



Monthly Metro TAC Chair Report March 2026

A summary of action items, presentations, discussions, and updates heard at the regularly scheduled Metro Technical Advisory Committee held on March 18, 2026.

Action:

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Possible Action to Recommend Approval to the Metro Wastewater JPA of a Construction Contract with Hensel Phelps for the Alvarado Laboratory Improvements CIP project.

- City staff presented the proposed contract with Hensel Phelps. They also propose to award a construction management contract to New City Consulting. The Alvarado lab supports the wastewater treatment plants and needs upgrades to meet modern compliance requirements. The project was competitively bid as a design build with Hensel Phelps being the lowest qualified bidder. The total estimated cost to the Metro JPA is \$29,131,162.73.
- TAC requested clarification on why Metro was assuming a larger share of the costs, which was explained as being related to anticipated testing requirements for the Pure Water Program, to be validated through the audit process. Members also raised questions regarding certain aesthetic elements reflected in the project renderings. City staff confirmed that Hensel Phelps was selected as both the lowest responsive bidder and the most qualified proposer. The TAC unanimously recommended the item for approval by the Metro JPA.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration and Possible Action to Recommend Approval of the Metro Wastewater JPA of As-Needed Consultant Services Agreements with Harris & Associates (H2526611), Dudek (H2526612) and Helix Environmental Planning

- City staff presented on the proposed agreements with the three consulting firms. These agreements provide assistance with planning, permitting, and compliance for a variety of projects for all departments of the City of San Diego. The scope includes a wide variety of possible items to ensure regulatory compliance, requiring specialty licenses, permits, and experience from a variety of agencies. Examples of Metro JPA projects include Pump Station 2 Emergency Storm Drain Investigation and emergency spill responses. The contracts are not-to-exceed \$4 million each over a 5-year term, but historically only

around 10% of these services were for Metro with 33% of that being Metro JPA Costs (~\$396,000 expected).

- TAC clarified it already went to City Council, but City staff said the Metro JPA specific items have not yet been issued and would come to the JPA prior to any contracts being finalized. TAC unanimously recommended the item to the Metro JPA.

Agenda Item 4: Consideration and Possible Action to Recommend Approval to the Metro Wastewater JPA of Industrial Wastewater Control Program amendments of the Municipal Code related to the Industrial Wastewater Control Program.

- City staff presented the proposed updates to the Municipal Code. The IWCP update will align the Municipal Code to current requirements and ensure EPA compliance. The updates are a result of a RWQC13 inspection and include several clarifications to align with federal pretreatment code, clarifications to permits and application, codifying department policies, and general restructuring.
- TAC asked about the City's outreach plans and the PA's responsibilities for updating their codes. The city clarified it won't affect any users, but they will be notified prior to them going to City Council. The city will send final language to all PAs for their individual updates. TAC unanimously recommended the item to the Metro JPA.

Presentation:

Agenda Item 5: Public Utilities Department Fiscal Year 2027-2031 Five-Year Financial Outlook

- City staff presented the current five-year forecast for 2027-2031. It was released in December, but this presentation is Metro-focused and includes the latest edits. Pure Water Phase 1 operations and Phase 2 planning are reflected in these estimates; however, Phase 2 assumptions are expected to be refined upon completion of ongoing negotiations. Both O&M and capital costs were presented. Key projects include work on the North and South Metro Interceptor and Pump Station 1 and 2 Modernization. The city presented the expected bond, SRF, and cash breakdown and the estimated debt service.
- TAC asked about the increase in Miscellaneous Projects, which was explained as primarily due to IT updates. They also thanked City staff for answering questions and responding to requests as the numbers were developed/updated.

Standing Items to be Brought to JPA:

Agenda Item 6: Metro Wastewater (General) (Lisa Celeya)

Agenda Item 7: Pure Water Program Update (Doug Owen/Ben Kuhnel)

Agenda Item 8: Metro Wastewater Financial (Adam Jones)

Agenda Item 9: SARA Update Report (Blake Behringer/Karyn Keze)

Agenda Item 10: JPA Executive Director (Karyn Keze)

Agenda Item 11: Metro Commission/JPA Board Meeting Recap (Blake Behringer)

Metro Meetings:

Recent Meetings

- **I&I Metro TAC Subcommittee:**
 - **Date:** February 26, 2026

Upcoming Meetings

- **Metro JPA:**
 - **Date:** April 2, 2026
 - **Format:** In person.
- **Metro TAC:**
 - **Date:** April 15, 2026
 - **Format:** Zoom only.
- **I&I Metro TAC Subcommittee:**
 - **Date:** March 26, 2026
 - **Format:** Teams only.