



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2007

ADMINISTRATION

Ross Valley Relocation

The corporation yard site improvement work for the RVSD facilities is progressing on schedule. The contract with Maggiora & Ghilotti (M&G) has been executed and they have multiple crews on-site performing the various construction activities. The landscaping adjacent to the corporation yard and maintenance building has been removed, the areas excavated and graded in preparation for base rock placement, and the main water lines uncovered and ready for tapping. Next week, the water lines will be routed to the corporation yard and the sewer line installed. RVSD has designed the layout of three modular buildings and they are on order.

The RVSD interim use site, north of our chlorine contact tanks, is almost ready for occupation. M&G has removed the landscaping, placed and compacted base rock, graded the area for drainage, and installed electrical, water, and sewer utilities and routed them into the plant and made the appropriate connections. Two construction trailers were moved into position for the RVSD staff and the utilities connected. Ross Valley will be moving to CMSA over the February 3rd weekend. The interim site development work

was designed by NUTE Engineering and is being performed by M&G as a contract change order.

San Rafael Community Development has approved the planning permit for RVSD with only minor conditions, and the building permit is expected soon.

NPDES Permit Adoption

The Regional Water Board (RWB) adopted our permit at their January 23 board meeting and public hearing. The permit will become effective April 1st. Major changes include a total coliform limit instead of our previous fecal coliform limit, additional daily sampling and analysis during blending events, continuous chlorine residual and pH monitoring of our effluent, additional reporting requirements, and a final limit for dioxin total equivalents (TEQ). We believe the permit is fair with the exception of the Dioxin limit, which we cannot meet and has detection levels that the current approved testing methods cannot attain.

Our General Manager testified at the hearing and emphasized the positive collaboration between the RWB staff and CMSA during the permit renewal period, explained the progress CMSA has made towards managing our wet weather flows, and expressed our concern with the dioxin limit.

Personnel

There were a number of staffing changes at the Agency in

December and January. Hank Jen started in December as the Agency's interim Finance Manager. Hank has seven years of finance experience working as a Principal Budget Analyst with Marin County and 9 years of budget experience with the State's court system.

The Board also recently approved a part-time employment agreement for an administrative assistant. Terry Josephs has accepted the position and will be assisting CMSA and RVSD with various administrative tasks.

Our new Environmental Services Analyst, Greg Pease, started on January 24 and will be assisting our current staff with the developing FOG programs and ongoing environmental compliance program. His initial training will focus on the numerous lab analyses we perform for permit compliance and process management.

Operations Succession

Lead Operator Ken Ross retired on January 4 after 10 years of service with CMSA. He plans on taking it easy for the first few months before launching a new endeavor.



As part of the Strategic Business Plan, staff developed a Succession Plan to provide training and over strengthening of the Operations Department to prepare for the "Baby Boomer" retirements. Through this plan, Operator III Virgil Sevilla was promoted to replace Ken. In the ongoing process of training operators, we've hired Vince Farrington as a grade I Operator to fill the slot vacated by Virgil.

Our next retirement is Doug Miller, Operations Supervisor, on March 30th. Doug came over to CMSA at startup from the San Rafael Sanitation plant. We have completed an internal recruitment to fill Doug's position, and since January 5th Chris Finton has begun doing half day training, three days a week and one whole day training on Fridays in preparation to replace Doug Miller

Finance Related Activities

In February, the Agency will commence with the development of the operating and capital budgets for FY 2007-08.

In March, the Agency will make its first debt service payment of \$1.3 million on the \$68.7 million in Revenue Bonds that were issued in October 2006. For the next 25 years, CMSA will be making semi-annual debt service payments every March and September; the annual debt service expense will be \$4.7 million.

