

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, March 8, 2002
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Stan Martinson – *State Water Resources Control Board*
Gerard Thibeault - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*
Arthur Coe - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*
Dennis Dickerson - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*
Jim Stahl - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative Officer*
Steven Bay – *Principal Scientist*
Kenneth Schiff - *Principal Scientist*
Jim Allen - *Principal Scientist*
Kerry Ritter - *Scientist*
Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Stahl called the meeting to order at 9:57 am. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had received a letter from the City of Los Angeles designating Dr. Mas Dojiri as a replacement for Ing-Yih Cheng as Alternate Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles. Dr. Dojiri was welcomed by fellow Commissioners.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 2001**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 30, 2001**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 30, 2001**

Commissioner Martinson motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Thibeault seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

Commissioner Stahl recommended that the Commission reorder the agenda and first address Agenda Item 11 in closed session. Upon the motion of Commissioner Dickerson, and seconded by Commissioner Ghirelli, a motion was unanimously approved for the Commission to enter into closed session at 10:02 am to discuss Agenda Item 11.

11. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After returning from the closed session at 10:22 am, Commission Chair Stahl reported that no action had been taken. The Commissioners discussed the Executive Director's professional goals, related issues and compensation. The Commissioners felt the employment contract required minor modification and recommended that it be sent back to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Dickerson, and seconded by Commissioner Coe, a motion was unanimously approved to refer the Executive Director's employment contract issue back to the Personnel and Finance Committee for revision and have them report to the Commission at the next meeting.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg distributed SCCWRP's new brochure to the Commissioners. He next reported on the Microbial Source Tracking Workshop, which he characterized as a tremendous success. SCCWRP was able to attract the top researchers in the country to speak at the workshop, which was attended by almost 250 people. The second and third days of the workshop were limited to 40 invitees, who were tasked with developing a study plan to further develop and test the 11 source tracking techniques presented at the workshop. Dr. Weisberg reported that many of the invited researchers agreed to work cooperatively with SCCWRP in developing and testing these methods.

Dr. Weisberg next reported that the Model Monitoring Program being developed jointly between SCCWRP staff and CTAG was nearing completion. The written report had been approved by CTAG and the design document, along with the associated field manual, was now on SCCWRP's web site. Dr. Weisberg anticipated that the information data management manual would be ready in one month. He reported that the design document had been used by the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts in their most recent permit monitoring negotiations. He also reported that SCCWRP recently facilitated a successful workshop among dischargers and regulators focused on implementing the model monitoring program recommendations concerning cooperative regional kelp monitoring.

Dr. Weisberg reported that in response to the Commission's request at their December meeting, he had engaged CTAG in a discussion about inconsistency in the TMDL process and what SCCWRP's role should be in resolving these inconsistencies. Dr. Weisberg indicated that CTAG concurred with the Commission's perception of inconsistency, but felt that SCCWRP should have a limited role in its resolution. They felt that three things inhibited SCCWRP from taking a leadership role. First, the inconsistencies were only partially the result of scientific shortcomings; CTAG felt they also resulted from policy differences and lack of communication, which were inappropriate issues for SCCWRP to address. Second, the State Board had already assigned a team, led by Craig J. Wilson, to develop consistency among regional boards. Third, there were many parties other than SCCWRP member agencies that are affected by TMDLs and 303d listings. Suggestions made by SCCWRP might not be viewed as reflective of the larger community's interests. CTAG did recognize the value that SCCWRP offered and suggested that SCCWRP look for a forum that they could support on this issue rather than take a leadership role. Dr. Weisberg indicated that the Beach Water Quality Workgroup (BWQW), a multi-organizational group which SCCWRP hosts, has agreed to work cooperatively with the State Board in developing consistency for beach bacterial listings. He stated that SCCWRP has volunteered to

support the BWQW in this activity. Dave Montagne, vice-chair of CTAG, indicated that he concurred with Dr. Weisberg's summary of CTAG's recommendation.

5. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING

Dave Montagne reported that the minutes of CTAG's last meeting were still being finalized and he was giving a verbal report in their place. He mentioned that Jack Gregg, with the California Coastal Commission, had recently joined CTAG. He also indicated that the state's Department of Fish and Game had been given an invitation, but had declined. He reported that the last CTAG meeting focused on reviewing next year's research plan, approving the final the model monitoring program design document, and planning for the Bight'03 regional monitoring program.

At 11:15 am Commissioner Stahl left the meeting.

6. CONTRACT APPROVALS AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

The JPA requires Commission approval on all contracts in excess of \$250,000. In addition, the Authority has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept the following contracts with value of \$250,000 or less. While the governing agreement of the Agency requires no Commission action on these, they were presented for discussion to ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

City of Los Angeles (\$75,000)
State Water Resources Control Board (\$50,000)
Dominguez Channel Watershed Modeling

Department of Pesticide Regulation (\$100,000)
Estimates of Pollutants Inputs to Santa Monica Bay Via Aerial Deposition

US EPA (\$91,000)
EPA Workshop-Microbial Source Tracking

National Water Research Institute (\$100,000)
State Water Resources Control Board (\$99,000)
Microbial Source Tracking Methods Evaluation

County of San Barbara (\$75,000)
MARINE Data Management

7. REGIONAL STORMWATER RESEARCH/MONITORING PROGRAM

Ken Schiff, Principal Investigator for SCCWRP's Sources Department, reported on the Agency's activities in support of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). The SMC is a coalition of six stormwater lead permittees, three southern California regional boards and SCCWRP that have agree to pool and work collaboratively to address regional stormwater scientific issues. The first undertaking of the SMC was to hold a three day workshop with 21 invited experts to develop a list of priority projects for the SMC. Mr. Schiff then described the 15 scientific projects which were identified by this panel and indicated that they have been summarized in a stormwater research agenda document that is now on SCCWRP's web site. Mr. Schiff also indicated that the SMC had elected to move forward with two of the projects in the next year: 1) evaluation of microbial source tracking methods and 2) development of a model stormwater monitoring program.

8. UPDATE ON STORMWATER AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN SCCWRP

Dr. Weisberg provided an update on the stormwater agencies potential participation as Associate Members of SCCWRP. He indicated that he had received informal responses from Los Angeles and Orange County, which were interested and were placing the proposal before their Boards of Supervisors. Dr. Weisberg mentioned that San Diego County had also shown interest, but was

unlikely to commit at this time due to budget constraints. Mike Wellborn, with the County of Orange, was introduced and briefly spoke regarding the County's interest in joining SCCWRP.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that Los Angeles County had requested a Memorandum of Agreement that would be the basis for their participation and which would be included in their proposal to their Board of Supervisors. The Commission proceeded to modify a draft Memorandum of Agreement which had been provided by staff. Upon motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, a motion was carried unanimously delegating authority to Jim Stahl and Steve Weisberg to negotiate and sign a memorandum of agreement with the stormwater agencies.

9. DISCHARGES TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ASBS

Shelly Moore, a programmer/analyst within the Information Management department, gave a presentation describing the Authority's project to quantify the number and type of discharges to southern California's Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). Shelly indicated that ASBS are areas specially designated in the California Ocean Plan to receive no discharge. There are 34 ASBS in the state, 14 of which are located in southern California. Shelly surveyed each of these personally and identified 970 discharges in the southern California ASBS, 779 of which were man-made structures. Shelly showed pictures of a few sites and demonstrated a CD which contained information about all of them.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR CONDUCT OF THE BIGHT'03 REGIONAL SURVEY

Dr. Weisberg discussed plans for completing the Bight'98 regional survey and provided an overview of the four planning phases for the Bight'03 survey. The first phase would focus on recruitment of participants, initiated through a workshop hosted by EPA Region IX. The second phase was the design phase, which would involve formation of a Steering Committee and development of a written study plan. The design phase would occur in the fall and would be followed by a third phase in which technical committees are formed to identify specific data collection methods. The final phase involves quality assurance activities conducted prior to sampling, including laboratory intercalibration and training. Dr. Weisberg indicated that his plan was to hold the Phase I workshop this summer.

Several Commissioners asked how they could help with this effort. Dr. Weisberg responded that there were three ways. First, he asked that member agencies continue to dedicate their staff toward the project. Second that they help with recruitment of new participants. In particular, he asked the Regional Board Executive Officers to co-sign the letter of invitation to the recruitment workshop, which they said they would do. Third, he asked them to help staff look for funding opportunities to support Bight'03. Commissioner Coe indicated that he had placed Bight'03 on a list of potential Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP). Commissioners Thibeault and Dickerson asked Dr. Weisberg to provide a letter requesting the placement of Bight'03 on their SEP lists.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Ghirelli mentioned that Orange County Sanitation District had decided to chlorinate and disinfect its discharge and would be requesting Regional Board approval. Commissioner Dickerson announced that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board would be holding an annual awards banquet on April 18 and invited other Commissioners to attend. He also requested that SCCWRP staff participate in a water quality workshop that he would be holding for the Los Angeles Region's new board members. Dr. Weisberg agreed to support the workshop.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Ghirelli requested a report on any progress made in addressing 303d consistency.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary