



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE METRO COMMISSION AND JPA

Pre-1963

- There was very limited interaction between the Participating Agencies ("PAs") and the City of San Diego on matters related to the Metropolitan Wastewater System ("Metro System").

1963-1990

- The PAs contracted with City of San Diego for transportation, treatment and disposal of wastewater but had no role in decision-making.
- There was no assurance that San Diego Metro System and Municipal expenses were correctly allocated, and there was no definition of what expenses were allocated to the PAs.
- The PAs had no role in governance, technical or operational review of the Metro System, even though the PAs paid, at the time, 30 percent of total costs of Metro System.

1990-1995

- The San Diego Area Wastewater Management District, a special act district (the "SanDistrict") was authorized by state legislation to address the above issues. However, the SanDistrict was never fully implemented because of disagreements over weighted vote provisions. The SanDistrict still exists for grant purposes only.
- The PAs formed Agencies for Fair and Objective Rate Determination (AFFORD) to conduct engineering and financial audits.
- The PAs prepared to take legal action to force issues of governance and oversight. Their relationships with the City of San Diego grew strained.

1995-1997

- Dropping their confrontational approach, the PAs developed a new strategy of face-to-face negotiations with the San Diego City Manager. They formed a seven-member negotiating team which included city managers, general managers and technical experts.
- The PAs prepared a set of "Principles of Understanding" as the focal point of negotiations. They highlighted the economic argument that PAs must have a voice because they paid, at the time, 30 percent of the bill.
- After many drafts and negotiating sessions, the Principles of Understanding were approved by the San Diego City Manager and the PA negotiators. They became the basis for negotiations to update the 1963 contracts.

THE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING REGIONAL WASTEWATER ISSUES



1998-Present

- In 1998, a new 52-year Regional Wastewater Disposal Agreement (“Metro Sewer Agreement”) between the City of San Diego and the PAs was approved. The Metro Sewer Agreement better defines the capacity rights of the PAs and the City of San Diego and establishes the PAs role in planning for future capacity.
- In addition, the Metro Sewer Agreement provides for the formation of the Metro Commission to advise the City on matters affecting the Metro System. Generally, elected officials from each of the PAs serve as Metro Commissioners and staff members of the PAs generally, but not always, serve as alternates.
- The Metro Commission became fully engaged in all regional wastewater issues. It now reviews every aspect of City of San Diego Metro System decision-making, from early project conception to completion. Issues now being reviewed by the Commission include:
 - Continuance of waiver of secondary treatment
 - Wastewater spills and beach closures
 - Storm water treatment regulations
 - Pricing of recycled water
 - Ocean water quality monitoring
 - Water recycling and repurification
 - International wastewater treatment issues
- In January 2001, with the formation of the Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority (“Metro JPA”), the PAs are members of a legal entity that could more effectively address regional wastewater issues. The Metro JPA works together with the Metro Commission, which still acts in an advisory capacity to the City of San Diego. The Metro JPA employs engineering, financial and communications consultants to assist it with addressing regional wastewater issues.
- Recognizing the importance of all water-related issues, the Metro JPA, together with the Metro Commission, is addressing new treatment technologies, water supply and safety, recycling, seawater desalination and ocean water quality. The Metro JPA has strongly supported efforts to encourage water reuse including the use of Indirect Potable Re-Use technologies.
- The Metro Commission/ Metro JPA unanimously supports the City of San Diego’s efforts to obtain a Waiver from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to permit it to continue to operate the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant as an advanced primary wastewater treatment facility.

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