

August 7, 2006



Mayor Jerry Sanders
City of San Diego
City Administration Building
202 "C" St., 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Sanders:

The Metro Wastewater Commission and JPA, comprising the many agencies that participate with the City of San Diego in its wastewater treatment responsibilities, has a long record of supporting any and all use of reclaimed water as an asset for our region. We have expressed this view to the City of San Diego on several occasions including a recent letter to Councilmember Donna Frye which we attach to this note.

The Metro Commission has worked productively with San Diego's Metropolitan Wastewater Department on many issues, and it has taken the time to educate itself on the issue of using reclaimed water, properly treated, as a source for potable water in our region. We have come to fully understand that the core issue is delivering safe, clean water to the residents of the San Diego region, and slogans such as "showers to flowers" and others applied to the processes involved may not properly serve the public.

We ask that you join us in taking a leadership position on this issue which would, when properly executed, provide much needed high quality water to our region and serve to reduce our existing high degree of dependence on imported sources of potable water and promising, but potentially environmentally unsound, technologies.

Orange County has succeeded where we have not in fully educating their public on the value of clean, safe water from any source. Their success is a model for how one can get beyond slogans and really serve constituents.

It is the product delivered to the customer which matters. Indeed, one might think over the fact that the water from the Colorado River, on which we so heavily depend, contains the treated wastewater discharge of hundreds of municipalities before it arrives here for treatment and distribution.

We, again, invite you to join us in education and understanding with a sense of leadership rather than reluctance in the face of sloganeering. We look forward to working with you and the San Diego City Council on this and other critical matters in our region.

Sincerely,

Henry Abarbanel, Chair
Metro Commission/Wastewater JPA

Mayda Winter, Vice Chair
Metro Commission/Wastewater JPA

Attachment