

For Immediate Release  
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Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

**Public Outreach on Wastewater System Begins  
as Sanitation Districts Prepare Master Facilities Plan**

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) are beginning a public outreach effort in support of a new master facilities plan for the Joint Outfall System, a sanitary sewerage network that serves 73 of Los Angeles County's 88 cities, plus unincorporated County areas. The Joint Outfall System includes six water reclamation plants and the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP), located in the City of Carson, that are interconnected by more than 1,200 miles of main trunk sewers with 50 pumping plants that serve local sewer systems. The JWPCP is the Sanitation Districts' only ocean discharge wastewater treatment facility.

Entitled the "Clearwater Program", the master plan will ensure the continuation of a system that is protective of public health and the environment, provide adequate capacity for population projections, and evaluate opportunities for increased reuse of reclaimed water.

The master plan will also evaluate the Sanitation Districts' infrastructure, including the possible need to construct a new tunnel and outfall from the JWPCP to the ocean. Two existing tunnels convey treated wastewater to ocean outfalls that extend from the Palos Verdes Peninsula approximately 1.5 miles offshore to a depth of two hundred feet. These tunnels were built in the 1930s and 1950s and, because they are needed to convey flow each day, have not been inspected in nearly 50 years.

"A new tunnel and ocean outfall would yield many advantages including the ability to inspect the existing tunnels and make any necessary repairs to keep them operational," said Steve Maguin, Sanitation Districts' Chief Engineer and General Manager.

Preparation of the master plan and the environmental review process will begin in mid-2007, and the Sanitation Districts anticipate release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report and a draft Master Facilities Plan for public review in the summer of 2008.

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“Public input is one of the most important aspects of the planning process, and we will make every effort to reach all segments of the many diverse interests throughout the Joint Outfall System early in the process, with a particular emphasis on the communities in the South Bay and Harbor areas,” added Maguin.

The Sanitation Districts provide environmentally sound, cost effective wastewater and solid waste management, and in the process convert waste into resources such as reclaimed water, energy, and recycled materials.

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