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# CMSA Newsletter

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Central Marin Sanitation Agency

November 2004

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## **GENERAL**

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### **Regionalization**

Red Oak consulting completed the first phase of the regionalization study, which assessed the current governance structure (JPA) and identified its inherent strengths and weaknesses. The assessment was based on information provided by each of our member agencies in the functional areas of administrative/legal, technical, financial, and operations. Red Oak also spent about a day at each district interviewing their key staff, observing field operations, and inspecting equipment and information management systems.

Red Oak gave the Phase 1 presentation to the CMSA Board at the November meeting, and Phase 2 began the following morning at a half-day Board workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to identify possible regionalization scenarios, select the most feasible, and list their advantages and disadvantages. The Board identified the following possible change scenarios: do nothing, modify the CMSA JPA, partial consolidation, full consolidation of all members and CMSA, consolidation of all Marin County sanitary districts, and consolidation of sanitary under MMWD.

The MMWD and all county sanitary options were briefly discussed and dropped from the list as the Board believed they were not viable and would be too cumbersome to initiate. The partial consolidation was also removed because its functional

aspects could be implemented under the current JPA as contractual services. The Board agreed that full consolidation and modifying the JPA to address regional issues were feasible, and they asked Red Oak to analyze these alternatives in more detail. Further outcomes of the workshop were the request to allow member agencies to comment on the interim draft (Phase 1) report, and to separate the factual and consultant opinion aspects in the strengths/weaknesses section.

At the December Board meeting we will bring to the Board the recorded outcomes of the workshop and request confirmation that they are accurate. This validation is an important step prior to Red Oak beginning the change scenario evaluation. The final report is scheduled to be delivered and presented to the Board at the February 2005 meeting.

### **Strategic Plan (SBP)**

We are nearing completion of our 2005 Strategic Business Plan. In July 2004, the draft plan, which had been developed to the strategic objective level was brought to the Board for review and comment. The Board accepted the draft plan and requested some minor changes be made to some of the Mission elements. Since then implementation has proceeded according to schedule with the Agency SBP Committee meeting bi-monthly to develop strategic actions for each Goal's objectives. There are over eighty actions identified, each of which may be a task, a plan, or an entire program.

Each objective has a coordinator who is responsible for refining the actions, suggesting the individual/team responsible for

implementing the action, determining the resources needed to successfully complete the action, and proposing a time frame for completion. The final Goal's actions were developed this week. Now the committee will review a Gantt chart, or master schedule, containing all the actions to determine if the planned work load is feasible or if some of the actions need to be shifted in time.

Red Oak has been assisting during the implementation phase by peer reviewing the SBP committee's work and suggesting ideas to help improve the plan. The final draft SBP will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.

### **Belvedere Annexation**

Sanitary District #5 in Tiburon provides wastewater collection and treatment services to the east half of Tiburon, and treatment for the City of Belvedere. Belvedere has its own collection system. In 1999, CMSA and Belvedere entered into an Agreement under which CMSA operates and maintains Belvedere's sanitary pump stations. Prior to 1999 SD#5 provided this contract service.

With the Marin County Grand Jury report on the southern Marin sanitary districts on the street, LAFCO conducting a consolidation study for southern Marin, and new management at SD#5, Belvedere and SD#5 are considering consolidating. The proposal is for Belvedere to transfer its sewer system and assets to SD#5. Our understanding is that the Belvedere City council is agreeable to the action as is a

majority of the sanitary district Board. If approved, CMSA will no longer provide the pump station O&M services. The tentative time frame for our release from the contract responsibilities would be July 2005 or sooner.

### **Safety**

CMSA's Safety Committee completed the annual Plant Safety Inspection on November 3rd. CMSA's Injury & Illness Prevention Plan requires CMSA to perform this inspection to identify and correct any unsafe conditions or practices in the workplace. The completed inspection is summarized on the Inspection Follow Up form, which is reviewed by the General Manager, then distributed and assigned to the appropriate personnel to correct the unsafe conditions or practices. A major focus for this year's inspection was the evaluation of safety guards on equipment with rotating parts.

CMSA currently has safety guards on all equipment that should meet code, but a recent surprise CAL/OSHA inspection at a local sanitary district resulted in several fines for equipment with inadequate guards. No changes to the relevant safety code have been made, but the interpretation by OSHA appears to have changed. The Safety Committee recommended the adoption of the more restrictive interpretation to limit employee exposure to moving parts and minimize the potential liability.

