

**Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of the
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP)**

**Held at the offices of the Authority:
3535 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, California 92626**

**June 7, 2024
9:00 AM**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Susana Arredondo (Chair) — *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Jayne Joy — *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Dave Gibson — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Jim Marchese — *City of Los Angeles*
Robert Ferrante — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Rob Thompson — *Orange County Sanitation District*
Juan Guerreiro — *City of San Diego*
Arne Anselm — *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
Mark Lombos — *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*
Amanda Carr — *County of Orange*
Justin Gamble — *County of San Diego*

REMOTE COMMISSIONERS

Christina Yin — *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9*
Greg Gearheart — *State Water Resources Control Board*
Jenn Eckerle — *California Ocean Protection Council*

OTHER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Peter Vroom — *City of San Diego*
Lan Wiborg — *Orange County Sanitation District*
Grant Sharp — *County of Orange*
Jenny Newman — *Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Eric Lindberg — *Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board*

STAFF PRESENT

Stephen Weisberg — *Executive Director*
Bryan Nece — *Administrative Officer*
Wes Beverlin — *Legal Counsel*
Ken Schiff — *Deputy Director*
Elizabeth Fassman-Beck — *Department Head*
John Griffith — *Department Head*
Alvina Mehinto — *Department Head*
Eric Stein — *Department Head*
Martha Sutula — *Department Head*
Charles Wong — *Department Head*
Scott Martindale — *Communications Director*

Joshua Steele — *Senior Scientist*
Christina Frieder — *Senior Scientist*
Faycal Kessouri — *Senior Scientist*
Danhui Xin — *Scientist*
Edward Tiernan — *Engineer*
Ryan Guillemette — *Postdoctoral Scientist*
Emily Lau — *Communications Specialist*

OTHERS PRESENT

Ryan Kempster — *City of San Diego*
Josh Westfall — *Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*
Chad Loflen — *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Sam Choi — *Orange County Sanitation District*
Jared Voskuhl — *California Association of Sanitation Agencies*
Sarah Deslauriers — *California Association of Sanitation Agencies*
Orelia DeBraal — *City of San Diego*

The meeting was broadcast on Zoom for audience members. Remote audience members were invited to address the Commission by making a request via the Zoom Q&A box.

Commission Chair Arredondo called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Commissioners Yin, Eckerle, and Gearheart requested to participate remotely, which the Commission approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of Meetings Held March 1, 2024**
- 2. Quarterly Financial Statement for the Period Ended March 31, 2024**
- 3. Quarterly Statement of Investments on March 31, 2024**
- 4. Minutes of CTAG Meetings Held May 9, 2024**

Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve Consent Items 1-4, and Commissioner Carr seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously with Commissioners Yin, Gibson, and Guerreiro abstaining.

The Commission agreed to take a roll-call vote later in the meeting to vote on all of the agenda items needing Commission approval at the same time.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Personnel and Finance Committee Report

Commissioner Thompson, Chair of the Personnel and Finance Committee, reported that SCCWRP's finances remain strong and that the profit SCCWRP is expected to realize this year will offset losses incurred last year. Thompson said the Committee is putting together

a strategy to ensure disruptions to SCCWRP's operations are minimal in the event of a State budget crisis. The Committee also decided it will review SCCWRP's existing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), which is due for renewal in June 2026, at the Committee's September 2024 meeting. Thompson invited the rest of the Commission to attend this Personnel and Finance Committee meeting to participate in this JPA discussion.

Thompson said the Committee recommends approval of the annual budget (Agenda Item 9) and the annual salary resolution (Agenda Item 10).

6. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Weisberg welcomed Commissioner Juan Guerreiro from the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department and Alternate Commissioner Eric Lindberg from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to their first in-person Commission meeting. Weisberg also announced that Karen Mogus has been promoted to Chief Deputy Director at the California State Water Resources Control Board; Phillip Crader, Deputy Director for the Division of Water Quality, will replace her as Commissioner.

Weisberg said the past week had been the greatest week in his 28-year history at SCCWRP based on two major achievements: First, the White House released the National Aquatic Environmental DNA (eDNA) Strategy to facilitate integration of eDNA methods into routine management uses. Weisberg said the national strategy provides a roadmap and implementation plan for federal, state and local agencies to coordinate and unify their investments in eDNA monitoring and research. He explained that SCCWRP was instrumental in helping to craft the national eDNA strategy, starting with hosting the 2nd National Workshop on Marine eDNA in 2022 where the idea for the strategy was originally conceptualized; Weisberg thanked Commissioner Vroom and former Commissioner Jonathan Bishop for their invaluable comments during this workshop that provided clarity on how workshop participants should expediently move the eDNA field forward. SCCWRP also co-authored seminal journal manuscripts and other documents that were incorporated directly into the strategy. Finally, SCCWRP member agencies provided perspective to crafters of the plan on barriers to more widespread adoption and use of eDNA monitoring during a fall 2023 CTAG intersessional meeting. Weisberg reported that SCCWRP is actively involved in supporting the strategy's rollout; for example, Principal Scientist Theroux was selected as one of four eDNA experts to give a congressional briefing on eDNA.

Commission Chair Arredondo commended SCCWRP for its contributions to the national eDNA strategy. Asked by Commissioner Carr if there is an opportunity to use eDNA to identify benthic organisms in sediment samples, Weisberg said yes. Asked by Commissioner Gamble if there is an opportunity to use eDNA to identify pathogenic microbes in recreational beach water, Weisberg said yes.

Weisberg then highlighted a second new development: A panel of scientific experts that was convened in fall 2023 to independently review SCCWRP's ROMS-BEC modeling work released a draft report summarizing its findings and recommendations. Weisberg

explained that he would go into more detail about the panel's findings and recommendations later in the meeting (Agenda Item 11).

Weisberg said SCCWRP hosted two recent, high-profile meetings that speak to SCCWRP's continued success as a scientific facilitator and consensus-builder: 1) an expert panel that SCCWRP convened on behalf of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts to develop recommendations for how to incorporate nature-based solutions (NBS) for managing stream temperature in the Santa Clara River, and 2) a two-day West Coast Ocean Alliance workshop on marine mammal health indicators as part of an ongoing effort by WCOA to develop an ocean report card for the U.S. West Coast. Weisberg said SCCWRP will also be hosting upcoming training workshops to help standardize West Coast ocean acidification monitoring methods, as well as to advance microplastics measurement methods and cell bioassays. Commissioner Ferrante commented that nature-based solutions are an important area of research as traditional engineered mechanisms for cooling stream temperature can be expensive and resource intensive.

Weisberg reminded the Commission that during their October 2023 strategic planning meeting, the Commission agreed to develop greater differentiation between CTAG and Commission meetings, with CTAG meetings focused on technical review and Commission meetings focused more on policy implications of the research. To help foster these conversations, SCCWRP has at the last several meetings invited speakers to provide management perspectives following each technical presentation and that he has received positive feedback about that approach to meeting construction. He mentioned that there would be managerial perspective speakers associated with three of today's presentations.

Commissioner Thompson said that he appreciates SCCWRP better differentiating between CTAG and Commission meetings, but commented that CTAG needs to understand that they have responsibility to ensure technical adequacy of the work. Weisberg agreed, noting that when technical concerns arise, SCCWRP is committed to working through the issues with CTAG before advancing work to the Commission.

7. CTAG Report

CTAG Chair Ryan Kempster reported that CTAG met in-person on April 11, 2024 for an intersessional research planning workshop to consider the future direction of the Climate Change research theme. Following the workshop, CTAG decided to morph the Climate Change theme to Climate Resiliency, and better define the projects under this theme. CTAG reviewed the written description of the Climate Resiliency research theme that is part of SCCWRP's 2024-2025 Research Plan Executive Summary (Agenda Item 9) and requested minor revisions that SCCWRP incorporated. SCCWRP is in the process of preparing a full 20-page research plan that summarizes SCCWRP and CTAG's priorities for Climate Resiliency research; CTAG will review and approve the document at a future CTAG meeting.

Kempster said CTAG is in the process of updating the current process that CTAG uses to review SCCWRP journal manuscripts and other documents prior to publication. CTAG Representative Josh Westfall, who is chairing the CTAG subcommittee that is reviewing CTAG's operating procedures, will work together with SCCWRP to make the manuscript

review process more effective, insightful and helpful for SCCWRP; however, Kempster emphasized that this updated process will not impact the internal processes that individual member agencies have been using to review SCCWRP manuscripts.

Kempster said CTAG is formulating ideas for two items: a joint data analysis project that SCCWRP and CTAG could do together and ideas for what CTAG would like SCCWRP to do with artificial intelligence (AI). Kempster reported that CTAG has identified few ideas thus far and encouraged Commissioners to discuss potential ideas with their CTAG Representative. Commissioners asked Executive Director Weisberg to elaborate on what an AI project might consist of. Weisberg said that they are exploring how to use AI for visual monitoring, such as using cameras to monitor kelp beds in real time.

