardt Hubner as the Alternate Commissioner for Ventura County. Commissioner Ghirelli also acknowledged Commissioner Martinson on his pending retirement and thanked him for his long and distinguished service to the Agency.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2005**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF August 23, 2005**
- 5. 2005 Audit**

Commissioner Coe requested a correction to the financial statement. The dates of the column heading for expenditures appeared to be incorrect. Also, Commissioner Coe requested a cost breakdown for the line item on subscription and memberships. Commissioner Langworthy motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Dojiri seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

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

The Executive Director's Administrative Report focused on four items. First, Dr. Weisberg welcomed Commissioner Hubner, the new Alternate Commissioner for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. Commissioner Hubner thanked the Commission and provided a brief biographical sketch of himself. Second, Dr. Weisberg thanked Commissioner Martinson on his last Commission Meeting before retirement. Commissioner Horvath motioned for a Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Martinson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli and unanimously approved. Third, Dr. Weisberg acknowledged the independent financial audit of the Agency and commended Bryan Nece, SCCWRP's Administrative Officer, as this was the fourth year in a row the audit has had zero exceptions. Finally, Dr. Weisberg briefed the Commission on the status of the Agency's potential new facility. At previous meetings, the Commission had authorized Dr. Weisberg to negotiate a lease for a new facility in Fountain Valley. Since the last meeting, architectural plans had been drawn and preliminary construction bids had been received. Dr. Weisberg indicated that the costs for construction were greater than anticipated, but that he was pursuing alternatives to reduce construction costs, renegotiate the tenant improvement allowance, and additional financing

options. He indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee was briefed on, and was supportive of pursuing, these alternatives.

The Executive Director's Technical Report focused on five items. First, Dr. Weisberg mentioned the Agency's prolific publication rate. This year's Annual Report was likely to have 40% more articles than last year's, which was previously the largest Annual Report ever. Second, Dr. Weisberg mentioned that SCCWRP had recently been mentioned in the press regarding the agency's studies on Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) and their effect on local marine fish. The press had picked up on this item as a result of a SCCWRP-organized session at the International meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry held in Baltimore, MD in November. Several Commissioners indicated that they felt informed about this project through previous briefings to the Commission and CTAG, but asked that Dr. Weisberg send them an email notice when the press interviews SCCWRP staff for a story about SCCWRP research.

The third technical item Dr Weisberg reported on was an update on SCCWRP's project to develop a technical foundation for sediment quality objectives (SQO). SCCWRP has recommended utilizing a triad approach to defining sediment quality and significant progress had been made on defining assessment tools for two legs of the triad (sediment toxicity and benthic infauna). Work is still progressing on defining the best assessment tool for evaluating sediment chemistry, which is the third leg of the triad. Updates continue to be provided to CTAG. The next Scientific Review Committee meeting will be held February 28 through March 2, where the technical tools will be publicly described in detail. Pending the Scientific Review Committee's response, the Stakeholder and Agency Coordinating Committees will get a chance to review and evaluate the technical tools the Agency has developed.

The fourth technical item Dr. Weisberg reported on was a Bight'03 Regional Monitoring update. He indicated that this program is in good shape, without any missed reporting deadlines. The Toxicity Report is completed and the Sediment Chemistry Report is in review. Perhaps the most difficult report, Benthic Infauna, finished their assessment tool development and is ready to progress forward.

The fifth technical item Dr. Weisberg reported on was the Scientific and Planning Review Committee for the SWRCB's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). SCCWRP coordinated the Review Committee in October. The Review Committee's Final Report will be finished in March, after SWAMP responds to the Review Committee's recommendations at a follow-up meeting in March. The Commission asked the Executive Director to provide a briefing on the Review Committee recommendations, and SWAMP's response, at the March Commission meeting agenda.

## **7. CTAG REPORT**

Michael Lyons, Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at which the member agencies provided SCCWRP with their list of ongoing and future special projects, as well as their research needs. Several topics were identified by numerous parties, including

Endocrine Disrupting Compounds. Mr. Lyons indicated that he felt the discussion was helpful for all of the member agencies to observe what research each other is conducting, and should be especially helpful to the City of Los Angeles, which now has a new permit condition for special studies. CTAG also discussed the role it should play in reviewing SCCWRP Annual Report articles. An issue that arose was whether CTAG should also review SCCWRP's journal submittals, as many of the articles in the Annual Report have already been accepted for publication before the Annual Report review process has begun. The outcome of this discussion was that the Agency will simultaneously provide journal submissions articles to CTAG throughout the year. Mr. Lyons also indicated that subsequent to the CTAG meeting, there was discussion as to whether CTAG should also review SCCWRP reports. Commissioner Ghirelli endorsed continuation of such discussions at the next CTAG meeting and asked for a report on the outcome at the next Commission meeting.

