

**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 5, 2004
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*
James Stahl - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Alan Langworthy – *City of San Diego*
Jeff Pratt – *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
James Noyes – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

Rita Robinson - *City of Los Angeles*
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Lawrence Jackson – *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
Kenneth Schiff – *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative Officer*
B. Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Eric Stein - *Principal Investigator*
M. Jim Allen - *Principal Investigator*

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
Walter Konopka - *City of San Diego*

Commission Chair Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The Administrative Officer took roll, with Commissioners Martinson, Thibeault, Dickerson, Coe, Dojiri, Stahl, Ghirelli,

Langworthy, Pratt and Noyes being present.

1. SEATING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Dickerson indicated that Los Angeles County Department of Public Works had accepted the Commission's invitation to become an Associate Member of SCCWRP. He welcomed James A. Noyes and Brian Sasaki (Alternate) as Commissioners representing Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Commissioner Dojiri introduced Rita Robinson, the new Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles. Commissioner Pratt introduced Lawrence Jackson, the new Alternate for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 5, 2003**
- 3. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 30, 2003**
- 4. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 30, 2003**
- 5. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2003**
- 6. 2003 ANNUAL AUDIT**

Commissioner Dojiri motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Langworthy seconded the motion and the consent agenda was unanimously approved with a correction to the minutes of December 5, 2003, reflecting that Michael Lyons had been in attendance.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg reported that the Authority had successfully finished its annual audit and continued to be in good financial shape. Dr. Weisberg indicated that the staff has been doing an outstanding job of publishing their work in peer-reviewed scientific journals with a high acceptance rate. Dr. Weisberg reported on the status of the 2002-2003 Biennial report, which he anticipated would include 27 articles and be released around December 1, 2004.

Dr. Weisberg reported on the continuing success of SCCWRP's Rapid Bacteria Indicator study. Six different research labs were refining their methods and a final intercalibration among methods, including an assessment of comparability to traditional methods, is scheduled for June 2nd and 3rd. Dr. Weisberg updated the progress on the Biosolids Project, a study aimed at assessing the fate of residual solids as this constituent has decreased in ocean disposal.

SCCWRP staff has met with all of the member agencies who helped formulate a study plan that will be implemented over the next year.

Dr. Weisberg next reported on progress of the Bight'03 Cooperative Regional Monitoring Survey. He indicated that Coastal Ecology component of the survey was proceeding well and presented a status report on data submission. He indicated that the Microbiology component had completed one dry weather and one wet weather sampling event, and that the Water Quality component had completed one wet weather event. Both the Microbiology and Water Quality components, which are linked by sampling the same storms, had one more storm event left to sample. He indicated that additional details on the Water Quality component were to be presented under Item 10.

Dr. Weisberg next described how he had responded to the Commission request made at their last meeting for SCCWRP to enhance the interaction between its research planning efforts and that of the special studies efforts that are now being incorporated into the member agencies monitoring requirements. He indicated that up to this point, the interaction has occurred as one-on-one conversations with member agencies, but after discussions with CTAG at their last meeting it was decided that CTAG should dedicate their November meeting every year toward this interaction. Each regulated member agency will be asked to make a presentation of their special studies considerations. In addition, regulators will be asked to make presentations on planned Ocean Plan and Basin Plan revisions. Dr. Weisberg indicated that not only will this assist SCCWRP's research planning activities, but it will also enhance interaction among the member agencies in their own planning. Several Commissioners commended Dr. Weisberg and CTAG for this approach.

8. CTAG REPORT

Michael Lyons reported that CTAG held its regularly scheduled meeting on February 8th. At that meeting, they welcomed new CTAG member, Dan Lafferty, from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. CTAG reviewed the initial draft of the SCCWRP Research Plan and was pleased with its direction. They heard technical presentations on endocrine disrupters by Steve Bay and on Solid Phase Micro Extraction (SPME) by Eddy Zeng. Mr. Lyons indicated that CTAG was impressed by the potential utility of SPME as a water quality monitoring tool. He also reported that CTAG discussed the interaction of SCCWRP with member agency Special Studies and potential Ocean Plan revisions, reinforcing Dr. Weisbergs' comments during the Executive Director's Report. He also stated that CTAG discussed their potential role in the Southern California Ocean Observing System, expressing a desire to assist the California Coastal Conservancy and identifying that an invitation had been issued to the Conservancy to attend the next CTAG meeting. Several Commissioners commented that this seemed appropriate since CTAG includes many of the intended primary data end users of the Observing System.