Commissioners expressed support for investigating use of AI for monitoring. Commissioner Ferrante commented that the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts is using AI to review video camera footage of the interiors of sewer pipes to identify potentially compromised infrastructure. Commissioner Gearheart said the State Water Board is exploring how to use AI to analyze satellite imagery and to help fill data gaps in field monitoring data. Gearheart added that there is generally a lot of misunderstanding and fear around the topic of AI and suggested the first step is to evaluate best practices around using AI in aquatic research.

Kempster ended his presentation by explaining that CTAG will hear several items at its next meeting in August 2024, including: 1) outcomes of the revised CTAG manuscript review process, 2) findings and next steps of the independent expert panel review evaluating the ROMS-BEC modeling work, 3) updates on the new Climate Resiliency research theme, and 4) a primer on potential applications of AI in science.

Kempster said CTAG recommends approval of the contract from the EPA (Contract #1, Agenda Item 8), as well as approval of the fact sheet on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) following CTAG review (Agenda Item 15).

8. Contract Review

Executive Director Weisberg reminded the Commission that SCCWRP recently redesigned the contract memo for projects that require Commission approval to more clearly communicate the management implications of SCCWRP taking on this work. SCCWRP has received uniformly positive feedback since implementing the new format at the March 2024 Commission meeting. He said SCCWRP also is now making a presentation about any new contracts that CTAG believes the Commission should hear. At its May 2024 meeting, CTAG determined that no projects warrant such a presentation this quarter.

SCCWRP's Joint Powers Agreement requires Commission approval of contracts of more than \$250,000, and the State of California requests a resolution of acceptance for contracts exceeding \$100,000 offered by the State or Regional Water Boards. Weisberg asked for approval of the following contract.

- 1) U.S. EPA (\$479,773)
Coastal Wetland Assessment Tools and Dashboard

Asked by Commissioner Gamble whether SCCWRP is working with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) to develop wetland assessment tools and dashboards, Department Head Stein said yes.

The Commission agreed to delay voting on this contract until later in the meeting, to combine this roll-call vote with other agenda items.

Weisberg presented the remaining five contracts, all of which have values of \$250,000 or less and thus do not require Commission approval. The contracts were presented to ensure consistency of the agency's directions with the Commission's intentions.

- 2) Orange County Public Works (\$200,000)
Automated Illicit Discharge Detection Phase II

Asked by Commissioner Anselm for clarification on the definition of "Internet-of-Things" in the contract description, Weisberg said the term refers to how different devices and technology connect with each other via the internet to exchange information.

- 3) UC Poway Post Holder LLC (through San Diego Regional Board SEP Fund) (\$49,500)
SMC Regional Monitoring Program
- 4) Orange County Sanitation District (through Michael Baker Internation) (\$22,330)
Urban Runoff Optimization Study
- 5) California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (\$30,000)
Monterey Bay Living Shorelines
- 6) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (\$45,000)
Chemical Toxicity Screening

The Commission did not raise any concerns with these contracts.

9. Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Research Plan and Budget

Deputy Director Schiff provided an overview of SCCWRP's 2024-2025 Research Plan Executive Summary, highlighting the newly created Climate Resiliency research theme, nature-based solutions, marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), microplastics, and stormwater BMPs. Schiff added that SCCWRP also produces more detailed research plans for each of its eight themes; these plans are developed jointly with and approved by CTAG.

Commissioner Carr said she is glad to see that about 10% of SCCWRP's budget is focused on stormwater BMP work, reflecting the importance and need for this type of research, and commended Department Head Fassman-Beck for her success in rapidly growing the stormwater BMP program at SCCWRP over the past few years.

The Commission agreed to delay voting on this agenda item until later in the meeting, to combine this roll-call vote with other agenda items.

10. Resolution Establishing Rules Governing Compensation, Benefits, and Personnel, Policies and Procedures

Executive Director Weisberg reported that SCCWRP's annual salary resolution has been revised to increase salary ranges for all positions by 3.4% based on the consumer price index. The resolution also includes increasing the minimum salary range for the Post-Doctoral Scientist and Officer Manager positions, increasing paid sick leave for part-time employees, and increasing the maximum salary for the Laboratory Assistant position. The Personnel and Finance Committee has reviewed these changes and recommends approval.

Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve Agenda Item 8, Agenda Item 9, and Agenda Item 10, and Commissioner Carr seconded the motion. The Commission approved all the motioned items by roll call, with Commissioner Yin abstaining on Agenda Item 8.

11. ROMS-BEC Modeling

Executive Director Weisberg began the presentation explaining that SCCWRP and its research partners have spent the last 10 years developing and validating computer models for investigating the effects of land-based nutrients on coastal ocean health. In 2020, SCCWRP began using the ROMS-BEC (Regional Ocean Modeling System-Biogeochemical Elemental Cycling) modeling tools to examine hypothetical management scenarios examining what would happen if nutrient discharges were reduced or eliminated; however, some management stakeholders expressed concerns about using the modeling tools to inform nutrient management strategies. Recognizing that stakeholders need to have confidence in the tools before they can be used in management decision-making, an independent expert panel was convened last year to review the modeling work and independently quantify uncertainty in the modeling predictions. Weisberg commended the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) for funding the independent review, and the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) for facilitating the expert panel. The expert panel released a draft report a few days ago summarizing its findings and recommendations. Weisberg said the expert panel overall concluded that the modeling work to date is fundamentally sound and provided positive overall feedback. The expert panel also made a number of recommendations for refining and expanding on the existing modeling work, including quantifying modeling uncertainty, conducting additional sensitivity analyses, and making the original, raw modeling outputs more accessible to modeling stakeholders. Weisberg said that since the panel's recommendations mostly fall on the "could do" side rather than the "should do" or "need to do" side, he wanted input on which of those recommendations were most important to the stakeholder community. He suggested that the steering committee that oversaw the expert review panel process be reconvened to guide the modeling team in implementing the panel's recommendations. The steering committee consists of three regulated parties, three regulatory parties, and three nonvoting members from the NGO community, academia and SCCWRP, respectively.

Commissioner Wiborg, who was on the steering committee for the expert review panel, reminded the Commission that the panel's findings are all preliminary and that the panel is accepting public comments on its draft report through July 10, 2024.

The Commission accepted a public comment from Jared Voskuhl from CASA. Voskuhl said while CASA funded the expert panel review, it was the collaborative effort of CTAG that made this possible. As SCCWRP and the Commission begin discussing next steps, Voskuhl urged the Commission to outreach to other parties that are not SCCWRP member agencies that may also be impacted by this work. He characterized the panel's findings on the uncertainties associated with the modeling outputs as substantial, and suggested that the steering committee use these findings to help chart the ROMS-BEC modeling team's path forward.

Commissioner Ferrante praised the draft report and echoed reconvening the steering committee to work through the expert review panel's recommendations. He also expressed support for engaging with stakeholders from outside of Southern California. Finally, Ferrante made two points about additional research still needed to better understand the effects of anthropogenic nutrients on the coastal ocean: (1) He said it will be important to examine how much time that enhanced nutrient management will buy the coastal ecosystems of the Southern California Bight, as climate change is expected to continue to intensify and may undo or mitigate the effectiveness of enhanced nutrient management investments, and (2) he noted that a UCLA study used ROMS-BEC modeling to examine kelp forests during a 2014-2016 marine heat wave, and found that anthropogenic nutrients may have supported kelp resilience, with kelp without access to anthropogenic nutrients experiencing more die-off.

Commissioner Eckerle said that nothing about the expert panel's findings suggests that it would be premature to begin using the modeling tools for regulatory purposes, even as the modeling team implements the panel's recommendations under the steering committee's guidance.

Commission Thompson commented that stakeholders need more time to fully digest the draft report before forming a position on the panel's findings and recommendations. Thompson said his agency is committed to continuing to engage on next steps. Commissioner Gibson commented that the primary charge of the reconvened steering committee should be to refine the modeling tools and then work to build stakeholder acceptance of the tools.

Commissioners expressed unanimous support for reconvening the steering committee to help prioritize the draft recommendations. They discussed the idea of whether to add new members to the steering committee, such as an expert on open data, but agreed that decision should be made by the steering committee themselves.

12. San Diego Human Fecal Sources Investigation

Deputy Director Schiff began the presentation by explaining that human fecal contamination is widespread in the San Diego River watershed during wet weather, but

that it has been difficult to take informed management actions to reduce contamination levels because the source(s) were historically unclear. In response, SCCWRP completed a five-year investigation to identify and quantify multiple potential major sources of human fecal contamination in the San Diego River watershed during wet weather. SCCWRP examined the potential contributions from illicit connections/illegal discharges, sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), sewer exfiltration, sewer laterals, septics, and people experiencing homelessness. Researchers measured levels of HF183 – a genetic marker for human fecal contamination – for each source and compared the HF183 levels to total levels measured at the end of the San Diego River watershed. The investigation’s preliminary findings, which still need to undergo journal peer review, indicate that people experiencing homelessness contribute the smallest fraction of the total fecal contamination, followed by private sewer SSOs and private lateral exfiltration, with the largest contributions from public sewer SSOs, public sewer exfiltration, and sewer laterals and septics. Schiff noted some limitations with the studies, including the prototype methods that the study used to measure exfiltration and the highly variable nature of wet-weather SSOs. An executive synthesis report and management response report are being prepared.

Schiff invited Commissioners Gibson, Guerreiro, and Gamble to address the rest of the Commission by sharing their perspectives as participants in the investigation, and how they plan to use the findings from the investigation in management decision-making.

Commissioner Gibson, who was the first speaker, said there is a lot to be learned from the investigation and the science done to quantify human fecal contamination in the San Diego River watershed is groundbreaking. He said while the investigation was not intended to identify specific sites for remediation, the findings have opened up the possibility for early intervention at those sites. Gibson said the San Diego Regional Board is interested in follow-up investigations, including understanding how exfiltrated contamination is transported to surface waters, understanding the differences in decay rates for pathogens vs. indicators of contamination like HF183, and investigating whether the aerosolization of fecal contamination has the potential to pose health risks.

Commissioner Guerreiro, who was the second speaker, commented that the City of San Diego works proactively to prevent spills and exfiltration from its sewer system, and has made numerous investments to optimize monitoring and maintenance of sewage pipes. Guerreiro said the City is grateful for the SCCWRP investigation because it will enable the City to take more effective source-control actions.

Commissioner Gamble echoed Commissioners Gibson and Guerreiro and characterized the study as a sea change that will enable both stormwater and sanitation agencies to better understand how fecal contamination enters into and is transported through watersheds. Gamble said the investigation has helped open up productive dialogue between the County’s stormwater and wastewater divisions. Finally, Gamble said the County plans to revisit the bacteria TMDL for the San Diego River watershed to ensure the County is making the smartest possible investments to protect watershed health.

Following the prepared remarks from the three Commissioners, other Commissioners weighed in. Commissioner Gearheart said the State Water Board has been closely monitoring this investigation and sees the findings benefiting numerous programs, including an ongoing State initiative to develop safe-to-swim recommendations for inland waters.

Commissioner Carr said future research should be done to understand potential unintended consequences of green infrastructure and similar investments that have intentionally increased stormwater infiltration into subsurface waters, as this phenomenon might be exacerbating the subsurface transport of fecal contamination during wet weather. Commissioner Lombos echoed the importance of investigating this issue, commenting that Los Angeles County has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into stormwater infiltration projects.

Commissioner Ferrante said the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts has been implementing additional tools to detect leaks and blockages in sewer infrastructure, including flow monitoring to identify potential blockages. He also expressed optimism that the most common present-day pipe rehabilitation strategy – cured-in-place rehabilitation – seems to be resulting in less degradation and fewer liner failures even after multiple decades. Commissioner Anselm commended the San Diego Regional Board for taking a collaborative approach with regulated parties to investigate this issue.

The Commission accepted a public comment from Steve Jepsen from Clean Water SoCal, who commended SCCWRP for developing a new exfiltration detection method via the investigation. At the same time, he pointed out that wastewater is made up of greases that may be clogging orifices and thus eliminating or reducing exfiltration from sewer pipes; however, SCCWRP is using water without any contaminants to measure pipe exfiltration. He also commented that the regionally unique soil in the San Diego area could be influencing its subsurface transport properties.

The Commission accepted a public comment from Jared Voskuhl from CASA, who commended SCCWRP for engaging with the wastewater community throughout the five-year investigation. At the same time, Voskuhl noted that the exfiltration detection method that SCCWRP developed is not accepted for routine use within the wastewater industry. He also noted that the investigation involved measuring exfiltration levels at a subset of sites and then extrapolating the findings to the entire watershed; he questioned the validity of this approach.

