

AGENDA ITEM #2

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 8, 2000
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
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*
Jim Stahl - *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*
Emily Briscoe - *Bookkeeper*

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Stahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2000**
- 4. ANNUAL AUDIT**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Dickerson and seconded by Commissioner Cheng the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director reported that all aspects of SCCWRP's activities are functioning well. At a technical level, staff productivity is at its highest ever. The next annual report, which is in its early production phase, will be the largest ever and 50% larger than any previous report. At a financial level, SCCWRP is in excellent condition. The organization finished the last year with a \$20,000 surplus and Dr. Weisberg anticipates a larger surplus in the present year. He reported that the organization requires about \$1.3M of external contracts, excluding any subcontracted amounts, to maintain the organization in its present state and that contracts have already been signed to cover this year's projected revenue requirements.

Dr. Weisberg commented on the success of the Sediment Quality Workshop, which was held in October aboard the Queen Mary. There were over 140 attendees at the 2-day workshop. The Director reported that he received exceptionally positive feedback regarding the event. He reported that the next workshop hosted by SCCWRP will focus on Metadata Methods and is being coordinated by our Information Management Department. Trainers for this workshop will be brought in from around the country. This event will be held at SCCWRP on January 18th and 19th and there will be no cost to SCCWRP's member organizations to participate.

The Director reported that there has been much attention paid to the recently released Bight'98: Storm Event Shoreline Microbiology report. The LA Times, the San Diego Tribune and the Orange County Register all published front page articles about the report. Several local television stations ran stories, including interviews with Dr. Rachel Noble. Dr. Weisberg then showed a video of one such local news report.

Dr. Weisberg reported on the recent successes of SCCWRP's project to develop a dynamic water quality model for the LA River. Dr. Weisberg stated that he was particularly proud of the way that SCCWRP was fulfilling its purpose in this endeavor, serving as a technical facilitator for a project that is cooperatively conducted by dischargers (City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, City of Long Beach), regulators (LA Regional Water Quality Control Board, EPA, Department of Pesticide Regulation) and citizen groups (coordinated through the LA and San Gabriel Watershed Council). Dr. Weisberg stated that the level of cooperation involved in this project toward developing a technical backbone for TMDLs on the LA River is rare elsewhere in the country.

Dr. Weisberg reported on progress to renew the current JPA, which expires on June 30. Signed agreements have been received from all parties except the City of San Diego, which has approved the document but is awaiting signature.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that Commissioner Martinson, who was unable to attend this meeting, had asked him to communicate some concerns about timing for implementation of the Model Monitoring Program discussed at the last Commission meeting. Commissioner Martinson was concerned that two of the recommendations required modification of the Ocean Plan. While those modifications were already being pursued, he wanted the Commission to recognize that approval of the revised Ocean Plan is a lengthy process that could take more than a year to complete. The Commission agreed that they understood this, and agreed to further discuss timing for implementation of the Model Monitoring Program at subsequent Commission meetings.

6. REPORT ON THE REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM

Dr. Weisberg gave an update on the status of the Regional Monitoring Program. The Wet Weather Microbiology report was released last week and the Sediment Toxicology Report will be released in January 2001. He indicated that all of the remaining Technical Committees were

making good progress and had scheduled verbal progress reports with the Steering Committee. The Chemistry and Fish Committees had scheduled presentations for January while the Benthic and Water Quality Committees had scheduled March presentations. Dr. Weisberg indicated that written reports generally follow nine months after the first oral presentation.

Dr. Weisberg discussed the potential schedule for the next regional survey and asked for Commission input. He indicated that the first two regional surveys had been conducted at a four year interval and that the assumption had been that the next one would take place in 2002. He suggested, though, that a five year interval might be more appropriate. He expressed concern that planning needs to start at least a year before the survey takes place, which would mean that SCCWRP staff, as well as those from their organizations, would be involved in both report preparation and next survey planning at the same time if we proceeded with a four year interval. Dr. Weisberg was concerned that this would present a time management challenge as well as preclude some opportunities to use results from one survey to help plan the next. Dr. Weisberg also suggested that a five year time frame might provide him additional time to recruit additional participants, particularly if he had final products from Bight'98 to use for illustrating the effectiveness of the program. Several Commissioners expressed agreement that a five year cycle for regional surveys would present several advantages, particularly allowing more time to implement revisions to discharge permits consistent with the Model Monitoring Program recommendations. The Commission indicated that they also saw merits in more frequent surveys, but that the decision should really rest with the Regional Monitoring Steering Committee and asked that Dr. Weisberg speak with them and come back to the Commission in March with a recommendation.

7. REPORT ON THE CLEAN BEACH CENTER

At the request of the Commission at its previous meeting for more information about the proposed Clean Beach Center the University of California Irvine, Dr. Weisberg introduced Dr. Stanley Grant who has been leading the effort to establish the Center. Dr. Grant indicated that the Center would be designed to help integrate coastal researchers of California and take advantage of the extensive UC system to unite and strengthen research efforts. The UC system would also aid in obtaining state funding for multi-institutional research. He indicated that he is planning a public workshop for March 2001 to further develop ideas and a proposal for the Center.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that he has been asked by Dr. Grant to serve on the Governing Board for the Clean Beach Center, should it be established. Dr. Weisberg thought that serving on the Board would facilitate exchange between SCCWRP and university researchers, as well as provide a valuable link in defining the management issues that academic researchers should focus their efforts toward. The Commission asked that Dr. Weisberg hold off on making any formal decisions at this time regarding a position as board member pending further definition of the Center's goals and structure. The Commission, however, encouraged Dr. Weisberg's continued assistance to Dr. Grant with plans and preparations for the Center.

8. CONTRACT APPROVAL AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS.

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

- 1) Irvine Ranch Water District
Residential Runoff Retention Study (R3S) (\$100,000)

This contract from the Irvine Ranch Water District is to provide chemical and toxicological laboratory analysis for samples of urban runoff. It is part of a larger collaborative project among SCCWRP, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, The National Water Research Institute, the CalFed Program, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to assess the extent to which technological

improvements to residential lawn sprinkler systems and public education campaigns lead to improvements in runoff water quality and water use reduction.

Commissioner Coe moved for approval of this contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dickerson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Several organizations, particularly State of California agencies, require a resolution by our governing body authorizing the execution of contracts and amendments. The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 00-07 regarding the following contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 2) State Water Resources Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Board (\$400,000)

This contract from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board is to provide scientific support for assessment activities in Anaheim Bay and Huntington Harbor. The contract will require SCCWRP's help in selecting laboratory contractors that are capable of producing data of comparable quality to that collected in the Bight'98 regional surveys and for providing contract oversight during the project to ensure that these data quality objectives are achieved.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson, Resolution Number 00-07 was unanimously approved, with Commissioner Thibeault abstaining.

9. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dickerson mentioned that the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region would be implementing new regulation to set discharge limits on certain septic tanks in the Malibu area.

10. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Members of the Commission requested that the Executive Director provide an update on the Clean Beach Center, the Regional Monitoring program and the implementation of the Model Monitoring program at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stahl adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary