



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2006

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **NPDES Permit Renewal**

Our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit expires on August 31, 2006. Staff has prepared our Report of Waste Discharge and permit renewal application, and submitted them to the Regional Water Board (RWB) in March 2006. Since then, staff has been working with our regulatory consultant, Oakley Water Strategies, on the various tasks and analyses needed for the initial meeting with the RWB staff to discuss our draft permit.

The RWB has completed the Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA) of our effluent data for the past several years. Four compounds were determined to have reasonable potential to exceed Water Quality Objectives (WQO) established in either the Basin Plan, State Implementation Plan (SIP) or California Toxics Rule Criteria (CTR). These are Copper, Mercury, Cyanide, and 2,3,7,8, - TCDD (Dioxin). In conjunction with Oakley Water, we prepared and submitted an Infeasibility Analysis that concludes CMSA cannot meet the RPA's proposed limits and requests interim limits until the Cyanide and Copper Site Specific Objectives (SSOs) and Mercury TMDL are completed. We anticipate the SSOs and TMDL

limits will be higher than the proposed RPA limits.

#### **CIP Bond Program**

Agency staff and consultants continue to develop bond documents for the anticipated bond sale to finance the Wet Weather Improvement Project and other essential capital projects. The bond documents describe how the bond financing will be implemented as well as describe CMSA, its Member Agencies, and the projects to be financed.

Our Member Agencies agreed to the approach for making payments to CMSA to meet debt service requirements, and their Boards have each passed Payment Resolutions to that effect. They are currently working with staff and our bond counsel to complete the information required for the bond document disclosure. The financing is on schedule for Board approval at its September meeting, and bond sale and project funding in October.

#### **ADA Accessibility**

We have engaged Sally Swanson Architects as the architects of record for designing the ADA access improvements to the Administration building's front entry, public counter, restrooms, and Board meeting room, together with various smaller upgrades out in the Treatment Plant. We expect to have the design documents by mid-September, with all the ADA accessibility work completed by the end of FY 07.

#### **Staff Certifications & Recruitments**

We have received a number of applications for our Assistant/Associate Engineer position, and have invited the eight best qualified candidates to interview on August 2. The interview oral board is composed of three Senior Engineers from other Bay Area wastewater treatment agencies. The next steps will be second interviews and the conditional job offer. If all goes as planned, we hope to have the new Engineer on board by mid-September.

CMSA welcomes our two new Operators-in-Training (OITs); Alan Burleigh started Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and David Ernst started on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. The OIT program is an important component in our Succession Plan, where we have estimated that eight of thirteen Operations' staff will retire by 2010.

Four Operations' employees have passed their State Wastewater Certification tests (given April 1, 2006). Odell Gibbs passed the Grade 2, Brian Bokkin the Grade 3, Virgil Sevilla and Jean Saint-Louis the Grade 5.

#### **Plant Safety**

Two new gas detectors were delivered this month. These detectors, which monitor 4 separate hazardous gases, and replace our current monitors that only detect 3 hazardous gases. Staff will receive training in

August on the proper use of these new detectors.

In July, audiograms were conducted for all CMSA employees. Annual hearing exams are performed at CMSA to assess employee's hearing loss as a result of occupational noise exposure.

Respirator fit testing was also conducted. This fit testing ensures that operations and maintenance staff, who respond to emergency situations, such as a chemical release or a confined space entry, are properly trained and fitted with the correct respiratory equipment.

## **AGENCY PROJECTS**

### **Wet Weather Improvement Project**

The project team has had our third final design progress meeting with Carollo Engineers, during which we reviewed the general layout and details of the new chlorine contact tanks and effluent pump station, the hydraulic flow splitting between the existing and new primary clarifiers and contact tanks, and the schedule for the chlorine mixer system testing. Final design is progressing per schedule and is about 30% complete. The 50% design submittal should be delivered in mid-October. Staff and our peer review consultant will have four weeks to review the 50% design and provide comments to Carollo.

Staff has completed the evaluation of peer review proposals from engineering consultants, and will

recommend to the Board at their August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting that we hire CH2MHill. The peer review team will assist our project team during the final design period with the formal review of various technical memoranda, and the 50%, 90%, and final contract drawings and specifications. Their assistance will aid in assuring that the final design is technically sound, constructable and biddable as designed, and identify cost saving opportunities.

### **Vector Replacement**

The Vector Receiving Station project's Notice to Proceed has been issued to Pacific Infrastructure (PIC) and we are awaiting their construction schedule submittal and request to coordinate the pre-construction conference. PIC has 90 days to finish the project after the start of on-site construction. The work sequencing requires demolition and replacement of the RV/Septage facility before the vector station. This approach reduces the amount of vector station downtime during which our member agencies have to dispose of vector loads at an alternate location.

### **Polymer Equipment Upgrade**

Work is progressing well on this project: the polymer bulk tank has been stripped and relined, the polymer mixers, batch tanks and metering pumps are onsite, and demolition is complete. The concrete work will be next, followed by layout and installation of major components.

We continue to see good results with our new emulsion polymer and polymer mixer, and look forward to putting one of the metering pumps in service at our temporary facility. We look forward to having the new facility

up and running, and being able to complete the optimization of our dewatering system.

### **Outfall**

At their July 12 meeting, the Board of Commissioners awarded the contract to perform the complete structural inspection of the outfall to Underwater Resources of San Francisco for the low bid of \$100,510. We expect the inspection to take place later this summer. As part of the inspection, we will ask Underwater Resources to verify the density of solids in the outfall's diffuser section.

