

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY**

**HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY
3535 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, California 92626**

**December 14, 2007
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Drew Bohan – *Ocean Protection Council*
Diego Cadena - *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Chris Crompton - *County of Orange*
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*
Tracy Egoscue - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
Gerhardt Hubner – *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
Alan Langworthy – *City of San Diego*
Steve Maguin - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Darrin Polhemus - *State Water Resources Control Board*
John Robertus - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Cid Tesoro – *County of San Diego*
Jerry Thibeault - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg - *Executive Director*
B. Richard Marsh - *Legal Counsel*
Ken Schiff - *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative Officer*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Larry Cooper - *Principal Investigator*
Keith Maruya - *Principal Investigator*
Eric Stein - *Principal Investigator*
Art Barnett – *Supervising Scientist*
Shelly Moore - *Programmer*
Meredith Howard - *Scientist*
Karen Setty – *Science Writer*

OTHERS PRESENT

Phil Friess - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Deb Smith - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Joe Gully - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Gerry McGowen – *City of Los Angeles*
George Robertson - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Tim Stebbins – *City of San Diego*

Commission Chair Polhemus called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

Commissioner Polhemus welcomed two new Commissioners. Drew Bohan is the new Alternate Commissioner for the Ocean Protection Council. Tracy Egoscue is the new Commissioner for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2007**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETINGS OF AUGUST 23, 2007**
- 5. 2007 AUDIT**

Commissioner Maguin motioned for approval of consent items, which was seconded by Commissioner Dojiri. The consent items were unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director began with an update on Administrative activities. He indicated that the Agency had received its eighth exception-free audit in a row. Special recognition was given to Administrative Officer Bryan Nece for this remarkable accomplishment.

The Executive Officer then provided an update on Technical activities. He began by noting the high level of productivity of Agency staff in terms of technical reports and scientific papers. He indicated that the 2007 Annual Report was completed and will be distributed in January.

As another example of staff productivity, the Executive Director provided four examples that illustrated the impact the Agency has had on management activities. The first was the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) action to re-evaluate anti-fouling bottom paints following an expansion of a SCCWRP study that found pollution from copper antifouling paint in San Diego marinas. The second illustration was the positive reactions to the scientific foundation for the State Water Resources Control Board's statewide sediment quality objectives (SQOs), which SCCWRP was instrumental in developing, at a public hearing on November 19th. The third illustration was how staff research to develop a periphyton index of biotic integrity had attracted national experts and is being considered as a core indicator by the SWRCB's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). The fourth illustration was the Wetland's Recovery Project Board of Governor's mandate to implement a wetland regional monitoring program that was developed by Agency staff.

The final element of the Executive Director's technical report was the Agency's ability to attract science to the southern California region. The most recent example was the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), which signed a memorandum of understanding with the Agency. In response to that MOU, NCCOS is currently collaborating on eight joint projects with the Agency. Gary Matlock, Director

of NCCOS, came to the last CTAG meeting, specifically to meet member agency staff and identify future areas of potential collaboration in southern California.

7. CTAG REPORT

Gerry McGowen, Chair of the Commissioner's Technical Advisory Committee (CTAG), presented a summary of their November 8th meeting. At this meeting, the group selected dates for their 2008 meetings, received the Executive Director's report, and received an update on the Bight '08 regional monitoring and plans for the SCCWRP Symposium. Presentations were also given by Eric Stein on evaluating the effects of climate change on coastal wetlands and by Ken Schiff on design storm standards for water quality. The CTAG Chair then summarized the interests presented by CTAG members for coordination with the Agency's Research Plan. The next CTAG meeting is February 26, 2008.

Due to a scheduling request, the Commission agreed to move up agenda item numbers 14, 12, and 13.

14. ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR RESEARCH

Steve Bay provided an update on the status of endocrine disruptor research. Previous research on this topic presented to the Commission had indicated the potential for environmental effects from endocrine disrupting compounds, but the significance of the impact was unknown. This presentation updated the Commission on a larger, more expansive study to assess the environmental significance. The new research, which was approximately halfway completed, was conducted in collaboration with four member agencies and several universities. The goals are to: 1) assess inputs by measuring concentrations for several analytes (including hormones, industrial and commercial chemicals, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and legacy contaminants) in POTW effluent, 2) quantify ambient exposure by measuring chemical concentrations in receiving waters and sediments, and 3) determine if there are biological responses by measuring fish tissue samples for endocrine activation/suppression. The initial results indicated that many emerging contaminants were found in POTW effluent throughout the year, and many were also detected in receiving waters, sediments and fish tissue. Investigation into the potential relationship of these chemical findings to biological effects in fish is currently underway.

