



San Diego Stands Alone with Modified Permit For Advanced Primary Treatment

City of San Diego Metro Wastewater Director Scott Tulloch told Metro Commissioners on Feb. 9 that the San Diego region soon will have the only treatment plant in the state, and one of the few in the nation, with a modified permit for advanced primary treatment. Though secondary treatment of wastewater emitted into the ocean is mandated by the federal Clean Water Act, some waivers have been granted in the past by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Tulloch said that Los Angeles, Orange County, Morro Bay, Goleta and others have not applied for waiver renewals and will soon go, or already have gone, to secondary treatment. San Diego is unlikely to have its modified permit renewed when it expires in 2008.

Tulloch also reported that an update of the California State Ocean Plan may soon require 85 percent removal of solids from water emitted from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, up from the 75 percent currently removed by the city's advanced primary treatment. Compliance would be difficult without acquiring a small parcel of adjacent U.S. Navy land in order to make the required BAF-technology modifications. However, Tulloch said that the Navy, which has cooperated in the past, recently broke off talks on the subject.

Metro JPA Committee Discusses Proposed Regional Authority Study with San Diego Public Works Chief

Chairman Henry Abarbanel reported that members of the Regional Wastewater Authority Ad Hoc Committee recently met with new City of San Diego Public Works Director Richard Haas to brief him on the proposed study. Abarbanel said Haas seemed supportive of the idea of conducting a joint feasibility study to examine the pros and cons of creating a regional authority to operate and maintain the regional sewerage system. Abarbanel emphasized that the JPA's member agencies are "partners, neighbors and cities, not just customers" of the San Diego-run system.

JPA Supports City's Water Reuse Study and Statement

The Metro JPA and Commission has studied City of San Diego's Interim Report of its Water Reuse Study 2005 and supported the recommendations set forth in the American Assembly II Statement adopted last July. A letter expressing this support will be sent to Mayor Jerry Sanders and City Councilmembers. The JPA emphasized its particular support for a North City strategy "that not only expands non-potable resources, but also advocates for large-scale indirect potable reuse. "

The letter states that "increasing the production and use of recycled water will greatly benefit the region by providing

greater local control of our water supply by decreasing the region's reliance on imported water...Most importantly, water reuse will help in meeting the future water needs of our region's growing population." Commissioners approved the letter of support at the Feb. 9 meeting. Several JPA member agencies have already sent similar letters on their own.

Strategic Planning Retreat Facilitator Selected

Metro Commissioners have selected John Gavares of The Gavares Group to serve as facilitator for the upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat. The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 13 at the Powerhouse Community Center, 1658 Coast Blvd., Del Mar, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A pre-workshop survey will be distributed to participants asking them what issues and subjects they would like to see addressed. Gavares previously facilitated Metro JPA strategic planning sessions in 2000 and 2001.

Next Commission Meeting Scheduled for March 2

The next Metro JPA and Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2 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 February 15

The next Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, February 15 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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