Lab analysis of samples collected in June indicates that the solids were not very dense and ultimately settled to a much smaller depth than the raw sampling data showed, and should have a smaller impact on pipeline capacity than the raw numbers would indicate. Having their consistency field verified will provide us a better basis for planning future outfall cleanings.

### **O&M Projects**

O&M are planning the installation of a Water Champ disinfection unit for pilot testing its effectiveness at disinfecting our effluent. The Water Champ is a submersible unit that disperses hypochlorite into the effluent stream with a prop spinning at 3400 rpm. We will be testing for process improvement and possible injection water savings while achieving the same for better level of effluent disinfection. The WaterChamp has been delivered and staff will install it in early August.

The Waukesha cogeneration unit has run well this month. This

is very beneficial during the heat wave and its accompanying State heavy power use. We were able to use minimal electrical power since we produce 92 to 95% of our power requirements. Staff changed the oil and spark plugs, and checked valve adjustment.

Maintenance is working on our dry weather annual equipment maintenance checks. Operations is taking equipment out of service and alternating in coordination with Maintenance.

Operations is applying nitrates in the collection system, peroxide in the forcemains, and odorant in the plant as part of our comprehensive odor minimization program.

In support of the Polymer Facilities contract, Maintenance painted the third floor of the Solids building after the old equipment was removed. Operations continues to operate our temporary polymer system. The temp system is working well as is the emulsion polymer for dewatering biosolids and thickening waste activated sludge.

**Asset Management**

The Strategic Asset Management Program is 6 months into implementing the Tactical Action Plans (TAPs). Initiative managers are currently working on:

- developing asset plans;
- designing how asset plan data can be included within the current computerized maintenance management system (CMMS);
- reviewing and improving current preventive

maintenance programs by ensuring required maintenance activities and the results are accurately recorded in the CMMS;

- reviewing existing standard maintenance procedures (SMPs); and conducting formal condition assessments of CMSA equipment

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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**Laboratory & NPDES testing**

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

Lab staff has completed the analyses of the second set of unknown performance evaluation samples to maintain our laboratory certification. The results have been submitted to the sample provider for grading, and to the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program and Cal EPA/State Water Resources Control Board. The samples cover the majority of the analyses we perform in our laboratory. If our analysis results are we within the acceptance limits, we will maintain our lab certification.

**Public Outreach Events**

The Marin County Fair was a successful outreach effort. Staff gave out 2100 quizzes to the general public, and spoke with many fair goers about water, wastewater, and stormwater environmental issues and our education programs.

The quizzes were equally divided between adults and children making it a great opportunity to

reach adults in the community about current and upcoming regulatory concerns. After reviewing the quizzes, it was apparent that people within our service area answered more questions correctly, indicating our on-going outreach efforts are successful.

**Environmental Compliance**

In July, we submitted our Semi-Annual Pretreatment Report to the Regional Water Board. It is a summary of the laboratory reports and sampling of our Significant Industrial Users (SIU) for the first 6 calendar months. No compounds were found in our SIU sampling that exceeded CMSA local discharge limits, and no unusual compounds were found in our influent, effluent, or biosolids there were not found in the laboratory blanks.

The draft FOG Ordinance was presented for the first time to the CMSA Board of Commissioners on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The FOG Control Program for SRSD will use the regulatory provisions and enforcement procedures of CMSA Fog Ordinance. The Ordinance's first reading will be at the August Board meeting and the public hearing is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>. If approved, the Ordinance becomes effective on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The SRSD Board will likely adopt the CMSA FOG Ordinance by Resolution in October in order to make it effective within their service area.

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**CONTRACT SERVICES**

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**San Rafael Sanitation District FOG**

We have completed 195 (93%) of the Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) restaurant inspections in the SRSD service area. We have been working with the SRSD collection system personnel to identify restaurants that are upstream of a "Hot Spot", where additional maintenance of the sewers is required because of FOG.

A FOG informational letter has been prepared and will be sent to the Food Service Establishments (FSEs) in the SRSD service area. The letter explains the regulatory requirements for FOG control, that a FOG program is in development for San Rafael, and invites FSE owners to a FOG workshop on August 23 at the San Rafael City Council Chambers.

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

We have inspected 115 of the 123 restaurants in the Ross Valley Sanitary District's service area. We will be very busy wrapping up these inspections and updating the restaurant list by the first week in August.

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

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for July. CMSA and SD#2 staff recently met to discuss the annual safety and maintenance inspections and plan work for the new budget year.

Staff coordinated the installation of a new control system for Trinidad Pump Station #1, and we installed a radio telemetry system that is working well.

The new Golden Hind pump station is operating and alarm issues have been sorted out with the SD#2 contractor. We are also working closely with SD#2 to ensure a smooth start for the new Paradise Station.

Now that CAL-TRANS has left the Corte Madera meter vault area under Highway 101 at Sir Francis Drake, we will be coordinating the replacement of the district's flow meter with their staff and contractor Maggiora-Ghilotti. The meter has been out-of-service for over two years resulting in no flow data from SD#2.

#### **LGVSD**

LGVSD has published a summary of their FOG Ordinance in the Marin IJ. Their Board plans to adopt the Ordinance at their August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Our staff will then begin working with LGVSD and their FSEs to implement the district's FOG Program.

#### **Remillard Park Pond**

CMSA provides reclaimed water to the Remillard Pond in Larkspur to maintain the habitat for an endangered turtle. This service is a requirement in our NPDES permit. Recently, the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (MSMVCD) asked that the water level in the Pond be maintained at a very low level (below cattail stands) to reduce the mosquito population. We have conferred with Larkspur staff, who have advised us to hold-off on adding water until they explore the feasibility of clearing the cattails and adding mosquito fish to the Pond.