



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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### **RIBBON-CUTTING FOR CITY'S NEW WASTEWATER LAB**

San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmembers Michael Zucchet and Scott Peters today led a formal ribbon-cutting for the City's Metropolitan Wastewater Department's new \$10 million Environmental Monitoring & Technical Services Laboratory at the former Naval Training Center (NTC) on 2392 Kincaid Road. The 37,000 square foot laboratory will support the City's Ocean Monitoring Program, the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in the world. The new facility will house 52 scientists and support staff.

"This laboratory is a much-needed facility that will enhance the City's ability to monitor and protect the ocean environment, consistent with my goal of cleaning up our beaches and bays," said Mayor Murphy.

Councilmember Peters concurred. "Beaches and ocean recreation are a huge element in our quality of life and tourist economy," Peters said. "The knowledge we gain from this laboratory will help us to sort out the facts about how to keep our ocean water clean."

"This new facility will become the hub of an entire Water Quality Campus," noted Councilmember Zucchet in whose district the facility was built. "San Diego State University and the U.S. Geologic Survey are expected to break ground this summer on a new marine biology lab, adjacent to the City's Environmental Monitoring labs. That only bodes well for the future."

According to Metropolitan Wastewater Department Director Scott Tulloch, the laboratory building will serve a wide variety of environmental monitoring functions. “The new facility will allow us to be more efficient and to be better prepared for new challenges in the future.”

Along with administrative offices, the building will house wastewater research facilities, laboratories for marine biology, microbiology and water toxicity, regulatory permitting and compliance offices, and an ocean operations facility that will eventually include both of the department’s ocean monitoring vessels.

At the ribbon-cutting, the new laboratory building was dedicated to the memory of the late Mia J. Tegner, PhD. Dr. Tegner was a Research Biologist for Scripps Institution of Oceanography and her scientific work in the local coastal waters was significant in the understanding of local ocean ecology and its relationship to human activities.

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Ribbon cutting Caption:

At the new Ocean Monitoring Lab ribbon cutting: Pictured L to R: Pete Silva, Water Resources Control Board; Dr. Charles Kennel, Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Councilmember Scott Peters; Mayor Dick Murphy; Councilmember Michael Zucchet; Metro Wastewater Director Scott Tulloch; Utilities General Manager Richard Mendes; and Environmental Monitoring Division Alan Langworthy.