

**ELEVENTH AMENDED  
JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT  
CONFIRMING THE CREATION OF  
AN AGENCY KNOWN AS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY**

This Amended Joint Powers Agreement which confirms the creation of an agency known as SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY, commonly known as SCCWRP, is made and entered into effective the first day of July, 2026, by and between the City of Los Angeles, a municipal corporation ("Los Angeles"), the Orange County Sanitation District, a special district ("Orange County District"), the City of San Diego, a municipal corporation ("San Diego") and County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County, a special district ("Los Angeles County District"), hereinafter "Signatories" (collectively) or "Signatory" (individually).

WHEREAS, the Signatories entered into a Tenth Amended Joint Powers Agreement confirming the creation of an agency known as Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority, effective July 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Signatories to provide for the continuation of SCCWRP pursuant to this Eleventh Amended Joint Powers Agreement ("Agreement");

NOW, THEREFORE, the Signatories hereto do agree as follows:

**1. PURPOSE**

This Agreement provides for the continuation of a public entity separate and apart from the Signatories to this Agreement for the purpose of enhancing the scientific foundation for management of Southern California's ocean and associated coastal watershed resources.

**2. CREATION OF SCCWRP**

Pursuant to Article 1, Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 Government Code (Sections 6500 et seq.), the parties hereby confirm the existence of an agency as a public entity, separate and apart from the Signatories to this Agreement to be known as SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY (hereinafter "SCCWRP"). Such agency shall, through the Commission referred to below, administer and implement this Agreement.

**3. ORGANIZATION**

SCCWRP shall be governed by a fourteen-member Commission composed of representatives of public bodies with accountability for water quality management and aquatic protection in the Southern California Bight as follows:

- (a) Associate Director, Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX;
- (b) Deputy Director, Division of Water Quality, California State Water Resources Control Board;
- (c) Executive Officer, Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region;
- (d) Executive Officer, Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region;
- (e) Executive Officer, Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Diego Region;
- (f) Director and General Manager, LA Sanitation & Environment, City of Los Angeles;
- (g) Chief Engineer and General Manager, County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County;
- (h) General Manager, Orange County Sanitation District;
- (i) Deputy Chief Operating Officer, or their designee, of Public Utilities Department, City of San Diego;
- (j) Ocean Protection Council Executive Director/Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency;
- (k) Director, Ventura County Watershed Protection District;
- (l) Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County Flood Control District;
- (m) Deputy Director, Public Works, County of Orange; and
- (n) Director of Public Works, County of San Diego.

The Commission shall meet at least four times each calendar year and at such other appropriate intervals as are necessary to conduct the business of SCCWRP. All such meetings shall be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, commencing with Section 54950 of the Government Code of the State of California. Members with voting power equivalent to at least six votes, subject to the provisions of Section 5 below, shall constitute a quorum and a simple majority vote of that quorum shall be required for action to be taken.

A staff designee may be appointed as an alternate by the person holding the offices set forth above and shall act as a member of the Commission in place of such officer during his or her absence, inability or refusal to act and shall serve indefinitely at the pleasure of the appointing officer and until a successor is appointed, or until such designee dies, becomes incapacitated or

resigns. Such designation shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Executive Director at the offices of SCCWRP.

Upon the concurrence of two-thirds vote of the members of the Commission, public bodies of the Commission may designate a new permanent representative.

The Commission shall, at its first meeting and thereafter at its first meeting following July 1 of each succeeding year, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members. The Vice -Chair shall assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and the Chair's alternate.

The Commission members shall serve for a term identical to the term of this Agreement, and such term shall be extended automatically as the Agreement is extended. The Commission members shall not be entitled to compensation for attendance or expenses.

Administrative and purchasing policies and procedures shall be established by the Commission and shall comply with the law of the State of California.

The debts, liabilities and obligations of SCCWRP shall not constitute the debts, liabilities or obligations of any of the Commission members or members of any Advisory Board of SCCWRP. Such debts, liabilities or obligations shall only be those of SCCWRP.

#### **4. COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES**

The responsibilities of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Establishing and appointing members of advisory boards, committees, other like groups and consultants as it deems appropriate to further the purposes of this Agreement;
- (b) Hiring an Executive Director and establishing his or her responsibilities in addition to those detailed herein. Two-thirds vote of the members of the Commission shall be required for hiring the Executive Director;
- (c) Work with the Commission Technical Advisory Group to develop and subsequently approve SCCWRP's Research Plan;
- (d) Approving the SCCWRP's Annual Operating Budget, recognizing that the contributions of the Signatories shall be as provided in Section 10 hereof and taking into account other projected sources of income;
- (e) Reviewing and approving, on an annual basis, the salaries and benefits for the Executive Director and other staff. Two-thirds vote of the members of the Commission including two-thirds of the signatories shall be required for adoption;

- (f) Conducting a performance review of the Executive Director on an annual basis;
- (g) Reviewing the financial status of SCCWRP;
- (h) Establishing objectives, priorities, policies, guidelines, and other such responsibilities as may be appropriate from time to time; and
- (i) Taking such further action as it deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Agreement.

## **5. ASSOCIATE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Associate Commission members attend and participate fully in Commission meetings, and are entitled to one-quarter vote for all Commission business including development of the Research Priorities. Associate Commission members shall have responsibilities identical to those of the Signatories as set forth in Section 4 above proportional to the voting percentage.

Upon execution of the attached Associate Commission Member Agreement, SCCWRP's Associate Commission members shall be composed of representatives of public bodies with accountability for water quality management and aquatic protection as follows:

- a) Ventura County Watershed Protection District;
- b) Los Angeles County Flood Control District;
- c) County of Orange; and
- d) County of San Diego.

Upon concurrence of two-thirds vote of the members of the Commission, other public agencies having a power common to the Signatories may be invited to become Associate Commission Members of the agency. Each party shall acknowledge its agreement to the terms set forth in an associate Commission member agreement. Thereupon the Chief Executive Officer thereof, or substitute representative pursuant to Section 3, or his or her designee as an alternate, shall serve as Associate Commission Members of the Commission.

## **6. Participating Members**

Participating Members are public entities that have a power common to signatories or Regulatory Agencies having State or Federal authority over water quality in Southern California's ocean and/or associated coastal watershed resources.

- (a) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX;
- (b) Division of Water Quality, California State Water Resources Control Board;

- (c) Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region;
- (d) Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region;
- (e) Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Diego Region;
- (f) California Ocean Protection Council.

Other public agencies having a power common to the Signatories may be added as Participating Members to this Agreement. Additional public agencies wishing to become a Participating Member may be invited to join SCCWRP by a 2/3 vote of the commission. The financial contribution required of such additional agency or agencies shall be determined by a majority of the Commission members representing the Signatories. Invited Participating Members shall acknowledge its agreement to the terms hereof by executing this Agreement upon authorization of its Governing Board. Such additional agency or agencies shall have responsibilities identical to those of the Signatories as set forth in paragraph 4 hereof; and the Chief Executive Officer thereof, together with his or her designee, shall be a member and alternate member of the Commission with those powers conferred upon the Signatories.

## **7. ADVISORY BOARDS**

The Commission may from time to time appoint one or more advisory boards to assist in carrying out the objectives of SCCWRP. The Commission shall determine the purpose and need for such board(s) and the necessary qualifications for individuals appointed to the board(s).

Each member of the advisory board(s) shall be entitled to compensation for his or her consulting services as established by the Commission from time to time. In addition, each member of the advisory board(s) shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred, as well as travel and per diem expenses in an amount or at a rate established from time to time by the Commission.

## **8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Director under whose general supervision and control SCCWRP shall be conducted. In accordance with paragraph 4(b) the Executive Director shall be appointed by the Commission and shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission.

The Executive Director's compensation shall be set at a level that adequately takes into consideration factors including, but not limited to, the proficiency with which the agency is directed, the degree of satisfactory progress in completing the approved research plan, success in obtaining outside funding and success in managing SCCWRP's budget.

## **9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Executive Director's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Directing research programs and developing recommended research priorities and objectives in coordination with the Commission and Commission Technical Advisory Group;
- (b) Preparing a triannual Strategic Plan and an Annual Workplan to implement the ongoing, multiyear Research Plan for approval by the Commission at the June Meeting of each year that shall include the priority projects, key questions to be investigated, and funding needs of planned work in each of the Research Areas.
- (c) Reviewing and editing reports and manuscripts produced by SCCWRP's scientific staff;
- (d) Managing day-to-day operations;
- (e) Managing the personnel activities of SCCWRP as is necessary to fulfill the purposes of this Agreement, subject to such periodic review and approval as the Commission deems appropriate;
- (f) Delegating such authority as is necessary to staff to insure the smooth operation of the organization;
- (g) Securing outside grants and other funding in support of SCCWRP's research objectives identified in the Annual Workplan in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 regarding grants and contracts;
- (h) Entering into agreements on behalf of SCCWRP in accordance with the policies and procedures governing purchases of supplies, equipment and services adopted from time to time by the Commission;
- (i) Providing reports to the Commission on the status of research in progress, Annual Operating Budgets (actual versus budgeted) and cash flow analysis;
- (j) Having charge of handling and having access to any property of SCCWRP upon the filing of a fidelity bond in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000); and
- (k) Acting as Secretary to SCCWRP until such time as the Commission appoints another person to this office.

