



GENERAL

Blending

Since December 2004, we have produced a blended effluent over 40 times. Blending is a critical process for managing peak wet weather flows at CMSA and hundreds of other treatment plants across the country. Recognizing the importance of blending and the need to establish standardized criteria for the blending practice, the Federal EPA issued a draft blending policy in November 2003.

The policy has been received well by our industry and follows the EPA's long established acceptance of blending. CMSA and scores of other plants were designed to blend and funded by EPA grant dollars in the 1970s and 80s.

Some in the environmental community believe that blending is not allowed under the Clean Water Act and have challenged the EPA on the draft policy, even threatening lawsuits if the policy is not modified to prohibit blending altogether. If blending were prohibited, tens of billions would be needed to construct additional treatment facilities at wastewater plants across the country.

Congress has been lobbied hard on the issue by the

National Resource Defense Council (NRDC), which has resulted in an amendment being added to the EPA's budget stating that no funding will be appropriated to further the development of the proposed blending policy. The amendment passed the House of Representatives and moves on to the Senate.

Fortunately, our Regional Water Board understands that blending is a needed practice and the blended effluent meets CWA and permit discharge requirements. We plan to keep abreast of developments.

Capacity Study

Our capacity team recently had a joint strategy session with Carollo Engineers and our new regulatory consultant, Larry Walker Associates. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the study's findings and recommendations, and prepare a few planning approaches to address the wet weather peak flows for presentation to the Board at their June meeting.

The team believes that the Agency should plan improvements for the 5-year design event, which has been accepted by the Water Board for other Bay Area facilities. The draft executive summary document has been prepared and distributed by Carollo, and is being reviewed by our internal team and Larry Walker. The final document will be

distributed to staff in late May and sent with the June Board agenda. Both Carollo and Larry Walker will attend the June meeting with Carollo making the final study recommendations and presenting our team's preferred and alternate approaches.

CMSA Logo Contest

Staff recently suggested that the Agency should create a new logo for use on vehicles and our letterhead. The executive team agreed with the concept and formed a Logo Committee (LC) to coordinate the development work. The LC met several times to discuss adding a purpose to our logo as part of the Strategic Business Plan Goal to improve communication with our stakeholders.

The LC developed guidelines for an internal contest to design an improved Agency logo. We are encouraging staff to submit logo designs that incorporate the existing CMSA logo, Agency name, and a reference to the Agency's Purpose, Vision or Mission Statements.

Security

Ahlborn Fence & Steel has completed its work on the security fence extension and front gate automation project. The gates now open automatically for normal business hours and close in the evening. Our Electrical and

Instrumentation staff is installing the hardware and software to support gate operation outside normal business hours, including automatic opening by CMSA keycards, remote operators in vehicles, and opening from any process control terminal or from the Administration Building. Visitors can use the phone at the front gate to call into the plant to request entry, and the Fire Department's Knox box contains an access card and key for the plant. CMSA staff is completing the rest of the security improvements, including installing a video surveillance camera at the front gate, replacing the damaged light standard at the plant gates, and developing provisions for issuing temporary keycards to selected vendors and contractors as outlined in our revised Security Policy.

CAPITAL/ ENGINEERING

Vector Station Upgrade

The vector station improvement project has commenced. The kick-off stakeholder meetings were held on 5/19 & 5/20 with CMSA and member agency staff, and our consultant, Kennedy/Jenks. The current vector disposal method and frequency by each district was reviewed as were problems with the current facility from each stakeholder's perspective. Improvement ideas were also discussed.

K/J presented three concepts for modifying the facility. The first involves a large or series of smaller removable perforated buckets for separating the rock/grit. Spray nozzles clean the material with disinfected effluent, the buckets are removed with a crane, and the contents disposed in an adjacent dumpster.

The second concept utilizes a similar spray system but incorporates an auger to separate the solids from the water and discharge the solids into the same adjacent dumpster. The last alternative is the simplest and includes a large sloped discharge area with a spray system, and utilizes a small bobcat loader to collect and dump the rock/grit.

Kennedy/Jenks is currently performing an extensive survey of the region's wastewater facilities to learn how they manage vector loads and identify successful installations. This information and conceptual cost estimates for the three alternatives will be presented to the JPA managers at their next meeting.

