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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET

MAYOR APPLAUDS CITY FOR SUCCESS IN OBTAINING NEW WASTEWATER PERMIT

Permit Saves Ratepayers \$1.5 Billion While Protecting Environment

A day after federal regulators activated a new permit for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mayor Jerry Sanders congratulated his staff on Monday for seeing the process through to its conclusion. Obtaining the new five-year permit saved ratepayers an estimated \$1.5 billion.

“I’d like to thank everyone who worked so hard on this issue these past months and years,” the mayor said. “This new permit allows us to continue to operate this facility as is for another five years. That’s an enormous win for the ratepayers.”

The plant – which discharges treated wastewater 4.5 miles offshore, 320 feet deep – causes no harm to the ocean environment, according to a study conducted by a team of respected scientists from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, UCSD and SDSU.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency activated the permit on Sunday, six months after the city received the necessary approvals from the California Coastal Commission. Failing to obtain the permit would have required the city to spend an estimated \$1.5 billion on upgrading the facility. Ratepayers would have seen their sewer bills skyrocket by more than 70 percent.

Ironically, the risks of environmental damage would have been greater by requiring the city to make the upgrade. Building a secondary treatment facility would entail carving up the coastal bluffs of Point Loma, displacing 1.2 million tons of earth near sensitive habitats. A secondary plant would also consume enormous amounts of electricity and add over 100,000 tons of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere every year.

The Pt. Loma Plant serves the city of San Diego and 15 other municipalities and special districts, representing more than 2.2 million Southern Californians.