
CMSA Monthly Report

Central Marin Sanitation Agency

April 2003

GENERAL

Mandated Cost Reimbursement

We contracted with Centration Management Consultants last year to file claims with the State of California for reimbursement of mandated program costs. Senate Bill 90 requires that the State reimburse municipalities and local districts for incurred costs associated with complying with specific mandated acts and reporting activities. CMSA is scheduled to receive a total of \$4,683 for incurred costs in FY 01 and FY 02 for preparation of the Board Agenda under the Open Meetings/Brown Act and the Agency's quarterly investment reports. The consulting fees to process the claim is limited to 20% of the claim amount and is also reimbursed.

Due to the State's budget short fall, the payment of the claims have been delayed. The monies owed to CMSA are currently accruing interest at the LAIF rate of return.

Lab Director Retirement

Nancy Evans, after 20 years of service at CMSA, has announced her retirement. Her last day at CMSA will be August 11, 2003. During her time at CMSA, Nancy has managed the laboratory and later the industrial waste and pollution prevention programs. She has contributed significantly in terms of knowledge, technical

expertise, and involvement with industry organizations as the Agency's representative.

Reorganization Recruitment

The final filing date for the recruitment has passed and we have received 40 application packets for the business services manager and 26 for the treatment plant manager positions. The recruiter, Koff & Associates, is performing the initial evaluation of the candidates and will be forwarding us the results for review and comments. Staff will ultimately select the top 7 or 8 candidates for the panel interviews which are scheduled for mid-May. Both positions should be filled by early July.

Belvedere Contract

Staff has been negotiating with the City of Belvedere on revisions to the wastewater pump station O&M contract. CMSA has been providing the O&M service since 1999 under a contract that needed some significant modifications to cover the actual costs incurred for meeting the contract obligations and more accurately defining the roles and responsibilities of each party.

We recently came to an agreement with Belvedere on a reduction in the contract's scope of services, the annual budget to provide those services, and modification and expansion of various sections in the 1999 Agreement. We have included sections on sewage spill reporting, budget development, and converted the compensation

structure from a fixed annual fee paid quarterly to a monthly reimbursable fee based on the actual costs for providing the services. The new agreement will be brought to the Commission in May for consideration.

Human Resource Policy Manual

Wiley Price Radulovich (WPR) has been working with staff to revise and update our Human Resources Policy and Procedure manual which has not been updated since 2000. The focus of the review effort has been to update the policies to comply with recent changes in State employment law, modify existing policies to more accurately reflect current practices, complement and conform with provisions in the 2002 MOU, and to restate existing policies in a more concise structured format.

The process for review included the management team providing recommended changes to the manual policies; WPR reviewing the MOU, management comments, and the manual, and providing a first draft to the General manager for comment and clarification; management responses to the first draft; second draft production, delivery, and review by Agency management team, final draft to MAPE for review and comment, and lastly the final document to the Commission for review and consideration of adoption. We

currently have the second draft and plan to bring this to the June Commission meeting.

Hoffman Claim

In February 2003, Robert Hoffman of Novato struck a boulder in a landscaped area adjacent to the CMSA visitor parking lot with his motor home and requested that CMSA provide reimbursement for the damages. The Commission discussed the claim at their March 2003 meeting and after considering all relevant facts and details, rejected the claim. A letter was sent to Mr. Hoffman explaining the claim rejection and the statute of limitations if he wanted to pursue the situation further in court.

Mr Hoffman recently requested a special meeting with the CMSA Commission to present his belief that he should be reimbursed for damages. We have responded in writing that the Commission has already heard the claim, made a decision by resolution, but that he is welcome to attend a Commission meeting as a member of the public and address the Commission during the Open Period.

CAPITAL

Dewatering Improvement

The construction phase of the project is finishing up and we plan to meet with the general contractor, Schram Construction, in the near future to begin negotiating change

orders, credits, delay claims, and the usual end of job closure issues. The project has been very successful with construction progressing smoothly and minimal changes.

CMSA staff have contributed significantly to the projects success. Electrical staff have spent many hours troubleshooting the controls and electrical systems between the CMSA process control system, Centrisys panels, and the new ancillary equipment interface control panel. Operations has been running the new centrifuges, providing operational troubleshooting, and working with lab staff to analyze process samples to determine compliance with the contact specifications. Special acknowledgment to Chris Finton, an Grade III operator, who has clearly worked outside his job description by coordinated the project between staff, Centrisys, the general contractor, and the design engineer, and performing the daily inspection and oversight of the project.

