

**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**

**March 10, 2006
9:30 a.m.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Ken Harris – *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*
Deborah Smith - *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*
Diego Cadena – *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Gerhardt Hubner – *Ventura County Watershed Protection Division*
Mike Moore - *Orange County Sanitation District*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg – *Executive Director*
B. Richard Marsh – *Legal Counsel*
Ken Schiff – *Deputy Director*
Bryan Nece – *Administrative officer*
Steve Bay - *Principal Investigator*
Jim Allen - *Principal Investigator*
Larry Cooper - *Principal Investigator*
Keith Maruya - *Principal Investigator*
Shelly Moore – *Scientist*
Karlene Miller – *Executive Administrative Assistant*

OTHERS PRESENT

Val Connor - *State Water Resources Control Board*
Dave Montagne - *Los Angeles County Sanitation District*
George Robertson - *Orange County Sanitation District*
Michael Lyons - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*
Kathy Flannery - *County of San Diego*
Brock Bernstein - *Scientist*

Commission Chair Ghirelli called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. Commissioners present were Harris, Thibeault, Coe, Smith, Hashimoto, Ghirelli, Horvath, Dojiri, Cadena, and Hubner.

Commissioner Ghirelli welcomed Diego Cadena as the Alternate Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and Ken Harris as the Alternate Commissioner for the State Water Resources Control Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 9, 2005**
- 2. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**
- 3. QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 31, 2005**
- 4. MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Administrative Report focused on two items. First, Dr. Weisberg welcomed Kathy Flannery, who is with the County of San Diego. At the last Commission meeting, the Commission requested that Dr. Weisberg draft a letter renewing its invitation for the County of San Diego to become an Associate Member of SCCWRP. Dr. Weisberg indicated that Ms. Flannery was present to represent the County in considering its response to the invitation. Second, Dr. Weisberg briefed the Commission on the status of the Agency's potential new facility (agenda item number six).

The Executive Director's Technical Report began with Dr. Weisberg pointing out the Agency's continued publication success. Dr. Weisberg next described the Agency's success on four projects affecting environmental management in California. The first example was the California Environmental Protection Agency's press release regarding the first joint meeting of the State Air Resources and Water Resources Control Boards. He indicated that SCCWRP's research and interaction among the Commissioners with regard to SCCWRP's research results had been instrumental in laying the framework for this unprecedented joint meeting. The second example was the Agency's project to lay the technical foundation for the State's Sediment Quality Objectives (SQO). He indicated that this was a difficult project, as USEPA and several states had previously failed to establish SQOs. SCCWRP was recently able to obtain agreement about the approach from both the Scientific Steering Committee and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Dr. Weisberg stated that he had been asked by EPA's Office of Science and Technology to conduct a briefing on this project during his next trip to Washington D.C. The third example was the Agency's recent release of Technical Report No. 483 describing the widespread copper contamination of San Diego marinas, mainly as the result of copper-based vessel antifouling paints. The State's Department of Pesticide Regulation is conducting a follow-up study at marinas statewide. The fourth example was the development of rapid microbial measurement methods. The newest rapid methods have performed so well that the State's Beach Water Quality Work Group has recommended them for a second level of testing; in which technicians at local laboratories use the methods in side-by-side testing with existing methods as a next step toward eventual replacement of the old, slower methods. The final item of the Director's Technical report was a recommendation for the Agency's participation as a co-sponsor of the California and World Ocean Conference. The California Resources Agency will be sponsoring the event in the City of Long Beach in September and the cost of co-sponsorship

is \$5,000. Upon the motion of Commissioner Cadena, seconded by Commissioner Coe, the co-sponsorship was unanimously approved.

6. NEW FACILITY AND LEASE

Dr. Weisberg described SCCWRP's efforts toward procuring a new facility and thought that the facility at the Harbor Gateway Business Center described at previous meetings was going to work out. He indicated that he had been working with a general contractor to better define tenant improvement costs and subsequent to the previous Commission meeting these costs have been determined to be within SCCWRP's budget. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he had briefed the Personnel and Finance Committee on details of the proposed lease and they supported moving ahead with its signing. The final draft of the lease was presently undergoing legal review. The landlord has requested that a member agency provide a lease guaranty, as the potential lease exceeds the tenure of the Agency's present Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) has offered to guaranty the Agency's obligations pursuant to the lease. In consideration for guarantying the lease, OCSD has requested an agreement from the Agency entitling OCSD to priority with regard to SCCWRP's assets if necessary to recover any financial loss incurred from guarantying the lease. The Commission discussed this issue and agreed to provide OCSD an agreement. The Commission also agreed, upon concurrence of the Commissioners representing the City of Los Angeles, the City of San Diego and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, to delegate authority to the Executive Director to draft and enter into an indemnity agreement with OCSD consistent with the Agency's JPA.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath, seconded by Commissioner Dojiri, the resolution to delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute an agreement to indemnify OCSD for guarantying said lease, consistent with the Agency's JPA, upon concurrence of the Commissioners representing the City of Los Angeles, the City of San Diego, and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts was PASSED and ADOPTED, by the Agency's Commission.

7. CTAG REPORT

Michael Lyons, Chair of CTAG, reported on CTAG's February 16th meeting. Michael Lyons and Dave Montagne were elected Chair and Co-Chair for another year. Mr. Lyons indicated that CTAG discussed the role it should play in reviewing SCCWRP journal submittals and technical reports. The outcome of this discussion was that the Agency and CTAG would interact earlier in the review process. CTAG also discussed next year's Research Plan. CTAG felt that the Agency had anticipated the needs of the member agencies well in the Plan.

8. 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 (\$3,012,000)
Development of Sediment Quality Objectives for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries

Upon the motion of Commissioner Horvath, seconded by Commissioner Coe, the contract was unanimously approved by Resolution, with Commissioners Harris and Hashimoto abstaining.

- 2) California Resources Agency (\$800,000)
Wetland Demonstration Pilot

Upon the motion of Commissioner Dojiri and seconded by Commissioner Coe, the contract was unanimously approved by Resolution, with Commissioner 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.

- 3) State Water Resources Control Board (\$100,000)
Design Storm
- 4) University of Southern California (\$14,000)
Historical Ecology
- 5) Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (\$49,500)
Los Angeles River Watershed Modeling
- 6) Colorado State University (\$15,000)
San Diego Mapping
- 7) Hercules Inc. (\$11,000)
Toxaphene Analysis
- 8) San Francisco Estuary Institute (\$35,000)
Landscape Development Intensity Index
- 9) San Francisco Estuary Institute (\$8,290)
Map Riparian Habitat

There were no objections to any of these contracts.

9. BIGHT'03 UPDATE

Ken Schiff gave an update on the progress of the Bight'03 Regional Monitoring Program. Report submissions were progressing on schedule. Mr. Schiff presented the major findings from the soon to be released Sediment Chemistry Report.

10. SPARC

The Executive Director and Dr. Brock Bernstein reported on the findings from the State Water Resource Control Board's (SWRCB's) Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) review by the Scientific Planning and Review Committee (SPARC), which was facilitated by SCCWRP. Although the SPARC identified many strengths of SWAMP, they also identified six items that needed to be addressed. The SWAMP Program Manager from the SWRCB, Dr. Val Connor, followed with a presentation of SWAMP's responses to SPARC's recommendations. The six areas included: 1) Re-evaluating program goals; 2) Identifying primary clients; 3) Developing a clear communication strategy; 4) Developing an assessment framework; 5) Interact and collaborate with other programs; and 6) Align project management and decisions with goals of the program. Both Ms. Connor and Dr. Bernstein felt that changes suggested by the SPARC and the response of SWAMP to these suggestions would lead to an improved program.

11. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission requested an update from the Executive Director on four items at the next Commission meeting: 1) Watershed modeling for evaluation of best management practice implementation strategies; 2) the Agency's 2006-07 research plan; 3) Results from the rapid indicator method development project; and 4) Status of the new facility.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Ghirelli mentioned that Blake Anderson has retired from the Orange County Sanitation District. He recommended that the Commission adopt a resolution honoring Blake for his long and distinguished service to the Agency. Commissioner Thibeault motioned for approval of the resolution and Commissioner Cadena seconded the motion. The resolution honoring Blake Anderson was unanimously approved.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm until the next Commission meeting on June 9, 2006.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece
Secretary