## **10. FUNDING**

Each Signatory shall provide annual funding on July 1 of each year for SCCWRP during the term of this agreement according to the following schedule:

FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30	FY 2030/31
\$600,000	\$618,000	\$636,000	\$656,000	\$675,000

Each Associate Commission member of the agency will be required to provide annual funding on July 1 of each year according to the following schedule:

FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30	FY 2030/31
\$150,000	\$154,500	\$159,000	\$164,000	\$168,750

The Participating Commission members as a group are anticipated to provide total annual funding through contract and grants each year according to the following schedule:

FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30	FY 2030/31
\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000

The fiscal year (FY) is defined as being from July 1 to and including June 30 of the following calendar year.

As a condition to the addition of any public agency as party to this Agreement pursuant to Section 3 hereof, the public agencies which are then signatories to this Agreement may, by a vote of their Commission representatives, modify the funding set forth above in a manner which takes into account the financial needs of SCCWRP, provided that funding of any existing Signatory or Associate Commission Members shall not exceed that set forth above.

In such event, all new and existing Signatories, through their Commission representatives, shall execute a supplement to this Agreement entitled Supplement to Funding Pursuant to Section 10 and shall attach it to this Agreement.

It is further agreed that SCCWRP, through its Executive Director, shall use its best efforts in procuring sources of income other than contributions from the Signatories for approved research projects. Such sources include, but are not limited to, income from grants or contracts from federal and state agencies. Grants and contracts may be entered into by the Executive Director, or Deputy Director in his/her absence, to the limit of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) per individual agreement. Any grant or contract in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) shall require the prior express approval of the Commission, or by the Chair of the Commission should an emergency action be required prior to the next Commission meeting. Any Contract approved by emergency action shall be brought to the next Commission Meeting for ratification. Contracts or task order contracts may not be split to avoid Commission approval.

The Commission shall yearly, on or before June 30, adopt and issue an estimated Annual Operating Budget consistent with and supporting the Annual Workplan that projects the funds necessary to maintain and operate SCCWRP for the forthcoming fiscal year being from July 1 of the current calendar year to and including June 30 of the following calendar year. The Budget shall, among other things, contain a statement of anticipated outside sources of revenue and shall not exceed the sum of the total contributions by the Signatories or Associate Commission Members, as hereinabove provided, plus the outside revenue.

In the event that any Signatory or Associate Commission Members is unable or unwilling to pay to SCCWRP the funding attributable to it for the upcoming fiscal year as set forth above, then such Signatory or Associate Commission Members shall notify in writing each of the other Signatories and SCCWRP of its inability no later than February 1. Such Signatory or Associate Commission Members shall thereupon be deemed to have withdrawn from this Agreement and SCCWRP created hereby, effective as of July 1 of such year. SCCWRP shall continue in effect and all provisions hereof shall be binding except that the maximum net funds which may be requested of the Signatories or Associate Commission Members shall not be increased above the individual agency contributions set forth above, unless otherwise agreed to by all of the remaining Signatories.

In the absence of such notification, each Signatory or Associate Commission Members shall be deemed to have consented to such expenditure and the amount thereof shall, on July 1, become an enforceable obligation of each Signatory or Associate Commission Members to the extent permitted by law.

Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude a Signatory or Associate Commission Members from advancing all or a portion of its contribution to SCCWRP.

None of the Signatories or Associate Commission Members to this Agreement shall be entitled by virtue of withdrawal to receive any payment of money or share of assets of SCCWRP except as may be agreed upon by the remaining Signatories.

## **11. TERM AND TERMINATION**

This Amended Joint Powers Agreement shall remain in full force and effect from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031 inclusive.

In the event that any Signatory chooses to withdraw from SCCWRP, then such Signatory shall notify in writing each of the other Signatories and SCCWRP of its decision, no later than February 1. Such Signatory shall thereupon be deemed to have withdrawn from this Agreement and SCCWRP created hereby effective as of June 30 of such year. SCCWRP shall continue in effect and all provisions hereof shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the remaining Signatories.

In the event that any non-Signatory agency of the Commission chooses to withdraw from SCCWRP, then such Commission agency shall notify SCCWRP of its decision in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of anticipated withdrawal. Such Commission agency shall be thereupon deemed withdrawn from participation on the date specified in this notice provided such notice is given at least 30 days prior to the anticipated withdrawal and SCCWRP. SCCWRP shall continue in effect and be governed by the remaining Commission members.



## **12. SCOPE AND CONDUCT OF SCCWRP**

As defined by the purpose in section 1, SCCWRP exists to enhance the scientific foundation for management of Southern California's ocean and associated coastal watershed resources. The scope of SCCWRP's research work shall be developed and approved annually by the Commission, which shall seek the advice of the Commission Technical Advisory Group and facilitation of the Executive Director and any other outside advisors deemed necessary or appropriate.