Commissioner Martinson requested that CTAG consider how they might contribute to a workgroup designed to assist the SWRCB revise the Ocean Plan to evaluate and reduce excessive monitoring requirements. These activities would be similar to their efforts undertaken

as part of the Large POTW Model Monitoring Program. Mr. Lyons responded that he would have CTAG address this at their next meeting.

9. CONTRACT APPROVAL

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve resolutions regarding the following contracts that would be offered to the Authority.

- 1) State Coastal Conservancy (\$200,000)
Wetlands Recovery Project
- 2) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$919,502)
Assessment of Water Quality Loadings from Natural Landscapes
- 3) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$689,334)
Assessment of Effectiveness of Treatment Wetlands for Stormwater BMPs
- 4) Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$253,532)
Pesticides in Upper Newport Bay
- 5) State Water Resources Control Board (\$140,000)
Bioassessment Monitoring Program
- 6) State Water Resources Control Board (\$255,000)
Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP04)
- 7) State Water Resources Control Board (\$250,000)
Clean Beach Initiative Assessment

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Coe, these contracts were approved by Resolution with the following abstentions: Commissioner Martinson abstaining on numbers 5,6 and 7, Commissioner Dickerson abstaining on numbers 2 and 3, and Commissioner Thibeault abstaining on number 4.

As an informational item, the Authority has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept the following contracts with value of \$250,000 or less and not requiring a resolution. While the governing agreement of SCCWRP requires no Commission action on these, the following contracts were described to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 8) San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$30,000)
Bight'03
- 9) U.S. Department of Interior (\$5,200)
MARINE Data Management

- 10) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$21,000)
Wet Weather Modeling of the Dominguez Channel Watershed
- 11) City of Los Angeles, Department of Water & Power (\$31,500)
Los Angeles River Watershed Modeling
- 12) Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (\$30,000)
San Gabriel River Dry Season Sampling and Data Analysis
- 13) Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (\$49,000)
San Gabriel River Watershed-Wide Monitoring Program
- 14) Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (\$75,000)
San Gabriel River Watershed Modeling
- 15) Camarillo Sanitary District (\$5,000)
Callegus Creek Watershed Management Plan

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

10. WET WEATHER UPDATE

The Executive Director presented a progress report on SCCWRP's data collection activities during this year's wet season. He indicated that wet weather sampling at SCCWRP addresses three main research themes: relationship between atmospheric deposition and stormwater runoff, development of watershed models, and assessment of riverine and near coastal impacts. He then gave progress updates on several projects. He showed the number of samples that were collected this year to support modeling activities. He discussed sampling that was conducted to compare runoff flows between burned and unburned watersheds. He next described the plume tracking component of the Bight'03 Regional Monitoring Program in which plumes were measured using both conventional ship-based sampling methods and newer techniques, such as satellite imagery and high frequency radar. He showed satellite images depicting the wet weather plume evolution over a one week time frame in the San Diego (Tijuana River) and Orange County (Santa Ana River) areas. These images were overlaid with results from the radar and drifter data indicating concordance with trajectory and dispersion (e.g. the San Gabriel River flowing onto Huntington Beach). He indicated that these technologies provide a good demonstration of capabilities that are being proposed for the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS).

11. SEDIMENT QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Steve Bay reported on SCCWRP's project to provide a scientific foundation for the State's sediment quality objectives (SQOs) for enclosed bays and estuaries. The project includes four key components: assessing the effects of sediment contamination on benthos, evaluating the feasibility of developing SQOs based on bioaccumulation of contaminants, development of

methods manuals, and an assessment of sediment quality in bays and estuaries. Many elements of this project will build upon the tools and data developed by SCCWRP as part of other regional monitoring and information management projects. To date, significant progress has been made in developing a statewide sediment quality database as well as tool development for benthic community and sediment toxicity assessment. Results summarizing relationships between community disturbance, sediment toxicity, and sediment contamination are expected in about a year. The Commission commented that effective communication with the public needs to be an important component of the project and encouraged SCCWRP staff to utilize the internet, regional workgroups, public workshops, and the Public Advisory Group to inform the public about their work in this area.

12. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission requested presentations on trends in disposal of wastewater biosolids and watershed modeling.

13. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dickerson announced a Symposium on Malibu Water Quality issues being held at the Pepperdine University Preferred Executive Center on May 8th. He also mentioned that Dr. Weisberg would be providing an overview of SCCWRP activities to his board members at a future meeting.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner Stahl and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am until the next Commission meeting on June 11, 2004 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary