

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 13, 2002
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
Stan Martinson - *State Water Resources Control Board*
Kenneth Theisen - *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*
James Stahl - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg - *Executive Director*
Kenneth Schiff - *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece - *Administrative Officer*
Jim Allen - *Principal Scientist*
Steven Bay - *Principal Scientist*
Eric Stein - *Principal Scientist*
Eddy Zeng - *Principal Scientist*
Wesley Beverlin - *Legal Counsel*

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Stahl called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The Administrative Officer took roll, with Commissioners Theisen, Coe, Martinson, Dojiri, Stahl, Dickerson, Hashimoto and Ghirelli being present. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had received a letter from Commissioner Thibeault appointing Ken Theisen as his organization's representative to the Commission for this one meeting because of a scheduling conflict for both him and his Alternate Commissioner. Dr. Weisberg further indicated that he had asked SCCWRP counsel whether appointment of a replacement for a single meeting via a letter was consistent with the Joint Powers Agreement sections on naming of Commissioners and was told that it was acceptable.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 14, 2002**
2. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2002**
3. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2002**

Commissioner Ghirelli motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Coe seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg stated that the Agency's staffing level has reached 36 employees, which is near his desired maximum level. Three new scientists had recently been hired that increased the Agency's technical capabilities, specifically in new research areas, and that these new hires were also reinforcing the Agency's objective of working with other prominent organizations. Dr. Linden Clarke, a physical oceanographer, will focus on the study of wet and dry weather plumes from stormwater channels in the near coastal zone. This position is a joint post-doctoral research position shared with Dr. John Largier of Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Dr. Nikolay Nezlin, who just finished a visiting professorship at UCLA and is an expert in remote sensing, will focus on use of satellite imaging. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he hoped that hiring Dr. Nezlin would help build a partnership that brings the talent base at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena to focus on near coastal water quality issues. Lisa Sabin, who is earning her Ph.D. at UCLA, will be supporting the Agency's atmospheric deposition research work. This position is a shared position with UCLA's Environmental Science and Engineering (ES&E) program.

Dr. Weisberg reported on the status of the Agency's facility needs and future plans. With the additional staff and need for meeting space, SCCWRP has developed a plan for future growth. The Agency's lease was expiring at the end of December and a new five-year lease had been signed. The new lease included a termination clause with a six-month notice if and when a new building is identified. An architecture firm had been retained to determine future facility requirements and options. A preliminary space program by the firm was distributed to the Commissioners. In the interim, SCCWRP has built-out a new office for two employees.

Dr. Weisberg spoke on two technical areas. He reported on the Authority's successful activities with the Beach Water Quality Workgroup to enhance consistency in beach bacterial 303(d) listings within southern California. As a result, the State has dropped its current (2002) 303(d) listing for beaches and implementing a new list based on the consistency criteria developed during SCCWRP's interaction with the Beach Water Quality Workgroup. Commissioner Hashimoto suggested that this process should also be implemented for other constituents that result in 303(d) listings. Dr. Weisberg agreed, but explained that the interaction with the Beach Water Quality Workgroup was essential for the project's success. Without a formal group charged with creating the consistency for 303(d) listing criteria, and one that is comprised of the appropriate stakeholders, success was less likely. The second technical area Dr. Weisberg reported on was the development of Rapid Microbial Indicator Methods. SCCWRP had recently received the signed contract from the State and a request for proposals had been released. He anticipated funding 4 to 5 methods and having a working method by the end of 2003.

Dr. Weisberg mentioned that Steve Bay had been elected as the President of Southern California's SETAC chapter. Steve Bay is also a panelist on an EPA Contaminated Sediment Task Force, along with recently being invited as a panelist at the Pellston Conference on Sediment Toxicity. Dr. Weisberg indicated that these national efforts benefited SCCWRP by having southern California's coastal concerns shared and addressed in national plans or agendas.

5. CONTRACT APPROVAL

No contracts required Commission action.

As an informational item, 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 SCCWRP

requires no Commission action on these, the following contracts are listed to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 1) Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (\$230,000)
Peak Discharge Impact Study
- 2) USGS (\$50,000)
Methodology Development for Mapping of Southern California Riparian Areas
- 3) City of Santa Barbara (\$25,000)
Ventura County (\$30,000)
Microbial Source Tracking Method Evaluation
- 4) City of Los Angeles Department of Sanitation (\$30,000)
Dominguez Channel Watershed Modeling

There were no objections.

6. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING

Bruce Posthumus reported on the minutes of CTAG's last meeting, held on August 15th. He reported that CTAG had a good discussion on the regional Bight survey, marine debris study and the San Diego Bay Sediment project.

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement requires annual election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Stahl suggested that Commissioner Dickerson from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region would do an excellent job and nominated him as the Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coe and carried unanimously. Commissioner Dickerson asked if there was an interest or for a nomination for Vice Chair. Commissioner Theisen motioned for the approval of Commissioner Ghirelli from Orange County Sanitation District as Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Coe and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Dickerson accepted the gavel and assumed the position of Chair.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:30 am for calendar year 2003:

March 7th
June 13th
September 12th
December 5th

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

9. RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AUTHORITY OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr. Weisberg indicated that the Commission had created the position of Deputy Director at its June meeting. Section 7 of the Joint Powers Agreement defines responsibilities of the Executive Director and provides authority to delegate these responsibilities as necessary to insure smooth operation of the organization. This delegation authority allows the Deputy Director to assume responsibility for the organization in absence of the Executive Director. Section 8 of the JPA provides the Executive Director authority to execute contracts and grants, but unlike Section 7,

this Section is silent as to whether this authority can be delegated. Many of the contracts and grants that SCCWRP enters into are time-sensitive. Dr. Weisberg recommended granting the Deputy Director contracting authority in his absence.

