



Metro JPA Takes Close Look at its Future

At its strategic planning session in Coronado on May 1, the Metro JPA and Commission weighed several key questions as to its future role in the region. Breakout groups wrestled with what the organization needs to address in both the short- and long-term, as well as its relations with the City of San Diego.

It was agreed that everything must be done to assure adequate future water supplies. There was consensus that the public needs to be educated to the importance of water reuse and that political and public acceptance of reservoir augmentation similar to that practiced in Orange County will be important to this region.

The importance of continuing to enhance the Commission's working relationship with the City of San Diego was emphasized.

San Diego's bid to renew the waiver on secondary treatment at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant hangs over the JPA like a "big elephant," one group said. It stressed that the region's Congressional delegation must be made clearly aware of the tremendous financial impact that going to secondary would have on the participating agencies.

Long-term considerations discussed include the importance of developing sustainable energy sources, and whether it is desirable for the JPA to have a fulltime staff within five years.

Next Commission Meeting is May 29 at SANDAG

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be held in downtown San Diego on Thursday, May 29 at 12 noon in the SANDAG board room, 401 B Street. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders may attend.

JPA's Share in System Climbs to 35 Percent

Participating agencies in the Metro JPA now provide approximately 35 percent of the flow in the Metro Wastewater System, according to the latest figures, and thus pay 35 percent of its costs. This is believed to be the highest ever. The JPA's share has steadily risen from approximately 32.5 percent over the past eight years.

Recycled Water – Program Update

The Technical Advisory Committee (MetroTAC) got an update on April 16 from Marci Steirer, Deputy Director of the San

Diego Water Department, on the status of the City of San Diego's water recycling program. Even though city water projects have stalled for a number of years due to a lack of funding, she said, the recent rate increase and bond funds applied from the Proposition 13 ballot initiative may change the situation. The State of California is now offering to fund Capital Improvement Projects that will enable the city's Water Department to complete phase II of the recycled water program – which is to connect two areas supplied by the North City Water Reclamation Plant and increase its customer base. The rate increase will provide \$1 million in funding to pay for the added construction costs for bringing new purple pipe to customer property lines and to install meters.

The program currently has 420 meter connections. Its three wholesale customers are the City of Poway, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, and Otay Water District. Top consumers include: Metro Biosolids, San Diego's Park & Recreation Dept. (including Torrey Pines Golf Course), IBWC, Santaluz Golf Club, MCAS Miramar golf course, Black Mountain Ranch, Caltrans, UC San Diego, Environmental Services Department, La Jolla Colony HOA, and Miramar Nursery.

The 2007 demand was 10,872 acre feet (AF) with the above customers; the expected 2008 demand is 13,580 AF, with a full capacity target of 15,000 AF in the year 2015.

Metro TAC Meets on May 21

Metro TAC will hold its next luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21 in the MOC II auditorium at 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa.

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