All three Centrisys centrifuges are operating in full automatic mode and most of the construction punch list items have been completed. The biosolids produced have a moisture content averaging greater than 25%, which is up to 6% better than the prior Humboldt centrifuges. This reduction in moisture translates to cost savings with respect to disposing of the biosolids.

We hope to have all contract tasks and issues resolved by the May Commission meeting.

Secondary Clarifier/DAF

Coatings

Staff is currently preparing bid documents for the surface preparation and industrial coating of a secondary clarifier and a dissolved air flotation tank(DAF). Both tanks have coatings that have been in service for over 15 years protecting their steel surfaces from the aggressive wastewater environment. The scope of work involves draining both tanks, identifying areas of failing coating, preparing the surfaces by blast cleaning, and application of multiple coats of a high solids epoxy. We have coated a secondary clarifier each of the last two years and the other DAF in 2001.

The project is expected to be publically bid in early May with a bid opening in early June. If awarded at the June Commission meeting, the project should be completed before November when the tanks need to be ready for wet weather service.

Cogeneration Engine

Replacement

The 90% design drawings and specifications have been prepared and submitted by CH2MHill. The CMSA project team is currently reviewing the drawings and will have a workshop with CH2MHill in mid-May to discuss design intent, clarify outstanding issues, and prepare to bring design to 100%. The project should be ready for public bid in late June with a bid opening in early August.

Waukesha is the only manufacturer that can provide a new engine-generator in the size we need, 750 kW, that utilizes both natural gas and digester gas as fuel sources. We awarded the prepurchase engine contact to Steward & Stevenson, the local Waukesha distributor whose territory covers everything east of the Rockies, in February 2003. Instead of sending their insurance certificates, bonds, and delivery schedule, they sent three pages of exceptions and conditions to our contract. This is usually done during the bid period not after the award. Unfortunately, we were not in a strong negotiating position since Waukesha is the only engine manufacturer.

Staff, CH2MHill, and Steve Lawrence (CMSA attorney) have spent quite some time trying to address the S&S exceptions with considerably success. A few issues S&S wouldn't compromise such as liquidating damages due to late equipment delivery and indemnification are proving to be more difficult to negotiate. The bid package was revised and sent to other Waukesha distributors in an attempt to introduce an element of competition but has had little success since they have all taken similar exceptions. The bid opening is April 30.

After much discussion and analysis on combustion chemistry and emission levels, we have received the Permit to Construct from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The next permit that requires preparation is the PG&E electrical interconnection. Both permits are needed to demonstrate project advancement for the PG&E Self Generation Incentive program.

MAINTENANCE

DAF Repairs Maintenance Staff has been busy doing repairs on our (DAF) Dissolved Air Flootation Thickener. We have two of these units. They take Secondary sludge and thicken it before it enters the digesters. This is done to minimize the amount of water in the digesters.

The DAF's consist of a steel rectangular tank with mechanical skimmers on the top surface of the tank, and another set of skimmers on the bottom of the tank. They are driven by variable speed mechanical gear motor assemblies. The top skimmers have been giving us the most problems. The materials of construction, design and age have all contributed to the problems we currently experience. We have the first repaired unit back on line at this time and will begin work on overhauling the second unit very soon.

We are looking into a longer term fix for these DAF's. Most of the current machines components are made of steel. We understand there are retrofit components made of composite materials that would be much better for the environmental conditions in these tanks. The problems are related to the

weight of the components causing excessive wear in the drag chain guides and corrosion related issues.

Radio Telemetry Kit Groves our Information Systems Supervisor has completed the first installation of a radio telemetry unit at one of our remote sites. He has installed radio equipment at the Corte Madera meter vault and is transmitting information from this site with a radio transmitter that is received at one of Corte Madera's Boardwalk stations and then relayed to CMSA via telephone line. Kit has reported the system works well. This system allows us to monitor and track the wastewater flow from the Sanitary District No. 2 service area.

We will be working toward more installations of radio units at the pump stations in attempts to eliminate the problems we have had with the telephone line reliability. Ultimately, we will have a radio site at the plant that will receive information directly from the radio in the field and eliminate the telephone line relay transmitters.