The Commission was agreeable to the Resolution, but desired language modification. The Commission requested a clause stating that the contract had been reviewed and verbally approved by the Executive Director. The Commission agreed to table the matter till the next meeting when the Executive Director could introduce new language to address the Commission's concerns.

10. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CAPITALIZATION POLICY

The Administrative Officer sought the Commission's endorsement of a Resolution adopting a capitalization policy. He explained that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes standards for state and local governmental accounting and financial reporting. GASB had established Statement Number 34. This Statement requires the Authority to capitalize its fixed assets. Historically, the Authority had expensed all asset purchases at the time of purchase.

Commissioner Stahl motioned for approval of the Resolution. Commissioner Hashimoto seconded the motion and a Resolution establishing a capitalization policy on purchases of five thousand dollars or more was unanimously approved.

11. STORMWATER AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

Commissioner Stahl reported on the status of stormwater agency membership with Los Angeles County. He indicated that the process had been moving slower than expected. Commissioner Stahl would continue to work with Jim Noyes, Director of Public Works for Los Angeles County, on the issue and report back on the status. Commissioner Stahl stated that input at the Commission level from stormwater agencies was a priority. Commissioner Stahl suggested moving forward with an Agreement with the County of Orange as an Associate Member. He recommended providing the County of Orange with a protective contractual clause. The objective of the clause would be to ensure that any potential changes or additions in future Agreements with other stormwater agencies would be retroactive to Orange County. Michael Wellborn, representing the County of Orange's Executive Office, spoke to the Commission. He expressed the County's positive desire for Associate Membership and welcomed the type of clause described by Commissioner Stahl.

12. BIGHT'03 REGIONAL SURVEY

Dr. Weisberg reported on planning activities for the Bight'03 survey. He was encouraged by the response to the August invitational meeting, which was attended by 92 people, and mentioned that the Steering Committee would have their first meeting next Tuesday, Sept 17th. Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP was using the regional surveys to focus on new research questions and develop additional stakeholders, rather than simply being a repeat of previous regional surveys. One example given was to extend the regional survey into deeper water on the continental slope and basins.

Dr. Weisberg indicated that five of the Bight'98 regional survey reports had been published and he expected the balance of them to be published by year-end. Dr. Weisberg presented a summary of the recently completed Chemistry and Fish reports, which would be released soon. The Commissioners requested that Dr. Weisberg make a summary presentation about the findings from Bight'98 to the Commission and their board members at a special meeting in January. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he would be glad to and that he was presently preparing an Executive Summary report that could be handed out at that meeting. The Commission agreed that January would be an appropriate time for a special meeting and Commissioner Dickerson agreed to work with other Commissioners to identify potential dates.

Dr. Weisberg received a note and indicated that he would need to leave at 11:45. He asked if the Commission would reorder the agenda and move the next item to the end. The Commission agreed to reorder the agenda.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Resolution regarding the Deputy Director's contracting authority would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dickerson inquired if SCCWRP would be participating in the National Water Quality Sampling Day on October 18. Dr. Weisberg responded that SCCWRP had no plans for any special activities that day. Commissioner Dickerson also announced that the Friends of the San Gabriel River would be having a citizen monitoring effort at the end of September. Dr. Weisberg mentioned that SCCWRP was conducting the volunteer training and coordinating that sampling effort as part of the agency's efforts to develop a water quality model for the San Gabriel River.

Commissioner Dickerson provided an update on the Mini-Water Quality Institute that he was coordinating with SCCWRP. He indicated that the first of these would be on Microbiology and would be held in Ontario in November.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Nolta, a concern citizen and environmental activist, spoke before the Commission and read a prepared statement. He was opposed to OCSD's wastewater discharge and desired an investigation into harmful algal blooms. Dr. Weisberg mentioned that SCCWRP was presently investigating whether it was feasible to incorporate an algal assessment component in the Bightwide Regional Survey.

Michael Wellborn with Orange County's Executive Office, mentioned that the County would be holding a coastal clean up day on September 21.

Dr. Weisberg left the meeting at 11.45 AM with Deputy Director Ken Schiff taking over in the Executive Director's absence.

16. SCCWRP'S WETLAND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Martha Sutula briefed the Commission on the Authority's wetlands initiatives. She has been successful at several levels as she is building SCCWRP's research program. These successes include advancing the state of the wetland science, increasing communication among wetland scientists and managers, and being a magnet for federal funds, which has resulted in nearly one million dollars of grants and in-kind services over the last year. Dr. Sutula presented an introduction on the three areas of applied wetlands research SCCWRP has been focusing on. The first was providing technical support to the Southern California Wetland Recovery Program. Another was improving the understanding of watershed impacts on wetlands as receiving waters. Third was studying the relationships of wetlands and water quality as wetlands become increasingly targeted as tools for best management practices to treat urban nonpoint discharges.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Theisen motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Dojiri seconded the motion, with the meeting being adjourned by the Chairman at 12:00 pm.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary