



IBWC's South Bay International Wastewater Plant to Go to Secondary Treatment

The International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC) South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant plans to go to secondary treatment next year. IBWC Engineer Steve Smullen detailed plans for Metro JPA commissioners at their August 7 meeting. The plant currently has advanced primary treatment capability. Bids for the upgrade will be taken this year with completion in 2009. The cost is expected to come in between \$65 million and \$100 million.

Smullen said the plant's capacity of 25 million gallons per day (mgd) will be unchanged, but added that it could handle up to 32 mgd if not limited by agreements with Mexico. The project will include aeration basins, secondary clarifiers, sludge pumping facilities and a non-potable water pump station.

Smullen also discussed wastewater treatment projects being built in Tijuana with loans from Japanese sources. Upgrades and new construction at the San Antonio de los Buenos plant near Rosarito Beach will enable it to provide secondary treatment of approximately 25 mgd and to undergo periodic upkeep without having to divert sewage flows across the border into the U.S.

Conservation Falling Short; CWA to Raise Rates

Voluntary water conservation efforts in the region are falling short, Dana Frieauf of the San Diego County Water Authority told Commissioners this month. The CWA water resources specialist said that while the goal of this year's "20 gallons per day" challenge is a 9 percent reduction in water use, only a 4 percent drop has so far been achieved. Some 800,000 acre feet of water have been lost in California this year because of drought and court rulings, she said.

Ms. Frieauf cited a strong need for water recycling to help meet regional needs. The Oroville Dam, a major repository of Sierra snow melt, is at an all-time low of 38 percent of capacity. Today 20,000 acre feet of recycled water is needed, she said, and that number will increase to 50,000 acre feet by the year 2025. The CWA likely will increase its water rates and charges by 11.9 percent in fiscal 2009.

Changes in California Ocean Plan to be Considered by State Water Board

Deputy Metro Wastewater Director Alan Langworthy briefed Metro Commissioners this month on possible changes in the California State Ocean Plan. Regional Water Quality Control Board hearings on the plan will take place in February of next year with a decision by the state board on any changes

expected in March. Langworthy said it is possible the state plan may go along with federal limits of 30 milligrams per liter of suspended solids emitted from ocean outfalls.

Emissions of suspended solids at the Point Loma outfall currently average 34.5 mg per liter, he said, but added that this actually compares favorably with facilities elsewhere that have gone to secondary treatment of wastewater.

Next Commission Meeting Scheduled for Sept. 11

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be at 12 noon on Thursday, Sept. 11 in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is to attend.

Metro TAC Meets on August 20

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will hold its next luncheon meeting at 11 a.m., Wednesday, August 20 in the MOC II auditorium.

Strategic Planning Retreat Tentatively Set for Oct. 2 in Del Mar

The Metro JPA and Commission's October 2 meeting is tentatively set to be a strategic planning retreat from noon to 4 p.m. at the Del Mar City Hall Annex, 235 11th Street, Del Mar. The goals of the organization and its future direction, as well as its outreach needs, are to be further defined beyond what was concluded at the May meeting in Coronado.

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