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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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June 2006

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### ADMINISTRATION

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#### NACWA Award

CMSA received a "gold" Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA. The award recognizes that our treatment plant did not have any NPDES permit exceedances for the 2005 calendar year. Congratulations to staff on this exceptional accomplishment.

#### CIP Bond Program

CMSA selected Bond and Disclosure Counsel from a Request for Proposals process, and the Board approved a contract with Hawkins, Delafield, and Wood. The bond document development process began with discussing how the Member Agencies would make payments to CMSA to meet debt service requirements, and information required for bond document disclosure. We have prepared draft resolutions and payment agreements for our member agencies' consideration. It is anticipated the bonds will be sold in September 2006.

#### CASA Litigation

In January 2003, CMSA contributed \$ 5K in financial assistance to CASA to support their lawsuit

challenging the Final Order on the Vacaville treatment plant's NPDES permit. The permit prohibited blending, and required the effluent quality to meet drinking water quality standards. To achieve those standards, Vacaville would have to construct reverse osmosis treatment facilities and ultraviolet disinfection systems. CASA has been successful in defeating a statute of limitations argument by the State Water Board and two intervention challenges by the California CoastKeeper's Alliance. In March 2006, the lawsuit in its entirety was authorized to move forward by the First District Court of Appeals.

CMSA's interest in this case, beyond supporting a CASA member, is in regards to the prohibition of blending. Our treatment plant was designed and is operated to blend at flows above 30 MGD. If Vacaville loses the suit and blending is prohibited, a precedent could be established that may jeopardize our ability to legally blend our primary and secondary effluents. Building facilities at CMSA to provide treatment for all wet weather flows above 30 MGD would cost tens of millions of dollars. CASA has requested additional contributions from their members to continue the lawsuit. We have pledged an additional \$ 5K in support of their efforts.

#### ADA Accessibility

The front plaza, accessible parking spaces, and front gate sidewalks have been remodeled to attain compliance with current accessibility standards. We are engaging Sally Swanson Architects as the architects of record for the front entry, public counter, restrooms, and Board meeting room modifications, together with various smaller upgrades out in the treatment plant. We expect to have the design documents by August, with all the ADA accessibility work completed by the end of FY 07.

#### Staff Certifications & Recruitments

Congratulations to Odell Gibbs, Virgil Sevilla, and Brian Bokkin for passing their Operator Certification exams. Odell passed his Grade II exam, Brian passed his Grade III, and Virgil passed the Grade V. All three are relatively new members of our operations team and were hired through our successful OIT program.

On June 7, the Operations Interview Panel completed OIT interviews from our extended applicant list. As part of the CMSA Succession Plan, Operations will hire two OIT's in the new fiscal year. One job offer letter has been sent and a second candidate is in the background check process.

At its April meeting, the Board authorized us to begin the recruitment process for an additional engineer, hired at either the Assistant or Associate levels. We are targeting both levels to maximize our pool of qualified candidates. Koff & Associates, our Human Resource consultants, has been advertising the position since early June, and will provide assistance at key phases of the process. We expect to interview in late August and hope to have the new engineer on board by the end of September.

### **Plant Safety**

California's Standardized Emergency Management System requires that certain courses be completed by all who may be tasked during an emergency; response through recovery. Ken Katen, Rob Cole, and Chris Finton recently completed Incident Command System (ICS) training. CMSA uses the ICS system for its command structure during on-site emergencies.

We are preparing to purchase two new portable gas detection devices that will monitor for four gases, including carbon monoxide. Current gas monitors will only detect for three gases, and replacement parts are becoming cost prohibitive due to the vendor no longer supporting these devices.

The Annual Fire Drill training took place on June 6, 2006. Staff is currently revising our

Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to include a fire drill standard operating procedure (SOP), alternate assembly point, and an updated CMSA site specific evacuation map

### **BAAQMD**

CMSA received a \$2,000 incentive check from The Bay Area Air Quality Management District for purchase of the Honda Civic Hybrid.

The BAAQMD completed their field emissions testing on the Waukesha cogeneration unit on May 19. The unit passed the tests on both fuels: natural gas and digester gas.

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## **AGENCY PROJECTS**

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### **Wet Weather Improvement Project**

The CMSA project team has had a few design meetings with Carollo over the past two months to review progress on the final design activities, schedule the pilot tests for the influent meter and disinfection mixer, and to review design element alternatives and details. Final design is progressing per schedule and the 50% submittal, about 300 sheets, is scheduled for delivery in late October.

The CEQA process was completed with the certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Board in June. The proper notices have been filed with the appropriate County and State agencies. All identified mitigation measures will be incorporated into the construction contract.

Staff has prepared an RFP for final design peer review and value engineering services, and have received five proposals from engineering firms. The peer reviewer will sit on the CMSA project team and assist staff with review of the various design submittals, specifically paying attention to electrical, structural, mechanical, and control details. We expect to have a firm selected by the August Board meeting.

### **Polymer Equipment Upgrade**

Pacific Infrastructure is onsite and the demolition phase of this project is almost complete. The next steps will be stripping and relining the polymer bulk tank and constructing the equipment pads for the new tanks and pumps. Meanwhile, we have received our new polymer mixers and are using one in our temporary polymer feed system, with our new emulsion polymer product. (The new metering pumps are due to be delivered soon). Early indications are promising for our capability to obtain better quality biosolids cake while using polymer more efficiently.

