

**Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of the  
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP)**

**Held at the offices of the Authority:  
3535 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, California 92626**

**March 7, 2014  
9:30 AM**

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

John Kemmerer — *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX*  
Vicky Whitney — *State Water Resources Control Board*  
Sam Unger — *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
Kurt Berchtold (Chair) — *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
David Gibson — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
Mas Dojiri — *City of Los Angeles*  
Grace Hyde — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*  
Ed Torres — *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Tim Stebbins — *City of San Diego*  
Gerhardt Hubner (Vice-Chair) — *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*  
Angela George (for Gary Hildebrand) — *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*  
Chris Crompton — *County of Orange*  
Cid Tesoro — *County of San Diego*

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stephen Weisberg — *Executive Director*  
Bryan Nece — *Administrative Officer*  
Wesley Beverlin — *Legal Counsel*  
Ken Schiff — *Deputy Director*  
Steve Bay — *Principal Investigator*  
John Griffith — *Principal Investigator*  
Keith Maruya — *Principal Investigator*  
Eric Stein — *Principal Investigator*  
Steve Steinberg — *Principal Investigator*  
Karen Setty — *Science Writer*  
Joshua Steele — *Scientist*  
Doris Vidal-Dorsch — *Scientist*  
Christina Steidley — *Administrative Assistant*

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Barker — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
Phil Friess — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*  
Joe Gully — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*  
Bruce Posthumus — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
Brandi Outwin-Beals — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
Anna Vrska — *Orange Coast River Park, Inc.*

Commission Chair Kurt Berchtold called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. He announced that Angela George was appointed as a single meeting alternate commissioner for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes of Meeting Held December 6, 2013**
- 2. Quarterly Financial Statement for the Period Ended December 31, 2013**
- 3. Quarterly Statement of Investments at December 31, 2013**
- 4. Minutes of CTAG Meeting Held November 18, 2013**

Commissioner Dojiri motioned to approve the consent items with a minor edit to the December 6 Commission minutes (raised by Commissioner Berchtold). Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. The Commission approved the items unanimously with Commissioners Kemmerer, Gibson, and George abstaining.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **5. Personnel and Finance Committee Report**

Personnel and Finance Committee Chair Grace Hyde reported on the outcome of their morning meeting. The committee discussed the agency's salary resolution, the agenda for the Commission's May 1 strategic planning meeting, and the executive director's annual performance review.

Commissioner Tesoro arrived at 9:45 AM.

### **6. Executive Director's Report**

Steve Weisberg reported on recent activities of the agency. He demonstrated SCCWRP's productivity via the thickness of the 2013 Annual Report and the stack of other publications provided for each Commissioner. He next provided a presentation summarizing SCCWRP's successes stemming from the organizational review panel meeting held in February 2014. He noted the review panel focused on the revised CTAG Charter recommended by the Commission and revisions were well underway. Weisberg then introduced two new SCCWRP staff members. Joshua Steele is a microbiologist working on epidemiology and quantitative microbial risk assessment research. Christina Steidley is a new administrative assistant working at the front desk.

Weisberg explained that he missed the December Commission meeting, a rare event, because he was attending the first Ocean Acidification (OA) International Reference User Group meeting intended to consolidate OA science and communicate it to end users. He also served on a team selected to brief the Prince of Monaco about the issue.

Weisberg finished with a technical update on the wet weather beach epidemiology study in San Diego. Initiated at the request of Commissioners Gibson and Tesoro, it is receiving

international recognition since it is the first study to focus on surfers and repeated exposure health risks. Commissioner Gibson added that several of his staff members are participating as test subjects. Weisberg continued to explain how two new technologies were bolstering effectiveness of the study, including 1) a pier-mounted automated sample processor to collect continuous bacteria data and 2) a mobile phone application to collect information from study subjects. Commissioner Hubner asked about the future of the pilot effort. Weisberg reported the recent rain will support wet weather data collection and SCCWRP will report on the feasibility of continuing the study at the next Commission meeting, before investing in additional research. Results are likely about two years away.

## **7. CTAG Report**

Commission's Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) Chair Joe Gully reported on the outcome of the February 14 meeting. The group reviewed and recommended all contracts except #15, which was added subsequent to their meeting. They suggested minor changes and voted to recommend the stream bioassessment fact sheet for Commission consideration. They also held elections, selecting Wanda Cross as past chair, Bram Sercu as vice chair, and Gully as chair. Upon receiving a report on the organizational review panel, they had many action items to begin pursuing more proactive involvement in SCCWRP's research formation process.

Gully described CTAG's discussion of the draft 2014-15 SCCWRP Research Plan and plans to conduct a survey. He encouraged the Commissioners to work with their CTAG representatives to come to agreement on the responses and ensure participation from their respective agencies. Commissioner Unger asked if CTAG will formalize the results, and Gully confirmed he would present them. Gully added the CTAG Charter is close to final and will be delivered to the Commission before the May 1 strategic planning meeting.

Gully lastly reviewed CTAG's Sediment Quality Objectives (SQOs) research discussion and showed the technical topics identified for the next three CTAG meetings (nutrients, contaminants of emerging concern, and bioanalytical screening tools). Commissioner Tesoro asked what type of involvement will be required as CTAG's relationship with SCCWRP changes moving forward. Gully indicated, while the level of involvement will depend on each agency, he hopes to see strong involvement from member agency staff in workshops on applicable topics. Tesoro supported creating avenues for member agency staff to increase involvement, but observed that it will require additional time investment.

## **8. Contract Review**

Steve Weisberg asked the Commission to approve a resolution regarding contracts offered to SCCWRP. Some require Commission action under SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement because the value exceeds \$250,000. In addition, the State of California requests a resolution of acceptance for those exceeding \$100,000 offered by the State or Regional Water Boards.