13. HF183

Senior Scientist Josh Steele began the presentation explaining that there are no health thresholds for the human genetic marker HF183, meaning that managers cannot use HF183 to help identify health risks for humans who are exposed to contaminated water in recreational settings. To help fill this knowledge gap, SCCWRP completed a three-year study using Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) to model how much HF183 is too much. Using this approach, researchers began by measuring fecal pollution levels in Southern California coastal watersheds during wet weather, then calculated that the

median health risk of swimming in these watersheds is 140 illnesses per 1,000 swimmers. The 140 illnesses correspond to 557 gene copies of HF183 per 100-mL sample. The EPA's health risk threshold is 32 illnesses per 1,000 swimmers, which the study determined corresponds to 50 gene copies of HF183 per 100-mL sample. When compared to an epidemiology study conducted about 10 years ago examining health risks for surfers in San Diego who swim during wet weather, the estimated illness risks were similar for both studies, adding confidence in the findings from the current study. The next step is to decide how this information should be used in stormwater management, including if the insights should be used for regulatory purposes and whether HF183 levels should be measured in stormwater vs. beach water. Asked by Commissioner Carr if the health-risk threshold was developed for swimmers directly in stormwater or in receiving waters, Steele clarified that the study measured fecal contamination levels in stormwater channels and not at beach outfalls.

Two guest speakers were invited to provide management perspectives on this study: John Ravenscroft, a microbiologist in the U.S. EPA Office of Water's Office of Science and Technology who helped develop the EPA's beach criteria, and Gerhardt Hubner, administrator for the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC).

Ravenscroft said he is encouraged by this study because developing a regulatory program around stormwater and human health risk has historically been a vexing challenge. He said that as the EPA pursues development of next-generation water-quality criteria to better protect swimmers from human fecal contamination, the EPA is being guided by three top priorities, which are, in order, Enterococcus, coliphage, and human genetic markers like HF183. When the EPA begins examining human markers, the EPA intends to revisit SCCWRP's HF183 study.

Hubner was the second guest speaker. Hubner began by providing an overview of the SMC, which helped support the study, and announced that the SMC recently agreed to admit the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and City of Santa Barbara as the SMC's 17th and 18th member agencies. He said this HF183 study was the SMC's highest ranked project in its 2019-2024 research agenda portfolio and emphasized that both regulated and regulatory agencies see strategic value in being able to use HF183 to help identify and prioritize sites for cleanup and remediation.

Asked by Commissioner Carr if regulators are considering developing an HF183 regulatory standard vs. using it as a source tracking tool, Ravenscroft said HF183 is adding to the toolbox that managers have for managing fecal contamination. Commissioner Gibson added that he views HF183 as primarily an investigative tool; the San Diego Regional Board previously considered HF183 as the basis for a new water-quality objective, but determined that the science is not there yet.

14. San Diego Turf Replacement Project

The Commission agreed to postpone this presentation to its next meeting in September due to time constraints.

15. Fact Sheets

The Commission agreed to skip the presentation on a new microplastics fact sheet due to time constraints, but agreed to follow CTAG's recommendation to publish the fact sheet on per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS). The Commission also agreed that the topic of the next fact sheet will be HF183.

16. Other Business and Communications

None

17. Future Meeting Agenda Items

The Commission agreed to hear at its next meeting the presentation on the San Diego turf replacement study (Agenda Item 14) that was postponed due to time constraints. Additionally, the Personnel and Finance Committee requested that the Commission hear a presentation on SCCWRP's existing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) as the Commission begins the process of renewing the agency's JPA, which must be signed every five years. Commissioner Carr requested that SCCWRP's existing JPA be circulated to the Commission in advance of the September 2024 Commission meeting. Executive Director Weisberg said that the Commission may hear a presentation on how SCCWRP and its member agencies could benefit from using artificial intelligence (AI); SCCWRP will make this presentation at the next CTAG meeting and let CTAG decide if SCCWRP also should make this presentation to the Commission. Finally, Weisberg said the Commission will hear about SCCWRP's plans for addressing recommendations of the independent expert panel review that recently reviewed the ROMS-BEC modeling work.

18. Public Comments

Jared Voskuhl from the California Association Sanitation Agencies (CASA) said CASA has begun the process of establishing the Clean Water Monitoring Coalition, a proposed collaborative research organization of POTW agencies statewide that would operate similar to the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). Like the SMC, the organization's member agencies would collaboratively fund research of mutual interest on topics like CECs and toxicity monitoring. He said CASA has received strong support from numerous stakeholders to move forward with this organization, and has been interacting closely with SCCWRP, which helped establish the SMC.

19. Adjournment

Commission Chair Arredondo adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM until next Commission meeting on September 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

Attest:

Bryan Nece
Secretary