Coatings

Secondary Clarifier No. 2 has been dewatered and is being inspected by staff. If the inspection shows that it's time to recoat the metal parts, we'll move forward with developing and advertising a contract for the coating work. We're also looking at the possible efficiencies of incorporating three other small coating projects: the grit hopper slide gates, the dewatered sludge hoppers, and spot repairs to the plant's deck coatings. If the clarifier coating is needed, we expect the contract to be awarded at the July Board meeting, with work completed by the end of September. If clarifier coating isn't needed this year, we'll look at incorporating the smaller projects with other planned projects, like the polymer replacement project.

Cogeneration

The cogeneration engine continues to run well on natural gas. Initial biogas operation was tested last week, and that test run highlighted a problem with the biogas compressor bypass regulator. The problem has been identified as incorrect parts installed by the valve manufacturer, who is building two new valves for us on an expedited turnaround. The two new regulator valves will be delivered and installed in early June, with biogas tuning due to resume soon thereafter. We expect to be using all our biogas to cogenerate by late June.

At their May 10 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved the final contract

change order and accepted the SR Hamilton contract as complete. The final change order has been processed, the Notice of Completion has been filed with Marin County, and the final payment will be processed in late June. The contract with Stewart and Stevenson should be wrapped up in the next several months, pending biogas operation and tuning, correction of any other items that crop up during the shakedown testing, and air quality testing.

We're moving closer to full operation, and we look forward to many years of efficiently using our biogas to help meet our energy needs.



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Odor Control Program

The Odor Control Team, Elayne Haller, Chris Finton, and Al Fiore, developed and published a public information brochure to give out this summer. The brochure describes CMSA and identifies our efforts in controlling odors. The Odor Control Program brochure also seeks public input by incorporating an odor complaint form. A member of the public can complete and submit, or call in the information, to help us identify the sources of odors. We are reviewing the Operation's SOP to ensure there will be prompt response to public odor complaints.

O&M Personnel & Training

Sandi Batis was notified by the Office of Operator Certification that she passed her Grade II certification test. Congratulations!

This month's O&M staff training included: tailgates on hydrogen peroxide safety from our new contract supplier, a CWEA Facility Start-up seminar in Berkeley, "NorCal Tech 2005" (a two day Instrumentation Society of America conference at the Maritime Academy in Vallejo), and the annual Hazardous Waste safety tailgates.

OIT Recruitment

Kathy Britton, our administrative assistant, has taken the lead on managing our Operator in Training (OIT) recruitment. She has prepared the job announcement, coordinated the advertising, and has sent out over 140 application packets. After applications close on June 30, the Operations' Team of Al Fiore, Doug Miller, Linda Bodwin and Chris Finton will review and rate the applications. It may be necessary to have an application supplement to help narrow the number of candidates for onsite interviews. The plan is to have a list for filling our vacancy in August.

Strategic Planning in OPS

Starting in May and continuing over the next few months, Operations is working on the first part of Strategic Business Plan Goal #4. We will be studying our Primary Treatment process to benchmark operation and analyze optimization options. To date, the following actions have been performed on the primary sedimentation process; we have defined parameters to be used for bench marking, identified key process and equipment parameters for improving reliability and efficiency, collected process data, and conducted a cost analysis of our baseline operation during dry and wet weather operation of the primary clarifiers. Under Goal #4 we will analyze all ten

process areas throughout the plant over the next five years.

O&M MONTHLY

After the "extra" May rainfall Marin county received, we are finally moving into our dry weather operation mode. Operations is taking extra process units out of service and will continue to do so as the lower flows of dry weather continue. Dry weather mode allows the maintenance department to conduct their major preventative maintenance program repairs on process equipment.

Dry weather also brings higher temperature with the possibility of increased odors at the plant. The extended wet season kept our weather and sewage cooler so we have not yet started our nitrate odor control systems. Our Nitrate stations (at West Railroad, North Francisco, Paradise, and Greenbrae Pump Stations) have been filled and are ready for startup for odor and corrosion control.

New software was installed on the process control computer for report generation. The existing method of building reports is difficult and only one person was adept at it. The new software is user friendly. Operations staff will be trained in its use allowing everyone easy access to the process data.

Good progress was made on our drive for centrifuge reliability. For the last week of the month all three machines

were available for use. Maintenance also replaced the HMI panel for centrifuge #1 on the fourth floor as a warranty issue. Next month Centrisys will ship liners for the discharge chute bellows for all three machines, this will resolve another warranty issue.

