

Proactively Addressing Regional Wastewater Issues for the Public's Benefit



METRO JPA

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS

CHULA VISTA JOINS THE METRO WASTEWATER JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY **The Combined Regional Entity Represents 805,000 people in 15 Cities and Water Agencies**

The recent official joining of the City of Chula Vista with the Metropolitan Wastewater Joint Powers Authority (JPA) gives the San Diego region a larger, more viable wastewater consortium that represents the interests of more than 805,000 people within 450-square-mile service area that stretches from Del Mar and Poway to the north, Alpine and Lakeside in the east, to the Mexican border in the south. The Metro JPA, a growing regional player, is spearheading efforts toward regional wastewater governance that would make the agency a full partner with the City of San Diego rather than a participating entity of more than 35 percent.

“Chula Vista is pleased to be part of the Metro JPA's efforts to be proactive regarding regional wastewater issues,” said Mayor Cheryl Cox of Chula Vista. The Metro JPA has a history of working responsibly to bring the best thinking of the region's elected officials and their technical staffs to bear in working with the City of San Diego on these issues.” The Metro JPA is a coalition of cities and special districts outside the City of San Diego that participate in the use and cost of the operation and maintenance of San Diego's wastewater system.

“With the County's second largest city joining the agency, it gives us a higher level of influence in the region,” said Metro JPA Chair Henry Abarbanel and Del Mar council member. “We plan to continue working closely with the City of San Diego in the near term on water quality planning and in the long term on delivery of the very best services for our ratepayers. The secondary treatment waiver and regional governance are the two areas of greatest interest for us and, we believe, the most beneficial for ratepayers for equitable cost sharing on wastewater treatment and wastewater reuse.”

The Metro JPA supports San Diego's application for a renewed waiver of secondary treatment and plans to work jointly with the City of San Diego on potential options.

“This will be critically important as the region considers its options regarding the treatment level most appropriate for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant,” said Mayor Cox. “I am confident that the Metro JPA will develop recommendations which ensure that our residents are provided highly cost effective wastewater services while protecting our coastal environment.”

The JPA member agencies are the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City and Poway; the Lemon Grove Sanitation District; the Padre Dam Municipal and Otay Water Districts; and the County of San Diego (on behalf of the Winter Gardens Sewer Maintenance District, and the Alpine, Lakeside and Spring Valley Sanitation Districts). These agencies pay for their share of the flow into the system, more than one third.

Chula Vista was an original member of the Metro Wastewater Commission, from which the Metro JPA was formed in January 2001, as a legal entity in order to give its member agencies a stronger voice in the system’s operation.

The final ratification of Chula Vista’s official membership took place in November 2007, after the Chula Vista City Council voted to join the JPA in July.

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