What is SCCWRP?

Stephen B. Weisberg

Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

SCCWRP BACKGROUND

- **Joint Powers Agency founded in 1969**
- **Initiated to address regional monitoring and research needs**
  - Cumulative impact assessment
  - Methods development
  - Data integration
- **Member organizations include city, county, state, and federal agencies**
  - Unique combination of regulators and dischargers

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

Orange County Sanitation District

City of San Diego

Ventura County Watershed Protection Division

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Orange County Department of Public Works

San Diego County Department of Public Works

San Diego Regional Water Quality Board

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board

State Water Resources Control Board

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

California Ocean Protection Council

SCCWRP COMMISSION

- **Our Governing Board**
  - Includes one representative (usually agency heads) from each member agency
  - Meets quarterly

- **Unique interface between science and management**

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP - CTAG

- **One representative from each SCCWRP member agency designated by Commissioner**
  - Lead scientist for the agency
  - Meet quarterly (three weeks prior to Commission meetings)

ROLES

A. Technical Review

I. Vets the science before it goes to the Commission

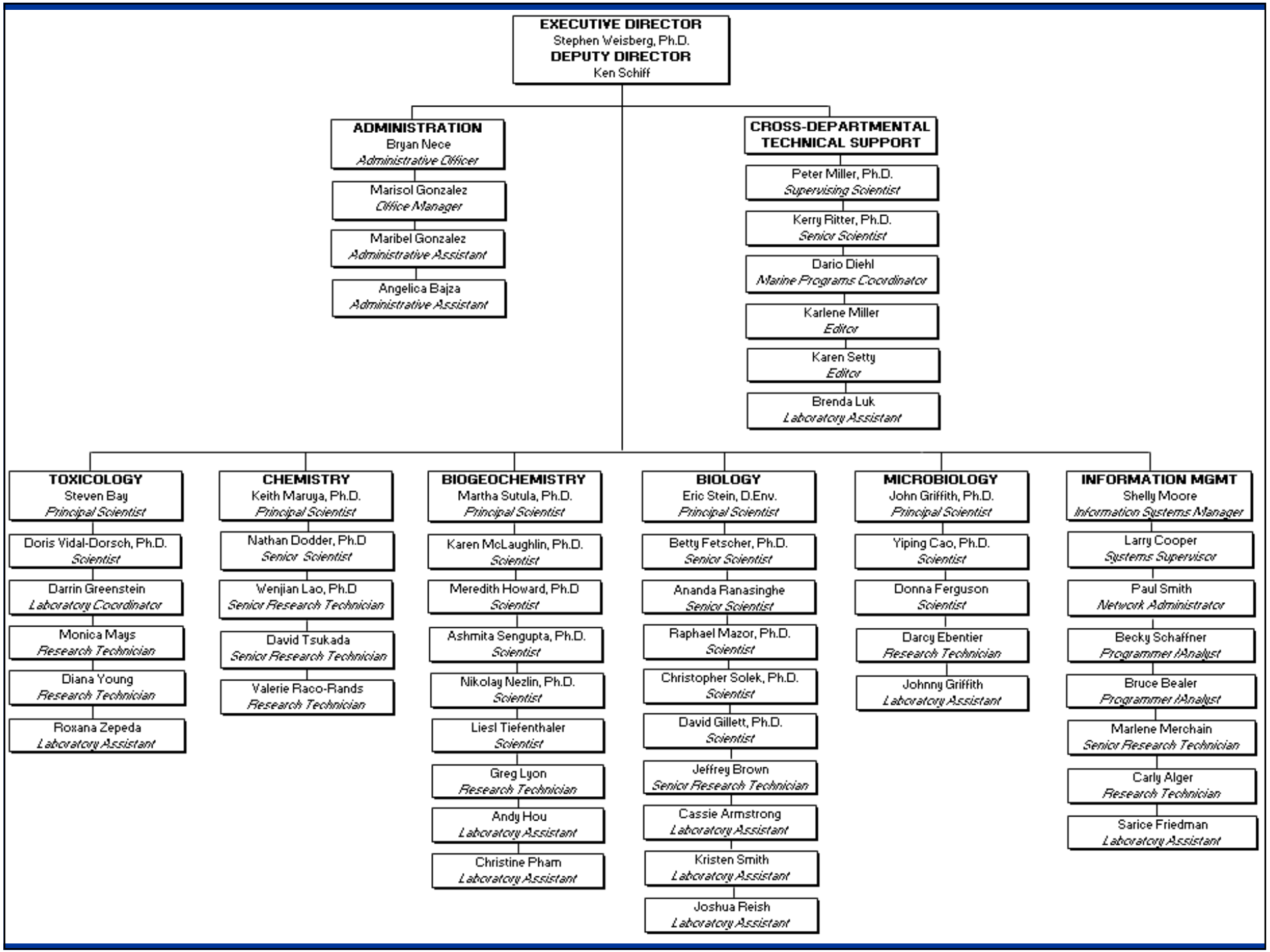
II. Allows the Commission to focus on implications

