



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2009

ADMINISTRATION

CWEA Awards

CMSA is a member of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), the state's water and wastewater industry association. CMSA is in the Redwood Empire Section of the CWEA that includes Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Solano counties. For 2009, CMSA and staff received many awards from the Redwood Empire Section.

Jose Gutierrez was recognized as Operator-in-Training of the year for learning the Agency operations and effectively applying his knowledge; Antonio Barros was awarded the Collection System person of the year for his fine work operating and maintaining the SD2 pump stations; Jeff Boheim was awarded Electrical and Instrumentation person of the year for maintaining and repairing Agency systems; Robert Cole was awarded Public Education person of the year for managing the countywide program; and Bob Adamson was awarded the Pollution Prevention, Pretreatment, and Stormwater person of the year for managing our source control programs. CMSA received the Engineering Achievement award for the Outfall Improvement Projects, and the Waste Water Agencies of Marin County received the Public Education award.

Mercury Reduction Program

The first reading of the Mercury Reduction Ordinance was held at the November Board meeting and the public hearing is scheduled December 8th. CMSA must have an ordinance passed and a program in development by March 31st, 2010 pursuant to time schedule requirements in the Regional

Water Board's Mercury Watershed Permit.

Staff performed extensive outreach to Central Marin's dental community by presenting and requesting comments on the draft Ordinance, mercury handling Best Management Practices (BMPs), and all other program elements. We also provided the latest information to dentists from the California and American Dental Societies on installation of amalgam separators. Very little feedback has been received to date. Marin County Dental Society staff and local dentists mentioned this is not a large expense and they are accustomed to working in a highly regulated environment.

October Budget Performance

As of October 31, the Agency received 48% of budgeted operating revenues and incurred 31% of total budgeted operating expenses. Asset Management activities under the Capital Improvement Program were at 24% of budget. The Revenue Bond Program was at 82% of budget (\$68.3 million) and included \$5.4 million in obligations associated with executed WWIP contracts and change orders and \$600,000 in contractual obligations for other projects.

Financial Audit

The Agency received an unqualified opinion from its auditor, Vavrnik, Trine & Day for FY08/09 financial statements, which signifies the financial statements are free of material misstatements and the audit did not identify any deficiencies and material weaknesses with respect to the Agency's financial operations. The audit findings were accepted by the CMSA Board on November 10, 2009.

The complete FY 08/09 Financial Statements are available online at www.cmsa.us.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The audited financial statements will become an integral component of the Agency's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Agency has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the last seven years for its annual CAFR. Recognition from GFOA is highly coveted by governmental entities because it reflects the achievement of the highest standard in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The FY 08/09 CAFR will be presented to the Board on December 8, 2009.

Workplace Violence Training

CMSA employees receive annual training on many topics affecting the workplace environment. Courses are repeated biennially to reinforce the responsibility each individual has at all levels of the organization in understanding the organization's policies and procedures. CMSA employees were required to complete an online training course on Workplace Violence and Prevention Training in November.

The course taught employees how to recognize signs of inappropriate workplace aggression that include behavioral indicators such as verbal abuse, blatant disregard for rules, unexplained absences, and frequent tardiness that are common documented indicators of actual workplace violence incidents. Workplace violence is

costly monetarily and costly in lost productivity and morale, and as a prevention strategy, employees learned to report questionable behavior to their supervisors.

Wet Weather Operations

The Wet Weather shift bid transition was completed on the weekend of November 14-15. In this shift change, Operations included the wet weather staffing plan first initiated for the Wet Weather season three years ago. This plan assigns a third person on the graveyard shift to ensure adequate staffing for wet weather events. Another change was to have a second Lead on the day shift to coordinate and resolve operations issues during the WWIP contract close out.

Process Risk Analysis

Operations is continuing the process area risk analysis project. The staff is identifying possible failures (e.g., power failure, earthquake failures, equipment failures) and writing up possible responses. Some contingencies require piping changes and all require reviewing/revising our existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This project will continue three more months.

Safety

Two Operations and Maintenance supervisors attended a CWEA seminar entitled "Safety For Supervisors." The training was held at the Dublin San Ramon Sanitation District offices.

CMSA's safety program includes the Respiratory Fitness Program. Beside regular training for staff, employees have regular Fit Tests to ensure that respirators seal properly to provide protection for the employee. The Fit Test van was at the plant on November 17th and all field employees were scheduled for fit tests.

After Du-All's comprehensive safety survey of the CMSA plant

and the SD#2 pump stations, the deficiencies noted were written onto Work Orders. Maintenance and Operations have made good progress on the 49 work orders; only three orders remain.