Procurement Contracts

There is one more one-year extension available under the existing sodium hypochlorite

contract, and we are in discussions with Pioneer Chemicals, the vendor, to identify ways to minimize costs for this extension. This will likely include operational changes that allow us to receive full truckloads of chemical, and possibly augmenting the current contract language to include the provision for periodic cost adjustments, similar to those we are incorporating into our other contracts as they come up for renewal.

The biosolids disposal contract with Redwood Landfill includes annual cost adjustment provisions tied to the annual Consumer Price Index, and we received notice that the biosolids disposal costs rose 3.4 % per the S.F Bay Area CPI.

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

The final design drawings and specifications are quickly approaching the 90% design level, and Carollo has confirmed they will be submitting them on schedule at the end of February. CMSA staff will have one month to review the contract documents and combine our review comments with those from our peer reviewer, CH2MHill, for transmittal to Carollo. Harris & Associates will begin their biddability and constructability reviews concurrent with our review. Carollo will incorporate the relevant comments into the final (100%) documents, which should be ready for bid in late May/early June.

The value engineering evaluation by CH2MHill identified alternate retaining wall designs that may save considerable dollars if soil

characteristics near our switchgear building are favorable. We have authorized the geotechnical engineer, Fugro, to perform additional soil borings in the area to determine the rock and soil conditions. By late February, we should know if an alternate, less costly wall design can be constructed. Our project team is considering the option to have the retaining wall built under a separate contract to allow its construction to be completed in late summer prior to the start of the main WWIP contract.

ADA Accessibility

The building permits to remodel the restrooms in the Administration lobby and automate the front entry doors have been obtained from City of San Rafael. Engineering is currently in the process of reviewing the quotes from two general contractors to remodel the restroom and modify the front counter, and checking quotes from two specialty contractors to automate the front entry doors.

We expect to select a contractor for each task in early February and start remodeling the restrooms by late February. The automatic door openers have a one month lead time, which means that construction for this task should begin in early March 2007.

Vactor Replacement

The construction work on the Vactor Replacement project is about complete with the contractor, Pacific Infrastructure, finishing the last project punch list items. We expect to bring the project to the February Board meeting for acceptance. The vactor facility received its first load in late

January from SD#2, and staff got experience using the new Bobcat loader to remove debris from the station.

Kennedy/Jenks is preparing the project Record Drawings, and our staff are planning the landscape restoration around the station

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

The new polymer equipment is installed and operational testing is being completed. There are some final adjustments to the control system and operator interfaces, to be followed by operator training by the contractor. The contract is on track to be completed by the end of February, with Record Drawings and contract closure to follow soon after that.

Preliminary results from operational testing are promising, and we expect to get even better results after we have optimized the system later this spring.

Outfall Inspection

The final diver inspection of our Marine Outfall was performed the night of January 25/26, and the divers were able to visually inspect most of the diffuser section of the pipeline. We have already received and forwarded the interim inspection report and videos to Carollo Engineers for their use in verifying the pipeline's condition and identifying what repairs, if any, need to be implemented to prepare it for operation of the Effluent Pump Station to be built as part of the WWIP.

Roofing Improvements

The existing built-up roofs on the Solids Handling Building, Chlorination Building,

Headworks and the Digester Building will be replaced with a similar roofing material starting this spring. We will be presenting the contract plans, specifications and cost estimate to the Board at their February 13th meeting before we advertise the contract in late February. The bid period will be at least 30 days, and we expect to have an award

recommendation for the Board at their April 10 meeting.

Construction is expected to start in late April and completed by late June.

O&M Projects

Operations has been testing the new polymer system and doing preliminary optimization testing with the polymer activation units and the new delivery system.

The operations department has completed all of their wet weather training and have entered the revised operating procedures into the SOP file. All that is left now is for it to rain so that we can put all of that training to good use.

Maintenance completed repairs to both Dissolved Air Flootation Units (DAFs). The drain valve was replaced on CCT #1. The RAS updraft tubes on Secondary Clarifiers #1, 2, and 3 were repaired this month.

