

WHAT IS THE METRO COMMISSION?
WHAT IS THE METRO WASTEWATER JPA?

The Metropolitan Wastewater Commission (“Metro Commission”) was formed in 1998 pursuant to the terms of the 1998 Regional Wastewater Disposal Agreement (“Regional Disposal Agreement”) between the Participating Agencies (“PAs”) and the City of San Diego. This Agreement was amended in September 2021 via the Amended Restated Disposal Agreement (ARA). It is anticipated that during 2025 the ARA will be further amended. Both Agreements are included in Section 9 to this manual.

The Metro Commission serves as an advisory body to the City of San Diego, providing guidance on matters related to the Metro System, which is owned and operated by the City of San Diego. The Metro Commission consists of one primary representative and one secondary (alternate) appointed by each PA.

In 2001 the Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority (“Metro JPA”) was formed to provide the PAs with a stronger voice in the operations of the Metro System, for which they collectively pay approximately 35% of the operation and capital costs. When the Metro JPA was created, all but three of the PAs joined the JPA. As of October 2007, with the addition of the City of Chula Vista, all PAs are members of the Metro JPA.

As a legal entity, the Metro JPA can hire consultants to carry out technical services such as engineering and financial projects in support of the Metro TAC and Metro JPA/Commission’s Mission and their relationship with the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (PUD).

Since formation, the Metro JPA/Commission have steadily increased their partnering role with the City of San Diego and the PUD in planning and budget development and capital projects coordination and implementation including the Pure Water Program (PWP). The Metro JPA/Commission meet jointly, usually on the first Thursday of each month. Meeting locations may vary and are announced in each month’s agenda.

All Metro JPA Directors, both Primary and Secondary (Alternates), may attend monthly Board meetings as they are open to the general public. However, the JPA follows the “one Director, one vote” direction provided by the JPA’s legal counsel, meaning only one Director per agency may vote and participate in deliberations during Board meetings.

From time to time the JPA will hold “closed” meeting sessions to discuss matters of potential litigation. Alternates are not allowed into closed session if the Primary Director is present and plans to attend the closed session. Alternates can only attend closed sessions if the Primary Director does not plan to attend the closed session, and the Board Secretary is notified of the substitution.

The Metro JPA/Commission is supported by engineering and financial consultants who provide technical expertise and guidance to both the Commission and the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (Metro TAC). Metro TAC, composed of public works and engineering staff from the Participating Agencies, reviews and monitors the Public Utilities Department’s (PUD) budget, operations, projects, and the Pure Water Program through input from JPA consultants. Metro TAC meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month via Zoom. For more information on Metro TAC activities, refer to Section 7 of the Manual.