

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the activities, progress, and outcomes related to the JPA's initiatives. It aims to ensure transparency, document key discussions and decisions, and keep all stakeholders informed of ongoing efforts and upcoming milestones.



This month's picture is a recent overview (April 2026) of the North City Water Reclamation Plant Pure Water Construction at 87% overall completion.

Three major projects occupied the Executive Team and Board Committees in April: the Executive Director interview process, the final development and review of the FY 2027 JPA Operating Budget, and the Website Update Project. Each of these efforts reflects the JPA's continued focus on strengthening its operational foundation, enhancing communication and accessibility, and ensuring a smooth leadership transition heading into FY 2027.

Key Tasks and Updates:

1. Executive Director Succession and Recruitment

The Executive Director Ad Hoc Committee convened in April to interview the top candidates for the position. Following a structured interview process and thoughtful deliberation, the Ad Hoc unanimously selected a final candidate to advance. This candidate will be presented to, and further interviewed by, the full Board of Directors in closed session at the May Board Meeting.

2. FY 2027 JPA Operating Budget

The proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget reflects the continued evolution of the Metro Wastewater JPA as it transitions from the development of major regional initiatives to their implementation. The budget incorporates targeted adjustments associated with organizational changes, including the establishment of a standalone Executive Director position and alignment of consultant agreements with updated four-year contracts.

In addition, the budget includes new placeholder categories for insurance and memberships to support the JPA's maturing governance and risk management framework. The Succession Planning Ad Hoc Committee, in coordination with the new Executive Director and the Finance Committee, will continue to evaluate and define the JPA's approach to social media in FY 2027, and funding has been included to support this effort as it is further developed.

The FY 2027 budget totals \$867,894, representing a 4% increase over the FY 2026 adopted budget. Consistent with direction provided by the Finance Committee, this increase is offset through the use of available reserves and non-operating revenues, including City of San Diego reimbursements and interest earnings. As a result, Participating Agency (PA) billing will remain unchanged from FY 2026 levels, maintaining stability for member agencies during a period of transition.

Overall, the FY 2027 budget reflects a disciplined financial approach supported by the JPA's strengthened financial framework, including fully funded operating

and contingency reserves. This approach allows the JPA to support expanded responsibilities while maintaining predictable costs for Participating Agencies and positioning the organization for the implementation of SARA, the Functional Allocation Billing (FAB) framework, and other key regional initiatives.

A copy of the FY 2027 Budget and accompanying PowerPoint presentations can be found on the JPA's website under the "News" section on the home page.

<https://www.metrojpa.org/home>

3. Website Update Project:

Over 800 documents were successfully transferred from the JPA's existing website, with each file reviewed by the Assistant Treasurer and updated to ensure clear, consistent naming conventions and improved organization. The draft website continues to take shape as content is populated, and design meetings and iterative reviews remain ongoing. The new platform represents a significant step forward, offering expanded capabilities and a much more intuitive structure to provide streamlined access to key JPA documents, programs, and resources.

The Assistant Treasurer, Lee Ann Jones-Santos, has done an exceptional job leading this effort—bringing both organization and thoughtful structure to a large volume of materials while helping shape a site that will better serve the Board, Participating Agencies, and the public. While the launch remains on track for May 2026, the Website Team will continue building enhanced content areas and resources through the first half of FY 2027. This is an exciting milestone that will significantly strengthen the JPA's accessibility and long-term document management.

4. Finance and AdHoc Committee Meetings Update

- **Finance Committee**

At its April meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed, discussed, and recommended approval of the FY 2027 Metro Wastewater JPA Operating Budget to the Metro Wastewater JPA/Commission. The Committee considered the overall budget framework, including projected expenditures, key cost drivers, and the proposed use of available reserves and non-operating revenues to maintain stable Participating Agency (PA) billing.

The Committee also reviewed and recommended approval of associated FY 2027 budget and contract items, including updated consultant agreements for the JPA's core functions. These agreements reflect alignment with the proposed budget, adjustments to scopes of work based on current and

anticipated needs, and the continuation of a consultant-based organizational structure to support the JPA's ongoing responsibilities.

- **Succession Planning AdHoc**

Did not meet in April.

- **Executive Director Ad Hoc**

Covered under Item 1.

- **Pure Water AdHoc**

The Pure Water Ad Hoc Committee met in March to review the status of SARA implementation and discuss next steps as the approval process continues to advance. The Committee will continue to monitor progress and provide input as implementation moves forward.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Metro TAC:

Regular Meeting:

May 20, 2026
11-1 Via Zoom

Metro JPA/Commission:

Regular Meeting:

June 4, 2026
Noon-2 PM MOC Auditorium