



**Strategic Planning Retreat to be Held Early in Year;
Ocean Water Monitoring Report will be Heard**

The Metro JPA and Commission's biennial Strategic Planning Retreat will be held in late February or early March, according to La Mesa Mayor Art Madrid, chair of the strategic planning task force. Previous retreats have been conducted in the fall but this one will be held earlier so the final report on the City of San Diego's Ocean Water Monitoring Project can be made to Metro Commissioners in a timely manner. The study assessed the adequacy of San Diego's monitoring system and whether changes or upgrades need to be made to accurately identify ocean pollution sources. Independent oceanography experts who assisted City personnel in the study will participate in making the report.

Scheduling the date for the retreat is on the Metro JPA agenda for its next meeting on Feb. 3. The retreat will be held at the Mission Valley Marriott Hotel at Friars Road and Qualcomm Way.

MWWD's Bill Hanley to Retire

Bill Hanley, the City of San Diego's Deputy Metro Wastewater Director, Services and Contracts, announced at the January commissioners meeting that he will retire on Jan. 28. Hanley has been one of San Diego's chief liaisons with the JPA's participating agencies since even before the Metro Commission was officially formed in 1998. Metro Chairman Nick Inzunza, Mayor of National City, thanked Hanley for his years of service and saluted him for his hard work, thoroughness, and the spirit of cooperation he has brought to his dealings with participating agencies. Hanley said he plans to travel and then look at options on "what to do with the rest of my life."

**Bajagua Proposal for Tijuana Sewage
Treatment Plant Gains Favor with IBWC**

The Bajagua proposal for building a sewage-treatment facility in Tijuana has received "preferred alternative" status from the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).

Public Law 106-547, enacted five years ago, allowed for the U.S. government to spend up to \$156 million to help build a secondary-treatment plant in Tijuana to solve the long-standing problem of untreated sewage flowing across the border during periods of heavy rain. But Congress didn't authorize release of those funds till last November.

In addition to the proposal by the Bajagua group of private American and Mexican investors, the IBWC also has considered a proposal for an activated sludge process with open-air sewage ponds in the Tijuana River Valley.

Criticism, lawsuits and delays in reaching agreements with the Mexican government have held up the joint U.S.-Mexican project. However, the last remaining lawsuit, brought by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), has been settled.

A public hearing on Bajagua's environmental impact report will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at San Ysidro Middle School's auditorium. The school is located at 4345 Otay Mesa Blvd.

Merrilee Boyack is Poway's New Metro Commissioner

Newly elected Poway City Councilmember Merrilee Boyack has been named her city's delegate to the Metro JPA. A longtime community volunteer, she supervised donations, services and volunteers at the Poway evacuation center after the Cedars and Paradise fires last year.

Next Meeting Scheduled for February 3

The next Metro JPA/Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 12 noon in the auditorium of the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) at 9192 Topaz Way in Kearny Mesa. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Metro TAC will Meet on January 19

The Metro JPA's Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will meet Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. at MOC II.

Metro Commissioners

Mayor Nick Inzunza, National City - Chairman *
Deputy Mayor Henry Abarbanel, Del Mar - Vice Chairman *
Mayor Steven Padilla, Chula Vista
Councilmember Patty Schmidt, Coronado *
Mayor Mark Lewis, El Cajon *
Councilmember Mayda Winter, Imperial Beach *
Mayor Art Madrid, La Mesa *
Councilmember Jerry Jones, Lemon Grove Sanitation District
Councilmember Merrilee Boyack, Poway *
Scott Tulloch, Director, MWWD, City of San Diego
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego *
Augie Scalzitti, Padre Dam Municipal Water District *
Larry Breitfelder, Otay Water District *
* Metro JPA member

Metro JPA News Brief

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