



Monthly Metro TAC Chair Report April 2025

A summary of action items, presentations, discussions and updates heard at the regularly scheduled Metro Technical Advisory Committee held on April 16, 2025.

Presentations:

1. Second Amended Restated Agreement FAB (Ben Stewart, STANTEC)

- Benjamin (Ben) Stewart from Stantec presented the proposed FAB billing system which included the following.
 - Being revisited, in light of the SARA release.
 - Background given on how the current functional-design allocations worked.
 - Not updated since 1998 and does not take into account Pure Water Phase 1 and other changes to the Metro system since.
 - Presented comparisons of the cost splits for Metro PAs and City of San Diego; first, costs based on the current billing system showing current and post-2027 (after the implementation of the ECAWP and Pure Water Phase 1 projects) and then based on the proposed billing system, showing the new allocations for facilities and CIP/debt and the introduction of the RSDP category.
 - A few specific agency examples provided showing Chula Vista, El Cajon, and the City of San Diego, demonstrating how each billing system and set of billing units/cost allocations slightly changed agency costs. It was noted that the anticipated changes to the FAB system affects City of San Diego more than the PAs.
- After the presentation there was discussion of how Pure Water Phase 1 will continue to be billed based on the percentages set forth in current Exhibit G. Ben agreed to provide all agencies with their specific breakdowns in each billing system for 2024 and 2027 similar to the individual agency examples presented. There was also a discussion of how Exhibit B can be changed in the future (both increases and decreases in capacity) and the reasoning behind the different methodologies. Particularly, peak flow was discussed in how to tie Exhibit B, contract capacity transfers, and the I&I work currently being done by the I&I Committee.

Action Items:

1. Discussion: SARA Review and Recommendation to JPA (Adriana Ochoa)

- Karyn Keze introduced this discussion, reminding TAC of the AdHoc's intent that this would not be the end of the SARA discussion, but the beginning. The AdHoc's recommended action for the Metro JPA to take is: "A motion for the Metro Commission to recommend to the Participating Agencies approval of the SARA subject to **non-substantive** revisions and corrections, which non-substantive determinations shall be made by the Participating Agency's Attorney and City/General Manager." She then brought up a suggested action for TAC: to review and modify as they see fit: "TAC to recommend to the JPA that they formally send out the SARA to all participating agencies for further review and action."
- Adriana Ochoa then reminded everyone that a "substantive" change is defined by each PA's general manager and attorney as they move forward with their own adoption process. She noted that some comments have already been received on the draft SARA, but they have been minor and a redline will be distributed assuming concurrence on the changes by the City of San Diego.
- Several PAs indicated that they need more time to review the SARA. The Executive Team members acknowledged the concerns and echoed that this was the recommendation of the AD Hoc, but that TAC can make or not make whatever recommendation they see fit.
- Otay proposed holding action on recommending approval pending significant discussion at the May TAC meeting and then a vote at the June TAC meeting, with TAC comments included in the document before it goes to the JPA for approval. This motion was seconded by the County. The motion passed with six in favor, four opposed (Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, and La Mesa), and two members absent (Imperial Beach and Poway).

Standing Items to be Brought to JPA:

Agenda Item 4: Metro Wastewater (General) (Lisa Celeya)

Adam Jones gave the update for both items 4 and 6. The City will be sending out a revised FY 2026 Budget Estimate. Most likely the only changes are minor and will be in PA cost allocations as some flows and strengths have been updated.

Agenda Item 5: Pure Water Program Update (Doug Owen/Ben Kuhnel)

Agenda Item 5a: Quarterly Construction Update

Doug Owen presented the quarterly update on the Pure Water Phase 1 construction projects, reporting that as of the end of the second quarter of FY 2025, the overall project is 71% complete.

Agenda Item 6: Metro Wastewater Financial (Adam Jones)

Agenda Item 7: JPA Executive Director (Karyn Keze) – Included in the packet.

Metro Meetings:

Recent Meetings

- **I&I Metro TAC Subcommittee:**
 - **Date:** March 20, 2025
 - **Format:** MS Teams only.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Metro JPA:**
 - **Date:** May 1, 2025
 - **Format:** In-Person only.
 - **Main Topic:** Stantec FAB Presentation; SARA Review & Recommendation
- **Metro TAC:**
 - **Date:** May 21, 2025
 - **Format:** Zoom only.
- **I&I Metro TAC Subcommittee:**
 - **Date:** April 24, 2025
 - **Format:** MS Teams only.