METRO WASTEWATER JPA

February 14, 2006

Mayor Sanders and City Council
City of San Diego
City Administration Building
11th Floor, 202 C Street
San Diego, California 92101

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

The Metro Commission[1] has reviewed the Interim Report of the Water Reuse Study 2005, prepared in June of 2005, and the American Assembly II Statement adopted July 14, 2005, and supports the recommendations set forth therein. We recognize that it is imperative that the region maximize the potential use City of San Diego's recycled water system, especially because of the region's reliance on imported water. San Diego County imports 90% of the region's water from the Colorado, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Rivers. Interestingly, this imported water includes treated wastewater discharged from the communities and agricultural urban runoff discharges within those river basins—in essence this water is already recycled either naturally or through a treatment process.

In particular, we strongly support the North City Strategy #3 set out in the Water Reuse Study. Strategy #3 not only expands non-potable resources, but also advocates for large scale indirect potable reuse. This strategy affords us all the opportunity to conserve this precious resource and maximize the potential of the City of San Diego's recycled water system. It is our collective opinion that increasing the production and use of recycled water in the San Diego metropolitan area will greatly benefit the region by providing greater local control of our water supply by decreasing the region's reliance on imported water, decreasing the amount of treated wastewater discharged into our local beaches, and assisting in avoiding potential drought restrictions that may be imposed on our residents in the future. Most importantly, water reuse will help in meeting the future water needs of our region's growing population.

We reiterate our strong support for the City of San Diego's work with regard to water reuse as delineated in its Water Reuse Study.

Sincerely,

Henry Abarbanel

Henry Abarbanel
Metro Wastewater JPA, Chair

cc: Richard Haas
Marsi Steirer

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[1] By way of introduction, the Metro Commission is an advisory body established by the 1998 "Regional Wastewater Disposal Agreement between the City of San Diego and the Participating Agencies in the Metropolitan Sewerage System." The purpose of the Metro Commission is to provide the position of the "Participating Agencies" on matters affecting the Metro System. The Metro Commission membership includes the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City and Poway, the County of San Diego (representing the Winter Gardens Sewer Maintenance District, Alpine Sanitation District, Lakeside Sanitation District and Spring Valley Sanitation District), the Lemon Grove Sanitation District, the Otay Water District and the Padre Dam Municipal Water District.

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