

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 13, 2002
9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*
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*
Micheal Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*
Robert 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*
Kenneth Schiff - *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece - *Administrative Officer*
Jim Allen - *Principal Scientist*
Steven Bay - *Principal Scientist*
Eric Stein - *Principal Scientist*
B. Richard Marsh - *Legal Counsel*

OTHERS PRESENT

Not Recorded

Commissioner Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Commissioner Ghirelli indicated that he had received a letter from Commissioner Dickerson designating Michael Lyons as his organization's representative to the Commission for this one meeting because of a scheduling conflict for both him and his Alternate Commissioner. The Administrative Officer took roll, with Commissioners Hashimoto, Thibeault, Coe, Lyons, Dojiri, Horvath, Ghirelli and Langworthy being present.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 13, 2002**
2. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 31, 2002**
3. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 31, 2002**
4. **ANNUAL AUDIT**

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

At 9:37 am Commissioner Martinson arrived.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP had recently received a partnership award from Coastal America, along with a congratulatory letter from President Bush, for the Authority's work with the Wetlands Recovery Project. Dr. Weisberg also indicated that he had received considerable positive response to SCCWRP's work at the California and the World Ocean Conference.

Dr. Weisberg reported on the status of the annual report. He anticipates that it will be the largest to date, with 41 articles. Twenty-eight of articles will be co-authored with scientists from other institutions. He also pointed out that 22 of the articles had already been accepted in peer-reviewed scientific journals, a reflection on the quality of the science being produced by the staff.

Dr. Weisberg next described progress on three high profile microbiology studies SCCWRP was initiating. The first was development of rapid methods for measuring beach bacteria. Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP had subcontracted with five specialists to help with development and that SCCWRP would be co-hosting a workshop in Monterey on May 14 to describe progress. He next described SCCWRP's Microbiological Source Tracking (MST) method evaluation study. MST tools allow managers to discriminate between human and non-human bacterial sources. Dr. Weisberg outlined the study design and indicated that he hoped to provide the Commission a progress update on this project at their next meeting. The third project was the Mission Bay Epidemiology study, which is the first such study ever conducted in an embayment system. This study will be conducted in partnership with Dr. Jack Colford of UC Berkeley next summer.

Dr. Weisberg reported that the Authority had finished its annual audit without any adjustments and continued to be in good financial shape. He explained that with the economic downturn, he would be taking a more conservative approach to expenditures in the near term. He indicated that it was taking longer to get paid and he had anticipated that several projects would be placed on hold.

6. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING

Bruce Posthumus reported on CTAG's last meeting, held on November 21. He indicated that the meeting was productive and that CTAG found the Executive Director's report useful for stimulating discussion. He reported that CTAG heard two detailed technical presentations on SCCWRP research, one on anti-fouling paints and the other on nutrients. Mr. Posthumus also stated the CTAG spent part of the meeting discussing the role of CTAG. The Commission discussed this issue and asked that CTAG prepare a CTAG mission statement for discussion at a future Commission meeting.

7. 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 were described to the Commission to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 1) State Water Resources Control Board (\$30,000)
Dissolved Oxygen Effects in Newport Bay
- 2) U.S. EPA Region IX (\$20,000)
Newport Bay Toxics

There were no objections to either of these contracts.

8. RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AUTHORITY OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr. Weisberg explained that at the last meeting he had recommended adopting a Resolution granting the Deputy Director contracting authority in his absence, since many documents are time-sensitive. The Commission had been agreeable to the Resolution, but desired language modification. Dr. Weisberg presented a revised Resolution for adoption.

Commissioner Horvath motioned for approval of the Resolution to establish signatory authority of the Deputy Director. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coe and carried unanimously.

9. STORMWATER AGENCY MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Weisberg briefed the Commission on the background and status of potential stormwater agency membership in SCCWRP. He reminded the Commission that negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Los Angeles had stalled and he had been asked at the last Commission meeting to focus on preparing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Orange. Dr. Weisberg stated that SCCWRP's counsel has drafted an agreement that the County of Orange Executive Office finds acceptable and if the Commission found the agreement acceptable, the County of Orange would bring it to their Board of Supervisors. Michael Wellborn, representing the County of Orange Executive Office, spoke to the Commission, expressing the County's desire to move forward with the Associate Membership agreement.

Dr. Weisberg also mentioned that he had been approached by Ventura County regarding their interest in an invitation to join SCCWRP as an Associate Member. Several Commissioners spoke in support of issuing such invitation. Dr. Weisberg asked if he should approach other members of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, who are also principal stormwater permittees, about their interest. The Commission expressed a preference to start with coastal stormwater permittees before expanding inland.

Commissioner Langworthy motioned for approval of the Associate Membership agreement that had been drafted with Orange County, for a letter of invitation to be sent to Ventura County, and to delegate authority to Dr. Weisberg for executing a stormwater agency membership agreement on behalf of SCCWRP to the County of Orange, Ventura County, the City of San Diego and Los Angeles County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dojiri and carried unanimously.

10. BIGHT'03 REGIONAL SURVEY

Dr. Weisberg reported on preparation activities for the Bight'03 cooperative regional survey. He indicated that there would be three components: Coastal Ecology, Water Quality and Microbiology. Coastal Ecology will focus on two questions. The first involves estimating the amount of area in the SCB that has contaminated sediments and is similar to the focus of previous SCCWRP regional surveys. The second question involves developing a mass balance between the amount of contaminants discharged to the ocean and the amount that can be measured in the environment. The Water Quality component will use remote sensing technology to examine how far offshore, and for how long, the influence of stormwater plumes is detected. The Shoreline Microbiology component will focus on determining the percentage of southern California beach bacterial problems that are associated with a human source of fecal material.

Dr. Weisberg next reported on the status of the Bight'98 regional survey reports. He indicated that all the reports have been approved for release and are in final stages of preparation. The Commissioners requested that Dr. Weisberg make a summary presentation about the findings from Bight'98 to the Commission and the Commissioner's board members at the March 7th Commission meeting. Dr. Weisberg agreed and a presentation was planned from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, with a lunch to be provided at noon. Commissioner Ghirelli suggested using Orange County Sanitation District's Board Room for the presentation and Commission meeting to accommodate the larger planned attendance.

11. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission asked that CTAG provide them with a written document about the role of CTAG for Commission review.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Thibeault inquired about receiving copies of SCCWRP's publications. Dr. Weisberg responded that he routinely distributes copies of SCCWRP publications to CTAG and would be glad to provide these at future Commission meetings as well.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comment.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40 am, Commissioner Ghirelli adjourned the next Commission meeting to March 7, 2003 at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held in Orange County Sanitation District's Board Room, located at 10844 Ellis Avenue in Fountain Valley.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary