



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2005

ADMINISTRATION

Regulatory Update

In August, CMSA and many other POTWs from the Bay Area sent letters to the State Water Resources Control Board supporting the Regional Board's Mercury TMDL that was being considered at a September 7th public hearing. The Regional Board spent 5 years developing the TMDL, which we believe is reasonable and fair to wastewater dischargers. The State Board, under significant pressure from environmental NGOs and the threat of the TMDL not being approved by US EPA, remanded it back to the Regional Board. Both groups have stated that the TMDL needs to further restrict mercury loading from POTWs to the Bay.

The State Board is nearing completion of a statewide General Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) for sewer collection system agencies. The WDR will require agencies to develop operation and management plans for their systems to minimize sanitary sewer overflows. The WDR's provisions are similar to those in the SSMP mandated by the Regional Board in their July 2005 13267 letter. Agencies must comply with the most stringent provisions of each program.

Desalination

The Board of Commissioners, at their September meeting, formed a desalination committee to work

closely with our general manager and MMWD on addressing CMSA's concerns if the desalination project moves forward beyond the pilot phase. The committee, Chairman Steve Vanni and Vice-chair Bob Sinnott, recently met with the general manager to review in detail the various concerns our staff has with sharing our outfall with MMWD for brine mixing and disposal. In the near future the committee will meet the MMWD committee to discuss how our organizations can work together in the most beneficial manner to address our concerns.

Personnel & Training

CMSA hired two OITs (Operator in Training) in September. Brian Bokkin joined us on September 12th and is taking his safety training and starting to learn operations. The second OIT, Odell Gibbs, has completed his processing and is scheduled to start on October 19th.

Supervisor Kit Groves and Safety Specialist Elayne Haller developed an Electrical Safety Training course. This course has qualified for CWEA Continuing Education Units and will be rolled out in October.

Operations' new Lead, Jean Saint-Louis, completed the two hour Workplace Answers training on sexual harassment prevention as required by AB 1825. All management and supervisory staff been trained, well ahead of the January 2006 deadline.

Kit Groves held a tailgate training for staff that responds to USA (Underground Service Alerts) calls. Staff reviewed the locations of the outfall's cathodic protection anode field and power wiring (that extends up to one hundred feet from the outfall for the onshore sections).

Financial Audit

The Agency's annual financial audit will commence the week of October 10, with Auditors from Vavrinek, Trine, Day coming onsite to begin the collection and dissemination of financial information. The financial audit is the second phase of the audit. The first was the internal control audit that took place in July 2005. In preparation of the financial audit, the Business Services Manager and Accountant have been developing the various documentation and schedules required by the auditors. Examples of the information being developed include reconciliation of accounts payable and accounts receivable, and schedule of fixed asset activity

Polymer Supply Contract

The new polymer procurement contract will be going out to bid soon, and will include about a month for product testing, with bid opening in mid-November. The new contract will include price escalator clauses to reduce future uncertainties for both bidders and to benefit CMSA by encouraging more competitive bidding.

BAAQMD VIP

On September 19th, CMSA submitted an application to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's \$500,000 Vehicle Incentive Program. Under this program CMSA can receive a \$2,000 incentive to purchase a hybrid automobile. On top of the incentive savings, calculations show CMSA will save another \$2,000/year in fuel costs (at today's costs). After receiving a grant, you have 60 days to order the hybrid and then 180 days to take ownership. We plan to evaluate the Toyota Prius and Honda Civic.

CMMS

Phase Three of CMMS has been initiated and will provide for standard corrective and preventive maintenance reporting. Supervisors are currently reviewing report examples to determine which reports will provide the most value. Phase 4, the implementation of the part inventory module, has also been initiated. Milestone 1, data collection and collation, and milestone 2, delineation of tasks and procedures, are approximately 75% completed.

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

The project's geotechnical and survey investigations are nearly completed and Carollo has started the analyses for the plant hydraulics, new primary clarifier and polymer chemical feed facilities, and the outfall study. The next progress meeting is scheduled for early October where electrical and instrumentation concepts will be

reviewed with staff. A study for the RAS system improvements has been scoped and staff are currently modifying the RAS distribution system in preparation for the study, which will begin in October.

We have prepared a master project schedule that shows the duration and inter-dependencies of the engineering pre-design, CEQA documentation, financial analysis, engineering peer review, NPDES permit renewal, debt issuance, and final design. The financial decisions relating to the manner in which the project is funded and what the resulting service charges to our member agencies are must be made before April 2006.

Cogeneration

The cogeneration engine continues in dual-fuel operation, allowing us obtain the best value from our digester gas by generating electricity and producing hot water for plant needs. Our maintenance crew performed the first periodic maintenance, and are monitoring the outcome with an eye to extending the maintenance intervals. We are working with Stewart & Stevenson to resolve what appears to be an ignition control issue, and they have committed to having a multi-disciplinary team onsite in early October to troubleshoot. That will leave only some minor engine-related milestones, and we look forward to negotiating final contract costs, including damages to CMSA, with Stewart & Stevenson. The last remaining item will be PG&E's reimbursement, which will realign project costs and revenues.

Vactor Station Improvement

Kennedy/Jenks has submitted the minutes from the second stakeholder group workshop, and revised the facility site plan to incorporate many of the design

ideas suggested by CMSA and member agency staff. The new station is 20'x20' with three 5' containment walls, and a 5% slope to better accommodate a skip loader. Two access approaches are currently being considered by the CMSA project team. The first is the existing while the second incorporates a new road. After the preferred alternative is selected, final design will commence. We anticipate the project being let out to bid early in 2006.

