

WELCOME TO THE SCCWRP COMMISSION MEETING

- **Commissioner participation**
 - All Commissioners will be unmuted, but asked to self-mute unless speaking
- **Voting**
 - All votes will be conducted via roll call (A Brown Act requirement for remote meetings)
 - We will likely vote on all motions during a single roll call at the end of the meeting
- **Audience participation**
 - We will take public comment associated with each agenda item, plus a comment period for non-agenda items as Agenda item 15
 - If you would like to comment, please enter your question/comment in the Q&A box
 - Please indicate if you would like to verbalize the comment yourself, or have it read for you

INTRODUCTIONS

- **New Commissioners**

- Jeff Moneda – Alternate Commissioner for County of San Diego
- Tina Yin – Alternate Commissioner for US EPA Region IX

- **New staff**

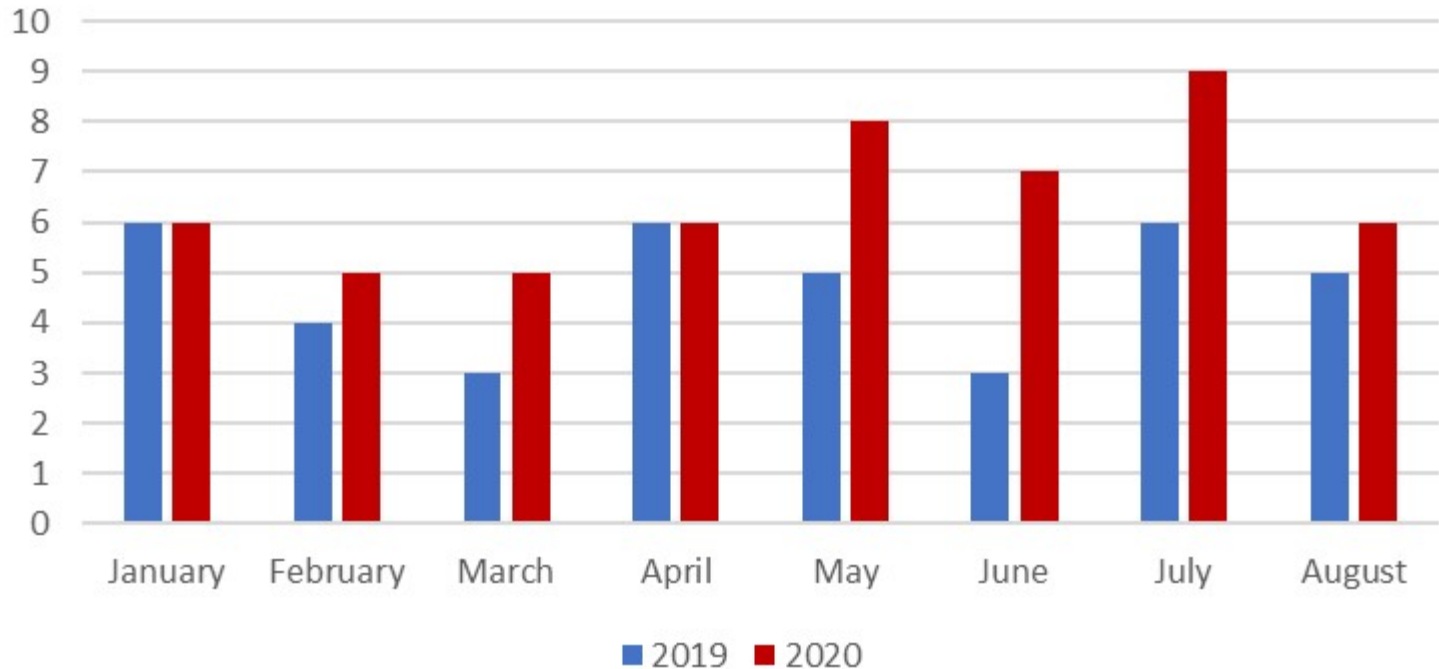
- Dr. Jan Walker – Scientist in our Biology Department
- Dr. Christina Frieder – Scientist in our Biogeochemistry Department
- Syd Kotar – Research Technician in our Chemistry Department

COVID-19 UPDATE

- **Our actions have kept staff safe**
 - No one has become ill from work-related activities
- **Our productivity remains high**
 - Our staff are incredibly motivated and are effective in working from home
 - We have a strong alignment between personal and organizational goals
- **We are financially healthy**
 - We were about \$200K to the positive last year and expect to be positive this fiscal year as well
 - The future is the greater challenge, as we anticipate new contract awards will decline over the next two years
 - Our present contract backlog is strong and should allow us to weather that storm

OUR PRODUCTIVITY IS HIGH

Number of manuscripts SCCWRP Staff completed in the first eight months of 2019 vs. 2020



