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Historic Dec. 6 Meeting at SANDAG Downtown Welcomes S.D. Mayor for First Time

The December meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be the first in the 10-year existence of the Commission that a San Diego Mayor has participated. Mayor Jerry Sanders will attend the Thursday, Dec. 6 meeting, to be held at 12 noon in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board Room. SANDAG is located on the seventh floor of the Wells Fargo Plaza building at 401 B Street.

“We welcome this as a positive step forward in our relations with the City of San Diego,” said JPA Chair Henry Abarbanel. “We look forward to working with the Mayor on the critical political and financial issues facing JPA members and the City of San Diego. The region’s wastewater system is a partnership involving numerous agencies.”

Mayor Sanders has agreed to meet quarterly with the JPA and to have members of his staff attend the other meetings. An ad hoc subcommittee including representatives of the Metro JPA, as well as San Diego Metro Wastewater Director Tim Bertch, has been formed to consider agenda items and discussion topics for meetings in which Sanders participates.

San Diego Council to Consider Mayor’s Proposal for Secondary Treatment Waiver Nov. 20th

The San Diego City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 20 will consider Mayor Sanders’ proposal to seek another waiver of secondary treatment at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. The session is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. in the Council chambers on the 12th floor of the San Diego City Administration Building, 202 C Street. Metro Commissioners who wish to speak and/or send letters of support are urged to contact Dr. Tim Bertch of MWWD if they haven’t already done so.

PA’s May Participate in Bond-Required Reserves

In the City of San Diego’s efforts to return to the bond market, bond rating agencies have suggested that Metro JPA members participate in providing adequate operating and debt-service reserves. San Diego is seeking \$8.1 million in new bond money for wastewater system capital improvements. Rating agencies are requiring the City of San Diego to keep a 45-day operating reserve and a debt-service reserve 1.2 times net operating revenue. They are suggesting that Metro JPA agencies provide reserves, too, to distribute the risk beyond San Diego.

Preliminary discussions of possible methods of doing this include: PA’s (1) show individual financial statements that identify operating and debt-service reserves, (2) form a Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) operating reserve pool with interest returned annually, or (3) transfer the money to a City of San Diego-maintained fund subject to a yearly audit and with interest returned annually.

Ocean Quality Monitoring Can be Seen on Internet

Current ocean conditions and water quality can be seen in real time on the web site of the San Diego Coastal Ocean Observing System: www.sdcoos.org. The system, known as COOS, is a partnership of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the City of Imperial Beach, the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Its funding comes from the California Clean Beaches Initiative.

Chula Vista’s JPA Inclusion Approved Unanimously

The City of Chula Vista officially became a member of the Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority this month upon unanimous ratification of its membership by the other participating agencies. Chula Vista is a charter member of the Metro Commission.

Metro TAC Meets on November 21

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will hold its next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, November 21 in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa.

Metro Commissioners

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Chair
 Mayor Pro Tem Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach - Vice Chair
 Mayor Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista
 Councilmember Al Ovrom, Coronado
 Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon
 Vice Mayor Ernest Ewin, La Mesa
 Councilmember Jerry Jones, Lemon Grove Sanitation District
 Councilmember Luis Natividad, National City
 Board Member Mark Robak, Otay Water District
 Board Member Augie Caires, Padre Dam Muni. Water District
 Deputy Mayor Merrilee Boyack, Poway
 Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego

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