



Vol. 7, No. 4, April 2007

### ***INSIGHT: Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox on the JPA and Wastewater Issues***

*(Another in a series. Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox is one of the newest Metro Wastewater Commissioners.)*

My initial and overall impression of the Metro Commission and JPA is positive. This organization offers access to a knowledgeable staff and provides a meaningful forum in which elected officials can collaborate with one another on solutions to regional water and wastewater issues.

I believe the most critical wastewater issue facing our region is coming to a decision on how to proceed with the issue of secondary treatment at the Point Loma treatment facility, whether or not to seek another waiver.

On the question of a new regional governance organization to operate and maintain the metro wastewater system, there is value in considering the pros and cons of such an entity. However, we must clearly understand the City of San Diego's position on the matter. That is vital. Once we know that, we can proceed with a more detailed analysis.

On our officially affiliating with the JPA, Chula Vista city staff will bring forward in the very near future a recommendation that the city join the JPA.

The work of the Metro JPA's Commissioners, staff and technical support people is impressive and much appreciated by the City of Chula Vista.

### ***Possible Regional Governance Feasibility Study to be Further Examined Next Month***

The Metro JPA this month agreed to continue working toward a possible study of the feasibility of a new regional joint governance organization to maintain and operate the region's wastewater system. The steps agreed on are to (1) review a similar study conducted for the City of San Diego in 1989 to see what elements may be applicable and useful today; (2) determine at next month's strategic planning retreat what the JPA wants to accomplish; and (3) take those views to the City of San Diego's Natural Resources & Culture (NRC) Committee and to Mayor Sanders.

Originally, the Metro JPA was to return to the NRC Committee this month with a scope of work for the proposed feasibility study, but will inform the committee that it would like to return after the strategic planning retreat.

### ***Next Meeting is May 3<sup>d</sup> Strategic Planning Retreat in Imperial Beach***

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be the strategic planning retreat on Thursday, May 3 at the Dempsey Holder Safety Center, 950 Ocean Lane in Imperial Beach. The session will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a short Commission business meeting, followed by the strategic planning conference. Metro Commissioners and Metro TAC members are urged to attend and to RSVP by April 20 to JPA Secretary Teri Basta at 619-258-4661 or [teri@padre.org](mailto:teri@padre.org). The strategic planning session will be facilitated by John Gavares of The Gavares Group.

### ***Augie Caires Named Padre Dam Delegate to JPA***

Augie Caires, who retired as Padre Dam Municipal Water District's General Manager last year, returned to the Metro JPA and Commission this month as that district's representative. Caires became a Padre Dam MWD Board member on February 13th. He succeeds Augie Scalzitti, who will serve as Caires's alternate on the Metro Commission.

### ***Metro TAC Meets on April 18***

The next luncheon meeting of the technical advisory committee (Metro TAC) will be on Wednesday, April 18 at 11 a.m. at the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II), 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa.

### ***Metro Commissioners***

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair  
 Mayor Pro Tem Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach - Vice Chair  
 Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista  
 Councilmember Al Ovrom, Coronado  
 Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon  
 Councilmember Ernest Ewin, La Mesa  
 Councilmember Jerry Jones, Lemon Grove Sanitation District  
 Councilmember Luis Natividad, National City  
 Mark Robak, Otay Water District  
 Augie Caires, Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
 Councilmember Merrilee Boyack, Poway  
 Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

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