## **BUSINESS SERVICES**

**Audit** As previously reported, the Agency's annual financial audit commenced the first week of October. The first draft Independent Auditors Report was

presented to the Agency in November. The report has been modified from prior year's report due to the Agency implementing GASB Statement No. 34 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. Statement 34 establishes standards for external financial reporting for all state and local governmental entities. The adoption of Statement 34 has no significant effect on the basic financial statements except for the classification of net assets and the inclusion of a Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section providing an analysis of the Agency's overall financial position and results of operation. The final results of the audit will be presented to the Board during the December Commission meeting. The audit report will also be incorporated into the financial section of the Agency's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

### **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

The Agency began work on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report or CAFR in November. The first draft documenting the status of the major initiatives active in FY 03/04 began in November and is one several significant tasks required to complete the CAFR. Drafting the initiatives is an Agency wide effort as the initiatives span all Agency departments. Once completed, the major initiatives will be incorporated into the Introductory section of the CAFR along with the Independent Auditors Report, an Agency profile, and information useful in assessing the Agency's financial condition. The CAFR also includes a financial and statistical section, and will be published the last week of December 2004.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

At the October Commission meeting and during several Budget Committee meetings, the topic of issuing debt to fund capital projects

was discussed at length. Issuing debt is a means of obtaining monies in lieu of significantly increasing the sewer service charge, to fund future capital projects. At the November Commission meeting, the Board approved the Budget Committee's recommendation to consider issuing debt to fund a major capacity project and other capital projects. The Board then requested to see an updated list of our current projects that we would include in a potential future debt issuance. Based on the direction provided by the Board, the Agency staff has been reviewing its 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) created in June, and making revisions based current information. The revised 5-Year CIP will be presented to the Board at the December Commission meeting.

### **Asset Management**

The phase one implementation of our Asset Management system, Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS), continues to progress with significant milestones being met. With the successful completion of the milestone one goal of rolling out the corrective maintenance program focus has shifted to the milestone two and three goals. Milestone 2 goals focus on developing documentation and implementing procedures for tracking assets from purchase to disposal. These documents and procedures will provide an important bridge for information sharing between the business/financial end of asset management and the hands on operation/maintenance end of asset management. Milestone 3 concentrates on collecting data on assets that previously have not been assigned asset identification numbers. Tracking these additional assets will allow more accurate accounting of the actual

operation and maintenance cost associated with specific equipment and processes.

### **Contracts**

CMSA has a contract with Polydyne for the supply of mannich polymer for use in sludge thickening and sludge dewatering. Polydyne informed CMSA on September 20, 2004, that they will close their manufacturing facility in Contra Costa County, which produces our specific blend of *quaternary mannich* polymer effective December 1, 2004. CMSA ran trials with many polymer vendors to find a replacement, finishing with three trials in November. Operator Jean Saint-Louis ran most of the trials for consistency, and trial data was collected and analyzed. One of the polymer's tested was an alternative tertiary mannich polymer provided by Polydyne. Based on performance testing and from a total cost basis perspective, this alternative product provided acceptable results in CMSA's sludge thickening and dewatering processes. The current Polydyne contract will require amending to specify the new polymer formulation and unit pricing.

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## **CAPITAL/ ENGINEERING**

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### **Capacity Study**

Carollo Engineers has been proceeding with Phase 1 work that includes the hydraulic and process evaluations of the treatment plant and the influent hydrograph development. The hydrograph predicts influent flowrates at the treatment plant over a 24 hour period for 2, 5, 10 and 25 year storm events and correlates the rain fall for each event to I/I in the collection system. Computer modeling tools and NOAA rainfall

estimates are used in conjunction with rain gauge data and historic influent flows to develop the hydrographs.

Our capacity team and operations staff recently met with Carollo for a progress meeting where we were briefed on the methodology used for the plant evaluations and how the above hydrographs were developed. Operations staff provided process and operational data for peak wet wether events and shared their field experiences during these events. This information will help calibrate the process model and ensure the results are as real as possible.

At the December JPA manager meeting we will be presenting the results of the Phase 1 work and soliciting input from the managers. Carollo has been in contact with the managers to schedule meetings to gather information regarding their future collection system improvement plans and if there are opportunities for regional flow storage within their District boundaries. Carollo is scheduled to present the Phase 1 work to the Board at their January meeting.

