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Regional Ocean Monitoring Program Studies Sediment Impacts and Emerging Pollutants

Paul K. Dayton, marine scientist with Scripps Institution of Oceanography, on May 4 gave Commissioners a report on the progress made in Regional Ocean Monitoring (ROM) since his previous report to the JPA eleven months ago. ROM is a joint program of the Metro JPA, the City of San Diego and Scripps.

He said we need to better understand oceanographic currents and pollutant movement, conduct enhanced studies of sediment and its effect on deep canyons and kelp forests, investigate emerging pollutants, and expand microbiology testing capabilities. He identified endocrine disruption compounds (EDCs) and pharmaceutical and personal-care products as emerging pollutants.

Projects now underway, Dr. Dayton said, include studies of what enters the ocean from wastewater-treatment outfalls, tidal flushing, watershed and river drainages, and offshore dump sites, and how this material moves, circulates and impacts the ocean environment.

The JPA formed an ad hoc task force to continue working with Scripps and the City of San Diego and encourage a regional approach to ocean monitoring. It includes Metro JPA Chair Henry Abarbanel, Vice Chair Mayda Winter, Councilmember Jerry Jones of Lemon Grove, and Augie Scalzitti of Padre Dam Municipal Water District.

RFP for Financial Adviser to be Developed

During the Financial Issues Ad Hoc Subcommittee's report this month, discussion covered the plan to retain a financial adviser/bond counsel to help evaluate the pros and cons of the JPA issuing bonds to pay for Metro system capital improvements. It was suggested at the Strategic Planning Retreat in April that potential advisers could meet with the committee on a no-charge basis. Committee Chair Ernest Ewin reported, however, that in subsequent deliberations, the committee believed it best to seek a consultant on a normal fee basis.

Commissioners concurred and voted for an RFP to be developed. Commissioners or alternates who would like to suggest a potential financial adviser are asked to contact committee member Karyn Keese of PBS&J at 619-733-8876 or KKeese@pbsj.com.

New Sanitary Sewer Collection System Requirements Adopted by SWRCB

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has adopted the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR),

establishing minimum performance requirements for sanitary sewer collection systems in California. The WDR requires owners and operators of sewer collection systems more than a mile in length to develop and implement a Sewer System Management Plan, regardless of whether the system is already covered by a separate permit or WDR. San Diego's Metropolitan Wastewater Department is affected by the order and has completed nearly all of the required items.

National City's Saucedo to Retire

Roberto Saucedo, Director of Public Works and Special Projects for the City of National City, has announced his retirement. Saucedo has been an active participant in Metro JPA activities and a member of its Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC). The Metro JPA wishes Roberto well in his future endeavors.

June 1 Commission Meeting to be Held at Padre Dam

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be held Thursday, June 1 at 12 noon at Padre Dam Municipal Water District, located at 9300 Fanita Parkway in Santee. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Metro TAC Convenes on May 17

The next Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17 at 11 a.m. at MOC II.

Metro Commissioners

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair
 Councilmember Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach - Vice Chair
 Mayor Steven Padilla, Chula Vista *
 Councilmember Frank Tierney, Coronado
 Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon
 Councilmember Ernest Ewin, La Mesa
 Councilmember Jerry Jones, Lemon Grove Sanitation District
 Councilmember Luis Natividad, National City
 Councilmember Merrilee Boyack, Poway
 Mark Robak, Otay Water District
 Augie Scalzitti, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
 Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
 * Member of Metro Commission but not Metro JPA

Metro JPA News Brief

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