



Central Marin Sanitation Agency
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2025 CWEA PLANT OF THE YEAR

CMSA COMMISSIONERS

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FINANCE ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RESOURCES

A NACWA Peak Performance Agency

The Agency has won the 2025 Medium-Size Plant of the Year Award for the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Redwood Empire Section and for the State of California.

Founded in 1928, CWEA proudly unites professionals from throughout the state. They address real-time issues, develop and deliver cutting-edge training, raise awareness of the profession and shape the future of wastewater. The 2025 Plant of the Year award honors exceptional treatment facilities and is based on the following criteria:

- Accomplishments in operations, maintenance, environmental, and laboratory compliance;
- Innovative practices, management systems, and cost-effectiveness;
- Employee professional development;
- And superior facility performance.

CMSA General Manager Jason Dow stated, "We are honored to receive this award from the CWEA. This is an extraordinary accomplishment for our Agency, and I want to thank our staff for their instrumental role in this success. Their professionalism and passion for their chosen career, the environment, the community, and our Team are what made winning this award possible. I also want to thank the Board of Commissioners for their continued support of our Agency and its Mission, Vision, and Values"

Jason R. Dow, P.E.
 General Manager



Award for:
 Platinum Peak Performance

June 30, 2024

8 Consecutive years of permit compliance



Financial Reporting Achievement
 Award for the:
 Annual Comprehensive Financial
 Report

June 30, 2024, 23 Consecutive years



Award for:
 2025 Medium Plant of the Year
 February 18, 2026

TECHNICAL SERVICES PROJECTS

CENTRIFUGE REPLACEMENT UPDATE

This project includes replacing three aging centrifuges, installing a bridge crane, and ancillary structural, mechanical, electrical and instrumentation upgrades. The centrifuges and bridge crane were pre-purchased and are already on-site. The contractor mobilized in March 2026, with planned demolition of the existing centrifuges to begin once the wet weather season ends. Construction is expected to continue through the end of 2026 with the work being performed in phases to minimize disruptions to operations. The existing centrifuges will be salvaged for resale.



New Bridge Crane



New Centrifuge

GRIT CLASSIFIERS REPLACEMENT

Three aging grit classifiers and all five existing grit pumps will be replaced with two new high efficiency grit washers and new pumps this summer. The contractor has been onsite to verify the dimensions and plans demolition work to begin April 2026. Substantial completion is expected in November 2026. All pre-purchased equipment, including the grit washers, grit pumps, and VFDs have been delivered.



New Grit Pumps



New Grit Washers

PRIMARY CLARIFIER & CCT REHABILITATION



The Agency completed the rehabilitation of Primary Clarifiers No. 2 and 3 and Chlorine Contact Tank No. 4. last summer, and will rehabilitate Primary Clarifiers No. 4 and 5 and Chlorine Contact Tanks No. 1 through 3 this summer. A specialized contractor will repair deteriorated concrete, apply new waterproof coating and sealants, and refurbish steel components with protective coatings to prevent corrosion. Maintenance staff will replace the sludge collector system components after the contractor completes their work. A construction contract award will be presented to the Board in April 2026, and the work is expected to be complete by October 2026.



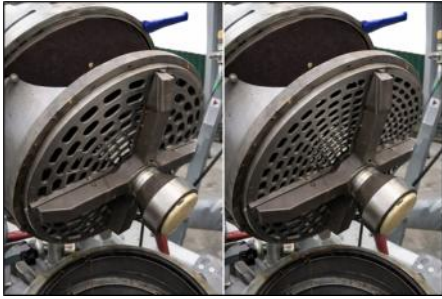
Secondary Clarifier Stress Testing

NUTRIENT REMOVAL STUDY UPDATE

The Agency completed the Water Board's required nutrient monitoring for the 2025 season and it was found to be in full compliance with the interim Nutrient Watershed Permit limits. During the summer, the Agency performed stress testing of the secondary clarifiers and modeling of the aeration blowers to determine limitations of the existing infrastructure and the requirements for nutrient removal. The team identified four major nutrient removal alternatives and will review the preliminary layouts, costs, and construction sequencing for presentation to the Board in May 2026. The Agency has until 2034 to construct nutrient removal facilities.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

ROCK TRAP GRINDER SCREEN UPGRADE



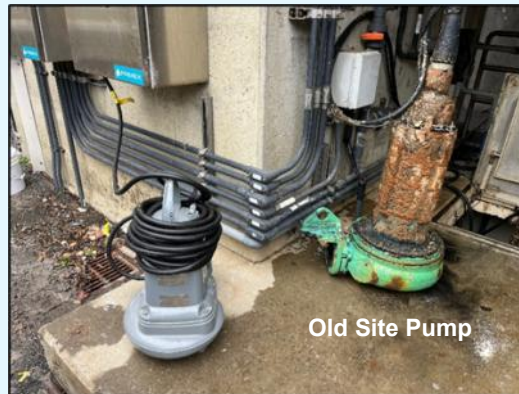
24 mm

15 mm

At the Organic Waste Receiving Facility, Operations and Maintenance staff replaced the worn 24 mm perforated screen on the Rock Trap Grinder with a new smaller 15 mm screen. The previous screen allowed larger inorganic debris to bypass the grinder contributing to downstream hose pump failures. The smaller holes on the new screen will provide improved protection and reliability for downstream equipment. Work included removing the existing screen, installing and aligning the new screen, and confirming proper grinder operation.

