



San Diego Reports on OPRA waiver progress

Scott Tulloch, MWWD Director, gave Commissioners an update regarding the department and the existing discharge waiver. San Diego's modified discharge permit expires in 2008. The waiver was granted by the Environmental Protection Agency in the 1980s with a newly-enacted Ocean Protection Reduction Act (OPRA) legislation. The City of San Diego is expected to start working on the waiver request as early as 2007. It is quite possible that by then San Diego may have the sole remaining waiver in the United States. Orange County has decided to meet the permit requirements and can be expected to ask for a "reasonable timeframe," which is generally understood to be eight to ten years as it takes six years to build a new wastewater treatment facility. Hawaii is expected to meet the requirements but this has not been mandated yet. If San Diego is required to meet OPRA requirements, our congressional delegation may be key in funding as federal grants could assist with up to 75 percent of the cost, which could be as high as \$2 billion dollars. The price tag could be lower if MWWD elects to use the new BAF technology to reach secondary treatment and that could be accommodated within the current footprint of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. In that case cost estimates are expected to be around the \$750 million dollar range. It was suggested that MetroTAC start establishing subcommittees to deal with the discharge waste permit and associated collection systems.

Metro JPA Committee Reports

- **Community Relations Committee**
The JPA approved the contract for the Oxford Group to be the design and web host consultant for the upcoming web site that will become live in early 2006.
- **Relationship Liaison Committee** - no report
- **Regional Wastewater Authority Committee**
The committee is currently drafting a scope of work for the joint study between the Metro JPA and the City of San Diego to evaluate the benefits and risks to forming a regional authority.
- **Finance Committee**
The committee is preparing a report to prioritize metro capital projects on the City of San Diego's list.
- **Technical and Legal Issues**
They are working on the strategic plan update for the retreat.

Metro JPA Bylaws

Two items were discussed, first the per diem costs and a new records retention policy. If anyone has any comments or questions, please call the JPA legal counsel Paula de Sousa at 619/525-1300.

Metro Wastewater Strategic Planning Workshop

The 2006 strategic planning workshop will be held at the Powerhouse Community Center in Del Mar on April, 13, 2006.

Metro JPA Web Site

Commissioners are looking forward to the new Metro JPA web site as a new tool to share information on wastewater issues with the general public. The site's homepage (below) will feature a seldom seen aerial view of the Point Loma facility.



Next Commission Meeting Scheduled for December 1

Next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, December 1 in the Metropolitan Ops. Center (MOC II) auditorium at 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Metro TAC will meet on December 21

The final 2005 meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will be Wednesday, December 21 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 Editors

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