

**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**

**June 10, 2005  
9:30 a.m.**

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**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*  
Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*  
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Robert Horvath - *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*  
Mas Dojiri - *City of Los Angeles*  
Jeff Pratt - *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*  
Brian Sasaki – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*  
George Robertson - *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Darla Wise - *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*

Commission Chair Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Commissioners present were Martinson, Thibeault, Bishop, Hashimoto, Ghirelli, Horvath, Dojiri, and Sasaki.

Commissioners Pratt and Coe arrived at 9:34 am.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 11, 2005**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2005**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT MARCH 31, 2005**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2005**

Commissioner Martinson asked that the CTAG minutes be withdrawn from the consent agenda for discussion. After discussion, the Commission asked CTAG to reconsider wording accuracy for the item on Sediment Quality Objectives and resubmit the minutes at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Dojiri motioned to approve the balance of the consent agenda items. Commissioner Horvath seconded the motion and the consent agenda, less the CTAG minutes, was unanimously approved.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Weisberg began the Director's Report by summarizing the outcome of his annual lunch meetings with the Commissioners. He indicated that there were four topics of interest that were consistently mentioned: sediment quality objectives, nutrient criteria, epidemiological studies, and watershed modeling. Dr. Weisberg next reported that all of the signatories, except for the City of San Diego, had already signed the next SCCWRP Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), to be effective July 1; the City of San Diego was expected to sign the Agreement soon. Dr. Weisberg next introduced Dr. Keith Maruya, SCCWRP's new chemistry department head, to the Commission. He also explained that he was pleased that two out-of-state institutions had sent Ph.D. students to intern on beach water quality issues at SCCWRP this summer.

Dr. Weisberg reminded the Commission that the Agency has been looking for a new facility for the last few years and had recently identified a facility with the potential to meet the agency's needs. Commissioner Ghirelli reported that the issue was discussed in the Personnel and Finance Committee. After discussion, the Commission indicated that they were supportive of relocating and directed the Executive Director to continue in this matter. Commissioner Ghirelli asked the Organization's Counsel whether a resolution empowering Dr. Weisberg to enter into a new lease was necessary. Mr. Marsh responded that it was already within Dr. Weisberg's authority, but that it would still be advisable as it might be requested by a prospective landlord. Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath, seconded by Commissioner Coe and unanimously approved, the Commission granted the Executive Director general authority to relocate the Agency, negotiate, enter into and execute a lease, brokerage agreement, and any other agreements, contracts, documents or commitments necessary in the relocation of the Agency. The Commission asked that the Commission Chair be kept informed of developments between

Commission meetings.

Dr. Weisberg gave an update from the Bight'03 Regional Monitoring Survey, which he indicated has been progressing well. He then gave an update on the sediment quality objective project indicating that SCCWRP would be presenting the culmination of the last year's work to the Scientific Steering Committee for their review on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. CTAG REPORT**

Dave Montagne, Vice Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's May 24 meeting at which two main issues were discussed. First, CTAG reviewed the final draft of the research plan. Mr. Montagne indicated that CTAG felt the Research Plan was technically sound, had well-organized goals and contained research areas that were relevant to the member agencies. CTAG recommended endorsement of the Research Plan to the Commission. The second item at the CTAG meeting was a presentation by Drew Ackerman on watershed modeling, which CTAG found interesting.

## **7. CONTRACT APPROVAL**

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

- 1) State Water Resources Control Board (\$200,000)  
Statewide Microbiology Monitoring Database

Upon the motion of Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, the contract was approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Martinson and Hashimoto abstaining.

- 2) State Coastal Conservancy (\$200,000)  
Ballona Wetlands Science Advisory Panel

Upon the motion of Commissioner Coe and seconded by Commissioner Thibeault, the contract was approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Hashimoto abstaining.

- 3) State Water Resources Control Board (\$200,000)  
Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP'05)

Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath and seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, the contract was approved by Resolution, with Commissioner Martinson and Hashimoto abstaining.

As an informational item, Dr. Weisberg described contracts with value of \$250,000 or less that the Authority has accepted or indicated a willingness to accept. While the governing agreement of SCCWRP requires no Commission action on these, the contracts were described to inform and ensure that the direction of the Authority's work is consistent with the desires of the Commission.