### **Outfall**

The additional springtime solids sampling has been wrapped up. The amount and characteristics of the solids found this spring are distinctly different from what we've seen in our past autumn samplings, and we're still considering the possible explanations. Meanwhile, the contract for the complete structural inspection, part of our WWIP design effort, is out to bid. We will open bids on

July 5 and expect the inspection to be completed late this summer

### **Coatings**

We opened bids for our 2006 coatings contract, to recoat equipment in Primary Clarifiers No. 4 and 5 and to replace the waterproof deck membrane at the aeration tanks. At their June meeting, the Board awarded the contract to the low bidder, Redwood Painting Company, for a bid price of \$188,800. We expect to have the executed contract back by July 5 and work should start shortly after that. We expect the entire project to be completed by the end of September.

### **O&M Projects**

The Waukesha has run steady the last two months. We completed the first change of carbon media for one siloxane filter, it is performing as designed. On May 1, PG&E started our summer billing schedule that includes the expensive daytime Peak Period. Unfortunately, PG&E changed our rate schedule by extending the peak period two hours without informing us. We are discussing corrections that will need to be made to our May bill. We are purchasing a used 410 KW load bank so that staff can properly tune the Waukesha. We are saving about 50% by purchasing a used unit.

With the end of April showers (and pouring rain), Operations is making the transition to the dry weather operating mode.

Staff has taken the following process equipment off line: two grit tanks, three primary sedimentation tanks, and two aeration tanks.

We have hired a contractor to install a cross-connection back-flow preventer valve on our MMWD water supply line. This will allow us to continue in operation, when the existing twenty year old valves require major maintenance.

Operation completed tests of the Contact Stabilization mode of the aeration process for wet weather flows. This mode allows us to maximize wet weather flow through aeration, while protecting the biomass from wash out. After we finish analyzing the results, we will revise our wet weather procedures for next winter. Operations completed follow up testing on our CEPT (chemically enhanced primary treatment) trials. With support from the poly vendor and our process consultant we resolved the settling problem. This test was important to show CEPT works for the WW Improvement Project, which includes a CEPT polymer facility.

### **Asset Management**

CMSA implemented asset management specifications for construction contracts, which is currently being used on the Polymer Facility Upgrade Project. The objective is to develop a standard specification requiring contractors to provide necessary asset management information as part of the deliverables during the construction phases. The intent is to front load this

information into the Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS), capturing necessary asset management data.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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### **Laboratory & NPDES testing**

The NPDES testing we performed for June was in compliance with our permit requirements, and we had 100% survival of the fish in our April bioassay.

We completed the first set of unknown performance evaluation samples for maintaining our laboratory certification, and the results indicate we easily passed. We are currently performing the second set of samples, and will be submitting the results to the sample provider for grading, the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, and Cal EPA.

### **Public Outreach Events**

In May, staff gave a wastewater, stormwater, and pollution prevention classroom presentation to the San Rafael chapter of the Girl Scouts. They are using the presentation and classroom exercises to obtain a new environmental badge. On May 18, Juniors and Seniors from Sir Francis Drake High School's environmental classes toured CMSA. It was a half day event with back to back tours.

We are preparing for our largest public outreach event,

the Marin County Fair. Our environmental quiz has new questions and we have updated our public outreach materials. Staff has also produced new educational brochures for teachers, Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), pharmaceutical disposal, and mercury awareness.

### **Environmental Compliance**

We have completed the follow-up activities for the car wash permits we issued last month and updated our contact information spreadsheet. We will begin inspections in the near future to ensure they are not dumping illegal materials down the large drains at their car wash facilities, and that their pretreatment equipment is functioning properly.

### **Biosolids Land Application**

Biosolids land application at the Lakeville Highway land application site has commenced. Staff has completed the initial biosolids testing, filled out the required paperwork, and scheduled the application with the hauling company, Sonoma County, and Synagro, our land application management company. We also completed the initial testing and paperwork for Redwood Landfill for the first half of 2006.

## **CONTRACT SERVICES**

### **San Rafael Sanitation District FOG**

We have completed approximately half, or about 100, restaurant inspections

within the SRSD service area this month. We have been assisting SRSD with implementation of the Regional Water Board's required FOG Program.

### **Ross Valley Sanitary District FOG**

Staff has surveyed the RVSD service area and developed an updated list of restaurants and contacts for their FOG Program. 70 of the 150 restaurant inspections have been completed. The survey information will assist them with their FOG Program and the FOG feasibility study that is taking place on a County wide scale.

### **Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations**

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for May and June. Since the end of the April rains, O&M staff has had far fewer alarms to respond to. Maintenance reinstalled the Lakeside pump station pump after the motor was rewound. Per SD#2's request, the new Golden Hind station was added to our service rounds and programmed into the CMSA alarm system.

Staff has completed and submitted the FY 2007 SD#2 contract budget, which includes funds for the first phase of the radio data link project. This project will reduce telemetry operating costs and allow termination of the data phone lines, which are receiving less reliable support from the phone company.

### **SASM P2 Inspections and Training**

Our environmental compliance staff have completed the facility inspections, developed Best Management Practices, and trained the SASM staff for implementation of their Pollution Prevention Program. We inspected the dentists, auto shop facilities and printers within their service area to determine what practices they employ to prevent discharge of metals or petroleum products to the sanitary sewers. They will reimburse CMSA for all of our labor and associated costs related to the inspections and program development.

### **Remillard Park Pond**

As part of a 1980's settlement agreement with the Regional Water Board, we provide reclaimed water during the dry months to the pond in Remillard Park for the City of Larkspur. The purpose of the reclaimed water is to maintain a habitat for the endangered species of pond turtle that resides in the pond.

