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(Editors' Note: The *Insight Column* is a new feature appearing frequently in which Commissioners give their insights on various issues facing the region.)

INSIGHT: Poway Councilmember Merrilee Boyack on the Value of JPA Membership

Poway's involvement in the JPA has been extremely beneficial. We have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by our participation, and we have had a major voice in the planning of capital improvement projects that impact our city and the entire region.

I have learned over the past few years and realize the critical importance of wastewater and water issues to our region and its residents. Wastewater management is very important to many of Poway's residents.

I have actively participated on several committees since becoming a Commissioner. My greatest role is serving on the Finance Committee where we delve into the numbers and have been involved in planning for our future to protect the JPA and see that capital projects move forward. I ask lots of questions and I hope that they are good ones that are helpful to the entire JPA.

The most crucial issue is two-fold. First, we are dealing with impacts from San Diego's financial problems, and we need to be both vigilant and proactive in protecting the interests of our JPA members. Second, I believe that moving to a regional-based wastewater group is essential to providing quality wastewater services in the future and to keeping costs down. I believe it would be a better decision for dealing with the secondary-treatment waiver which is going to be a very serious matter for all of us.

I enjoy working with all of the Commissioners, TAC representatives and staff. Everyone's dedication is apparent and appreciated by my city and me.

JPA Urges City of San Diego to Seek Renewal of Secondary Treatment Waiver

The Metro Wastewater JPA this month voted to recommend that the City of San Diego begin preparing to apply for a renewed permit waiving secondary treatment at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. San Diego currently is one of the few cities in the country permitted to use an advanced primary system for treating sewage, rather than the secondary treatment mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The resolution called for San Diego to begin preparing the waiver application but at the same time explore Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) and other emerging treatment technologies. It also urged San Diego to continue the enhanced

ocean-monitoring program recommended by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and to maintain close contact with environmental organizations. The Metro JPA position is spelled out in a letter to San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Cox, Ovrom are Newest Metro Commissioners

Dr. Cheryl Cox of Chula Vista and Al Ovrom, Jr., of Coronado are the newest representatives of their cities on the Metro Wastewater Commission. Dr. Cox was elected Mayor of Chula Vista in November. She has been a school teacher, principal and district office administrator. She has served on Chula Vista's Charter Review Commission. Her Ph.D. in education is from the University of Southern California.

Ovrom was elected to a second stint on the Coronado City Council in November, a post he also held from 1996 to 2000. Ovrom was a long-time naval officer after graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. He has served on the Coronado Planning Commission and the Coronado Unified School Board.

Next Meetings Scheduled

The Metro JPA and Commission will meet Thursday, March 1 at 12 noon at the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II), 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will meet at the same place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Strategic Planning Retreat May 3 in Imperial Beach

The Metro JPA's next strategic planning retreat will be held Thursday, May 3, at the Dempsey Holder Safety Center in Imperial Beach. John Gavares again will serve as facilitator. Directions and times will be announced shortly.

Metro Commissioners

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair
 Councilmember 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 Scalzitti, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
 Councilmember Merrilee Boyack, Poway
 Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

* Member of Metro Commission but not Metro JPA

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THE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING REGIONAL WASTEWATER ISSUES

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