Odor Control

As the temperatures drop in the fall and winter, so do the odors generated from the sewage coming into the plant from the collection system. This allows Operations to secure, for the wet weather season, the four Nitrate odor control stations located out at four collection system pump stations. During this off period, we will coordinate with our nitrate supplier to clean sediment out of two tanks contaminated by a delivery in September. We will continue to use hydrogen peroxide dosing for the two influent force mains to minimize odors at the plant.

PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

All major construction elements for the project have been completed, and we are moving into the comprehensive system testing phase. Western Water has stated the project should wrap up in January 2010, with only punch list and construction close-out items to be finished after that date.

Site paving is about 2/3 completed, and if weather remains favorable, should be completed by the first week in December. Equipment for the new Primary Clarifiers is being installed in the underground gallery extension, after which vendor training will commence.

The control strategy testing for the new contact tanks, effluent pump station, the automated Aeration Basin gates, and miscellaneous equipment is nearly complete. The next major testing milestone will

be testing the pump control strategy using actual water levels in the pump station inlet box and testing the performance of the new dechlorination WaterChamp™ mixers. Once these tests are completed, Carollo Engineers will be providing integrated system training for the CCTs and EPS, and they will be ready for full wet weather operation.

Outfall Crack Investigation

Staff received authorization from the property owner to perform the necessary work to inspect the outfall, and submitted permit applications to the Regional Water Board, BCDC, and US Army Corp of Engineers for the work. The other regulatory agencies with jurisdiction near or at the work site informed staff we do not need their permits.

Agency staff will be meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers representatives to review the site and determine whether the work location is separated enough from Bay waters to allow them to issue a disclaimer rather than permits for the project. If this is the case, it may simplify the rest of the regulatory review and permitting, and allow us to move forward more quickly. We hope investigation and any needed repairs will be completed, and the site restored, within a few weeks of starting work.

Bar Screen Replacement

To follow up on issues that arose during the first, unusually severe storm last month, Agency staff is coordinating with Western Water, the prime WWIP contractor, Waste Tech, the barscreen manufacturer, and Carollo Engineers, to implement various operational, programming, and piping changes to improve the screens efficiency in removing solids from the influent flows during wet weather. The changes made so far have included

increasing the maximum screen speed, replacing the existing wash water manifold with a larger size to improve washer compactor performance, and adding improved program flexibility to accommodate wet weather conditions.

Agency staff also provided field inspection, reviewed documentation for the revised programming changes, performed detailed functional equipment testing, and implemented the preventive maintenance program on the equipment. Improvements were tested in mid-November and will be tested once again before the next winter storm

Digester/FOG Predesign

The predesign work activities for the project are nearing completion and staff anticipates bringing the project design scope of work to the Board in December for consideration of approval. The project team reviewed alternative improvements for each predesign element, and selected the preferred improvements to carry forward into design using process efficiency, treatment effectiveness, and economics as primary selection criteria.

The project's scope of work will include installation of fixed steel covers and pump mixing systems for each digester, replacement of hydrogen sulfide removal equipment with a new technology, and construction of a dedicated FOG-receiving facility.

Biotower Arm Replacement

The project kick-off meeting was held with the general contractor to review the project schedule, safety and coordination requirements, and perform a pre-construction site inspection. The Agency has been provided with an equipment submittal for review. The existing biotower arm will be disassembled beginning in early December and

the top layer of that biotower's media will be replaced under a work directive from the Agency. The media is plastic, and in the 25 years since it was installed, the top layer has degraded due to exposure to the elements, and replacing it while the contractor's workers and crane are mobilized is an economical option.

Administration Building Modifications

The Request for Proposal was prepared in-house and sent to over a dozen engineering and architectural design firms. Staff held a project review meeting with design firms to discuss the proposed scope of work and tour the Agency's administration building. Five proposals were received last week, and will be reviewed in the near future. The top three firms will be invited for interviews for them to present their architectural design ideas and scope of work. Staff will select the most qualified firm, negotiate a service agreement for the design work, and bring the agreement to the Board in early 2010.

Preventative Maintenance

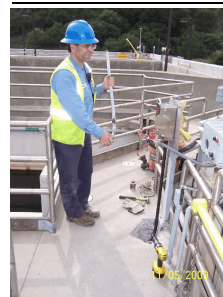
The sparkplug reliability test is continuing on the Waukesha engine. We have surpassed the normal replacement interval and the plugs are still testing and performing fine. SEC, one of our cogeneration service companies is testing, cleaning and re-gapping the plugs every 750 hours to determine the reliable life span.