### **Cogeneration**

We finally did have the Pre-Parallel Inspection (PPI) dry run, which was interesting, and finally made it through the PPI on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (at 7 pm). CMSA has been granted provisional release to run the engine. Permanent authority will be granted when 1-line and 3-line diagrams are modified to show existing information. That's the good news.

The test did not really go smoothly. PG&E is implying that they have tracked an additional ten hours of their consultant's work which should not have been necessary. Prior to the PPI we determined that a protective relay on the engine switchgear (the Bassler unit) needed

to be modified to add a feature. Switchgear System's, the testing sub to the electrical subcontractor, provided a loaner in the interim. The PPI was finished after two days (plus) and the utility has implied they will be asking us for some money for anything over 1 day for the cost of their test observer.

The testing revealed some useful information. There were protective relays from the original construction that had been rendered useless by incomplete repairs or outrightly disabled. These were protective relays for CMSA - not for PG&E. However the utility consultant strongly recommends we have these fixed, replaced, and operating correctly.

Another interesting thing that came out of the testing was the observation that it is possible to install equipment at the main switchgear which will allow for smooth transitions when the power goes out. There are actually two transitions when utility power outages occur, namely, when power is lost, the cogen stops, main breaker opens, and the emergency engine comes on-line. Then again when power returns there is a shutdown of the emergency engine. The main breaker is closed, then the cogen engine is brought back on line. It is possible to engineer the system so that the cogen stays on-line through out and we don't have interruptions. This would be not only convenient for operations, but has a lot of implications regarding the disinfection process and potential disruption of our chlorine removal process. We will be asking our consultant to evaluate this.

Our engine vendor's field technician was concerned about oil leakage around the breather cap. He called in Ken McCarty of the

S&S San Leandro office. Ken seemed to think there was water contamination in the engine oil, so there was a major distraction in getting the oil changed. One thing that pointed to this was the use of apparently contaminated oil in the supplemental 30-gallon reservoir parked at the head of the engine (in front of the heat recovery unit). The "old" oil was removed from the engine and new Pegasus oil was put in its place. Our observation in removing the old oil from the engine was that there was no apparent contamination in the engine itself. However, we are having samples analyzed to make certain.

Training is on the horizon. We were going to have the compressor vendor, McKenna Engineering, do some training today (December 2), but that was cancelled in favor of another day the following week (to be established). Also next week we have scheduled Applied Filter Technology (AFT) on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thus far it looks like AFT will hold two 4-hour training sessions (morning and afternoon). Doug Miller is coordinating this.

There are more changes which need to be made. There are always punchlist items as well. A preliminary list has been supplied to the construction contractor. The two most major changes needed are (1) to add some venting and relief lines between the cooling systems and expansion tanks and (2) further modifications to the fuel lines where the solenoid valves for natural and sludge gas need to be moved closer to the engine fuel intake. Details from our consultant on both of these are just about ready.

We are also waiting for the return of the modified Bassler relay. The borrowed relay needs to be returned to its rightful owner, so we'll be without one for a few days.

The modified original relay will be reinstalled next Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. At that time Encorp will also return to the job site to continue some functional testing of their controller and switchgear with Stewart and Stevenson's Field Technician. The HMI sub-sub contractor, KBL's Larry Brooks, will also be on-site. We still have wiring to verify, control loops to test, and functional testing.

Start-up of the digester gas system will depend on the availability of the gas dryer vendor. Their first response to our training and start-up request has been to schedule it slightly before the holidays. We've told them we'd like them in here sooner and are waiting for a revised response. Fortunately, McKenna Engineering has a Novato office, so they are nearby and somewhat more flexible. Applied Filter may not actually need to be here. Their system, after all, has no moving parts. So the Permtech gas dryer vendor is pivotal for our start up.

#### **Marine Outfall Inspection**

Parker Diving performed an annual inspection of our marine outfall in November, and reported on the risers' overall condition, riser elevations relative to the Bay floor, risers needing extension, and depth of solids accumulating inside the outfall. They also noted that a derelict 1 ¼ inch steel cable was draped over one of the risers, threatening a number of risers if it shifted or was moved. They reported that they checked with CalTrans' marine operator, who said the cable did not belong to them.

We issued a purchase order to Parker Diving to extend the risers and cut the derelict cable, and supplied them the extension parts and hardware. Initiation of repair work was delayed because Parker Diving was called out to do emergency work at a shipwreck up the coast. We expect work to begin on December 6

or 7, and take approximately two business days to complete, subject to weather, currents, and water visibility.

