



**METRO TAC AGENDA**  
(Technical Advisory Committee to Metro JPA)

**TO:** MetroTAC Representatives and Metro Commissioners

**DATE:** Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

**TIME:** 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** MWWD, 9192 Topaz Way (MOCII Auditorium) - Lunch will be provided

***\*PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS NOTICE TO METRO COMMISSIONERS AND METROTAC REPRESENTATIVES.\****

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1. Review and Approve MetroTAC Action Minutes for the Meeting of June 17, 2009 (**Attachment**)
2. Financial Update (Karyn Keese)
3. Metro Wastewater Update (Martin Kane)
4. Update from Subcommittee on Floatables (David Huntamer)
5. Second Amendment to the Facility Franchise Agreement Between the City and San Diego Landfill Systems, Inc. (Christopher McKinney)
6. Biosolids Disposal Services (Christopher McKinney) (**Attachment**)
7. Additional Sodium Hypochlorite (Christopher McKinney) (**Attachment**)
8. Point Loma Digester Cleaning (Albert Sohikish) (**Attachment**)
9. Plan for Debt Service Coverage & Operating Reserve Issue (Darlene Morrow-Truver)
10. Update on the Pt. Loma Waiver Process. (Scott Huth)
11. Transportation Agreement (Standing Item)
12. Review and Comment on the Metro Commission/JPA Draft Agenda for the Meeting of [\(Oct 1\)](#) (**Attachment**)
13. Other Business of Metro TAC
14. Adjournment ([To the next Regular Meeting, October 21, 2009](#))

**Metro TAC 2009 Meeting Schedule**

January 21	May 20	September 16
February 18	June 17	October 21
March 18	July 15	November 18
April 15	August 19	December 16

Agenda Item 1  
To be  
distributed  
next week

# Agenda Item 6

City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

**Amendment to Continue Biosolids Disposal Services Provided by San Diego Landfill Services**

*Presenter: Christopher McKinney, Deputy Director, Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Division*

The Public Utilities Department submits for review and approval a Second Amendment to the Facility Franchise Agreement (FFA) for the Miramar Landfill. The Amendment would extend certain provisions of the Agreement for an additional five years to allow for continued collection, transportation, and disposal of biosolids processed at the Metropolitan Biosolids Center (MBC) by San Diego Landfill Systems, Inc. (SDLS). These services would continue through March 2015.

**Background**

In June 1999, the City of San Diego (the City) and SDLS entered into a FFA for the Miramar Landfill. Section 4 of that Agreement provided for a five-year period in which SDLS would collect, transport, and dispose of biosolids processed at the Metropolitan Biosolids Center (MBC). Prior to the end of the first five-year period in February 2005, the City and SDLS exercised their option in the Agreement and negotiated a five-year extension which will expire on February 28, 2010.

**Action under Review**

The City and SDLS have negotiated another extension to the Agreement for a second five-year term, beginning March 1, 2010, that provides for 100% beneficial use of biosolids. Presently, SDLS is beneficially using 98% of the biosolids. If the Amendment is ultimately approved, SDLS will continue to use land application and alternate daily landfill cover as its approved methods of beneficial biosolids use. If, in the future, alternative methods of beneficial use are identified, prior approval of the City shall be required before such methods or sites can be used by SDLS. The City has reserved the right to pursue its own alternatives, if such alternatives afford the City additional benefits in the use of biosolids.

Pending approval of the Metro Commission, the Public Utilities Department will request that the City Council increase the term of the contract by another five years and authorize \$1,725,000 within FY 2010 (approximately 1/3 of the annual cost of \$5,160,000, based on estimated 120,000 tons at current \$42.98/ton). The Second Amendment does not directly change the current cost of the ongoing collection, transport, and beneficial use of biosolids. However, the cost will potentially escalate in subsequent fiscal years through FY 2015 per the terms and conditions of the Franchise Agreement. Prices escalation is based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers in Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Counties. The FY 2010 price is \$42.98 per ton. The price in FY 2010 was compared to rates paid by other regional agencies for biosolids disposal and was determined to be competitive.

