



Top Stories from 2007

- In January, Henry Abarbanel was re-elected Chairman, Mayda Winter was re-elected Vice Chair and David Scherer was elected Secretary for fiscal 2007-08.
- In February, the Metro Wastewater JPA passed a resolution recommending that the City of San Diego begin preparing a renewed permit application waiving secondary treatment at the Point Loma plant but at the same time explore Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) and other emerging technologies, and urged San Diego to continue the enhanced ocean-monitoring through Scripps Institution of Oceanography and to maintain close contact with environmental organizations.
- In March, the JPA announced a joint governance feasibility study with the City of San Diego in a press release that identified a 60-day plan to study the feasibility of setting up a new, region-wide wastewater organization that included cost and ownership scenarios.
- The Strategic Planning Workshop in May reviewed the past and looked forward at the region's possible future. Commissioner Augie Caires gave a presentation on regional wastewater governance with key milestones and agreements. Looking forward, the comprehensive joint governance research report was presented by Karyn Keese of PBS&J and Scott Huth, Metro TAC Chair from Coronado. The overview had three regional governance options, 1) Add San Diego to Metro Commission; 2) Form a new JPA, with no Asset/Debt Transfer; and 3) Create JPA with Full Ownership/Transfer.
- In June, the JPA voted to request a voting seat on San Diego's newly-formed Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC formerly the PUAC). San Diego determined that one JPA member would be advisory-only.
- The JPA took a position on California Senate Bill 966 that would establish a take-back system requiring pharmacies to collect and dispose of unused prescription drugs returned by their customers to take effect in July 2008. The bill passed.
- In July, the Chula Vista City Council voted to join the Metro JPA. Unanimous ratification of its membership by the other participating agencies was confirmed in November. Chula Vista is a charter member of the Metro Commission.
- In August, Raftus Financial Consultants (RFC) presented a Capacity Evaluation Analysis examining the practices of various utilities and prior capacity sales to determine a capacity valuation analysis for the participating agencies.

- San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders' attendance at the December meeting of the Metro JPA was a first in the 10-year existence of the Commission. Sanders has agreed to meet quarterly with the JPA and have members of his staff attend the other meetings.

Barrett to Head MWWD; Bertch Resigns

San Diego Mayor Sanders has appointed James M. Barrett as Director of the Metropolitan Wastewater Department. He will double as head of both the City Water Department and MWWD. Bob Ferrier will continue as Assistant Director of MWWD. The change was necessitated by the resignation this month of Dr. Tim Bertch as Metro Wastewater Director. Barrett, a 28-year Navy veteran, was the commanding officer of Navy Public Works in San Diego before joining the City.

2008 Meetings - Metro JPA

The Metro JPA mostly meets on the first Thursday of every month from 12 noon to 1pm in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium in Kearny Mesa. The Metro JPA meeting dates for 2008 are: Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sep. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. About every third meeting will be held in downtown San Diego when Mayor Sanders joins us. Those dates will be determined later.

2008 Meetings - Metro TAC

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 11am to 1 pm at MOC II. The Metro TAC meeting dates for 2008 are: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

Metro Commissioners

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