

**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**

**Thursday, September 9, 1999
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Arthur Coe, Chair - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Stan Martinson - *State Water Resources Control Board*
Dennis Dickerson - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Gerard Thibeault - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*
Judith Wilson - *City of Los Angeles*
Robert Miele, Vice Chair - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Alan Langworthy - *City of San Diego*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative Officer*
M. James Allen - *Principal Scientist*
Steven Bay - *Principal Scientist*
Eddy Zeng - *Principal Scientist*
Kenneth Schiff - *Principal Scientist*
Richard Marsh– *Legal Counsel*

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Coe called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

The Executive Director introduced the agency's new Administrative Director, Bryan Nece, to the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 10, 1999**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 1999**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 1999**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD AUGUST 19, 1999**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Miele and seconded by Commissioner Thibeault the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director reported on the strong financial health of the organization. Year-end (for the fiscal year ending in June) revenues exceeded expenses by more than \$50K, leaving the organization a fund balance of more than \$400K. Revenue projections for the current year are strong, with more than 80% of projected revenues already under contract. Dr. Weisberg also reported on the success of Bryan Nece in implementing our upgraded and Y2K compliant accounting software.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the Authority's increased emphasis on publication, particularly through the bonus program, has been successful. He anticipates the Authority publishing almost a dozen journal publications this year, more than double that in any other year this decade. Dr. Weisberg also indicated that the pipeline of articles being submitted is strong and forecasted an even better publication record in 2000.

Dr. Weisberg pointed out that the Authority has received considerable press coverage recently, including two front page articles in the LA Times during the previous week and Rachel Noble as a guest expert for a call-in show on National Public Radio (NPR) yesterday. He indicated that much of the publicity stems from interest associated with the Huntington Beach closure and with urban runoff, in general. Commissioner Martinson asked if he could obtain a transcript of the NPR show, which Dr. Weisberg indicated he would inquire about.

6. CONTRACT APPROVAL

The Executive Director requested that the Commission endorse the following contracts that have been, or will be offered to the Authority.

- 1) An Orange County Sanitation District lab support contract for \$56,000.
- 2) A one year extension of the contract with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding the employee exchange program for Marianne Yamaguchi. (Agreement #9-099-140-0 for approx. \$100,000)

Commissioner Langworthy moved to approve these contracts. Commissioner Martinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Commissioner Ghirelli abstaining.

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Commissioner Thibeault motioned for election of Commissioner Coe as the chair for the coming year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and carried unanimously. Commissioner Ghirelli motioned for election of Commissioner Wilson as the co-chair for the coming year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miele and carried unanimously.

8. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Executive Director presented a certificate of appreciation to Commissioner Miele recognizing his many years of service to the Authority. Commissioner Miele reflected on his many years of working with SCCWRP.

The Commission recessed for a break at 10:20am. Commissioner Coe called the meeting back to order at 10:35am.

9. YEAR 2001 JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Commissioner Ghirelli indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee discussed the draft Joint Powers Agreement at its morning meeting and wanted to make minor changes before bringing it to the Commission for endorsement. Hearing no objection, Commissioner Coe tabled this agenda item until the next Commission meeting.

10 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:45am for calendar year 2000:

March 10th
June 9th
September 8th
December 8th

Commissioner Langworthy motioned for approval of the meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault and carried unanimously. The Personnel and Finance Committee meetings were set for 8:45am on the same dates.

11. MODEL POTW MONITORING PROGRAM: DOCUMENT REVIEWING EXISTING PROGRAMS

Dr. Weisberg summarized the recommendations from the Authority's draft document critiquing existing POTW monitoring programs and then sought feedback from the Commission about the document. Feedback was generally positive, though several Commissioners expressed concern about the inclusion of sediment toxicity as part of routine monitoring. Dr. Weisberg suggested that sediment toxicity would be most valuable when combined with sediment toxicity identification evaluation (TIE) procedures, much as toxicity and TIE procedures are coupled in the effluent program. He indicated that he would modify the document to reflect this and revise the recommendation to suggest sediment toxicity be phased in as sediment TIE procedures become more advanced.

The Commission recessed for a lunch break at 12:00pm. Commissioner Coe called the meeting back to order at 12:30am.

Dr. Weisberg was asked if CTAG had reviewed the document. He indicated that CTAG spent an entire meeting discussing the document with staff (as well as several previous sessions in which CTAG helped staff develop ideas in the document) and most of the suggestions they made had been incorporated into the present draft. He further indicated that individual CTAG members had expressed concern about selected items, such as the sediment toxicity recommendation, but that CTAG had not developed a consensus position on these items of concern.

The Commission asked that CTAG review the document and prepare a letter to the Commission identifying areas in the document, if any, with which it disagreed. Dr. Weisberg was asked if the Authority could publish the CTAG review as an appendix to the document, along with a staff response to the review, if necessary. Dr. Weisberg agreed. Vice-Chair Miele agreed to convey the request for a review to the chair of CTAG, who is employed at his facility.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dickerson announced that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board was sponsoring a conference regarding TMDLs at USC on September 29th. He also mentioned that the Los Angeles

Board was sponsoring a conference on marine debris on December 15 and that Dr. Weisberg would be speaking at both events.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Dickerson requested that the topic of increasing SCCWRP's media profile be placed on the next agenda. Three other future agenda items were requested by Commissioner Coe: 1) A presentation about the SCCWRP trash survey that will be highlighted at the December 15th conference, 2) Further discussion on the year 2001 joint powers agreement, and 3) Final review of the model POTW monitoring program document, including comments provided by CTAG.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Coe adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary