
CMSA Monthly Report

Central Marin Sanitation Agency

January 2003

GENERAL

1981 BCDC Permit - We received a letter from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) regarding special public access provisions in the 1981 permit that was issued authorizing the installation of our 84" marine outfall. The BCDC claims that three of the permit provisions were not completed based on a recent site visit by their enforcement analyst. Specifically, two issues pertain to improvements for the Remillard Pond area in Larkspur, and the third is guaranteeing an open space wildlife habitat area in San Rafael near the S.F. Bay shoreline adjacent to Piombo Place.

Staff has reviewed the correspondence file with the BCDC and has identified numerous documents addressing these special provisions. The most recent correspondence, a 1990 letter from the BCDC to CMSA, accepts the improvements to the Remillard pond area as complete and notes that those permit provisions have been satisfied, but it also states that the wildlife area in San Rafael was not specifically designated as open space and there was not public access.

CMSA deeded the land to San Rafael in 1986 as required by the 1981 Permit. Several

documents between CMSA, San Rafael, and the BCDC discuss this issue. CMSA initially constructed public access to the designated area but it was removed by an adjacent property owner during the late 1980s. CMSA opined that the permit obligations for the wildlife habitat area and the land access improvements were the responsibility of San Rafael since the land title was transferred.

The BCDC enforcement analyst recently contacted the San Rafael Public Works Director, Dave Bernardi, about this outstanding issue. Dave has informed the BCDC and CMSA that the City has received grant monies from ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) to develop the area in question in approximately 18 months. The BCDC appears to be satisfied with this response and has requested notification of the commencement of the project.

Finance Manager Retirement

Glenn Thurkow, our finance manager, has retired. His last day of work at CMSA was January 30, 2003. Glenn is moving to Oregon and has accepted a finance manager position in the Town of Port Orford.

Amelia Marshman, our Accountant, will be performing some of the finance manager responsibilities until we have successfully recruited for the new Business Services Manager position. We anticipate having

the position filled by early Summer 2003.

We have hired a part time temporary Accounting clerk, Terry Josephs, during the recruitment period to assist with the account payable and receivables. Both Amelia and Terry performed similar responsibilities after Ken Spray left CMSA in 1999/2000; therefore, we expect this to be a smooth transition period.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Dechlorination Improvement -

Phase 1 - Maggiora and Ghilotti has completed the Phase 1 on-site construction work. We will bring this to the Commission in February for project acceptance. The contract cost is \$94,450 and there are approximately \$ 2,500 in change orders (2.5%). The changes include minor piping additions at a tie-in location and the addition of 20 yards of crushed rock around the outfall vaults.

Staff have begun pulling conductors in the instrumentation and electrical conduits in preparation for the Phase 2 work. Phase 2 involves constructing a metal building over the final effluent sample vault and relocating our permit compliance equipment and instrumentation from the chlorination building to the new

metal building. This will minimize hydraulic detention times associated with transporting the effluent sample to the instruments and will provide a more representative sample.

Engineering is designing the improvements and working with laboratory and operations staff on the equipment/instrumentation layout aspects of the project. We intend to perform the construction work in-house utilizing our maintenance staff.

Dewatering Improvement

Schram construction has completed the installation of the second Centrisys centrifuge. Performance testing has begun and we have authorized Schram to begin demolition of the final centrifuge system. After the third centrifuge is installed and the piping has been pressure tested, the new PLC panel will be installed and all of the original centrifuge control systems will be removed. The new PLC will interface with the three Centrisys centrifuge control panels, the existing sludge and polymer feed pumps, and our new process control system.

Construction is approximately 75% complete and will likely be finished by early March 2003. Centrisys will provide extensive centrifuge system training to Operations and Maintenance staff and assist with optimizing the centrifuge performance after Schram has completed the on-site construction activities.

Phase 4 of this project is tentatively schedule for late spring and entails evaluating centrifuge performance using emulsion type polymers. Polymer, a coagulant, must be added to the digested sludge upstream of the centrifuges. We currently use Manwich polymers which are no longer commonly used for dewatering biosolids in the industry due to the development of better performing emulsion polymers. We will conduct the emulsion polymer study and determine if the performance benefits can economically justify constructing a new emulsion storage and delivery system.

Cogeneration Engine Replacement

The 30% design has been submitted by the design engineer, CH2MHill, and reviewed by the CMSA project team. Comments were prepared and a meeting with the consultant was held to discuss the comments, review the design schedule, and plan for future project activities. The instrumentation aspect of the project is near the 90% level of completion.

The sole source proposal for the Waukesha engine generator package has been received and reviewed. The local Waukesha distributor, Steward and Stevenson, submitted a non-responsive proposal and we have requested that additional information be submitted to comply with the bid requirements. We do have the option of requesting proposals from other out-of-state Waukesha distributors if Steward and

Stevenson continues to be non-responsive.

The sole source proposal for the Applied Filter Technology siloxane removal equipment has been received also. We issued an award letter and are awaiting the signed agreement and other contract documents. The proposal cost is approximately \$75,000 which includes an extended warranty.