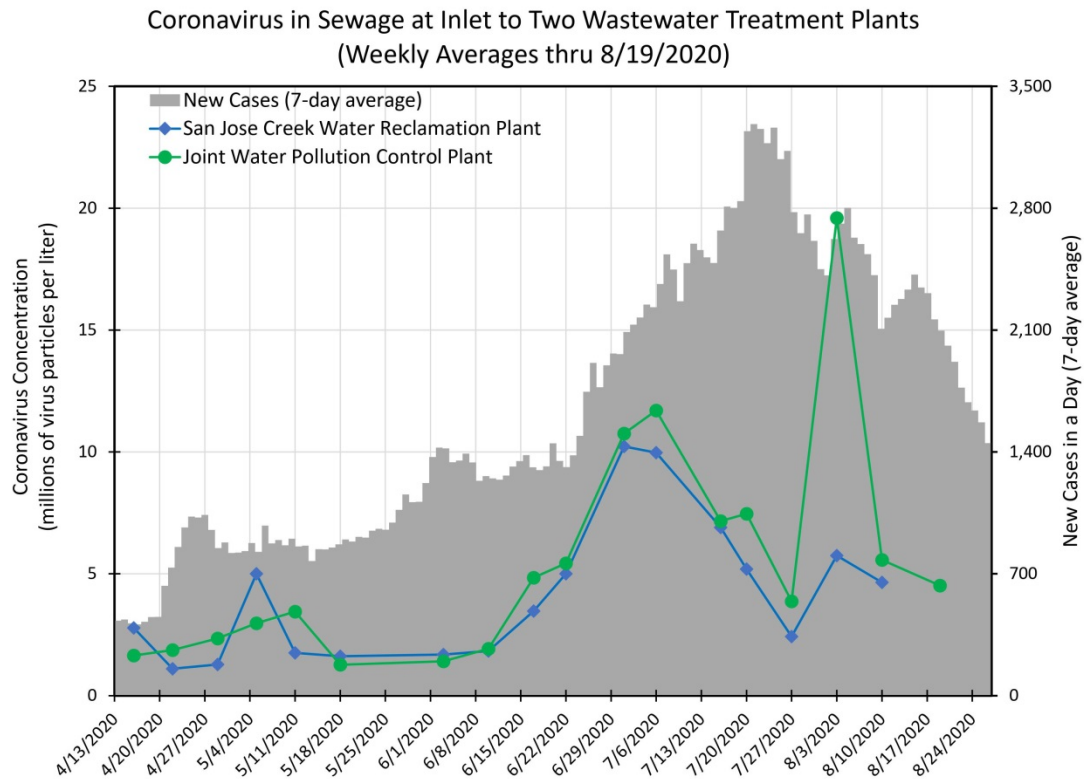
ONLINE MEETINGS

- **The biggest difference is the lack of meetings**
 - Our model is based on relationships and facilitating interaction among our member agencies
- **We are making online meetings work**
 - We historically average 14 meetings a month at SCCWRP
 - We will be hosting an average 12 online meetings a month for the next three months
- **We have a few coming up that might be of particular interest to you**
 - Health effects of microplastics symposium: Five Mondays from 8-10 AM starting Oct 19
 - Ambient Chemicals of Emerging Concern Expert Panel: Oct 12-15 from 8-10 AM each day

COVID SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

- **Our present means for assessing COVID prevalence is flawed**
 - Based on testing individuals, but those individuals are not randomly selected
 - There have also been concerns expressed about data management
- **Treatment plant influent provides a less-biased means for monitoring prevalence**
 - We know that people defecate the RNA signature
- **Goal: Develop scientific foundation to address four information needs**
 - Assess trends at a particular facility
 - Compare infection rates across sewersheds
 - Estimate absolute number of infected people in a sewershed
 - Track presence/density in sub-watersheds (e.g. college dormitories)

LACSD INFLUENT COVID CONCENTRATIONS



THINGS WE ARE DOING TO IMPROVE COVID SURVEILLANCE

- **Understanding and improving method sensitivity**
 - Preservation techniques
 - Extraction methods
 - Measurement methods (qPCR vs. Digital droplet PCR)
- **Adding other sites and measurements**
 - We are collecting from eight facilities (we should have those results in about a month)
 - Working with UCI to sequence samples, looking for strains and possibly source identification
- **Working with Stanford to create a conversion to number of infections**
 - Quantifying RNA defecation rates
 - Modeling degradation rates and travel time in a sewershed
 - Quantifying influences of infiltration/exfiltration

CONTRACT REVIEW

- **At your last meeting, you expressed two concerns**
 - What can we do to better inform you about contracts that show up on the Commission list that were not on the CTAG list?
 - How can we improve access to the contracts statements of work?
- **CTAG review**
 - The contract memo now has an additional line indicating whether it was reviewed by CTAG
- **Contract availability**
 - We created a space on the CTAG web site where we place contracts for review, if available
 - Five of the six on today's contract memo are there

AGENDA ITEMS COMMISSION HAD TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED

- **September (Acidification theme)**

- Bight'18: Ocean acidification portion – Delayed until next summer
- Model to quantify acidification/hypoxia effects of nutrient inputs - Timely
- Acidification threshold workshop outcomes – Timely
- Microplastics methods evaluation study – Delayed until next spring

- **December (Microbiology theme)**

- New microbial source tracking methods development – Delayed until spring
- Sewer exfiltration study - Timely
- Bight'18: Coliphage – Delayed until summer
- Newport Bay shellfish pathogens study - Timely