



Coastal Ocean Observing System Provides Region With Real-Time Water Quality and Safety Data

The Metro JPA and Commission on Sept. 1 received an update and briefing on the San Diego Coastal Ocean Observing System (COOS). Dr. Eric Terrill of Scripps Institution of Oceanography described the program, a joint project of the City of Imperial Beach, Scripps and the County of San Diego, in cooperation with several other entities. This multi-faceted monitoring program provides real-time data on ocean-water quality and safety levels to the County's Department of Environmental Health, the cities along the ocean, and the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard.

COOS employs sensors mounted in various locations, including the ocean floor; satellite imaging; and high-frequency radar at sites on both sides of the border and on the Coronado Islands off Mexico. The project has been instrumental in tracking plumes of pollution from the Tijuana River watershed after heavy rains, plus all other sources of pollution. The system also provides fast safety warnings in the event of dangerous surges or high waves.

Dr. Terrill said COOS provides a testbed for the whole state, and that a consortium has been formed to provide similar monitoring for all of Southern California. The local program began with a \$750,000 federal Clean Beaches Initiative grant, secured by the City of Imperial Beach, and \$200,000 from the County of San Diego. Dr. Terrill stressed the importance of acquiring additional funding to continue COOS after the two-year startup period.

Water-Quality Regulators Urged: Look at the Science

In a related presentation, Dr. Paul K. Dayton of Scripps said that regulatory bodies need to place more emphasis on scientific views of the ocean and not just historical regulatory compliance. He said that meetings are underway between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of California, City of San Diego and others to address regional monitoring needs, and that scientific findings need to be given greater consideration in those discussions.

Dr. Dayton's remarks were made as part of a follow-up report to the presentation he gave Commissioners in May on the ocean monitoring performed by Scripps for the City of San Diego. At that time a more region-wide approach was recommended, resulting in the current meetings.

Dr. Dayton reiterated that pollution flushing out of San Diego Bay, an offshore dump site known as LA5, and contaminants from the Tijuana River are the major polluters of the ocean off San Diego.

Darlene Morrow-Truver Named MWWD Deputy Director

Darlene Morrow-Truver has been appointed the City of San Diego's Deputy Metro Wastewater Director, Services & Contracts, a position held for several years by Bill Hanley, who retired in January. In this role, Ms. Morrow-Truver will be MWWD's principal liaison to the Metro JPA. She has been a City employee for 23 years and most recently was an Accounting Division Manager/Specialty Accounting. She has held several key positions in the Auditor and Comptroller Department over the years. Ms. Morrow-Truver is a certified public accountant and a graduate of San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting.

Tom Zeleny Named San Diego's Legal Representative

Deputy City Attorney Tom Zeleny has been named principal representative to the Metro JPA from the City of San Diego Attorney's Office, succeeding Ted Bromfield, who recently retired.

October Commission Meeting Canceled; Next Meeting Scheduled for November 3

Because of several scheduling conflicts, the October meeting of the Metro JPA and Commission has been canceled. The next meeting will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, November 3 in the Metropolitan Operations Center (MOC II) auditorium at 9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa. Lunch will be provided for Commissioners and staff.

Metro TAC to Meet on September 21

The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC) will be Wednesday, September 21 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
Scott Tulloch, Director, MWWD, City of San Diego
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego
Mark Robak, Otay Water District
Augie Scalzitti, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
* Member of Metro Commission but not Metro JPA

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