- 1) County of San Diego (through AMEC) (\$600,000)  
City of San Diego (through AMEC) (\$140,000)  
San Diego Pilot Surfer Wet Weather Epidemiology Study

- 2) State Water Resources Control Board (\$250,000)  
Fish Consumption Study
- 3) State Water Resources Control Board (\$200,000)  
Technical Analysis QMRA

Commissioner Stebbins motioned to approve these three contracts and Commissioner Tesoro seconded. The Commission approved the motion unanimously with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining from all three, Commissioner Whitney abstaining from contracts #2 and #3, and Commissioners Tesoro and Stebbins abstaining from contract #1.

As an informational item, Weisberg also presented contracts with a value of \$250,000 or less, which SCCWRP has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept. While SCCWRP's governing agreement requires no Commission action on these, he presented them to ensure the agency's directions are consistent with the Commission's intentions.

- 4) County of San Diego (through AMEC) (\$150,000)  
Nutrient-Stream Algae
- 5) The Water Institute of the Gulf (\$76,500)  
Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation
- 6) County of San Diego (through California State University, Sacramento) (\$60,000)  
San Diego County IRWM Regional Water Data Management
- 7) San Francisco Estuary Institute (\$30,000)  
Linkage of In Vitro Assay Results with In Vivo Endpoints
- 8) City of Malibu (\$28,000)  
Human Fecal Contamination in Drainages
- 9) State Water Resources Control Board (\$100,000)  
San Diego River Post-CADDIS
- 10) Moss Landing Marine Laboratory/San Jose State (\$50,000)  
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Special Studies
- 11) UC Davis (\$11,000)  
Family-Level California Stream Condition Index (CSCI)
- 12) Moore Foundation (through UCSD) (\$42,000)  
Drafting California Current Acidification Network (C-CAN) Manual
- 13) County of Orange (\$7,142)  
County of Los Angeles (\$7,142)

County of San Diego (\$7,242)  
County of Riverside (\$7,142)  
County of San Bernardino (\$7,142)  
County of Ventura (\$7,142)  
Lab Intercalibration Program for Toxicity

- 14) County of Orange (\$16,745)  
County of Los Angeles (\$16,745)  
County of San Diego (\$8,372)  
County of Riverside (\$16,745)  
County of San Bernardino (\$16,745)  
County of Ventura (\$16,745)  
City of San Diego (\$8,372)  
City of Los Angeles (\$8,078)  
California Department of Transportation (\$8,078)  
City of Long Beach (\$8,372)  
Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) Studies

- 15) Environment Canada (\$25,000)  
Development of a Genomics Approach for Sediment Toxicity Stressor Identification

The Commission did not raise any objections to these contracts. For future contract memos, Commissioner Tesoro asked that SCCWRP identify each contract's related project in the Research Plan.

### **9. Expert Panel Review**

Steve Weisberg gave a presentation on the expert panel formed to provide feedback on items that require attention at the Commission's five-year strategic planning meeting. The panel recognized many positives and indicated nothing was "broken" at the organization. They did provide several recommended areas of improvement via their written report and verbal debrief. The panel chair will present these findings to the Commission at the beginning of the May 1 meeting.

Weisberg next showed the draft agenda the Commission's Personnel and Finance Committee had developed for the May 1 Strategic Planning meeting, which runs from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. He also indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee recommended that participants at the meeting include all Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners, the three CTAG Chairs, and the chair of the review panel. The Commission found the draft agenda and invitees acceptable. Weisberg indicated that he would provide a background memo associated with each agenda item in the Commission meeting package. Commissioner Crompton asked about reporting from the strategic planning meeting. Weisberg indicated each agenda item is part of a larger planning process, and no integrated report is planned, although meeting minutes will be provided. Commissioners Crompton and Hyde recommended producing a summary in some form and ensuring follow-through via subcommittees or other continued action. Karen Setty encouraged the Commission to

consider the panel's recommendation regarding communications at the strategic planning meeting.

#### **10. Sediment Quality Objectives**

Steve Bay gave a summary presentation on SCCWRP's research to support the State's SQO program. For the sediment quality direct effects assessment, SCCWRP has completed most of the technical pieces and is now focused on bridging the gap between technical development and implementation. For indirect (food web) effects, SCCWRP developed a framework and the State is currently considering a provisional classification system. The Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors are serving as a test bed for applying SQOs and incorporating them into Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. Bay presented results comparing chemical testing versus integrated sediment quality testing in this area. He also outlined three upcoming technical tasks and two challenges, including long-term program support and aligning the SQOs with 303(d) listing policies and TMDLs. Commissioner Gibson, who is applying the SQO framework within his agency, commented that it is useful for connecting sites across an area.

#### **11. Fact Sheet**

Karen Setty took comments on the second version of the stream bioassessment fact sheet, which had been refined to address the Commission's previous request to reduce the technical jargon. Commissioner Whitney commented that it was well done and no additional comments were raised. Commissioner Gibson motioned to approve the fact sheet and was seconded by Commissioner Dojiri. The motion was unanimously approved with Commissioner Kemmerer abstaining.

#### **12. Future Meeting Agenda Items**

Steve Weisberg indicated the CTAG had identified SCCWRP's nutrient studies as their next topic and the Commission agreed that would be a good focus for their meeting as well. Commissioner Dojiri reminded the Commission that they had asked for a short agenda item to provide an update on the wet weather epidemiology study. Commissioner Tesoro requested an update on enhancing interactions with CTAG.

#### **13. Other Business and Communications**

No other business was raised.

#### **14. Public Comments**

No public comments were raised.

#### **15. Adjournment**

Commission Chair Berchtold adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM until the special Commission strategic planning meeting on May 1, 2014.

Attest:

Bryan Nece  
Secretary