



Metro JPA: Could it be Financing Authority For Metro Projects?

Many questions exist over the possibility of the Metro JPA providing financial support for Metro projects. Paula de Sousa, legal counsel for the JPA, answered a few of those questions at the March 2 meeting.

- Municipal Bond issuance requires a six-month lead time.
- Not all JPA members are required to participate, however the minimum based on cost-efficiency is \$20 million to spread fixed costs among the PA's. Costs include bond attorney fees, printing costs for official statements and meeting costs for the rating agencies.
- Individual JPA members' local projects can be included in the bond issue.
- Estimated cost of bond issuance is 3 percent for \$20 million. For amounts of \$35 million or higher, the cost drops to 2 percent.

Sanders Proposal Could Impact MWWD

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is championing a "managed competition" proposal that could outsource some of the city's maintenance and repair programs. Under Sanders' plan, independent firms could bid against the city's own maintenance programs. Sanders hopes to obtain City Council approval and take his plan to a public vote.

If adopted, some Metro Wastewater System maintenance and repair activities could be outsourced, depending on the quality of the bids received. It is not yet clear whether the measure would apply to the Metro system, the Muni system, or both.

Finance Update

The Finance Ad-hoc Committee gave an extensive report to the Metro JPA/Commission about several areas.

- Cost Allocation Plan – The committee was briefed by PRM who is currently under contract with the City of San Diego about the scope and goals of their study.
- 2004 Exhibit E Audit Findings – The audit is numerically complete, however the report will not be finalized with footnotes until the May Metro JPA meeting. The audit indicates that there is a \$7.7 million refund due to the participating agencies.
- Project Cost Summary – City of San Diego MWWD staff provided a projected cash flow summary through FY2016 for Capital projects.
- Budget Estimates -- Three years of budget reports that compared actual pay-go, debt service and O & M to projected budgets.

Hedy Griffiths Retires from MWWD after 20 years

Hedy Griffiths, supervising management analyst for the City of San Diego's Metro Wastewater Department, is retiring after 20 years with the City. Griffiths was the primary liaison between San Diego and the participating agencies concerning flow meters, strength-based billing and billing for services contracts. Griffiths worked closely with MetroTAC representatives. MetroTAC Chair Scott Huth thanked Hedy for her hard work and wished her well for the future.

Strategic Planning Retreat April 13 in Del Mar

John Gavares of The Gavares Group will be the facilitator for the upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat on Thursday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A pre-workshop survey will be distributed to participants. Please notify Teri Basta (teri@padre.org) by Thursday, March 30 if you plan to attend the workshop.

Pre-Workshop Survey for Non-Retreat Participants

If you would like to participate in the pre-workshop survey, but are unable to attend the workshop, please contact Gavares at johngavares@cox.net.

Next Commission Meeting Scheduled for April 13

The next Metro JPA and Commission meeting will be held one hour before the Strategic Planning Workshop on Thursday, April 13 at 9 a.m. at the Powerhouse Community Center, 1658 Coast Blvd. in Del Mar.

Metro TAC Meets on April 19

The next Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19 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
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 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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