We have incorporated the reports' information into our outfall tracking system. Based on this year's information, it appears that solids in the outfall have increased from about 19 cubic yards last year to about 100 cubic yards this year. We do not yet know the cause of this increase in accumulation rate, whether it will continue, or the composition of the solids (actual suspended solids vs. snail shells). We are developing improved inspection procedures to gather the data we need to resolve these questions, and will implement them during next year's inspection.

#### **Security**

After receiving preliminary cost estimates, the Security Team recommended combining the perimeter fence extension and front gate automation work into one security improvement project. This will streamline most phases of the project, and should generate some cost savings from consolidation and coordination of similar tasks in different areas. The combined project has the same goals and overall scope as the two separate projects: extend the perimeter fence to completely enclose the administration building and grounds as well as the treatment plant, and automate the front gates with card readers, remote telephone and camera, electrical operators, and emergency services lock box. The first draft of the project specifications has been completed and are currently under peer review. The target date for completing the specifications and accompanying bid documents is December 2004.

## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

### Centrisys Negotiations

The Centrisys centrifuges have been in operation for about 2 years. They have performed well at dewatering our biosolids, but have experienced a variety of mechanical and electrical problems. The machines and their control systems came with a one year manufacturer warranty. As the first year of operation approached we informed Centrisys that in our opinion the mechanical/electrical problems were excessive, and that we were going to continue to withhold their project retainage until we were assured that they would stand behind their products. After a negotiation period, Centrisys assured us that the centrifuge systems were designed for our facility and offered a one year extended warranty. We accepted and paid the retainage.

The problems have persisted, to a lesser extent, during the second year of operation. Our operations staff have been tracking the ongoing problems and we have been sharing the information with Centrisys who has been responsive in repairing the machines as needed. Our concern now is that the problems haven't ceased and the extended warranty is due to expire in February 2005.

Our construction attorney has been kept abreast of the situation and recently prepared a letter to Centrisys advising they address the causes of the problem and meet with us to determine a resolution that will best meet both our organization's needs. The meeting has been scheduled for mid-December.

### Wet Weather Ops Manual

The rain event of January 1, 2004 caused our influent flows to reach about 110 MGD, which is the highest recorded flowrate since CMSA began operation. This flowrate exceeds the plant's treatment capacity and its hydraulic capacity at tides above 2.5 feet M.S.L. We now know that this was only a one-year storm event, and that our member agencies can theoretically pump 155 MGD to us with their current transport and delivery systems.

The January 2004 rain event in combination with the historic trend of increasing peak wet weather flowrates and the understanding that overflowing the treatment plant could occur, led us to the decision to develop the Wet Weather OPS manual. The primary objectives of the manual were twofold. First, OPS staff needed a thorough guidance document outlining the methods to best manage the peak flows based on criticality. Second, as an organization we wanted a document to demonstrate to our regulators and any other interested party(s) that since management has changed at CMSA we have identified, studied, and are addressing the plant's capacity limitations in the most appropriate manner that is within our control and the purview of our authority as a JPA.

CH2MHill was hired earlier this year to assist in preparing the manual. The scope was to package several recently prepared wet weather related documents, and our operations staff's real life wet weather related experiences into a concise, yet clear guidance document. Mid-way through the project the document expanded and took a different form as recommended by CH2MHill. Our operation group contributed

significantly to the documents development.

The final document meets our original objectives and provides additional value by documenting the necessary activities to be performed prior to and after storm events.

### Under the Microscope

Process Coordinator Al Fiore attended the very informative 3-day course titled "Under the Microscope". The class was held November 15-17th and provided tools for improved process control through a better understanding of the activated sludge process. The class covered all aspects of the microorganisms during the treatment process: their physical and growth characteristics, identification and relationship to process conditions, and control of their growth. This information is helpful because both our biotowers and activated sludge process are biological processes that rely on bacteria, algae and protozoa to remove dissolved and suspended solids from the water by consuming them.

