

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

September 10, 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*
Jonathon Bishop - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*
Robert Horvath - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
Michael Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Clayton Yoshida - *City of Los Angeles*
Mike Moore - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Elyse Ditzel – *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
Larry McKenney – *Orange County*

Commission Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Commissioners present were Martinson, Thibeault, Coe, Bishop, Dojiri, Horvath, Ghirelli, and Sasaki.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 11, 2004**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2004**

3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT JUNE 30, 2004

4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF MAY 26, 2004

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

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Weisberg began his administrative update by announcing that Eddy Zeng left SCCWRP after accepting a research position in China. He indicated that Dr. Zeng will continue to collaborate with SCCWRP and that a nationwide search for a new Chemistry Department Head is currently underway. Dr. Weisberg introduced Larry McKenney from Orange County RDMD. Mr. McKenney spoke on the progress of Orange County joining the Commission as an Associate Member. He stated that he has begun to process an agreement that would soon go before the Orange County Board of Supervisors for approval. Dr. Weisberg next noted that the audit of SCCWRP's financial statements for fiscal year 2003-2004 had just been completed and that this was the third year in a row that the auditor found no exceptions.

Dr. Weisberg's discussed five items in his technical update. First, he briefed the Commission on the Governor's response to the Presidential Commission on Ocean Policy Report. The response calls for a summit to develop a statewide ocean research agenda and SCCWRP has been invited to participate. Second, Dr. Weisberg described a two-day meeting of a national science advisory panel on sediment quality that was recently hosted by SCCWRP. He indicated that SCCWRP's Sediment Quality Objectives project was one of the focal points of the meeting and that the group provided positive feedback about our work. Third, he described a report that the Scripps Institute of Oceanography had prepared reviewing the City of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Facility ocean monitoring program. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had been asked by Scripps to be one of five reviewers of the document before its public release. He indicated that many of the suggestions in the Scripps report were consistent with suggestions made during development of SCCWRP's model monitoring program and the more research-oriented recommendations, such as developing endocrine disruptor and virus measurements, were ones that SCCWRP was already working on for its member organizations. Fourth, Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had been invited to serve on the program planning committee for the EPA National Beach Conference in San Diego on October 13 –15. He said that the program would be a good one and that there would be panel discussion opportunity for participants to present any concerns they had about EPA's implementation of the BEACH Act. Fifth, Dr. Weisberg provided an update of the Bight'03 Regional Monitoring Program. He indicated that the Coastal Ecology component was making good progress and that data analysis and delivery was ahead of schedule compared to previous surveys. Both the Water Quality and Microbiological components were awaiting the next storm season for the next round of sampling.

6. CTAG REPORT

Michael Lyons, vice-chair of CTAG, reported that CTAG held a special meeting with representatives of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) on August 25 to discuss the potential data products that could be generated by SCCOOS that would be of value to SCCWRP member agencies. The meeting also included discussion about how data generated by SCCWRP and its member agencies could be integrated with that produced by SCCOOS. Mr. Lyons reported next on CTAG's regularly scheduled meeting on

August 26. The meeting focused on a review of SCCWRP's bacteria related studies. The majority of the time was spent discussing the results from the rapid indicator development study. Secondly, CTAG discussed the preliminary results of the Mission Bay Epidemiology Study.

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement requires annual election of Commission Chair and co-Chair. Commissioner Thibeault motioned for election of Commissioner Ghirelli from Orange County Sanitation District as the chair. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Coe and approved unanimously. Commissioner Horvath motioned for election of Commissioner Thibeault from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region as the co-chair for the coming year. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dojiri and approved unanimously.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Commission selected and approved the following meeting dates and a meeting time of 9:30 am for calendar year 2005:

March 11th
June 10th
September 9th
December 9th

9. CONTRACT APPROVAL

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.

- 1) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (\$124,000)
Personnel Agreement
- 2) U.S. Department of Commerce - NOAA (\$100,000)
Bight'03
- 3) National City (\$30,000)
Bight'03
- 4) Coalition for Environmental Protection, Restoration and Development (\$15,000)
Site Specific Objective Water Quality Objectives
- 5) University of California, Santa Cruz (\$10,000)
MARINE Data Management

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

10. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Dr. Weisberg reported that comments from the member agencies had been incorporated into a final version of the 6th Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The Personnel and Finance Committee indicated that they were in agreement on the final version of the JPA, with two minor changes. They also indicated that they thought the City of Los Angeles should be the first to proceed in obtaining board approval, with the other member agencies following, as there was a possibility

that the City process could lead to requests for additional wording changes to the JPA. Commissioner Horvath motioned for approval of the 6th JPA. Commissioner Coe seconded the motion and the 6th JPA was unanimously approved.

11. RAPID INDICATOR METHOD DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Director reported on results from the rapid indicator method development project. Dr. Weisberg explained that new molecular methods are being developed to measure bacterial indicators in 4 hours or less. Phase III of the project, in which four methods were subjected to independent evaluation had recently been completed. Dr. Weisberg concluded that none of the new methods worked perfectly, but there was reason for optimism. Most performed well, several had better precision than traditional methods, and local microbiologists with minimal additional training were able to adequately perform all of the new methods. Dr. Weisberg indicated that additional testing is planned in February and that three additional groups with newly developed methods have already indicated an interest in participating.

12. NATURAL LOADINGS PROJECT

Dr. Eric Stein, head of SCCWRP's Watersheds Department, reported on a new project for establishing background concentrations and loadings from the most natural stream systems in southern California. Dr Stein briefed the Commission on the project's purpose and study design. This project will provide a characterization of natural baseline loadings associated with specific geologic settings and natural land cover/habitat types that will assist environmental managers with load allocations and setting appropriate numeric targets for total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). The Commission was encouraged by the project and requested that Dr. Stein return with the results from the first year's data when they become available.

13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Weisberg was asked to give a presentation on the Epidemiology Study and provide an update on the Joint Powers Agreement at the next Commission meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

It was noted that Blake Anderson of OCSD had recovered from his recent surgery and was doing well.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm until the next Commission meeting on December 10, 2004 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary