



JPA Holds Biennial Strategic Planning Retreat

Thirty-two people participated in the Metro Commission/JPA strategic planning retreat last week at the Powerhouse Community Center in Del Mar. Facilitated by John Gavares of The Gavares Group, the retreat focused on four strategic goals: (1) reduce costs and ensure fair rates; (2) create alignment among participating agencies; (3) enhance positive and effective relations with the City of San Diego; and (4) create a positive image.

Breakout sessions debated whether to establish a regional wastewater authority and, joint governance or not, how to finance the participating agencies' present obligations for needed capital projects in the Metro system, given the City of San Diego's severe financial difficulties. A straw vote among retreat participants, including the City of Chula Vista, produced a unanimous statement of support for pursuing the idea of joint governance of the regional system.

As an action step, it was decided to seek a qualified financial adviser/bond counsel to help answer the latter question and also address the pros and cons of the JPA issuing bonds to pay for Metro system capital improvements. Information on this will be presented at the May 4 Metro Commission/JPA meeting for consideration of swift action.

It was also decided to continue with the ad hoc subcommittees on Financial Issues and Regional Wastewater Authority but to sunset the other three, replacing them with task-specific groups that would meet only as necessary. Commissioners will be asked to sign up for the task areas in which they'd like to participate. Chairman Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar City Councilmember, closed the meeting with thanks to all and an indication of "how successful we have been in exploring difficult strategies and thorny financial questions."



Participants listen intently at the Metro JPA's strategic planning retreat April 13 in Del Mar. From left are Anthony Chukwudolue, Majed Al-Ghafry (rear), Scott Huth, Chuck Spinks, Roberto Saucedo, Karyn Keese, Joe Smith (rear), Henry Abarbanel and Augie Caires.

Metro TAC Undertakes Capacity Evaluation Study

Suppose one JPA member has insufficient capacity to meet its customers' needs while another member has excess capacity and wants to sell, lease or lend some of it. How would that second agency determine the value of its capacity? The JPA is pursuing a study to develop a methodology for determining that value, and additionally to calculate the value of capacity in the entire Metro system. The study would help individual agencies to set capacity fees for new development and also set up a methodology for dealing with future expansion in capacity or reduction. The methodology would provide a per-gallon value.

An ad hoc subcommittee of the JPA's Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will develop a scope of service and examine existing analyses of this issue in the Metro service area. When the study is completed, Metro TAC will bring the scope of service and a request for funding to the JPA. The subcommittee consists of Scott Huth of Coronado; Anthony Chukwudolue, Chula Vista; David Scherer, Del Mar; Majed Al-Ghafry, Lemon Grove; Manny Magana, Otay Water District; Dan Brogadier, County of San Diego; Augie Caires, Padre Dam Municipal Water District; and Karyn Keese, PBS&J. Ann Sasaki of the City of San Diego will also participate.

Next Meeting to be Held on May 4

The next meeting of the JPA and Commission will be held Thursday, May 4 at 12 noon in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium at 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Metro TAC Meets on April 19

The next Metro TAC luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19 at 11 a.m. at MOC II.

Metro Commissioners

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair
Councilmember Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach - Vice Chair
Mayor Steven Padilla, Chula Vista *
Councilmember Frank Tierney, Coronado
Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon
Councilmember Ernest Ewin, La Mesa
Councilmember Jerry Jones, Lemon Grove Sanitation District
Councilmember Luis Natividad, National City
Councilmember Merrilee Boyack, Poway
Scott Tulloch, Director, MWWD, City of San Diego
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Mark Robak, Otay Water District
Augie Scalzitti, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
* Member of Metro Commission but not Metro JPA

Metro JPA News Brief

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