O&M continues working with Engineer K. Katen to resolve engine generator project issues. Conduit and control tubing were rerouted to allow access to the engine for maintenance. The old conduit was in the way of the oil filters and the cylinder heads.

Maintenance is completing annual pump inspections of Belvedere's pump stations. The three DAF air compressors were raised up and mounted on grout to prevent further corrosion of the tank feet (which were rebuilt). The light pole at our inside gate was replaced.

After rescheduling three times, PG&E cut power on Sir Francis Drake East so they could underground lines at the entrance to the new hillside development. This cut power to our vault and odor control station so Maintenance took out our portable generator for the outage. PG&E's third try was a charm, the job is finished.

BUSINESS SERVICES

FY 05/06 Budget Planning

The fiscal year 2005/2006 (FY06) budget development is continuing on schedule. The first draft of the Agency's operating budget, capital improvement plan (CIP), and 5-Year forecast was presented and tentatively approved by the Board during the May 10, 2005 Commission meeting. Staff will continue to modify the budget through the month of May and early June and provide a final draft budget to the Board during the June 14, 2005 Commission meeting. Updates will include modification to budget figures based on more current information in the areas of chemical supplies, insurance, and utilities.

The Board approved a FY06 rate increase of 8% at the May meeting. We have informed the member agencies of the increase and the Board's continuing direction to plan for issuing debt for the potential wet weather plant expansion.

Sodium Bisulfite Contract

The sodium bisulfite supply contract with Basic Chemical Solutions (BCS) will expire on 6-30-05. The contract has a provision allowing for an extension if agreed to by both parties. Staff offered to extend the contract and BCS agreed, contingent on a 20% unit cost increase. We believe an increase of that magnitude warrants competitively bidding a new contract.

The new sodium bisulfite bid package has been prepared. The bid package was advertised in the Marin IJ the week of 4-06-05 and was sent to six potential sodium bisulfite suppliers on 4-4-05. A pre bid tour is scheduled for May 26, 2005 and the bids will be opened on June 7, 2005. We expect the unit cost to increase, which is based on our initial survey of other organization's that recently went through the bid process for bisulfite.

Mannich Polymer

The mannich polymer supply contract with Polydyne will expire 6-30-05. Normally, a new polymer supply contract would be prepared and sent out to bid, and a new contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. However, CMSA will discontinue the use of mannich polymer in 6-8 months once the emulsion system is in place. Extending the contract guarantees the existing price and avoids the cost of bidding and the uncertainty of the potential bid unit cost. The CMSA Board of Commissioners approved the extension of polymer contract at their May Board meeting. The contract extension agreement was prepared and sent to Polydyne for signature. The new contract expiration date will be 6-30-06.

Biosolids Hauling

The biosolids hauling contract with Total Waste Systems, Inc. (TWS) will expire on 6-30-05, but has an extension provision. After careful evaluation of

existing market conditions and TWS's past performance, we determined TWS current unit cost is competitive with current fair market pricing and extending the contract is justified. TWS has agreed to extend the contract with the current unit cost and provisions. The extension agreement has been prepared and sent to TWS for signature. The new contract expiration date will be 6-30-06.

CMMS

Phase Two, implementation of the preventive maintenance (PM) module of CMMS, has five milestones that divide and focus 20 tasks into specific areas within the plant, and at Sanitary District #2's pump stations. The general task descriptions are the collecting, collating & defining of tasks, population of the PM databases, implementation of the preventative maintenance schedule, and the review and assignment of identifying associations. Most of the preventive maintenance data from our old system (MP2) has been converted to CMMS. Our next steps include populating CMMS with PM data that has been previously undocumented due to installation of new equipment and rolling-out the preventive maintenance module for use by staff. CMSA has enlisted the services of Chris Saill from Brown & Caldwell to assist in rolling-out the preventative maintenance module and development of the report writer module.

