

# AGENDA ITEM #1

## 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

Friday, December 11, 1998  
9:30 a.m.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Arthur Coe, Chair – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*  
Robert Miele, Vice Chair – *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*  
Ing-Yih Cheng – *City of Los Angeles*  
Robert Ghirelli – *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Alan Langworthy – *City of San Diego*  
Stan Martinson – *State Water Resources Control Board*  
Stephen Mayville – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*  
Catherine Tyrrell – *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*

### STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*  
David Caldwell – *Administrative Officer*  
Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*  
M. James Allen – *Principal Scientist*  
Steven Bay – *Principal Scientist*  
Eddy Zeng – *Principal Scientist*

### OTHERS PRESENT

Patricia Vainik - *City of San Diego*

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 18, 1998
2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1998
3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1998
4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 12, 1998
5. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Upon motion of Commissioner Coe, seconded by Commissioner Tyrrell, and unanimously carried, the items on the consent agenda were approved and ordered filed.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Weisberg reported on the current activities of the Authority. David Caldwell was introduced as the new Administrative Officer filling the vacancy left by Christopher Francisco. Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP's accountant had also resigned and that the agency has brought in a temporary employee until Mr. Caldwell could hire a new accountant.

Dr. Weisberg advised the commission of four new contracts that the agency had received or anticipated receiving shortly. The first was \$25,000 from Chevron, which resulted from a settlement with the LA Regional Board and will be used in support of fish tissue processing in the Bight'98 regional monitoring program. The second was \$2,500 from the Center for Environmental Cooperation to help with expenses for the Mexican portion of the water quality survey. The third was, \$2,400 from the Coastal Conservancy in support of Mexican scientists participating in the intercalibration exercises. The fourth was an estimated \$30,000 from USC Sea Grant for water column work in San Diego Bay similar to the work presently being done on Palos Verdes Shelf.

One of the SCCWRP Scientists, Kim Tran, has been asked to serve on the advisory board for a new biotechnology program at Orange Coast College and was congratulated by Dr. Weisberg for this appointment.

The poster of the Commission has been posted in the lobby of SCCWRP with pictures which were provided by the Commissioners. Some of the Commissioners did not provide photos. Dr. Weisberg advised he brought a camera to take photos of the Commissioners whose photos were not previously made available.

Dr. Weisberg described progress on the Model Monitoring Program. SCCWRP intends to provide a verbal report to CTAG with first draft of recommendations at their upcoming February meeting with a written report to follow for the May 1999 CTAG meeting, with a written report to the Commission for the meeting in June 1999. Several Commissioner's requested that a presentation similar to the one received by CTAG in February be given to the Commission at their March meeting.

Commissioner Ghirelli inquired about SCCWRP's preparation for Y2K issues which may affect the agency. Dr. Weisberg advised that SCCWRP is preparing to implement a new computer network and accounting system which is likely to resolve any potential problems. He offered to prepare a more comprehensive response at the next Commission meeting.

### **7. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS**

The Commission was presented with a request for revision of the capital budget allocation for fiscal year 1998/1999. The request included the purchase of new computers, a van, a mass spectrometer for the Chemistry department, and a new telephone system to relieve the congestion experienced with the current telephone system. Executive Director Weisberg indicated that the revenue for the year was running ahead of projections, allowing the agency to purchase these items without depleting reserves. Upon motion of Commissioner Miele, seconded by Commissioner Tyrrell, the budget revision was approved.

### **8. 1998 REGIONAL MONITORING SURVEY - SHORELINE MICROBIOLOGY PROGRESS REPORT**

The Executive Director reported the progress on the summer Microbiology Survey and indicated that all participants in the summer survey have agreed to participate in a winter Microbiology Survey. In addition, two new participants, the Ventura County Health Department and the University of California, Irvine, have agreed to participate.

#### **9. 1998 REGIONAL MONITORING SURVEY - LABORATORY INTERCALIBRATION RESULTS**

The Executive Director reported on the results of the Laboratory Intercalibration Exercises for the 1998 Regional Monitoring Survey (Bight'98). Dr. Weisberg illustrated that for most chemicals, the range in values reported by the nine participating laboratories for standard samples decreased from a factor of 20 in the first round of intercalibration to a factor of two at the end of the intercalibration exercises. Dr. Weisberg illustrated how reporting limits have improved by as much as a thousand-fold between the 1994 and 1998 regional surveys, allowing a more appropriate assessment of chemical exposure to biota. Dr. Weisberg pointed out that similar intercalibration exercises were held for the field methods, toxicology, microbiology and benthic infauna. Most of these other exercises served to document what was already high quality and intercomparability, though several organizations improved their identification of trawl caught fish and megainvertebrates as the result of the intercalibration. Several Commissioners asked whether such intercalibration exercises were necessary on an ongoing basis and whether SCCWRP could accommodate other laboratories (those not participating in regional monitoring) in intercalibration exercises. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he would consider these questions and address them in the QA portion of his June presentation about model monitoring programs.

#### **10. 1998 REGIONAL MONITORING SURVEY - LABORATORY COSTS**

The Executive Director reported that the costs incurred by the participants in the laboratory intercalibration exercises were in excess of that originally anticipated when the amount of effort contributed toward Bight'98 was negotiated. He provided cost estimates for two organizations who were willing to share them with the Commission, Orange County Sanitation District and Los Angeles County Sanitation District. Several Commissioners commented that the exercises were clearly valuable and asked if there were ways that costs could be minimized in the future. Dr. Weisberg indicated that more than half of the cost was associated with meetings to plan the exercises and to discuss the results. He indicated that SCCWRP could take a stronger lead role, rather than the facilitation role it has focused on thus far, which would reduce the number of meetings. He observed, though, that the participants seemed to gain a lot from the interactions at these meetings. Dr. Weisberg thought that the expense of any future intercalibration exercises would be considerably smaller because most of the major differences in approach among laboratories have been identified and corrected, as necessary.

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no other items of business or communications.

#### **12. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Following discussion it was agreed to hold an extended meeting of the Commission on March 11 to hear a presentation reviewing the present monitoring programs for large POTW's in southern California. Members of the Commission also requested a presentation about the Authority's Y2K preparations at the next Commission Meeting. The extended Commission meeting will take place between 9:00 and 3:00 on March 11, with no Personnel and Finance Committee meeting to be held that day. Members of the Commission requested an extended Personnel & Finance Committee meeting prior to the June, 1999 Commission Meeting to discuss next year's salary resolution and to begin planning for the 2001 Joint Power's Agreement. The extended Personnel and Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled at the March Commission meeting.

#### **13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commissioner Coe asked if any members of the public wished to address the Commission. There were no requests.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 1999 at the offices of the authority.

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**Arthur Coe, Chair**

**Attest:**

**David Caldwell**

**Secretary**