



Orange County Water District Outlines Its Recycled Water Outreach Program

Virginia Grebbien, General Manager of the Orange County Water District (OCWD), spoke at the June 2 meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission about her district's public education program that has buoyed consumer acceptance of recycled water. The OCWD garners seventy-two thousand acre-feet of reclaimed water from its wastewater process for placement into its water basin for consumer consumption.

The program started in the 1990s and is supported by their Board of Directors and a healthy outreach budget (\$900,000 per year and \$600,000 a year in 2005 and 2006). The OCWD performed research through surveys and focus groups to develop its message strategy.

Their first goal was to obtain stakeholder endorsement from 40 cities, statewide elected officials, the California Governor, Orange County's Congressional delegation, and registered voters. A full-time employee makes 300 annual presentations to Chambers of Commerce, minority, religious and civic groups, educational districts (but not PTA's) and to the scientific, environmental and medical communities.

Ms. Grebbien said the focal message is that this is the only viable groundwater replenishment system (GWR) to meet future needs.

First, they introduce the worldwide issue of water consumption and set up the problem of various water sources. Options for solutions include conservation, desalination, reclamation plants, purchasing imported water and GWR. The OCWD says that through GWR, they treat the water and then nature treats it again by putting into the water basin for approximately one year.

The OCWD serves 2.2 million people. The program will be available on CD for commissioners who request a copy.

Draft Resolution of Sediment Cleanup for San Diego Bay

The City of National City requested Metro JPA Co-Chair Mayda Winter present an emergency resolution in support of sediment clean up for San Diego Bay. The resolution, with changes, was voted on, passed and will be mailed to the State's Regional Water Quality Control Board in time for their public input workshop on June 29.

New Ad Hoc Committees

Legal counsel has advised that the Metro JPA's Ad Hoc committees formed at the Strategic Planning Retreat must be formed for a single purpose, have a completion date and be led by Metro JPA/Commissioners. Staff and Metro TAC members may participate but cannot be listed as committee members.

Ad Hoc Committees priorities for the next 12 months include:

- Complete marketing plan and launch web site
- Expand interaction with NR&C and the PUAC
- Achieve 100 percent participating agency membership in the JPA
- Participate in EPA waiver renewal or substitution process
- Achieve accurate meter flow data
- Initiate study of a possible regional wastewater authority
- Identify and expand involvement in external financial issues
- Complete cost allocation study

Metro JPA and Commission to Meet on Thursday, July 7

The next Metro JPA/Commission meeting will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, July 7 in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium at 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Clay Bingham Named City's Key Liaison with Metro JPA

Clay Bingham, interim Deputy Director for Services & Contracts, Metro Wastewater Division, will be the City of San Diego's chief liaison with the Metro JPA, at least for the near future, filling the role held for several years by Bill Hanley. Bingham has worked for the City for 30 years, 15 of those with MWWD.

Metro TAC to Meet on June 15

Metro TAC's next meeting will be Wednesday, June 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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