



Weighted Vote Based on Flow Favored For Proposed Regional Authority's Finances

For the proposed regional wastewater authority, the Metro JPA voted at its October meeting to adopt a weighted vote based on each agency's flow, rather than population, for financial matters. For all other issues, the formula would be one vote per agency. This would permit the City of San Diego, with its approximately 67 percent of flow, to retain control of spending within the system while allowing other agencies a strong voice in decision-making. San Diego has asked that voting methodology be resolved before undertaking a joint feasibility study of such a regional agency.

The JPA's vote was taken after a report from consultant Karyn Keese of PBS&J on behalf of the Regional Joint Governance Ad Hoc Committee. In addition to recommending the weighted vote, she reported on a survey of similar regional organizations in other areas to learn their voting formulas.

Chairman Henry Abarbanel, Vice Chair Mayda Winter and Metro TAC Chair Scott Huth are to meet with San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders later this month to discuss the proposed regional authority.

Metro JPA to Make Recommendation on Future Treatment at Point Loma

At their November 2 meeting Metro JPA Commissioners are to vote on a recommendation to the City of San Diego on whether to accept secondary treatment at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant or try for another waiver allowing continued use of the present advanced primary treatment system. The modified permit waiving San Diego from the federal Clean Water Act's requirement for secondary treatment expires in June 2008. Even though scientists maintain that the present advanced primary treatment is not harmful to the ocean environment, San Diego's waiver is one of the few remaining among sewage system operators in the country.

San Diego Mayor Sanders has been soliciting opinions from other agencies involved in the Metropolitan Sewer System. He has said that he hopes to make a decision before the end of this year on whether to apply for another waiver or begin negotiations with the federal government on an acceptable time frame for implementing secondary treatment.

Capacity Valuation Study Contract Approved

Metro Commissioners have approved a contract with Raffelis Financial Consultants to conduct a Capacity Valuation Study

throughout the system. Chairman Abarbanel expressed his thanks to the City of Chula Vista for participating in the cost even though it is not yet a member of the JPA. While a charter member of the Metro Commission, Chula Vista has not yet affiliated with the Joint Powers Authority.

Metro TAC to Weigh Green Village Request

Josh Knoefler of Knoefler Enterprises outlined the developer's Green Village, an environment-friendly community project proposed for a site in National City that would make extensive use of recycled water and solar energy. He asked the Metro JPA to work with his firm to endorse the planned systems as eco-friendly. The Metro Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will discuss the request at its October 18 meeting.

JPA to Meet on November 2

The next meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission will be Thursday, November 2 in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Metro TAC Scheduled for October 18

The Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will hold its next luncheon meeting Wednesday, October 18 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
 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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