12. DESIGN STORM STANDARDS FOR WATER QUALITY

Ken Schiff made a presentation describing the Agency's research exploring the concept of a design storm standard for water quality. While design storm standards for hydrology and flooding were commonplace, design storm standards for water quality do not exist. Working with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's Wet Weather Task Force, the Agency examined two conceptual approaches to modeling water quality for design storm standards. The first approach models end of the watershed wet weather discharges and impacts to receiving waters. The second models wet weather discharges from small upstream catchments and simulates best available technology (i.e., BMPs) to predict effluent water quality relative to existing water quality criteria. An example was shown for copper discharges from the Ballona Creek watershed and from a high density residential land use catchment with three types of BMPs. While both approaches appeared viable for developing design storm standards, there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed before standards could be promulgated. These issues included exploring differing land uses, watersheds with varying rainfall, and more constituents. There were also a number of nontechnical factors like cost of compliance and allowable exceedence frequencies for water quality standards. The Wet Weather Task Force recommended investigation into these additional technical and nontechnical factors.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON WETLANDS

Eric Stein made a presentation about the Agency's emerging research into climate change effects on wetlands. The Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) has spent several hundred million dollars to purchase and restore coastal wetlands. However, the effect of climate change and sea level rise has not been considered in the WRP's planning efforts. Moreover, where research has been done in other parts of the country, the effects of climate change have focused solely on oceanic forcing and did not include terrestrial forcing that may result from increased storm size, intensity and frequency associated with El Nino events. Dr. Stein indicated that the goal of this study is to expand the application of watershed models previously developed by staff, combine these with oceanic models developed by our project partners at UCLA and NCCOS, and predict the overall impact on coastal wetlands. Potential changes to wetlands span a wide range of management interests including change in wetland size, extent, frequency of inundation, habitat suitability, salinity, and depth, as well as threat of invasive species, and effects on infrastructure. Results of this project will be used to assist the WRP in incorporating climate change into their wetland restoration planning.

8. 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) University of New Hampshire Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) (\$179,836)
In-Situ Measurements of Toxic Organic Compounds in Sediment Porewater
- 2) Hercules Inc (\$30,000)
Toxaphene Analysis
- 3) SFEI (\$27,000)
Historical Ecology
- 4) County of San Diego (\$8,510)
Hydromodification Management

There were no objections to these contracts.

9. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

The Executive Director presented a draft of the next Agency Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for Commission consideration. The current JPA expires in June 2009 and the approval process will require 18 months. The Personnel and Finance Committee reviewed the draft agreement and recommended approval for member agency legal review pending several minor modifications. These modifications included: 1) updating the name of the Authority throughout the document; 2) changes to headings for clarity; 3) removal of travel expense reimbursement for Commissioners to attend Agency meetings; and 4) changing the donation of the signatory agencies to a fixed amount over the term of the four year agreement. The fixed price would incorporate a single increase from the existing agreement rather than annually escalating the cost each year as it currently exists. Some discussion followed as to the language regarding associate member agencies in the JPA. Commissioner Egoscue motioned that the Associate

Members be listed in the JPA, the Executive Director create a separate agreement for Associate Member Agencies, then attach this agreement to the JPA as an Appendix. Commissioner Maguin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Executive Director was asked to bring a copy of the Associate Member Agreement to the next meeting.

10. BIGHT'08 UPDATE

The Executive Director reported on progress in planning the next Bight-wide regional sampling. Over 120 people representing nearly 70 organizations, including several new potential participants, attended a Bight'08 kickoff meeting held September 19th. The Executive Director summarized accomplishments thus far including the creation of five Planning Committees representing the major framework of the program, seven Technical Work Groups charged with implementation and logistics, and a Steering Committee that serves to integrate all of the monitoring elements. The Planning Committees included coastal ecology, water quality, microbiology, rocky reef habitat, and Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBSs). A timeline for creating study plans, developing methods manuals, and conducting field sampling was presented.

11. SCCWRP SYMPOSIUM

The Executive Director presented his plans for the SCCWRP Symposium scheduled for January 15, 2008. The idea for the Symposium was originally conceived during the Agency's long range planning workshop. The goal of the Symposium will be to enhance communication with the member agencies on the wide variety of research activities the Agency is undertaking. The plans included nearly 40 presentations in themed platform sessions. Each member agency will be allowed to invite eight guests of their choice. Dr. Weisberg indicated his hope that this event would attract member agency personnel that typically do not interact with the Agency or only participate on individual projects, and improve their access to SCCWRP researchers. Dr. Weisberg finished the presentation with his plans for providing a webcast to those who are unable to attend.

15. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission identified two items for future meetings. The first was a request to hear about the changes implemented by CIWQS in response to the SCCWRP-facilitated review of the program. The second was a presentation on the Agency's new web page design, which the Commission suggested might be more appropriate for the June meeting when implementation of the web site design was further along.

16. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Cadena mentioned that Commissioner Wolfe with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works was retiring in March.

17. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm until the next Commission meeting on March 14, 2008.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary