

**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 9, 2006
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Haven – *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*
Jonathan Bishop - *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*
Alan Langworthy - *City of San Diego*
Diego Cadena – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Gerhardt Hubner – *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*
Larry McKenney – *Orange County Public Facilities and Resources Department*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
B. Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*
Ken Schiff – *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative officer*
Jim Allen - *Principal Investigator*
Art Barnett - *Principal Investigator*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Eric Stein - *Principal Investigator*

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
Michael Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*

Commission Chair Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM. Commissioners present were Haven, Thibeault, Coe, Bishop, Hashimoto, Ghirelli, Horvath, Dojiri, Langworthy, Cadena, and McKenney.

Commissioner Ghirelli welcomed Elizabeth Haven as the Alternate Commissioner for the State Water Resources Control Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 9, 2006**

2. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2006**
3. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT MARCH 31, 2006**
4. **MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2006**

Commissioner Coe motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Dojiri seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved with a minor correction to the March 9th minutes.

Commissioner Hubner arrived at 9:42 am.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Administrative Report mentioned that the County of San Diego had indicated their intent to become an Associate Member of SCCWRP effective July 1, 2006.

The Executive Director's Technical Report began with Dr. Weisberg pointing out the Agency's continued publication success. Dr. Weisberg then described how the Agency's technical activities are affecting changes in policy and management, using five examples. The first example was the Agency's project to lay the technical foundation for the State's Sediment Quality Objectives (SQO), which the SWRCB was due to release in August. The second example was the Scientific and Planning Review Committee for the SWRCB's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), which was resulting in a major overhaul of SWAMP's management goals and study design. The third item was the Agency's study of copper contamination in marinas as the result of vessel antifouling paints, which the Department of Pesticide Regulation has now been extended statewide. The fourth example was Dr. Weisberg's participation on the planning committee for the California and World Ocean (CWO) Conference, which he expects will be an effective meeting for scientific outreach and interaction with coastal managers. The Commission asked Dr. Weisberg to distribute the CWO conference announcement. The fifth example was the upcoming visit of Dr. Ephraim King, US EPA's Office of Science and Technology Director, who is coming to SCCWRP to assess California's perception about his office's initiatives and to discuss potential partnerships with SCCWRP. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had planned Dr. King's visit around a meeting of the Beach Water Quality Work Group (BWQWG), which is a statewide coalition of County Health Agencies and beach monitoring organizations that help to formulate the SWRCB policies on beach monitoring and health advisory issues.

Dr. Weisberg next described SCCWRP's involvement in helping Los Angeles County Sanitation District organize a workshop on fecal indicator bacteria in beach sand to be held on June 14. There was much interest in the workshop and Dr. Weisberg was asked to provide information to the Commission on the outcomes of the workshop.

6. NEW FACILITY

Dr. Weisberg informed the Commission that on May 25 he had signed a 12-year lease agreement for a new facility on Harbor Blvd in Costa Mesa. He indicated that development of architectural plans for tenant improvements to the building were advancing quickly and would be submitted to the City of Costa Mesa for approval in early July. He anticipated that construction

would begin in September, with a move-in date of December 2006. Dr. Weisberg thanked Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) for providing a lease guaranty, which the landlord required because the tenure of SCCWRP's Joint Power's Agreement was shorter than the lease duration.

7. CTAG REPORT

Michael Lyons, Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's May 18th meeting. Mr. Lyons indicated that CTAG had reviewed next year's Research Plan and recommended its endorsement by the Commission. CTAG also discussed SCCWRP's marina copper study and its potential impacts on water quality standards. A significant amount of time was designated for reviewing the Agency's modeling to assess the effectiveness of potential stormwater management practices. CTAG also heard a presentation by Heal the Bay, which was invited to present their report about best management practices to explore how it might dovetail with SCCWRP's modeling efforts. Finally, Mr. Lyons briefly described CTAG's discussion about the potential environmental impacts of proposed offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals.

8. CONTRACT APPROVAL

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

- 1) State Water Resources Control Board (\$3,000,000)
Epidemiology Study to Assess Swimmer Health Risk

Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath, seconded by Commissioner Langworthy, the contract was unanimously approved by Resolution, with Commissioners Haven and Hashimoto abstaining.

- 2) State Water Resources Control Board (\$1,500,000)
Rapid Indicator Methodology for Measuring Fecal Indicator Bacteria

Upon the motion of Commissioner Dojiri and seconded by Commissioner Bishop, the contract was unanimously approved by Resolution, with Commissioners Haven 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) San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$100,000)
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

9. FISCAL YEAR 2006/2007 RESEARCH PLAN AND BUDGET

Ken Schiff presented the 2006/07 Research Plan to the Commission for their approval. He identified that there were 39 projects in the Plan. One-third were new projects and the remaining two-thirds were ongoing multi-year studies. He emphasized that 90% of the projects will be conducted in collaboration with other organizations, including many with member agencies. Ken then provided an overview of how these Research Plan projects intersected with member

agencies' needs, as expressed at the November CTAG meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Dojiri and seconded by Commissioner Horvath, the 2006/2007 Research Plan and Budget was unanimously approved.

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

Dr Weisberg reported that there were only two changes to the resolution from the previous year. One was to raise the upper end of the salary scale for all positions to reflect a cost of living adjustment. The other was to include a cap on SCCWRP's preferred provider option (PPO) health insurance contribution. Dr Weisberg also requested that Commission approve a 30% salary increase for John Griffith, who recently completed his Ph.D., as Commission approval is required for individual raises in excess of 10%.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Langworthy and seconded by Commissioner Horvath, resolution number 06-05, to be effective July 1, 2006 was unanimously approved, along with John Griffith's salary increase.

11. WATERSHED MODELING

Dr. Weisberg presented the results of the Agency's watershed modeling studies to assess the likely effectiveness of several candidate watershed best management practices (BMPs) to reduce stormwater loading of contaminants. He indicated that simulations were run for five types of BMPs (or combination of BMPs) that were identified as candidates by CTAG. The models found that none of these BMPs reduced total contaminant load by more than 20%. The ineffectiveness resulted from constraints on logistical constraints on the number, sizing and land use type on which they could reasonably be deployed. He also noted that large storms generated the majority of decadal emissions and that these storms overwhelmed the capacity of the suggested BMPs. The Agency's next steps are to work with organizations such as Heal the Bay that are optimizing BMP location and sizing, as well as examine applications in watersheds other than Ballona Creek. After much discussion, the Commission asked Dr. Weisberg to continue interactions with CTAG on this topic.

12. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission requested a presentation about SCCWRP's wetlands research at a future Commission meeting. The Commission also asked for updates about: 1) SCCWRP's watershed model to evaluate best management practice implementation strategies, 2) SCCWRP's participation in the California and World Oceans conference, 3) Outcomes from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District workshop on fecal indicator bacteria in beach sand.

The Commission also expressed a desire to have an all-day long-range planning meeting, similar to the offsite meeting five years ago that led to invitation of the stormwater agencies to participate in SCCWRP. Dr. Weisberg asked if that meeting could be held in spring, after the organization's move to the new facility, to which the Commission agreed. The Commission requested that prior to that meeting, Dr. Weisberg prepare a document summarizing the Agency's accomplishments over the last five years and provide a vision statement for the next five years.

13. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dojiri distributed a Status Report on Santa Monica Bay published by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division. Dr. Weisberg introduced Art Barnett as a new SCCWRP staff member. Finally, Commissioner Ghirelli commended Dr. Weisberg on his ten-year anniversary with the Agency.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm until the next Commission meeting on September 8, 2006.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary