



MWD Hikes Water Rates More Than 14 Percent For Southern California Users

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which supplies about three-fourths of San Diego County's water supply, has raised its base rates by 14.3 percent. MWD directors voted the rate hike at a meeting on March 11. They said the increase was made necessary by agreements with other Western states that limit the amount of water available from the Colorado River. While Southern California once draw about one million acre-feet of water a year from the Colorado River, the amount is now about 600,000 acre-feet. The rate hike affects the San Diego County Water Authority, which will have to pass along much of the increase to its local customers.

Law Requiring Use of Reclaimed Water Largely Ignored, Report Says

A 1989 City of San Diego law requiring all who could "feasibly use" reclaimed water for industrial or recreational uses has mostly been ignored or forgotten, according to a March 8 report in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Councilmembers who at that time passed the law cited drought conditions and said the measure was essential for public health and safety. They threatened to cut off water service for those who didn't comply. Nineteen years later, use of reclaimed water remains about 85 percent below the capacity of San Diego's two main reclamation plants. City officials require new developments near the purple pipes of the reclaimed water system to connect to them but have not pushed existing customers to do so. Also, some City properties along the purple pipes have not hooked up to the system, the article said. Mayor Jerry Sanders said he will investigate the 1989 law.

JPA Okays Capacity Valuation Study Funding

The scope of work involved in completing a capacity valuation study of the Metro Wastewater System has expanded beyond original expectations. The Metro Commission at its March 6 meeting approved a request by the consulting firm for an additional \$2,945 to cover the extra work performed. The project is being carried out by Raftelis Financial Consultants.

Commission Seeks New Administrative Support

Padre Dam Municipal Water District will not be able to provide administrative support services for the Metro Commission and JPA beyond the current fiscal year ending June 30. The District, through Administrative Assistant Teri Basta, has

supplied these services for several years. An ad hoc subcommittee will develop an RFP for new administrative support and present it at the April 3 Commission meeting. The subcommittee is to include JPA Chairman Henry Abarbanel and Commissioner Ernie Ewin of La Mesa.

JPA to Consider Expanded Outreach Program

The Ad Hoc Communications Committee has recommended a new and expanded level of outreach, public relations and education, possibly doubling or tripling the communications budget, and seeking proposals from qualified firms. The ad hoc committee plans to lead a discussion on its recommendation at the strategic planning session which will be part of the May 1st Commission meeting in Coronado.

Next JPA/Commission Meeting April 3

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be at 12 noon on Thursday, April 3 in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. A report on possible bylaws changes will be made by the Ad Hoc Bylaws Subcommittee.

Metro TAC Meets on March 19

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will hold its next luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19 in the MOC II auditorium.

Metro JPA Strategic Planning Set for May 1

A half-day strategic planning workshop will be conducted in conjunction with the May 1st Commission meeting, and will be held in the Coronado City Council Chambers.

Metro Commissioners

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Councilmember Al Ovrom, Coronado
Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon
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