- 4) California Department of Health Services (\$50,000)

## Beach Watch

- 5) Yucaipa Valley Water District (\$43,500)  
Assessment of Water Quality Loadings from Natural Landscapes
- 6) Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (\$11,488)  
SWAMP Database

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

## **8. FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006 RESEARCH PLAN AND BUDGET**

Dr. Weisberg presented the 2005/06 Research Plan to the Commission for their approval. He emphasized that number of projects that will be conducted in collaboration with other organizations was at an all-time high and exceeded 90% of all projects. He also remarked that the research agenda emphasizes multi-year projects. Dr. Weisberg then provided an overview of each new project.

Upon motion of Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Coe, the 2005/2006 Research Plan and Budget was unanimously approved.

## **9. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES GOVERNING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND PERSONNEL, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Dr Weisberg reported that there were only two changes to the resolution from the previous year. One was to raise the upper end of the salary scale for all positions to reflect a cost of living adjustment. The other was to adjust the number of authorized positions to reflect the current staffing levels.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Dojiri and seconded by Commissioner Horvath, resolution number 05-03, to be effective July 1, 2005 was unanimously approved.

## **10. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Commissioner Ghirelli provided an overview of the Executive Director's performance review and his goals for the upcoming year. He next described the contract discussions he had with Dr. Weisberg, whose present contract was expiring at the end of the month, and described the draft contract that had been submitted for Commission approval. SCCWRP's Legal Counsel recommended two minor modifications to the draft contract. Commissioner Ghirelli indicated that the Personnel and Finance Committee had reviewed the employment contract and recommended its approval. Upon the motion of Commissioner Ghirelli and seconded by Commissioner Thibeault, the employment contract for the Executive Director was unanimously approved.

## **11. PEAK FLOW STUDY**

Eric Stein presented a summary of the recently completed Peak Flow Impact Study. The goals of this project were to: 1) assess the relationships between urbanization and stream erosion

within natural ephemeral drainage systems; 2) relate the results at our study sites to other watersheds in southern California; and 3) evaluate a range of erosion remedial measures associated with implementation of BMPs. Because the questions associated with managing the effects of peak flow are consistent throughout southern California, this project was conducted as a regional study on behalf of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). Key findings included: 1) ephemeral/intermittent streams in southern California are more sensitive to changes in impervious cover than streams in other parts of the country; 2) most ephemeral channels exhibit some degree of downcutting; however, the rate of change differs in response to increases in impervious cover; 3) the estimated threshold of response in ephemeral streams is  $\approx$  2-3% impervious cover; 4) ephemeral systems have less resiliency to erosion than perennial systems; and 5) ephemeral streams are sensitive to both peak discharge and duration of discharge. The final report for the project provides a set of suggested management approaches. The most appropriate management approach varies depending on the type of stream and the amount of impervious cover in the watershed. At low levels of impervious cover, management strategies such as providing stream buffer zones and managing runoff may be sufficient to control effects of increased runoff. At higher levels of impervious cover, more dramatic measures, such as storm water retention and grade control structures may be necessary. SCCWRP staff will be facilitating a technical workshop at the fall meeting of the California Association of Stormwater Quality Agencies (CASQA) meeting to identify future research and management needs for control of the effects of increased peak flow.

## **12. TIDAL EFFECTS ON BEACH BACTERIAL CONCENTRATION**

The Executive Director gave a presentation about the effects of tides on beach bacterial concentration. Data was collated from 60 beach sites, including those monitored by the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and Orange County Sanitation District. He indicated that the effect of spring-neap cycles was found to be pervasive and much greater than the effect of flood-ebb cycles. Bacterial concentrations were higher on spring tide than on neap tide at every beach. Physical features of the beaches had minimal effect on the outcome. Dr. Weisberg concluded that these findings suggest that there is a reservoir of contamination near the high water mark. Beach sands appear a more likely source of the spring tide effect than inland drainage as the effect was observed at all beaches, not just the ones near urban runoff outlets.

## **13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Ghirelli requested a review of the effectiveness of the model-modeling program at a future Commission meeting.

## **14. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Ghirelli handed out a fact sheet on Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs).

## **15. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm until the next Commission meeting on September 9, 2005 at SCCWRP

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece  
Secretary