

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, September 8, 2000
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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
Arthur Coe - Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
Ing-Yih Cheng - City of Los Angeles
Bob Horvath - 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
Kenneth Schiff - Principal Scientist
Richard Marsh – Legal Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Coe called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 9, 2000**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2000**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2000**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Martinson and seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director reported that the Agency was in good financial shape, ending the year with a surplus. He also reported that the annual outside audit had been completed with only one minor adjustment required. Most of this year's surplus was due to a one-time cash settlement from Orange County bankruptcy proceedings. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he chose to use the money for building cash reserves, rather than for capital outlays, to meet the agency's cash flow needs resulting from increased dependency on outside funding sources that are paid in arrears.

Dr. Weisberg introduced several new staff members and indicated that he was concerned that the organization's turnover rate was too high. He indicated that he thought an appropriate turnover rate for a research organization such as SCCWRP should be between 10% - 20% per year, but that the rate for this year was 30%. He was asked whether this was due to salary levels. Dr. Weisberg thought that salaries were only a part of the reason, since we adjusted salaries last year in response to our salary survey. Dr. Weisberg was asked to provide a more detailed report, along with any recommendations, to the P&F Committee at their next meeting.

Dr. Weisberg stated that the technical activities of the Agency were proceeding well. The next annual report will have 29 articles, making it the largest ever. Reviews for these articles have been consistently positive.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP would be co-sponsoring with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards for Los Angeles, Santa Ana and San Diego a two-day Sediment Quality Course on October 24 and 25th. Steve Bay, who is organizing the course, provided additional details about the speakers that we were bringing in from around the country to help teach the course. He indicated that more than a hundred people, about half of which were from SCCWRP's member organizations, had registered to attend. Several Commissioners commended SCCWRP for embarking on this technology transfer activity.

The Executive Director stated that three of SCCWRP's scientists had received a subpoena to serve as witnesses regarding the Montrose Palos Verdes DDT case.

The Executive Director reported on the progress of three projects. The first involved development of a water quality model for the Los Angeles River, which was being conducted in cooperation with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, EPA, the City of Long Beach and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Dr. Weisberg expressed satisfaction that SCCWRP was able to bring together so many partners to jointly develop a scientific element that would be an important technical tool in TMDL decisions. Dr. Weisberg next reported on the Bight 98 Study, which he indicated was moving slower than he would like because of difficulties in receiving the last of the data from the participating laboratories. He also reported on the Model Monitoring Program, which he felt was making great progress. He indicated that he would be prepared soon to make an all day presentation to the Commission about the consensus reached with CTAG about this project. At this point, the Commission scheduled a special all-day meeting on November 30 for this presentation.

Commissioner Ghirelli asked whether Dr. Weisberg was aware of an initiative by the University of California-Irvine to begin a new center for beach research. Dr. Weisberg replied that he had discussed the new center with Dr. Stanley Grant, who initiated the proposal. SCCWRP has been invited to participate in the center and Dr. Weisberg has been invited to serve on the Board of Directors, though Dr. Weisberg indicated that the center was still a long way from being more than a proposal. Several Commissioners asked for more information and Dr. Weisberg suggested that he have Dr. Grant address the Commission at the next meeting.

5. STORMWATER MASS EMISSIONS REPORT

The Executive Director indicated that Authority's report about statewide stormwater mass emissions would be released soon. Ken Schiff, the head of SCCWRP's Source Department gave a presentation on the content of that report. He indicated that stormwater was the leading source of emissions to the southern California ocean for most constituents. He also pointed out inadequacies in the current stormwater monitoring programs that inhibit accurate estimation of emissions. Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP was undertaking several research projects that would improve the quality of these estimates in the future.

6. CONTRACT APPROVAL PROTOCOL

Dr. Weisberg indicated that several organizations from which we receive funding, particularly State of California agencies, require a resolution by our governing body authorizing the execution of contracts and amendments. These groups have accepted a copy of our approved minutes in place of a resolution, but this adds three months to the contracting process as we await approval of minutes at the subsequent Commission meeting. Dr. Weisberg requested that the Commission adopt a resolution format for approving the Authority's contracts for those that require it. Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Thibeault, the Commission unanimously approved that proposal that certain contracts be approved by resolution.

7. CONTRACT APPROVAL AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS.

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

- 1) City of Newport Beach
Viral Testing (\$90,000)

The City of Newport Beach is leading a multi-investigator effort to help develop the scientific foundation for the Newport Bay bacterial TMDL. SCCWRP has been asked to assist the City with the collection and laboratory processing of enteric virus samples. We also anticipate that the City may request our assistance with integration and synthesis of data from the project.

- 2) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Personnel Agreement (\$70,000)

This is an employee exchange grant to support Marianne Yamaguchi in her role as Director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan. The EPA has previously supported SCCWRP indirectly in this role by providing funding through a contract with the State Water Resources Control Board.

- 3) United States Geological Survey
Personnel Agreement (\$50,000)

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has been conducting cooperative projects with SCCWRP for the last three years and has expressed a desire to expand that partnership in future years. One mechanism for expanding the partnership will be to locate a USGS employee on-site at SCCWRP to work on projects of mutual interest. USGS has expressed a desire to accomplish this through a contractual personnel agreement.

Commissioner Langworthy moved for approval of the all contracts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli. The motion was carried unanimously, with Commissioner Dickerson abstaining on number 2.

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 00-05 regarding the following of contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 4) State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL Support Contract (Amended from \$38,000 to \$41,000)
State Agreement Number 9-138-190-0

This is an add-on to our contract for TMDL support to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. The additional funds are to plan and coordinate a three day course on interpretation of sediment quality data.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Langworthy and seconded by Commissioner Cheng, Resolution Number 00-05 was unanimously approved.

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 00-06 regarding the following of contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 5) California Coastal Conservancy
Personnel Agreement (\$50,000)

The Executive Director has agreed to serve as the Chairman of the Science Advisory Panel for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Program. The California Coastal Conservancy has offered to pay for a half time individual to support the scientific activities of the panel.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson, Resolution Number 00-06 was unanimously approved.

8. SCCWRP'S ANNUAL REPORT SCHEDULE

The Executive Director indicated that the SCCWRP Joint Powers Agreement calls for an annual summary of its research accomplishments, but that staff have only produced 16 "annual reports" in SCCWRP's 31 years. He indicated that during his tenure, reports have taken about 18 months to produce, mostly because of the external review process. He asked for Commission guidance on timing of these reports and suggested three alternatives: 1) produce an annual report, which would require reducing the review process or preparing reports with overlapping production schedules, 2) continue our present schedule of producing a report every 18 months, or 3) replace the annual report schedule with a biennial report schedule. Dr. Weisberg stated that CTAG recommended option 3 because they felt that the present irregular schedule and numbering system for the "annual reports" is confusing and works to the Authority's disadvantage. They recommended selecting a fixed biennial publication date corresponding to an event at which the report could be released, such as the biennial Coastal Zone meetings. Dr. Weisberg pointed out that adoption of a biennial report would be inconsistent with the JPA, but suggested that the quarterly reports provided prior to each Commission meeting, along with the accompanying quarterly financial statements, might meet the annual reporting requirements of the JPA. The Commission agreed and upon motion of Commissioner Dickerson and seconded by Ghirelli, unanimously approved the CTAG recommendation of a biennial report schedule.

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Commissioner Ghirelli motioned for election of the Commissioner from Los Angeles County Sanitation District as the chair and for the election of the Commissioner from the Los Angeles Regional Board as the co-chair for the coming year. Discussion ensued as to whether the nomination of individuals is more appropriate than nomination of organizations. Counsel Marsh indicated that either was acceptable, provided that there was a clear delineation of roles in absence of the Commissioner from the selected institution. The motion was clarified regarding the chain of succession for Commission meetings. Los Angeles County's Alternate Commissioner would serve as chair in the absence of the Chair and the co-Chair would serve in absence of both Commissioners from Los Angeles County Sanitation District. The same would be true regarding consent approval on contracts. The revised motion was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault and carried unanimously.

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:45 am for calendar year 2001:

March 9th
June 8th
September 7th
December 14th

Commissioner Langworthy motioned for approval of the meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dickerson and carried unanimously.

11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

12. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Ghirelli requested that the Executive Director provide more information about the proposed Clean Beach Center at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Coe adjourned the meeting to the Special Commission Meeting set for November 30, 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary