

Evaluation of Wastewater Treatment Operational Structures

Task Force Members:

El Toro Water District

Moulton Niguel Water District

Santa Margarita Water District

South Coast Water District

What are we looking to accomplish today?

- Background – How did we get here?
- What will the presentation cover?
- What are the next steps?
 - Request to SOCWA staff to work with task force
 - Provide regular updates to the SOCWA Board and Member Agencies
 - Bring back an evaluation of alternative options in early 2022



Why evaluate the alternative approaches now?

- Governing Agreements
 - 50-year old project agreements are expiring
 - Project agreements need to be extended/renegotiated
 - JPA agreement is currently up for discussion/review
- Member Agency changes impacting Organizational Structure
 - IRWD request to withdrawal
 - SJC annexation to SMWD
 - Varied needs moving forward

A brief history of wastewater treatment in South OC

- AWMA and SERRA were formed in the 1970s
- Purpose was to receive federal funding
 - Constructed Coastal, JB Latham, and Regional Treatment Plants in late 70s/early 80s
- AWMA assumed operations of Coastal and Regional in 1990s
- SOCRA was formed to support regional permitting for recycled water use
- In 2001, the three agencies were combined to form SOCWA to improve administrative efficiencies

What are potential operating structures?

- Option #1 – Maintain similar operating structure
 - Are there opportunities to increase efficiency?
- Option #2 – Transition operating requirements; Assets reside with Operating Agency
 - Similar to Baker WTP, JRWSS, Plant 3A
 - Project Agreement to define decision-making and operation
- Option #3– Transition operating requirements; Assets continue to reside with SOCWA:
 - Similar structure to previous AWMA
 - Joint Powers Authority would remain to define governance and operation
 - Will require operating agreement to define operating agency responsibility
 - Need to address alignment of ownership/cost and decision-making/risk

What is the anticipated process of the evaluation?

- Components would follow previous work product from task force presented to SOCWA Board
- Efforts would be led by interested parties
 - Working closely with SOCWA staff and task force members
 - Need to obtain data and information from SOCWA to develop evaluation
- Regular updates provided to the SOCWA Board
 - Opportunity for feedback or questions
- Potential for technical support by third parties, as identified
- Draft for discussion in early 2022
- Updated JPA and PC Agreements by June 2022