Strategic Asset Management Plan

Our current Asset Management Program has focused primarily on the implementation of the Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) component. With the CMMS implementation progressing as scheduled, we are broadening the scope to initiate development of the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP). We have accepted a proposal from the consulting firm of Brown & Caldwell to assist us in develop the SAMP. The major focus will be on evaluating current practices and capabilities, comparing these to industry best practices, and development of a tangible plan that compliments the Agency's Strategic Business Plan. We have initiated the first significant SAMP task of collecting existing Agency asset information. The target for completing the SAMP is September 13, 2005.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

The NPDES testing we performed at CMSA for May was in compliance with our permit requirements. We had 100% survival of the fish in our May bioassay.

Schools Outreach

On May 9th we spent the day at Neil Cummins School teaching their fourth grade science class about wastewater treatment, pollution prevention, and what is safe to put down drains in their homes and stormdrains.

It was an all day event and each of the fourth grade classes rotated through the classroom. We set up a microscope so they can see the good bugs that help us treat the wastewater. We also create a model of a wastewater treatment plant using basic chemical and physical principles to make and treat wastewater.

We brought a diorama of a watershed where children can see how pesticides, motor oil, farm runoff, construction runoff, factory waste, and street runoff affect the entire watershed. We also bring a laptop computer into the classroom where the kids play an environmental game called Ecomasters and learn what they can and cannot dump down the drains in their home. This is an annual event and at Neil Cummins School for 10 years promoting environmental awareness and the valuable services we provide to protect the Bay.

Educational Tours

On May 5th and May 18th the junior and senior environmental science classes from Redwood High School toured our plant. We explained how the different processes function to treat the wastewater and they were able to see each process in operation. We also explain and show the students the testing we perform to ensure the plant processes function properly. We have a very

active program with Redwood High School and four science classes ranging from sophomores to seniors with approximately 100 to 120 students have toured the plant this year.

We also provided a tour to the geography class from College of Marin on May 18th. Their instructor covers a section on the watershed. It includes the collection of rain water, its treatment and application as potable water, and the curriculum finishes with the treatment of the wastewater society generates and its return to the water cycle. It was an educated and aware group of young students who had a comprehensive tour and lecture explaining how we treat and analyze wastewater to protect the public's health and the environment.

Wetland Days

Every year LGVSD hosts Wetlands Days which is an event attended by more than 700 students over a several day period. The event is organized by the School Environmental Education Docents (SEED). Several agencies participate including Novato Sanitary District, Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin, Marin Audubon Society, MCSTOPPP, and many other organizations. We assisted LGVSD two of the three days by setting up the watershed diorama and showing students how pollution from various sources flows into creeks, rivers, and ultimately the bay or ocean. They learn that pollution prevention is the

only way to solve widespread problems and how individual actions can affect the entire watershed.

Zero Discharge Inspections

We are continuing to work on our zero discharge inspections in the City of San Rafael. Currently we are about one third of the way through and during the inspections we have discovered some new businesses that we did not know existed. We also update our current files with new owners and contact information for our existing permits. While on our normal inspections if we notice hazardous waste storage problems we inform the business about their deficiencies and follow-up with a report to the San Rafael Fire Department.

These are inspections of automotive facilities that are not allowed to discharge any process waste or car washing water to the sanitary sewer because they do not have the required pretreatment equipment at their facilities. There are a total of 130 to 140 within our service area in the City of San Rafael. We inspect the facilities to ensure they are still zero discharge. Those with floor drains are checked to ensure their drains are capped with a crimped CMSA seal. If there is not a plug in place, we will plug it and reinspect in the future to ensure the plug is not being removed. If they are removing the plug that has been installed, we will take further enforcement actions.

LGVSD Assistance

We have been working with LGVSD on a Fats Oil and Grease (FOG) program and have submitted our recommendation for the Grease Removal Equipment (GRE) that would be installed in the Food Service Establishments (FSEs) in their service area. The recommendation is based on what many other FOG programs throughout the State are requiring. The equipment is specified in the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and is a straightforward and universally applied formula for sizing GRE. New or remodeled restaurants and restaurants that are upstream of documented problems or blockages in the collection system would be required to install a large underground concrete "interceptor" All other existing FSEs will only have to have a smaller "grease trap" inside their kitchen as required by the UPC.

We are currently working on the implementation schedule for the FOG program, which will include providing information to the FSEs on what the requirements will be, scheduling workshops to discuss the basis for the requirements and any comments and discussion, and an implementation schedule for installation of the equipment. Further work is required to determine permitting of FSEs, inspections, required documentation for maintenance of the GRE, and

the costs associated with the program.