The class was taught by Ronald Schuyler of RTW engineering and provided hands-on experience of microscopic observation of activated sludge. The class covered introduction to the microscope, microorganism identification, and filament identification. Various wastewater treatment plants in the area provided samples for inspection, it was interesting to see the variety of microorganisms that were present in the different plants. The most interesting part of the class was the filamentous bacteria identification (which happened to be the most difficult part as well). If allowed to dominate, filamentous bacteria

can wreak havoc in a secondary process. To identify filaments you must stain the sample in order to make various characteristics stand out under the microscope. The class microscopes were a better quality than ours, costing approximately \$4,000 dollars (compared to \$1,500).

Al will be utilizing his training to better control the secondary treatment process at CMSA.

### **O&M PERSONNEL**

It's time again for the bi-annual shift sign up and the sheet is posted in preparation for upcoming shift change. Staff will sign up for any changes in shift and assignments will be made according to the MOU.

### **Operations Says So Long Larry Johnson, Texas Bound**

Like the year 2004, Larry Johnson is retiring December 31. Larry was hired Christmas Eve 1984 as an Operator in Training ( OIT ) / truck driver. For many months he was our only driver while we were draining the decommissioned plants and seeding our digesters from other facilities. Larry has had quite a colorful career track, starting out as a singer, night club manager, apartment building repairman, wastewater operator, small business owner in a fast food ribs restaurant, minister and marriage counselor. Berta Vittier the first CMSA administrative assistant bestowed the name J. J. on Larry because his first name is James and CMSA already had a James, she decided to call Larry by another name so that she wouldn't confuse the two. Although it stuck for several years, he got to decide his own name and he's been Larry ever since. Besides his Operations' duties, Larry has

served several times on the Safety Committee and was also involved in developing several of CMSA's policies and procedures. Larry liked to lead Plant tours for the elementary schools. He has received many nice comments from the students and teachers alike, for being able to explain what we do, at a level that the kids understand while keeping them entertained and interested. Larry and his wife Kay plan to move back to their home state of Texas. We wish him and Kay all the best in retirement. Good Luck Larry!

Operations Supervisor Doug Miller has scheduled interviews for December 7 from our existing Operator in Training list. Operations will use this hire to fill Larry's position.

### **Maintenance Welcomes Michael Cadreau, New Maintenance Technician**

Koff & Associates and Administration have taken us through the advertising, interviews, rating, selection, and processing for a new maintenance technician. The interview panel was pleased to see quite a few good candidates and CMSA is happy to hire Michael Cadreau as our new maintenance technician. He will start on December 6. Mike knows our facility as the Centrisys field mechanic. Mike brings a wealth of knowledge on motor controls and centrifuge systems, his skills will be a great asset for CMSA. After traveling all over California and Nevada fixing centrifuges, Mike is looking forward to working at one location. Maintenance Supervisor Joe Smith and the crew are very happy to have Mike join them especially as we go through wet weather. The Maintenance Technician list will remain active and available for one year.

### **Maintenance Monthly Update**

Maintenance has been busy with many work orders. The final effluent vault sampler project is moving forward again. The Instrumentation/Electrical, I/E, shop ordered a PLC for control and to communicate to the plant control system, and pulled wire to bring the flow signal to the PLC. Mechanical ran piping to the new samplers. Depending on parts delivery, this sampler will go online in late December or early January.

Maintenance and Operations worked together to clean the blockage of rags that were plugging the Primary Digester 6" bottom line which feeds our centrifuge feed pumps. The mechanical crew has started Belvedere pump station annual PM'S , that consists of pulling all pumps from the wet wells checking oil levels, pump wear and cleaning of all wet wells of grease and debris. The I/E shop has been busy working to make sure that CMSA was prepared for the PG&E Pre-Parallel Inspection for the new cogen engine project. The two day inspection went off well and all of the tests were passed.

### **Maintenance Projects**

Maintenance hired the roofing contractor Garland to do preventive maintenance on our thousands of square feet of roofs. They started with resealing the sky lights in the Administration building, fixing gutters and drain lines on the Maintenance Building and patching some process building roofs as well as replacing corroded roof jacks around some of the many ducts and pipes that come through our roofs.

One item they found during their inspections was weathering and cracks of the wooden beam ends

that extend the Administration Building's roof ridgelines. Besides providing a graceful architectural detail, these wooden beams are the key support elements for the Administration Building's roof. After CMSA maintenance personnel visually confirmed the cracking and weathering, we engaged Roy Andrewson of Weir-Andrewson Associates to inspect the damage. Mr. Andrewson is a structural engineer who has extensive experience with glue-laminated, or glue-lam, wooden beams. His inspection revealed that, while our glue-lam roof beams remain structurally sound, there is extensive weathering and some rotting of all three beam ends. If left unchecked, the rot would continue to progress under the roof overhangs, eroding the wood and ultimately requiring expensive repairs. Although weathering like this wasn't expected of glue-lam beams when our plant was built, it's since been found to occur with some frequency.