The pre-purchase competitive bids were received for the fuel gas pretreatment equipment and compressors. The Commission awarded the dryer contract to Pneumatech for \$69,000 and we have issued the award letter. One bid was received for the compressor from a local firm, Mckenna Engineering, for \$138,000. We intend to bring this to the February Commission meeting for approval consideration.

Secondary Digester Repairs

The secondary digester inspection work was recently completed by our corrosion engineer ConCeCo. They inspected the coating and caulking systems in the digester, the condition of internal steel components, and measured the thickness of the dome steel to compare with measurement taken in 1998. ConCeCo prepared a punch list of recommended minor repairs and CMSA has addressed each issue. A couple of items were structural in nature and we had a structural engineer perform a follow-up investigation. Both items were insignificant and did not need to be addressed.

LAB

Annual Reports: January is the month for annual reports. We have submitted a Biosolids Annual Report to the EPA concerning the biosolids which are land-applied to agricultural land in Sonoma County. We also will submit to the Regional Board an annual report on treatment plant performance, annual reports concerning source control and pollution prevention (done by the Industrial Waste section), an annual (and final) report on the outfall maintenance, and we participate with BACWA and the NBWA in cyanide and TMDL annual reports.

ELAP Inspections: Every other year we are required by the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) to apply for renewal of our certificate to test for a number of constituents. As part of this process, ELAP inspects the lab, with one inspector checking the bioassay system and the other looking at the rest of the lab. Even though our new 4th edition bioassay system was just inspected by ELAP in October 2002, they need to check it again for our certificate renewal. The bioassay inspection was done on January 24 and the rest of the lab will be inspected on February 4.

New Bioassay System, cont'd:

In January we had the same situation with the fish bioassay testing that we did in December. That is, all fish survived in both our in-house flow-through test and the comparison done with and without ammonia by Pacific EcoRisk (PER) Laboratory. Ammonia levels were higher than they were in December, but not high enough to kill fish. We will repeat all this testing in February if ammonia levels are high enough to kill fish.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE

LGVSD Assistance- CMSA IW staff are helping LGVSD maintain their Pollution prevention Program until a new LGVSD Pollution Prevention Coordinator is hired. The former Coordinator left last November. During December and January CMSA staff performed 27 inspections in the LGVSD service area and did other work to assist with their Program.

Medical Mercury BMP- IW staff have produced a draft document, "Best Management Practices for Medical Facilities: Minimizing Risks from Mercury." This "BMP" informs medical staff where they may encounter mercury in equipment, reagents, or plumbing in their facilities, and it provides information on current non-mercury alternatives. The draft document is currently being reviewed at Marin General Hospital. The final document will be distributed to hospitals

and clinics in the CMSA service area.

Plating Shop Enforcement- Specification Chromium has paid the final scheduled payment of a \$5,000 "administrative penalty" levied in response to their March 2002 discharge of wastewater containing cyanide. They have now satisfied all requirements of the settlement agreement they signed with CMSA in May 2002. IW staff are currently working on improvements to procedures for monitoring from the manhole that Specification Chromium installed as part of the settlement.

MAINTENANCE

Special Projects & Repairs:

- The secondary digester rail guide system was retrofitted in 1998. After completion, it was determined that a potential existed for the dome to rise beyond the guide rails. Operations has instituted Administrative controls to make sure this never happens. During the recent digester project work, the rail guides were extended 12 inches by welding an extension section to the existing rails. This improvement will prevent the covers from rising too high.
- Tom McMillan, our pump station lead, has been

working with Dick Lindgren to put together an Emergency Response Plan for storm season pump station operation. They are utilizing what was learned during the recent storm events and extended power outages this year. This Response Plan will be a set of basic guidelines on prioritizing and managing a storm event.

- Most of the secondary digester valve replacements are complete. The Maintenance staff has also completed most of the other repairs and checks needed to get the digester back in service.
- We will be installing our first radio monitoring unit at the Corte Madera Meter Vault to send flow information to our SCADA system at the plant. This will be our first "test case" radio unit. At this time we only have on site flow information from this vault. We did have telephone communications to the SCADA that failed due to an underground break in the phone line. We feel this is a perfect opportunity to test radio monitoring at this site rather than incurring the cost of installing a new underground phone line. If this radio works well, we will pursue this at other

locations. Kit Groves, our Information Systems Supervisor, is leading this in-house project.

OPERATIONS

- Operators completed their forklift recertification hands on training.
- After the headworks grit tanks number 2 and 4 failed during the first storm event of the season in December, Operators were forced to wait for clear weather and lower influent flows before the grit tanks could be recovered and placed back in service. The grit which had clogged the tanks and pumps was removed from the top of the tanks after the water had been removed. Both tanks were returned to service and have been operating without problem.
- The Agency's fire extinguishers were collected by the Department for their annual inspection and recharge. Operators inspect and maintain these extinguishers on a monthly basis throughout the year.