
SCCWRP's Continuing Evolution

Earlier this year, SCCWRP relocated to a new facility in Costa Mesa, CA. This was the sixth move in the organization's 38-year history, with each change in location reflecting an evolution in the agency's development. The most recent move was motivated by our increased awareness that SCCWRP is a primary conduit for information exchange between the scientific and water quality management communities. To be effective in this role, we must encourage dialog and facilitate development of scientific consensus, which our new facility helps us accomplish.

Dialog is not in short supply at SCCWRP. We typically host a dozen meetings, workshops, or training sessions each month. Our new facility features three conference rooms, with the largest seating more than 100 people. This allows for multiple meetings on the same day or breakout sessions during large meetings. An adjacent outdoor courtyard offers a lunch site and a welcome visual break from the windowless surroundings of our former location. The facility is also conveniently located, only three miles from the John Wayne airport, with easy access to local freeways and a generous amount of free parking.

Like our previous moves, this new facility also accommodates the evolution of our staff. The SCCWRP staff has grown by 20%, to 47 full-time staff members, since the move. More importantly, the level of employee expertise has shifted. Ten years ago, our workforce consisted of only a few senior-level scientists directing a number of research technicians. Today, nearly half of our staff hold Doctoral degrees, and another quarter possess Master's degrees, with most of our projects conducted in collaboration with other organizations. This level of staff expertise and the interactive nature of our activities require a different office layout than was possible at our former facility. The new layout is intended to promote interaction with visitors, so please take advantage of that opportunity when you visit SCCWRP.

The final part of our evolution this year has been the addition of California's Ocean Protection Council (OPC) as SCCWRP's newest member agency. The OPC is a multi-institutional organization meant to draw together the divergent CalEPA and Resources Agency structures into a unified, science-based approach to ocean management. It has been our pleasure to have provided the scientific foundation for some of the issues previously addressed by the OPC. We are excited about having a formalized relationship with the OPC, which will encourage interaction between the OPC and our other member agencies and enhance the opportunities for SCCWRP's science being used for environmental policy development.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the more than 300 people who attended the open house for our new facility in June. Many of you were the people who helped the organization get started almost four decades ago and subsequently flourish. Thank you for helping us to rediscover our history and connect the old with the new.



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