Once we receive Mr. Andrewson's report and recommendations, we will implement appropriate measures to protect the glue-lam beams. One likely solution is applying fungicide, cleaning and filling the cracks, and completely enclosing the beam ends with sheet metal caps to prevent further weathering and preserve their structural soundness. Since our roofs are now "mature", we will continue regular roof inspections and preventive maintenance procedures, to ensure they last for their full design service life.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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### NPDES Testing

The NPDES testing we performed at CMSA in November was in compliance with our permit requirements. As the wet weather approaches we will be running extra samples and paying very close attention to the weather forecasts to try to maintain compliance. With the additional inflow and infiltration from the ground water entering the collection system, the concentration of solids and sewage in the water coming into the plant is greatly reduced. There is also a corresponding decrease in time the water gets treated which results in less solids and organics being removed. We are required to remove 85% of the solids and oxygen demanding products in the wastewater according to our NPDES permit. With the very dilute influent and shorter treatment time due to increased flow, it becomes impossible to achieve an 85% removal rate. The rate is calculated as a monthly average so we collect additional samples when the flow is low to try to achieve the required average removal rate.

### Laboratory

We received the results from our laboratory certification testing for bacteria analysis and we passed all dilutions for the different bacteria we test for. Part of the samples we received for plate count bacteria testing were declared invalid due to quality control problems with the manufacturer. The other samples were set and we did an excellent job by both correctly identifying the bacteria and counting the number present. New replacement samples were sent to make up for the samples that had quality control problems and we have analyzed them and we are awaiting notification of our results.

### Laboratory Certification

We have submitted our application for Environmental Laboratory Certification to the Department of Health Services Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Every two years we have a comprehensive inspection of our laboratory and our bioassay laboratory. In the past they have been two separate inspections coming from two different departments. They have been trying to combine the inspections and train inspectors to do both inspections to improve efficiency. They will review all of our past testing results which have been exemplary, our quality control program, our standard operating procedures, all of our equipment, reagents, chemicals, and all documentation. Updated versions of all documentation is submitted in advance and reviewed prior to the inspection where further questions will be presented along with the inspections of all files and supporting documentation and equipment.

### Bioassay Test

We had 100% survival of the fish in our November bioassay. We experienced a few challenges with the power outages while they were working on our new generator, but the fish survived the process. Every month we are required to perform a 96 hour bioassay that runs continuously from Monday to Friday. The purpose of this test is to assess the effects of our effluent on the survival of young rainbow trout. Our permit requires that we have an 11 sample median limit of 90 percent or greater and a 90<sup>th</sup> percent survival of at least 70 percent. This means no two samples over an 11 month period

can fall below 70 percent survival to meet this limit.

### **Biosolids**

Biosolids will be sent to Redwood Landfill for the remaining wet season where they will be used for alternate daily cover. We will resume land application in May once the dry weather has returned.

### **Public Outreach**

Sonoma State University's Environmental Studies Class toured CMSA on November 5<sup>th</sup>. They were given a detailed lecture explaining CMSA's different treatment processes and the design of the plant. The lecture is then followed by a physical tour of the facilities. They had studied water treatment in their class and toured a water treatment plant in Santa Rosa. They were about to study wastewater treatment and had many questions about the different processes involved in water and wastewater. They also had a large variety of questions about the testing we perform here at CMSA to ensure the functioning of all of the different treatment processes and what testing we do to protect the Bay, biosolids disposal, and environmental education programs to promote pollution prevention.

### **Pretreatment Program Audit**

Every year we normally have an annual inspection of our Pretreatment Program from the Regional Board and every five years we have an in-depth compliance audit. This year we had a compliance audit of our program that was performed by Tetra Tech, Inc. This is a consulting firm that the EPA, State Board, and Regional Boards are using to do work that

they are not able to do because of shortages in staffing.