# Agenda Item 7

City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department  
**Additional Funds Request for Sodium Hypochlorite Purchases**

*Presenter: Christopher McKinney, Deputy Director, Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Division*

The Public Utilities Department submits for review and approval a request for authorization of additional total expenditures of approximately \$2,345,000 to purchase sodium hypochlorite through March 2010. City of San Diego Resolution R-304381 authorized expenditures of \$3,680,000 for sodium hypochlorite. The additional funds are necessary to meet unanticipated needs for wastewater disinfection, and to meet anticipated needs for odor control. The additional funds would bring the total approved amount to \$6,025,000 and would be sufficient for all Wastewater Treatment and Disposal (WWTD) Division facilities using sodium hypochlorite for the first three-quarters of FY 2010.

**Background**

Sodium hypochlorite is a chemical used, among others, to disinfect wastewater and control odors. Use of this chemical for disinfection and odor control at the North City Water Reclamation Plant, Metropolitan Biosolids Center, and five wastewater pump stations has remained fairly constant over the last two years. However, in FY 2009 the Metropolitan Wastewater Department, now a branch of the Public Utilities Department, began using sodium hypochlorite at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant for partial disinfection of treated wastewater. Plant staff have increased the sodium hypochlorite dose for this purpose from 8 ppm to 10 ppm, and may increase it to a maximum of 16 ppm if disinfection needs warrant. The prior Council authorization for sodium hypochlorite purchases were based on earlier staff estimated use, which did not anticipate the additional use at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This request would increase the authorization for sodium hypochlorite purchases to allow the Department to maintain sufficient chemicals to meet the increased disinfection dose. There is no change in the approved vendor, Olin Chlor Alkali Products, or the bid price at this time, as it was adjusted +7.2% on April 1, 2009 per the Pricing Agreement 8070141-0, within bid terms.

# Agenda Item 8

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT WASTEWATER BRANCH**  
September 16, 2009

**Presenter:** TBD

**Background**

Opened in 1963, the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (PLWTP) treats approximately 160 million gallons of wastewater per day generated in a 450 square mile area by more than 2.2 million residents. Located on a 40 acre site on the bluffs of Point Loma, the plant has a treatment capacity of 240 million gallons per day (mgd).

Eight digesters at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant use heat and bacteria to break down the organic solids removed from wastewater, similar to human digestion. Digesters can become partially filled with a bottom layer of settled grit and a top layer of floating scum. These accumulations reduce the active volume of the digesters and degrade their performance. When this happens, the digesters must be drained and deposits removed.

Effective removal of grit from wastewater in the headworks of plant is the best preventive approach in reducing the amount of grit entering the digesters. Similarly, separate processing of scum collected from the clarifiers, such as heating to rendering plant, can reduce scum accumulation in the digesters. However, grit and scum entering the digesters cannot be eliminated completely. Under standard operating procedures, the digested biosolids is removed and processed as usual. The remaining heavy material deposits in the digesters are then removed (usually manually) and handled separately.

The digester cleaning is an expensive and time consuming process. The digesters must be shut down to remove heavy inorganic material. The disposition of this heavy material will dictate the intensity of odors associated with the cleaning operation. Liquid separated from the material is typically drained and sent back to the plant headworks. The solids are held for further dewatering and subsequent disposal.

**Proposed Project**

The Public Utilities Wastewater Branch is requesting authorization to advertise, bid, and award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Digesters C1 and 8 Cleaning. The cleaning consists of the removal of sands, grit and debris from the digesters to maintain optimal digester capacity for the anaerobic digestion process.

Digester C1 was upgraded with a new roof in 2003, and Digester 8 was constructed in 2000; these digesters have not been cleaned since then. This work will improve plant operations and ensure the City meets all federal regulations required for Class "B" Biosolids. Postponement of digesters cleaning will result in accumulation of more grit and scum reducing the volume of sludge that the digester can process. Additionally, the scum blanket that forms on the top of sludge will affect the digester mixing and heating of the sludge. The heating/mixing system in an anaerobic digester is the most important part of sludge treatment process. Even small changes in



temperature may inhibit microbial performance which can cause reduction in digester gas production, and in the worst case, can cause foaming and digester failure.

Digester foaming is a common problem in anaerobic digesters. Digester foaming problems can range from being a periodic minor nuisance to a major problem leading to catastrophic failure of a digester structure. Foaming conditions that get out of control can block gas collections system and safety relief systems causing increased gas pressure high enough to lift a digester cover resulting in structural failure. Investigation of the digestion system reveals that the digesters are under loaded and they are being over mixed.

The \$3,863,000 total cost of this requested action is based on estimated three million gallons of non-digestible material accumulated within the two digesters. The actual material quantities will be determined after the cleaning contract is awarded and dewatering of digesters. The final contract value will be based on the actual quantities.

This requested action is for the approval to execute a contract with the low responsible bidder, to clean and remove solids from Digesters C1 and 8.

The total cost of this request is \$3,863,000 and is available in the Public Utilities Wastewater Operating Fund 700001.

The proposed schedule is as follows:

**Schedule**

- Council Action – October 2009
- Open Bid – January 2010
- Digesters C1 & 8 Cleaning – March 2010 thru July 2010

# Agenda Item 12



**Meeting of the Metro Commission  
and Metro Wastewater JPA**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, OCTOBER 1, 2009  
12:00 p.m.**

**9192 Topaz Way (MOC II) Auditorium  
San Diego, California**

*"The mission of the Metro Commission is to create an equitable partnership with the San Diego City Council on wastewater issues in the San Diego region that ensures fair rates for participating agencies, concern for the environment, and regionally balanced decisions through data analysis, collaboration among all stakeholders, and open dialogue."*

**Note:** Any member of the Public may address the Metro Commission/Metro Wastewater JPA on any Agenda Item. Please complete a Speaker Slip and submit it to the Administrative Assistant or Chairperson prior to the start of the meeting if possible, or in advance of the specific item being called. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per individual.

Documentation  
Included

1. ROLL CALL
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE
3. PUBLIC COMMENT  
*Persons speaking during Public Comment may address the Metro Commission/ Metro Wastewater JPA on any subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Metro Commission and/or Metro Wastewater JPA that is not listed as an agenda item. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Please complete a Speaker Slip and submit it prior to the start of the meeting.*
- X 4. **ACTION** - APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2009
- X 5. PRESENTATION OF BID TO GOAL PROGRAM
6. **ACTION** – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE CREATION OF A STANDING FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
7. **ACTION** - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE STATUS OF THE MODIFIED PERMIT FOR THE POINT LOMA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND THE COASTAL COMMISSION'S ACTIONS ON THE CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION FOR THE MODIFIED PERMIT

October 1, 2009

Metro Commission/Metro  
Wastewater JPA Agenda

Documentation  
Included

8. METRO TAC UPDATE
9. IROC UPDATE
10. FINANCE AD HOC COMMITTEE
11. STRATEGIC PLAN (ANNUAL RETREAT) AD HOC COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF MAY 7, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY
12. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT METRO COMMISSION/ METRO WASTEWATER JPA MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2009
13. METRO COMMISSIONERS' AND JPA BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
14. ADJOURNMENT OF METRO COMMISSION AND METRO WASTEWATER JPA

The Metro Commission and/or Metro Wastewater JPA may take action on any item listed in this Agenda whether or not it is listed "For Action."

*Materials provided to the Metro Commission and/or Metro Wastewater JPA related to any open-session item on this agenda are available for public review by contacting L. Peoples at (619) 476-2557 during normal business hours.*

***In compliance with the  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT***

*The Metro Commission/Metro Wastewater JPA requests individuals who require alternative agenda format or special accommodations to access, attend, and/or participate in the Metro Commission/Metro Wastewater JPA meetings, contact M. Kane at (858) 292.6321, at least forty-eight hours in advance of the meetings.*

October 1, 2009

Metro Commission/Metro  
Wastewater JPA Agenda

October 1, 2009

Metro Commission/Metro  
Wastewater JPA Agenda