Other small maintenance projects completed in November included: replacement of Secondary Clarifier #2 gearbox; rebuild of Primary Clarifier gates 1A and 1B hydraulics; rebuild of a 280 GPH Milton Roy chemical feed pump for wet weather sodium bisulfite feed; repair of Primary Clarifier #5 scum skimmer; and unplugging several lines in the solids area.

PCS Computer Replacement

The E/I staff has purchased, programmed, and installed new HMI computers for the agency's process control system (PCS or SCADA). The need for wholesale change is two fold. The new higher resolution screens will allow more screen area for the process control graphics, and the old computers installed in 2000 were failing. The new computers and monitors are energy efficient and the energy cost savings will payback our equipment costs in less than two years.

CCT Gate Disconnects



Fiberglass box electrical disconnects on the chlorine contact tank (CCT) deck were badly weathered (the fiberglass had become furry).

New stainless steel box disconnects were purchased to replace the fiberglass for the three CCT inlet gates. When the job began, the E/I crew found that the conduit coming through the concrete deck was rusted through and allowed rain and wash down water to run through the conduits into the main electrical distribution panel. The conduit was replaced with PVC-coated conduit for better corrosion resistance and the concrete was patched and sealed. The picture shows one of the three new stainless steel boxes and E/I tech Jeff Boheim holding one of the corroded conduits that was replaced.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

The Agency was in compliance with our NPDES permit

requirements for the month, and we had 100% fish survival in our November bioassay.

Public Outreach Activities

November and December are planning months. The program committee is meeting to review the 2010 public outreach activities and update our annual calendar.

Notification of our new school presentation, "Go With The Flow" has been mailed out to all Marin County elementary schools. The presentation is by Rock Steady Juggling and discusses what can and cannot safely go down the drain, to prevent plugging the sewers and causing problems at the treatment plant. We are accepting bookings on a first-come first-served basis for the current school year for grades 3 - 5.

Laboratory

We completed the last of the laboratory certification testing for 2009. The regulatory agencies require the testing occur in the second half of the year, and we always participate in the first testing possible. The agencies are working on a plan to allow certification testing earlier in the year so it does not end up completing so close to the end of the year.

The odor and corrosion testing in the collection system and at the treatment plant during the dry weather season has been extended another month. The warm influent temperature and sunny weather have created the possibility for the formation of odor and corrosion-forming chemicals and we monitored levels to ensure they weren't elevated.

Environmental Compliance

We completed the 30+ dry cleaner inspections in our service area. Additional follow-up will be required at facilities that have not sent in proof of their hazardous waste disposal for chemicals they are using. We will refer the facilities that do not appear to be hauling

away all of the hazardous materials to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District who closely regulates dry cleaners.

CONTRACT/OUTSIDE SERVICES

SRSD

Bombay Garden complied with their installation letter requiring installation of a new trap and connection of an additional sink. Mauna Loa Hawaiian BBQ was inspected twice to determine compliance with their self-clean permit and both times the trap was well maintained, with a minor amount of FOG in their trap.

LGVSD

Annual industrial waste inspections were performed at auto repair, car washes, printers, and photo developers that still use silver solution to develop film. All were in compliance and enforcement actions were not required. A review of businesses in the LGVSD service area found two additional auto body shops to add to their industrial waste program.

The food court and additional restaurants at the Northgate Mall have opened or are in the process of opening. Staff has walked through the restaurants at the food court, inspected their new interceptor, and determined everything is in compliance. In the near future, staff will be making appointments to review their kitchens, interceptors, and issue permits.

RVSD

Staff has completed FOG inspections for restaurants with pumping permits that require an outside pumping firm to clean and pump their trap. All restaurants were in compliance, but several had to be reminded to keep the pumping receipts on-site or on they will have to pay a

reinspection fee. Work continues with the restaurants that received Administrative Orders (AOs) to install traps. Their deadline for installation is in late December and we are continuing to assist them in any way possible. We will discuss what future actions to take with RVSD staff if there are any restaurants who have not completed their trap installation by the required deadline.

Tamalpais Community Services District

The first round of inspections for the six restaurants within the TCSD service area are complete. Additional work is required for both installation of traps and the lack of maintenance for the three facilities without traps. We will be working closely with TCSD staff to determine the time frames for trap installations and recommended cleaning frequencies for existing traps.

SD#2

Maintenance staff completed regular checks and routine preventive maintenance for all 19 pump stations in November.

Seventy seven Underground Service Alert notifications were received and reviewed this month.

The Village Pump Station telemetry was moved from a dedicated phone line to the new radio system this month. The phone lines have occasional problems during wet weather events and phone company technical is diminishing. CMSA designed, built, and installed radio telemetry systems for about 2/3 of the SD2 pump stations, and plans to install systems at the remaining pump stations over the next couple years as part of a Communication Reliability Project.