The mechanism for review shall be a working research plan, revised annually or as otherwise necessary as determined by the Commission, stating the overall goals and objectives and including an outline of the known current and anticipated future year's research, staffing and funding necessary to successfully achieve the research objectives of this Agreement. Fully developed Research Project contracts shall be reviewed by the Commission Technical Advisory Group and approved by the Commission per the delegation in Section 10.

The Commission shall, from time to time, but not less than once each year, submit a report to the governing bodies of each of the Signatories of this Agreement that shall include, but not be limited to, a summary of research accomplishments during the past year, discussion of research in progress and a financial statement.

## **13. AGENCIES OF SCCWRP**

The Executive Director is hereby appointed the Treasurer of SCCWRP and shall be responsible for the disposition of the funds of SCCWRP. The Executive Director is also appointed Auditor of SCCWRP.

The Treasurer and Auditor shall make such reports and cause such audits of the accounts and records of SCCWRP to be made as are required by law.

The Commission shall employ such legal counsel as it determines shall best serve the interests of SCCWRP.

SCCWRP shall be strictly accountable for all funds and shall report all receipts and disbursements.

The manner of exercising the common power provided for herein shall be subject to the restrictions on the manner of exercising such power of the Los Angeles County District.

## **14. ACCOUNTING**

SCCWRP shall establish and maintain such funds and accounts as may be required by good accounting practice. The Treasurer of SCCWRP shall have custody of the funds of SCCWRP and disbursement shall be made by the Treasurer in accordance with applicable procedures. Any earnings on the funds of SCCWRP shall be credited to and be a part of the funds of SCCWRP.

The fiscal year of SCCWRP shall begin on the first day of July of each year and shall end on the thirtieth day of June of the following.

The Auditor shall contract with an independent certified public accountant to make an annual audit of the account and records of SCCWRP. A report thereof shall be filed as a public record with each of the Signatories and also with the County Auditor of the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego. Such report shall also be filed with the Secretary of the State of California and shall be filed within twelve (12) months of the end of the fiscal year under such examination.

The cost of the audit shall be a debt of SCCWRP.

#### **15. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SCCWRP**

SCCWRP shall and is hereby authorized in its own name to do all things necessary and desirable (subject to the limitations provided in this Agreement) to carry out the purposes of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) To make and enter into contracts;
- (b) To employ agents and employees;
- (c) To acquire, construct, manage, maintain or operate any buildings, works or improvements;
- (d) To acquire, hold or dispose of property;
- (e) To incur debts, liabilities and obligations which shall not constitute the debts, liabilities or obligations of any of the Signatories or any of the Commission members; and
- (f) To sue and be sued in its own name.

#### **16. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY AND SURPLUS FUND**

At the termination of this Agreement, any and all property, funds, assets and interests therein of SCCWRP shall become the property of and be distributed to such of the Signatories as are then members of SCCWRP, or their successors, in the same proportion as the then Signatories, or their successors, have contributed to the total cost of the agency.

#### **17. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

All of the privileges and immunities from liability, exemptions from laws, ordinances and rules, all pension, relief, disability, workers compensation and other benefits which apply to the activities of officers, agents or employees of any of the public agencies which are signatory to this Agreement when performing their respective functions within the territorial limits of their

respective public agencies, shall apply to them to the same degree and extent while engaged in the performance of any of their functions and duties extra-territorially under the provisions of this Agreement.

## **18. MISCELLANEOUS**

The section headings herein are for convenience only and are not to be construed as modifying or governing the language in the section referred to.

## **19. SUCCESSORS**

This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the successors of the parties.

## **20. INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

SCCWRP shall carry during the entire term of this Agreement, liability insurance coverage, naming all Signatories and others including Commission members as additional insured parties, in such kind and amounts as the Commission may from time to time determine to be appropriate. Such cost shall be a debt of SCCWRP.

SCCWRP shall indemnify and hold harmless each Commission agency, its officers, agents, and employees, including each agency representative from and against all claims, demands or liability, including legal costs, arising out of or encountered in connection with this Agreement and the activities conducted hereunder and shall defend them and each of them against any claim, cause of action, liability, or damage resulting therefrom.

## **21. DISCLAIMER**

Approval of research work by the Commission is not intended in any way to bind, commit or unduly influence decisions of the Signatory or non-Signatory members of the Commission. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of SCCWRP shall not be construed necessarily as the position of any Signatory or non-Signatory member of the Commission.

## **22. COUNTERPART**

This Agreement may be signed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this Eleventh Amended Agreement on the dates hereafter set forth.

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES,**  
a municipal corporation

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION  
DISTRICT**, a special district

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan P. Gallagher  
Board Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly A. Lore  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott C. Smith  
General Counsel

[Signatures Continue]

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO,**  
a municipal corporation

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT No.**  
**2 OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY,**  
a special district

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(End of Signatures)