## **8. CONTRACT APPROVAL**

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

1) University of New Hampshire Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) (\$367,519)  
In-situ measurements of toxic organic compounds in sediment porewater

2) State Water Resources Control Board (\$200,000)  
Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP05)

Upon the request of Commissioner Chair Ghirelli, contracts 1 and 2 were unanimously approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Martinson abstaining on contract 2.

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)  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (\$148,000)

Historical Ecology

4) Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (\$104,000)

Riparian and Wetland Mapping

- 5) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$27,000)

Los Angeles River Watershed Modeling

- 6) Tetra Tech (\$45,000)

Estuarine Nutrient Criteria Development

- 7) Earth Resource Foundation (\$20,000)

Working at the Watershed Level – Urban Refuse Module

- 8) University of California, San Diego (\$22,406)

SCCOOS

- 9) State Water Resources Control Board (\$4,998)

Numeric Effluent Limitation Advisory Panel

- 10) SMC (\$60,000)

Laboratory Intercalibration Study

- 11) Camarillo Sanitary District (\$5,000)

## Callegus Creek Watershed Management Plan

12) Hercules Inc. (\$11,000)

## Toxaphene Analysis

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

**9. Endocrine Disruption Research**

Steven Bay, Principal Scientist, provided an update on the Endocrine Disrupting Compound (EDC) research at SCCWRP. He indicated that there is a wide array of EDCs, any of which might interfere with normal hormone function. SCCWRP's research objectives are to: 1) develop improved measurement tools; 2) use these tools to assess the extent and magnitude of impact from EDCs in the southern California Bight; 3) investigate the chemicals and sources of these effects; and 4) enhance collaboration among university researchers and member agencies. A brief summary of research from the Bight'03 program indicated that high levels of hormone induction were evident in some flatfish species, ovatestes were found in male flatfish, and these effects were most evident near the areas of greatest potential sources in the Los Angeles Margin. There were several data gaps that have yet to be filled by our research including: 1) what is the normal or background levels of these effects? 2) do these effects occur in other species? 3) do these effects affect fish health or fish populations? and 4) what are the specific EDCs that are causing these effects? Mr. Bay described how SCCWRP would address these data gaps through field sampling and laboratory experiments that are planned for next year. These efforts are being coordinated with our university and member agency partners. The Commission asked the Executive Director to electronically distribute the slides from this presentation.

**10. Rapid Indicator Research**

Dr. Weisberg described the Agency's latest research on development of rapid methods for measurement of fecal indicator bacteria. Current methods take 18-24 hrs for measurement, but beach managers want faster methods to better manage public health risk. The goal of this research is to evaluate a number of new methods to reduce measurement times to less than four hours. Five rapid methods were tested side-by-side with traditional methods at the OCSO laboratory last summer. The results were evaluated relative to traditional methods using the following criteria: 1) Did they provide the "right" answer relative to the AB411 standards, 2) Did the new methods provide comparable accuracy, and 3) Did the new methods have similar precision? All of the new methods were promising, but the tests identified some problems for each of the methods that should be addressed prior to their use as a routine monitoring tool. Dr.

Weisberg indicated that he was meeting next week with a subcommittee or the Beach Water Quality Work Group, which has been charged with developing a process for bringing these methods to fruition. The Commission provided several ideas for the Executive Director to bring the Work Group and asked to hear about the outcome of that meeting at the next Commission meeting.

**11. Numeric Criteria for Stormwater Discharges**

Kenneth Schiff, Deputy Director, provided an update on the SWRCB Scientific Review Panel that he serves on to evaluate of the feasibility of developing numeric criteria for stormwater discharges. He described the public testimony the Panel received from regulated parties, regulatory staff, and environmental groups as to the need for such criteria. He indicated that the panel was currently drafting a white paper, which would be available in a few months.

**12. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

The Commission requested an update on findings of the Scientific Planning and Review Committee of the SWRCB's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program at the March Commission meeting. Dr. Weisberg was asked to invite a member of SWAMP to present SWAMP's response to the Review Committee's findings. The Commission also requested an update on the Agency's nutrient criteria development at their meeting in June or September.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Robertus, Executive Officer of the San Diego RWQCB, asked the Executive Director if an invitation had been given to the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health to join SCCWRP as Associate members? The Executive Director stated that an invitation had been given about three years previously, at the same time as invitations were issued to the Los Angeles County, Ventura County and Orange County stormwater agencies. The Commission decided that it was time to provide another letter of invitation to the San Diego County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ghirelli requested that Dr. Weisberg draft a letter of invitation for signature by the Commission Chair and Co-Chair.

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm until the next Commission meeting on March 10, 2006.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Schiff  
Secretary