B. Liaison on Cooperative Projects

C. Technology Transfer

SCCWRP's INTERNAL STRUCTURE

- **47 full-time staff**
  - 40% hold PhDs
  - An additional 30% hold Master's degrees
- **Six departments**
  - Biology
  - Microbiology
  - Biogeochemistry
  - Toxicology
  - Chemistry
  - Information Management
- **$8M budget**
  - About 1/3 of goes to subcontractors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Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority Research Plan

July 2010 – June 2011

Draft for CTAG Approval

Stephen B. Weisberg
Executive Director

SCCWRP RESEARCH PLANNING PROCESS

- **CTAG presents us their priorities in Nov**
  - Rainer presented SFEI priorities at that meeting
- **SCCWRP delivers first draft to CTAG in Feb**
  - Concept draft for feedback
- **SCCWRP presents second draft to CTAG in May**
  - SCCWRP Commission requests CTAG recommendation regarding approval
- **Commission votes on approving the Research Plan in June**

OVERVIEW OF THE 2010-11 RESEARCH PLAN

- **53 projects in seven thematic areas**
- **All of the projects are multi-year**
- **97% of projects have collaborators**
  - 92 different organizations

GROWTH AREAS FOR THE NEXT YEAR(S)

- Bio-objectives
- Emerging contaminants
- Nutrient criteria
- Molecular methods

BIO-OBJECTIVES
(ERIC STEIN / KEN SCHIFF)

- **Jon Bishop has indicated that the State desires to have bio-objectives within the next three years**
  - Biota provide better integration than chemical-specific approach
- **Focus on three primary biota**
  - Marine benthic infauna
  - Stream benthos
  - Stream algae
- **Diagnostic tools**
  - Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS)
  - Hydromodification
- **Interaction with SFEI on marine benthos**
  - Opportunity for more interaction in freshwater

EMERGING CONTAMINANTS
(KEITH MARUYA)

- **A concern expressed by almost all of the member agencies at the November needs meeting**
  - You want us to be on top of this or less informed people will drive the process
- **Five projects**
  - Mussel Watch
  - Analytical methods
  - Occurrence and fate in coastal habitat
  - Effects on coastal fish
  - Science Advisory Panel
- **Good overlap with SFEI**
  - A direct result of last year's joint meeting

NUTRIENT CRITERIA
(MARTHA SUTULA)

- **EPA is developing national criteria**
- **Five projects**
  - Nutrient numeric endpoints
  - Modeling Interactions between Nutrients, Stream Algae, and Aquatic Life Use using Stable Isotope Tracers to Identify Relative Contributions of Nutrient Sources
  - Atmospheric Deposition of Nutrients
  - Role of Sediments in Nutrient Cycling in Southern California Lagoons
- **We would like more interaction with SFEI**
  - San Francisco Bay is a complex and interesting nutrient story

MOLECULAR METHODS
(PETER MILLER)

- **We want to develop molecular methods as supplements or replacements for almost all of our traditional methods**
  - Faster, better, cheaper
- **Quantitative polymerase chain reaction for beach monitoring**
- **Genetic barcoding for species identification**
- **Gene microarrays as a diagnostic tool**
- **Hope for more interaction with SFEI on this topic**
  - RMP is providing funding to support TIE microarray
  - Hope to move QPCR for beaches into San Francisco this fall
  - Would love to expand the genetic barcoding to your region