Marine Outfall

Parker Diving is once again inspecting our marine outfall, earlier this year than in the past, which affords them better visibility underwater. We have a preliminary report that shows only a few risers needing extension, and none broken. These two factors will provide an overall cost savings in the annual inspection. Once we've assessed their report, we will know where the solids accumulation stands.

Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment

Operations, with help from the Maintenance and Environmental Services staff, has begun the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT) testing. The pilot projects intent is to see if we can achieve an increased TSS & BOD removal rate in our primary tanks. Reducing solids going to the secondary treatment process should equate to a lower energy demand. In addition, the increased removal of solids in the primary clarification process should result in an increased in bio-gas production, which should translate to longer run times for our Co-generation on bio-gas and reduced purchase of natural gas. After optimizing

the chemical addition, we will test at simulated wet weather flows to determine the benefits for process efficiency and cost reduction.

Strategic Asset Management Plan

Phase one of the strategic asset management plan (SAMP) continues to move ahead. The scope of work for the first phase is to evaluate current asset management practices and capabilities, comparing these to industry best practices and developing a tangible strategic asset management plan that compliments the Agency's Strategic Business Plan.

The tactical actions plans (TAP's) for the strategic actions to be tentatively implemented during fiscal years 2006 and 2007, have been drafted and are being reviewed by Asset Management Team (AMT). Project plans for each TAP are also being developed by the TAP initiative manager and team. Once the tactical action plans and their associated project plans are finalized, the AMT along with our asset management consultant, will complete the development of the SAMP and roadmap. Both the SAMP and roadmap will be presented to the CMSA Board at the December 2005 Commission meeting.

O&M Projects

Summer is fading away and we are continuing to complete maintenance work in order to be ready for wet weather flows. Maintenance completed the annual maintenance for Primary Clarifier #1: including replacing the flight shoes and the bottom track for the sludge collectors. Maintenance

replaced another sludge pump this month.

E/I installed new PVC coated conduit to the #2 Barscreen in the headworks. The original conduit was not coated and has rusted away in the damp headworks environment. The conduit was in very poor shape and was no longer protecting the wire. The #1 barscreen's conduit is not in as bad a shape and will be put on next summer's schedule.

The maintenance crew power washed, surface prepped, and painted DAF number two. We also completed the annual pm and repaired the idler sprocket before putting it back online. DAF number one will be painted next month.

The new Centrisys field service representative helped coordinate ordering a replacement main board for the number two centrifuge Allen Bradley motor control, this one of the last outstanding warranty issues.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

The CMSA Polymer team reviewed Kennedy/Jenks Engineers' 20% design for Phase IV of the Dewatering Improvement Project. We expect to receive the 50% design in early October, and the 90% design by Thanksgiving. This would position us to put the contract out for bid in early January. We expect to start construction in April and have it completed by late next summer, which fits well with our new polymer procurement contract, discussed elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Coatings

F.D. Thomas, Inc. has substantially completed the coating of metal equipment in the Secondary Clarifier No. 2 and begun blasting and recoating the biosolids hoppers. They have also completed the prep work for replacing the waterproof deck coating at the secondary clarifiers. We expect to have the deck back in service by the end of the first week in October, followed by the secondary clarifier in the second week, and all 3 biosolids hoppers by early November.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing & Lab

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

Our September testing included Section 13267 of the California Water Code that requires CMSA to perform semi-annual sampling of all 126 priority pollutants and additional sampling specific to sewage treatment plant effluent dischargers.

We have submitted the data for our unknown bacteriological quality control samples to the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) in order to maintain our certification to test for bacteriological analysis on wastewater. We will find out the results of the unknown samples in late October.

Public Outreach Events

For Pollution Prevention Week we set up our public education booth at Thursday night's Farmers Market in San Rafael. Our booth was very popular and we gave out 85 quizzes during the event, which is one quiz every two minutes. A school teacher we spoke to that night has already contacted us about setting up a classroom presentation for 4th and 5th graders to teach them about wastewater treatment and pollution prevention.

Bob Adamson, our lead industrial waste inspector, gave a presentation at the Marin County

Dental Society Study Club meeting on September 26th. He covered best management practices for handling the waste amalgam from dental fillings, which contain high levels of mercury, and the fixer solution from X-ray developing. The amalgam waste from the filters at the chair side sinks, traps, and vacuum line filters, and fixer solution are to be collected and disposed of by licensed waste haulers or recycling companies.

Environmental Compliance

Staff completed the stormwater inspections for facilities that have been previously issued warnings in San Rafael. We also covered the industrial areas where potential violations may occur. We did not have to issue any warnings or fines, and all facilities were aware that car wash water and water from industrial activities containing pollutants cannot be discharged to storm drains.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

The LGVSD Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Policy in nearing completion and it is scheduled to be mailed out in October to all restaurants in their service area. Changes to the final Policy were made in response to public comments at a recent FOG workshop, these include requiring smaller under sink traps upstream of areas where the collection system is experiencing problems due to FOG blockages, with the ability to require larger in-ground interceptors if the problems are not alleviated by the traps. They will also ban food grinders from restaurants because they reduce the ability of traps and interceptors to remove FOG from the wastestream.

SD#2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for September. We completed annual PM's on force main air relief valves and started the annual electrical PM's to ensure reliable operation for the winter. We responded to a call about a sewage backup at Trailer Court PS, but found no SSO. As a precaution we jetted 300 feet of sewer with Corte Madera Public Works. The customer was advised about the actual problem, a blockage in their lateral.

Tamalpais pumps tripped on high amperage again in September, we removed rope from the pumps and had the sump vactored out, there have been no further incidents.