



JPA Leadership Meets with Mayor Sanders On Possible Joint Governance, Other Issues

Metro JPA Chair Henry Abarbanel, Vice Chair Mayda Winter and Metro TAC Chair Scott Huth met with San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders on Nov. 28. They discussed the possibility of a new regional wastewater authority and other issues affecting the JPA's participating agencies.

Abarbanel reported that Sanders expressed interest in the joint governance concept and that he considered the Metro JPA's approach "regionally cooperative." Mayor Sanders said that a decision on whether the City of San Diego will join in a joint feasibility study would be made soon.

He also said that he will welcome a recommendation from the JPA as to whether or not the City should seek another waiver on secondary treatment at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Sanders said he realized that errors have been made in the past in wastewater rates charged to participating agencies and added that the agencies would be repaid.

Chairman Abarbanel reported that overall the meeting was positive and that "we are seen as a partner in dealing with these issues."

JPA Meeting Rescheduled for Dec. 14 in Del Mar

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission has been moved to Thursday, Dec. 14 at the Del Mar City Hall Annex, 235 11th Street. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff. The meeting will begin at 12 noon. It is possible that the January meeting will be held Jan. 11 in the Chula Vista City Council chambers. This has not yet been determined.

Three Agencies Urge: Request Another Waiver

The City Councils of Coronado and Imperial Beach and the Board of Directors of Padre Dam Municipal Water District have adopted positions urging the City of San Diego to seek a renewed waiver on secondary treatment at the Point Loma plant, while at the same time negotiating a time frame for implementation of secondary treatment. Other participating agencies are expected to take official positions in the near future on this question.

31 Percent Hike in Sewer Rates Proposed

Early next year the San Diego City Council will vote on whether to approve a 31 percent increase in metropolitan sewer fees proposed by Mayor Sanders. Sanders said the \$1.4 billion hike is needed to pay for overdue system upgrades required to

meet state and federal mandates. The proposal also calls for a 26 percent jump in water rates. Sanders said the rate hikes would "ensure that our water and wastewater systems can continue to serve the community by meeting the critical need for upgrades." The City's Public Utilities Advisory Commission endorsed the rate increases this week. Sanders also said he will create a review board to ensure that sewer and water ratepayer funds and bond proceeds will be properly used.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that a government watchdog group, The Performance Institute, urged the City Council to reject the rate hikes, saying San Diego customers already pay the second highest water and sewer rates in the state.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Outlined

Representatives of the fledgling San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program briefed Metro TAC members on Nov. 15 on the status of its project and will do so for the full Commission on Dec. 14. IRWM is a joint program of the County Water Authority and the City of San Diego Water Department. Its goals are to ensure reliable water supplies for the region, protect its quality, and provide greater coordination and integration in local water management. IRWM is forming an advisory committee and seeks participation from the Metro JPA.

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 *Member of Metro Commission but not Metro JPA

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