Tetra Tech reviewed all of the files of our significant industrial and categorical users. These are dischargers that have the potential to impact the plant or generate very high flows, and our Federal categorical dischargers are industries that are regulated by Federal requirements and categorized into specific industries. The Tetra Tech inspectors asked to observe CMSA staff installing 24 hour composite samplers to monitor the discharges of industries that we regulate, and they also wanted to observe how we perform detailed inspections of dischargers. Their purpose was to ensure that our program meets all regulatory requirements and is sufficient to protect CMSA and the environment. They said it was one of the best inspections they have ever done and that when they issue their report they will have no required changes. They will have some minor recommended changes that we might want to consider that they believe have the potential to improve our program. They said the report will probably be out in about two months because they are very busy.

### **Underground Storage Tank Testing Results**

Our underground storage tank annual testing was performed and it consisted of testing the overfill buckets and vapor recovery system. The overfill buckets are buckets that surround the pipe that the trucks connect to in order to fill our underground tanks. The buckets will prevent any fuel spillage onto the ground when connecting to the filler pipe or if minor problems occur at the connection. We are also required to test our vapor recovery system which is used to recover fuel vapors when filling up vehicles.

Both systems met all required regulations. Additionally, every three years we must perform testing of our secondary containment system to ensure it is not leaking which will be scheduled for next year.

In 2005 additional annual testing will be required to ensure that our secondary containment monitoring equipment is functioning properly by a licensed underground storage tank service technician. It is a comprehensive test of our on-line secondary containment monitoring equipment to ensure it meets all of the manufacturers specifications and current regulations. We will also be required to perform monthly inspections of our secondary containment. This must be done by a licensed underground storage tank system operator. Bob Adamson, our lead industrial waste inspector, recently passed his exam and will be able to do the required monthly inspections in-house.

### **Storm Water Violations**

We issued two City of San Rafael Administrative Citations for storm drain violations to San Rafael Touchless Carwash. They have had previous warnings and a citation for wash water discharging to the storm drain instead of the sanitary sewer. They have had repeated warnings in the past during their routine inspections and we made a referral to Steve Zeiger at the City of San Rafael. We also received a phone call from a concerned citizen complaining about their practices and discharge of cleaning and detailing products to the storm drain. We issued the first \$500 citation and they requested a hearing to discuss the citation. While meeting with City



personnel, it was suggested we return to the facility and take additional pictures to ensure we have an excellent understanding of their system. They were still discharging wash water to the storm drain so we issued another \$500 citation and they responded by installing additional barriers to direct the wash water to their interceptor (pretreatment device) that will drain to the sanitary sewer. Part of their problem is waiting till the car is inside the area that has the barriers (berms) installed to direct the water to the sanitary sewer before washing and not to wash the cars prior to the barriers where the soapy water will drain to the storm drains.

#### **LGVSD Assistance**

LGVSD has lost their laboratory and industrial waste staff and have hired a temporary employee and have a consultant on staff to manage their laboratory. This has required that we temporarily suspend the Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) program while we complete their industrial waste inspections and the inspections required in their Pollution Prevention Program. We will resume the FOG program as time permits. We will be inspecting the dental facilities in the LGVSD service area to monitor how they handle mercury waste and X-ray fixer waste to ensure it is being removed by an appropriate waste hauler. We will also be inspecting their photo processors, printers, and auto facilities.

LGVSD has a mobile home community, Contempo Marin, in its service area that has been causing a corrosion problem in the collection system and at the LGVSD pump station. This is due to the low dissolved oxygen in the wastewater coming from

the mobile home community. We drafted a compliance order from LGVSD requiring that Contempo Marin develops a plan to correct the problem within ninety days and that the plan be implemented within an additional 90 days. The total time of the compliance order to have the problem solved is 6 months from planning to installation of a solution.

#### **Water Quality Specialist**

A job description was drafted and submitted to the union for approval for the position that was approved by the CMSA Board of Commissioners in 2003. The union is reviewing the job description and we do not anticipate any major comments or changes. This position is a upgraded position with more responsibility and requires a college degree to ensure the technical skills will be present.

#### **Environmental Services Vehicle**

The vehicle that is currently used for all of our industrial waste inspections, public education, and laboratory uses has provided 14 years of service. A request for bids with specifications for a new vehicle was mailed out to three Ford dealerships with bids due by December 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was mailed to Marin Ford, Novato Ford, and S&C Ford requesting the final pricing for a new Ford Explorer to replace our 1990 Dodge Caravan. We need a vehicle that can balance both the ability to carry inspectors, regulators, samplers, tables, tools, and serve a variety of uses.

