



INSIGHT: Otay Water District Board Member Mark Robak on the Importance of Water Conservation *(Another in a series)*

San Diego area residents are only just starting to be impacted by the regional drought conditions in that they are being asked to conserve their water usage with the San Diego County Water Authority's 20-Gallon Challenge. This is a good starting point but consumers should also be aware that drought conditions could last a long time and they must view water conservation as a long-term strategy.

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College (www.thegarden.org) is an excellent example of the type of long-term strategy that works. The mission is to promote water conservation in the Southern California landscape through exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the public. Because as much as 70% of water in a single family home is used outdoors, our mission is imperative.

The Water Conservation Garden has nearly five acres of displays that showcase water conservation through a series of beautiful themed gardens, such as a native plant garden and a vegetable garden, as well as how-to displays, mulch and types of water saving grasses. There is a brand new irrigation exhibit, which showcases the latest weather based technologies.

There are also classes for the general public, including landscaping, gardening, and art offerings, and training in water conservation for professional landscapers. The Garden can be a learning laboratory for the dedicated gardener, a great place for an afternoon stroll, or a place to gather lots of information about water-wise, or California-Friendly® gardening. It is also a great place to hold events. The Garden is free to the public seven days a week from 9am to 4pm.

San Diego Mayor Sanders Agrees to Participate in Metro JPA Meetings

JPA Chairman Henry Abarbanel (Councilmember, City of Del Mar) met with San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and members of his staff on Sept. 7 to discuss relations between the City and the JPA, as well other matters relating to the region's wastewater system. Sanders agreed to attend Commission meetings on a quarterly basis and to have his office represented by a staff member at meetings he cannot personally attend.

To facilitate his participation, the meetings Sanders can attend will be held at the San Diego City Administration Building, 202 C Street. Abarbanel was joined in the meeting by Vice Chair Mayda Winter (Mayor Pro Tem, Imperial Beach), Metro TAC Chair Scott Huth of Coronado, Scott Tulloch of Chula

Vista and Augie Caires of Padre Dam Municipal Water District.

Abarbanel characterized the meeting as "a major step forward in the enhancement of our good relations with the City of San Diego."

San Diego to Seek Another Waiver for Point Loma

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has decided to apply for a renewed waiver of federally-mandated secondary treatment at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. Many scientists have said that the current advanced primary treatment system there causes no discernible damage to the ocean environment. The City will now enter into a series of negotiations with federal and state regulators over the application.

Chula Vista Membership Nears Unanimous Approval

The City of Chula Vista, a charter member of the Metro Commission but not of the JPA, voted on July 17 to affiliate with the JPA. All but one of the other participating agencies have voted to ratify Chula Vista's membership, with full acceptance expected soon.

Next Commission Meeting is November 1

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be held on Thursday, November 1 at 12 noon in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium in Kearny Mesa.

Metro TAC Meets on November 21

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will hold its next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, November 21 at 11 a.m. at MOC II.

Metro Commissioners

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair
 Mayor Pro Tem 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
 Deputy Mayor Merrilee Boyack, Poway
 Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

Metro JPA News Brief Editors:

Julie Walke, 858/729-9933, Julie.walkecomm@sbcglobal.net
 Roger Conlee, 619/795-7785, rconlee@cox.net