

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER
RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Commissioner Technical Advisory Group
(CTAG) Report**

MARCH 4, 2016

Joe Gully, Past CTAG Chair
Greg Gearheart, CTAG Chair



CTAG Agenda – February 4, 2016

- CTAG Elections
- Executive Director's Report
- New Project – Unmanned Aerial Systems research update
- Ecohydrology Research Summary
- TFY 16/17 Research Plan
- Wet Weather Epidemiological Study
- Nutrients Research Preview
- CTAG Chair Goals

Election of CTAG Leadership

- Greg Gearheart (SWRCB) was elected to serve as the CTAG Chair for 2016
- Paul Alva (LA Co. Flood) was elected to serve as the CTAG Vice Chair for 2016
- Joe Gully (LA County San) serves one more year as the Past CTAG Chair

Ecohydrology Water Quality Research

- Intersessional workshop held January 25, 2016 led by Paul Alva (LA County)
- Five (5) research priorities (ranked):
 1. Management Action (16 votes)
 2. Ecology (12 votes)
 3. Hydrology (9 votes)
 4. Habitat (3 votes)
 5. Land Use (1 vote)

Ecohydrology (cont.)

- Action items:
 1. SCCWRP to draft research plan (10-20 page)
 2. SCCWRP, along with SWRCB, LACSD and LACFCD, to prepare a brief on Management Action - Cross Connections
 3. LACFCD to draft summary of meeting

Research Plan Format

- CTAG reviewed and discussed the **candidate, new format plans (10, 20 and 25 page formats)**
- CTAG requested that staff include a paragraph in the Executive Summary outlining the key changes that have been made to it since last year, and CTAG requested an extension until the end of February to review and provide comments to staff on the Microbial Water Quality research plan.

Wet Weather Epidemiology Study

A photograph of a person surfing on a wave at sunset. The person is in the foreground, crouching on their surfboard. The background shows other people in the water and a sunset sky over the ocean.

- Results:

1. There is an increased risk of illness associated with surfing
2. Illness risk is greater when surfing following wet weather compared to dry weather
3. There is an association between water quality and illness following wet weather and
4. The illness risk is lower than current water quality objectives would predict

- Management Questions for discussion:

1. Stick with existing regulatory thresholds?
2. Adopt new wet weather thresholds, but just at the two study beaches?
3. Adopt new wet weather thresholds at any beach?

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

- Steve Steinberg gave a brief report on the research SCCWRP is conducting to use UAS for data acquisition, mapping and monitoring
- Hydromodification and ecohydrology areas of water research
- Piloting multiple systems for various uses



Nutrient Research Preview

- Sutula: “**SCCWRP Science Supporting Nutrients Management: Estuaries and Near Shore**”
- McLaughlin: “**Eutrophication in the Pacific Ocean and Ocean Acidification**”
- Phil Friess (LA County San): “**Discharger’s Perspective**”
- **Date of intersessional workshop TBD**



CTAG Chair Goals Discussion 2015/16

- Two previous CTAG Chairs' goals:
 1. Establish an effective and collaborative research planning process between SCCWRP and CTAG
 2. Develop new research initiatives in SCCWRP's 2015-2016 Research Plan related to "missing" research priorities in SCCWRP's 2014-2015 Research Plan as identified by CTAG
 3. Expand current SCCWRP research plans for SQOs, stream biological assessments, and nutrient objectives in stream and lakes in SCCWRP's 2015-2016 Research Plan to address unmet CTAG priorities
 4. Collaborative aspect clearly met through successful intersessional research planning process
- Current CTAG Leadership:
 - Need to coordinate with new Commission leadership's interests
 - More emphasis on CTAG member coordination between SCCWRP and their represented entities and interests
 - Draft goals being prepared for next CTAG meeting

Questions?

Greg Gearheart (CTAG Chair)

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