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### ***Metro JPA Credited with Encouraging MWWD to Innovate with Advanced Photovoltaic Systems***

The Metro JPA and Commission on February 7 approved a City of San Diego proposal to generate power through the use of an 831-kilowatt privatized photovoltaic (PV) system at the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant. Sun Edison, owner and operator of the PV system, is hoping to use First Solar's cadmium telluride thin film solar collectors. Tom Alspaugh, senior engineer with the Metro Wastewater Department (MWWD), noted that several years ago the Metro JPA urged MWWD to allow the innovative PV technologies to bid a photovoltaic rooftop system, rather than only well proven PV systems.

"I am proud to say that the Metro JPA inspired this direction toward alternative power technology," said Alspaugh. "Installation of the 30-kw photovoltaic system at the Metropolitan Operations, Center III was the first commercial installation of the First Solar PV product. It has been successful and is now a viable competitor in the PV industry."

Negotiations will be held with Sun Edison, Inc., over a photovoltaic power purchase agreement. Sun Edison is receiving a grant from the State of California and federal tax credits to build the system. The City of San Diego hopes to generate 831 kilowatt of electricity for twenty years with annual savings expected to be at least \$15,000 the first year with only a one-percent price escalator.

### ***Renewable Energy at the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant to Clean Air and Save Energy Costs***

The Metro JPA and Commission on February 7 also approved a City of San Diego proposal to generate power through the use of a 1.2-megawatt privatized fuel cell at the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP) that could save more than \$75,000 per year. Starting this December, the ten-year power purchase agreement with the Linde Company (formerly BOC Merchant Production) will allow renewable digester gas from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant to be cleaned, compressed and transported by Linde to the S BWRP as well as two other 1.2 megawatt fuel cell locations in San Diego County. MWWD will receive more than \$250,000 for the gas. The SBWRP installation will be one of the first models that integrate four 300-kilowatt fuel cells in to one large module. This advancement lowers the cost on this cutting edge technology. The Linde fuel cell is also supported by State grants and tax credits until January 2009.

### ***Metro JPA Strategic Workshop Set for May 1***

A one-half day strategic planning workshop has been scheduled from noon to 3 p.m., May 1 at the Coronado City Council Chambers at 1825 Strand Way.

### ***Highly Purified Wastewater Begins Filling Orange County Aquifer***

The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) last month began sending purified wastewater through a pipeline to two settling basins in Anaheim, the *Orange County Register* reported. The \$480 million system uses high-powered, reverse-osmosis filters to treat the water, after pre-treatment to remove contaminants. The water is then exposed to hydrogen peroxide and ultraviolet light to destroy any remaining organic material. It eventually will produce an estimated 10 percent of the water used in Orange County.

An OCWD official said the system will produce up to 70 million gallons per day, half for a seawater intrusion barrier and half for the county's drinking-water supply. But most of the seawater-barrier water also eventually becomes part of the drinking-water supply. "The treated water will mingle with other water in the deep aquifer, and it will likely be six months to a year before any of it is pumped out and consumed," said Ron Wildermuth of OCSD.

### ***Metro JPA/Commission to Meet Downtown on March 6***

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be held at 12 noon Thursday, March 6 in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board Room. SANDAG is located on the eighth floor of the Wells Fargo Plaza building at 401 B Street. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is planning to attend. Parking will not be validated.

### ***Metro TAC Convenes on March 19***

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will hold its March meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19 in the MOCII auditorium.

### ***Metro Commissioners***

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair  
 Councilmember Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach - Vice Chair  
 Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista  
 Councilmember Al Ovrom, Coronado  
 Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon  
 Vice Mayor Ernest Ewin, La Mesa  
 Councilmember Jerry Jones, Lemon Grove Sanitation District  
 Councilmember Luis Natividad, National City  
 Board Member Mark Robak, Otay Water District  
 Board Member Augie Caires, Padre Dam Muni. Water District  
 Councilmember Merrilee Boyack, Poway  
 Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

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**THE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING REGIONAL WASTEWATER ISSUES**

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