Security An initiative team has looked into security issues with trucks and recreational vehicles entering our plant and causing damage to our landscaping and cars in our parking lots. We came up with some suggestions that either involve changing the signs that direct vehicle drivers or moving the gate and perimeter fence to a spot closer to Andersen Drive.

It is difficult to come up with one solution that will address all the concerns we have. Some of the more costly ideas have some merit but may open us up to other problems. Detailed options with cost analysis and recommendations will be developed in the near future.

OPERATIONS

Operator: Stanley Hagwood Operator grade II, was the Operations' representative to the state CWEA conference held in Ontario Calif.

Repairs to DAF: Operations worked with the Maintenance Dept. in getting several repairs to the DAF equipment finished. Significant process changes were successfully managed with no upsets while repairs were completed.

Dechlorination Project: Operations has been ordering necessary parts and equipment for the final effluent vault portion of the dechlorination improvement project.

LAB

SB709 Fines: Every year the RWQCB fines us \$3000 for any NPDES Permit violations in the past year. In 2002 we had 2 chlorine residual violations, so the fine will be \$6000; all of this can be applied to Supplemental Environmental Projects. The

good news is that there was another short instance of chlorine residual in the effluent in September 2002. We supplied a large amount of data to the RB in support of our argument that it was highly unlikely that any had reached the Bay, due to the very small amount of chlorinated effluent and its detention time and mixing, as well as excess sodium bisulfite dosed before and after. We are not being fined for this one, so the RB agreed with us.

Intern, cont'd: Angela Flocco, our intern from Drake High School's Academy X program, completed her internship here as of April 10. She worked on a project analyzing ammonia levels at a number of points throughout the plant and on April 1 gave a nice Power Point presentation, describing her project, what she hoped to learn, and summarizing her results.

Commercial Lab Contract, cont'd: The current contract for commercial lab work expires on June 30, so we are in the process of evaluating labs that do such testing. Rob and Nancy have narrowed down the list of potential labs to 2, and have inspected both and received proposals from them. We intend to have the evaluation completed and a recommendation for Commission consideration at the June meeting.

Bioassay Ammonia

Concerns: We are continuing to coordinate with the RWQCB on the acceptable method to control un-ionized ammonia levels in our bioassay. It appears that pH adjustment is the preferable method, and the RWQCB has recently approved our proposal to test our effluent at different pH levels, in order to further support previous results showing that ammonia is the cause of fish mortality in the bioassay. This latest testing needs to be done during and after a period of dry weather, so it will probably be done in May.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE

Plating Shop Permit- Specification Chromium, which was fined by CMSA last year for a cyanide discharge, has applied for a "discharge" wastewater permit. They are currently on a "zero-discharge" permit, which means all process wastewater must be recycled, with no discharge to the sanitary sewer. CMSA is issuing a permit which allows discharge of treated wastewater from some of their processes, while their cyanide process will remain "zero-discharge." The permit specifies monitoring and other safeguards to assure all discharges are in

compliance with CMSA discharge limits.

Fats, Oil, & Grease- IW staff have determined that CMSA's member agencies will probably have to implement a program to control "fats, oil, and grease" (FOG) discharges to their sewers. The RWQCB is preparing a draft "general permit" for sanitary sewer collection systems. The permit is expected to contain a requirement for a FOG program, as well as other elements of the "capacity, management, operation, and maintenance" (CMOM) program originally proposed by the USEPA. This summer CMSA will assist the member agencies to examine the developing regulatory mandate and possible options regarding FOG programs.

NBWA Mercury Program- The North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) water quality committee is implementing the North Bay Mercury Pollution Prevention Program which was developed in 2002. Recent activities of note are:

- Educational materials produced by the water quality committee were mailed with the March newsletter of the Marin County Dental Society. The materials will assist dental offices to properly handle and dispose of dental amalgam, which is

approximately 45% mercury.

- "Recycle Your Fluorescent Lamps" stickers, developed by the committee, are being distributed to cities and other public agencies in Marin County. The stickers are designed to be affixed to storage containers for spent fluorescent bulbs. They inform the viewer that fluorescent bulbs contain mercury and should be disposed/recycled properly. They provide North Bay contacts for recycling the lamps.

LGVSD Education Efforts- IW staff are assisting LGVSD with their annual Earth Day and "Wetlands Days" educational events. At each event, hundreds of local school children are bussed to LGVSD to spend the day rotating through a series of stations and tours where they receive water-related environmental education.

