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A Message from Chairman Abarbanel

As we start a New Year, it is helpful to look back to what was accomplished in 2006, and to look forward to what we can hope to achieve in 2007. One important thing is that the Metro JPA has become a regional player in wastewater treatment and water reuse issues. The possibility of a new regional wastewater authority, its joint governance concept and the opportunity to form a recommendation regarding the OPRA waiver are all illustrations of this. The too-many-to-name presentations seeking our guidance and input ranging from water reuse to new community development plans give our Commissioners a platform. Another important development is our actively seeking lower cost bond funding for our Metro obligations than may be possible through San Diego, at least in the near future. This kind of independent action will benefit all of our ratepayers and underlines the value of being a JPA. I trust that we maintain the spirit of cooperation and participate in forging a progressive, yet affordable regional wastewater system. Thanks to the City of San Diego for maintaining an open dialogue, the Participating Agencies truly appreciate this team approach.

A Message from Metro TAC Chair Scott Huth

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of staff from the City of San Diego's Metropolitan Wastewater (MWWD) and staff from each of the twelve Participating Agencies (PA's). The TAC's primary role is to provide oversight and peer review on behalf of the PA's to San Diego's MWWD on items such as capital improvements, operations and maintenance, financing and budgeting. The PA's are keen to remain active as almost 50 percent of our customers' sewer rates are associated with the Metro system's cost.

Over the past several years TAC and Metro JPA/ Commission have moved beyond information-sharing into functioning more as a partner with the City of San Diego. My role, as well as that of other participants, is to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable enough to express opinions and exchange ideas. We have successfully built consensus wherever possible, and have moved programs forward. As in any partnership we still have challenges, but maintaining this good working relationship will be critical in resolving the issues that lie ahead. Currently, our working camaraderie is the best that I have observed over fourteen years. I believe that we have made real progress and no doubt, this will continue to improve

Metro JPA Officers Re-Elected

At the Jan. 11 meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission, Henry Abarbanel was re-elected Chairman for fiscal 2007-08, and Mayda Winter was re-elected Vice Chair. They are City Council members in Del Mar and Imperial Beach, respectively. David Scherer, Public Works Director for the City of Del Mar, was elected Secretary.

Metro JPA Welcomes New MWWD Dir. Tim Bertch

San Diego's new MWWD Director has not wasted time getting involved in the Metro JPA meetings. Tim Bertch has more than 20 years in the Navy including 3 years as a nuclear submarine commander. The former deputy director for Lockheed Martin will use his leadership, and problem solving skills to guide the next chapter for San Diego's wastewater agency. A graduate of the Naval Academy, Bertch has a M.S. in Ocean Engineering and a Doctorate in Nuclear Engineering.

Next Meetings Scheduled

Metro JPA and Commission will meet **Thursday, February 8 at 12 noon** in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way. **Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC)** will meet at the same place **Wednesday, February 21 at 11 a.m.**

Al-Ghafry Named North Las Vegas Public Works Dir.

Majed A. Al-Ghafry has been named Public Works Director for the City of North Las Vegas, Nevada. Al-Ghafry had been Lemon Grove's Public Works Director and City Engineer, and its delegate to Metro TAC. Prior to his employment at Lemon Grove, Al-Ghafry was with the City of Chula Vista for several years. Chairman Abarbanel presented Majed with a gift and thanked him for his years of service to the Metro JPA.

Metro Commissioners

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair
 Councilmember Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach - Vice Chair
 Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista *
 Council Member 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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