E/I completed the upgrade of the San Pedro pump station for the San Rafael Sanitation District.

The pump stations telemetry has been upgraded from land lines to radio, which included a new PLC and 900 MHz radio. After reconnecting all of the field wiring to the new PLC and testing, they added new alarms at the plant and rebuilt the graphics using the new data. This improvement resolved a station com failure that

periodically knocked out communication for 18 pump stations.

Operations has been testing the water champ and we have been seeing a decrease in hypochlorite use of up to 40 % resulting in a significant cost savings. Maintenance has recently re-installed the 20 h.p. water champ for additional wet weather testing.

Jeff Lewandowski from Advanced Hydro Engineering is nearing a preliminary design of the blend channel diffuser. The new diffuser will improve our disinfection during wet weather events to help us meet our new NPDES Permit requirement of total coliform testing.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Laboratory & NPDES Testing

The NPDES testing we performed for January was in compliance with our permit requirements, and we had 95% survival of the fish in our January bioassay.

We received the results from our recent Heterotrophic Plate Counts (bacteriological) analysis and we were within the control limits and successfully passed the certification requirements.

Public Outreach Events

Staff participated in the annual Bay Area Environmental Education Resource Fair. It was a very well attended event and we spoke to more teachers than at previous fairs. Many parents and home schooled children attended the event to find out

what environmental resources are available in the community. We had 140 adults take our environmental quiz and 41 children, this is twice as many people as in the past. Several other wastewater agencies and many other local agencies had booths at the fair to share with the public their environmental programs.

Environmental Compliance

Northstar Motors was issued an administrative order requiring them to immediately cease and desist from discharging industrial wastewater to the sanitary sewer, and to permanently plug the drain from their auto washing facility interceptor. They have agreed to pay their permit and delinquency fees, and have been informed of the requirements of our environmental compliance program. Additional monitoring will be required to ensure they remain compliant with their discharge limits.

Staff issued an administrative order to Lee Miles Transmissions requiring them to immediately cease and desist from discharging industrial wastewater, and permanently plug the drain from their above ground treatment unit to the sanitary sewer. They agreed to dismantle their non-functioning treatment unit and plug the connection to the sanitary sewer. We will issue them a zero discharge permit that does not allow them to discharge industrial wastewater to the sanitary sewer.

CONTRACT SERVICES

San Rafael Sanitation District FOG

The permitting process will begin for restaurants in the SRSD service area. A draft permit cover letter has been sent to SRSD for review. When approved, the letter with a permit application and a copy of our FOG Ordinance will be sent to restaurants that are on the SRSD "Hot Spot List." The program will be modeled after the program we developed for Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District. In the near future, staff will begin permitting and inspecting restaurants that sent in their permit applications, and contacting and inspecting restaurants that do not send in applications.

Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for December and January. Staff completed installation of radio telemetry systems to bring alarms from Campbell Bishop and Seawolf pump stations to CMSA. The old phone line alarms were being eliminated with the demolition of the Old Paradise Pump Station.

On January 12th, staff worked with SD#2's contractor, Maggiora-Ghilotti, to secure pump stations and drain the forcemain for replacement of the SD#2 main flow meter. This flow meter has been out of service for at least two years, and we have been waiting for CalTrans to complete the Highway 101 overpass work at the Sir Francis Drake before the meter replacement could be scheduled.

Las Gallinas Sanitary

The implementation phase of the LGVSD FOG program is almost complete. Almost all of the restaurants on the "Hot Spot List" have Grease Removal Devices. Two facilities will have to install traps, and we are working with three others that have traps but we may require the installation of interceptors. The lines from the three larger facilities with traps are being cleaned and video taped, and will be monitored in the future to determine if their traps are sufficiently sized to prevent FOG build up in the sewers.

Staff will soon be inspecting the permitted facilities to ensure they are documenting the cleaning of their trap every 15 days or pumping of their interceptor quarterly.