



Vol. 7 No. 3 March 2007

### ***INSIGHT: Lemon Grove Councilmember Jerry Jones on the Value of JPA Membership***

*(Another in a series)*

I was appointed to Metro JPA in November 2004 and believe in staying informed and defending my constituents' interests. Lemon Grove's population continues to increase, which will impact our future capacity as two of our major lines will need upgrading. Our engineering department is aware of the issue and will resolve this in the coming years. As a member of the Metro JPA, I see that the organization has a vital role in protecting everyone's collective interests by providing necessary regional oversight, and potentially act as a financing agency in the future. With regard to joint governance, I think we first should determine the political will of each participating agency and the City of San Diego. Every City Council should be have a clear picture about the costs and the staff time; the benefits for the agencies and the ratepayers; the time line for transition, a fair and equitable voting process; and determining the JPA's viability as a bonding agency. The San Diego City Council and Mayor Jerry Sanders must make the first steps in what I view as a long and potentially territorial venture. I have concerns as to the region's ability to get past some key issues, although the Commission has voted in favor of the weighted voting system, I still don't know if all of the councils will agree. The process must be a win-win for all parties involved.

### ***Regional Governance to Be Studied***

The Metro JPA announced in a press release that the several cities and water districts in the region may work with the City of San Diego to establish a regional organization to govern the area's wastewater system. The Metro JPA will work with San Diego's Metro Wastewater Department (MWWD) for the next 60 days to develop a plan to study the feasibility of setting up a new, region-wide wastewater organization. General agreement to develop a scope of work was reached when officials met with the City of San Diego's Natural Resources & Culture (NRC) Committee. The scope of work is to cover how the feasibility study is to be conducted, what it would cost, and who would pay for it. Since the Metro JPA's participating agencies pay for approximately a third of the wastewater system's operating and maintenance costs, they would expect to pay an appropriate amount of the study's costs.

### ***Otay Water District Celebrates More Recycled Water for Region***

The second largest water agency in San Diego County that serves 189,000 customers celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2006, but the Otay Water District continues its successful growth with the upcoming completion of a recycled water supply link. The

construction to link a 17mgd recycled water pump station with six miles of pipeline to a 12mgd recycled water reservoir took three years. The project will produce 6mgd purchase agreement with the City of San Diego. Otay Water District's major users are the City of Chula Vista, Eastlake Village, Eastlake Country Club and Salt Creek Golf Club.

### ***City of San Diego Works with Regional Energy Office on Customer Incentive Program***

San Diego's Regional Energy Office (SDREO) has been working with the City of San Diego to establish a customer incentive program for lighting, HVAC and Gas utilities in an attempt to raise the efficiency of large power users. The tax-exempt customer incentive program offers zero-interest loans, and on-bill-financing program for energy conservation projects. Cities and districts can contact SDREO program mgr. Dave Gordon at 858-244-1183.

### ***Next Meetings Scheduled***

The Metro JPA and Commission will meet Thursday, April 5 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, March 21.

### ***Strategic Planning Retreat May 3 in Imperial Beach***

The Metro JPA's next strategic planning retreat will be held at 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday, May 3, at the Dempsey Holder Safety Center, 950 Ocean Lane, Imperial Beach, 91932. Take Freeway 5 south to Highway 75/Palm Ave exit. Take Highway 75/Palm Ave west. Take a left onto Old Palm Ave and another left onto Seacoast Drive. The Safety Center is located just south of the Pier. A parking lot on Seacoast and Elkwood will be made available for attendees.

### ***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

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THE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING REGIONAL WASTEWATER ISSUES

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