SITE SUMP PUMP REPLACEMENT

In December 2025, Maintenance staff replaced the failing submersible pump in the facility's site sump that collects waste from septage hauler and RV receiving operations. The previous pump was worn, continuously clogging with rags, and frequently tripping, resulting in unreliable pump discharge to the Headworks. The new smart submersible pump is equipped with an integrated Variable Frequency Drive that automatically adjusts output based on loading conditions and performs programmed reverse cycles to clear ragging and debris.



Old Site Pump

New Site Pump

PRIMARY SLUDGE TOTAL SOLIDS (TS) METER INSTALLATION

In October 2025, Maintenance staff installed the primary sludge Total Solids (TS) probe as well as the installation of a dedicated laboratory sampling sink for primary sludge analysis and probe calibration. The TS meter assists Operations in regulating primary sludge pumping to the digesters, to maintain target solids percentages and prevent the pumps from over pressurizing due to high solids concentrations. Work included fabricating and installing a new stainless steel pipe spool, mounting the probe housing and conduit, integrating the probe signal into the PLC and SCADA, and configuring alarms and trends. The probe now provides continuous real-time solids data, improving sludge feed consistency to the digesters.



New Total Solids Meter

NEW METHANE SENSOR INSTALLED

Maintenance installed a new methane sensor on the digesters to provide continuous monitoring of gas quality and provide Operations with additional data to confirm healthy anaerobic digestion.



New Methane Sensor

ORGANIC WASTE RECEIVING FACILITY ADDITIONAL GRINDER INSTALLATION



New Secondary Grinder

Maintenance installed an additional grinder downstream of the rock trap grinder at the Organic Waste Receiving Facility. This secondary grinder will provide additional maceration of feedstock material and provide added protection of downstream equipment, specifically the hose pumps. Work included removing existing piping, welding new supports, running conduit for power and communications, and adding ports for cleaning the grinder blades.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) COMMITTEE FORMED



The Agency recently formed an AI Committee to research and implement AI tools that enhance productivity, improve efficiency, and support the Agency's strategic plan. The committee is focused on identifying practical AI applications and platforms that integrate with existing Agency systems to strengthen functionality and improve data access and analysis. Initial efforts include evaluating available AI tools and providers, participating in AI training, and developing an AI Roadmap to guide implementation and track progress.

Annual Financial Reports

Finance staff prepared the Agency's Annual Financial Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for June 30, 2025, and submitted them to the Government Finance Officers Association for Certificate of Achievement awards. The Agency has received the ACFR award for 23 consecutive years and the PAFR award for the past 15 years.

FY 2026 External Financial Audit

Finance staff is gearing up for its fiscal year end close process, updating its internal control narratives and flowcharts, and preparing for its upcoming required FY 2026 external financial audit. Maze & Associates is expected to begin their interim fieldwork in April 2026 and perform their final phase of fieldwork in September 2026. The goal is to have the audit opinion issued in time for the November 2026 Board meeting.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Adjustments

With FY 2026, year 1 within its two-year budget cycle, coming to a close, it is time for staff to consider reviewing its FY 2027 approved budget for any needed adjustments based on actual revenue and expense activities. The budget adjustment calendar has been issued and department managers have begun the process to update estimates for the Agency's revenue requirements, personnel costing, departmental operating costs, and planned capital expenditures. Once prepared, a 10-year financial forecast along with budget narratives will summarize key financial trends for presentation to the Finance Committee in late April 2026. A draft set of budget adjustments will be submitted to the Board in May 2026.

Upcoming 2026 Revenue Bond Issuance

As approved within the FY 2026 budget, the Agency is actively working towards completion of a new revenue bond issuance to fund FY27 projects in its Capital Improvement Program. The planned issuance amount is \$8.5 million, and next steps include finalizing the terms of sale with the Finance Committee in April 2026 and preparation of the Offering Statement.

Investment Policy Award

CMSA received its first ever Investment Policy Certification Program Award from the California Municipal Treasurer's Association, which is a professional organization that promotes financial policy excellence for public agencies investing public funds. It is a prestigious honor that furthers its commitment to sound financial stewardship.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Ethan Koekemoer joined the Agency October 2025 as the Administration Department's first intern. He recently graduated from Sacramento State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration. He is supporting the Finance function with accounts payable invoices, accounts receivable billing and collections, front desk support, and various other internal projects.



Victoria Politz joined the Agency in February 2025 as a Laboratory Intern and in March 2026, Victoria was promoted to Environmental Services Analyst I. Victoria has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Management and Protection from California Polytechnic State University. She will be supporting the Agency's Source Control Program, Public Education Program, and laboratory functions.