



**Central Marin Sanitation Agency**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

For the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting  
of October 10, 2017

- I-1** Washington Post article dated September 13, 2017  
*Re: "Fatberg" clogging a London sewer*
- I-2** Letter dated September 20, 2017 to the Marin County Superior Court and Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
*Re: CMSA's Response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report—Marin's Retirement Health Care Benefits: The Money Isn't There*
- I-3** Letter dated September 20, 2017 to the Marin County Superior Court and Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
*Re: CMSA's Response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report—The Budget Squeeze: How will Marin Fund Its Public Employee Pensions*
- I-4** Letter dated September 22, 2017 from Bill Johnson, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
*Re: Consideration of the reissuance of CMSA's NPDES permit*
- I-5** Letter dated September 25, 2017 to Angela Clapp, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
*Re: CMSA Pretreatment Program and Pollution Prevention Program Inspections*
- I-6** Letter dated September 26, 2017 to Vince Christian, California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
*Re: Monthly Self-Monitoring Report (SMR) – August 2017*

# This 'fatberg' clogging a London sewer is longer than two football fields, weighs more than 11 buses

By Travis M. Andrews September 13 at 5:14 AM



A rock-solid mass of wet wipes, diapers, fat and oil weighing as much as 10 double-decker buses has been found blocking a Victorian-era, east London sewer. (Reuters)

Talk about dirty jobs.

Crews in London are waging a “three-week sewer war” against an enormous “fatberg” — a solid mass of congealed oil, diapers, hand wipes and other unsavory items — that is clogging a Victorian-era sewer in Whitechapel, London, according to a news release from British utilities company Thames Water.

It's more than 250 yards long — longer than two football fields. And it weighs 130 tons, more than 10 average buses.

And it's solid as a rock.

A crew of eight people is attempting to break the mass up using high-powered jet hoses. After it's in pieces, they'll suction it into tankers and bring it to a nearby recycling plant for disposal.

The process is expected to take three weeks.

"It's basically like trying to break up concrete," Thames Water's head of waste networks, Matt Rimmer, said in a news release.

The fatbergs form when people dispose of cooking oil and other fats through their sinks and toilets. When the oil gets into the sewer, it often congeals with other waste that isn't meant to be flushed, such as diapers or wet wipes.

"It's frustrating as these situations are totally avoidable and caused by fat, oil and grease being washed down sinks and wipes flushed down the loo," Rimmer added.

While not uncommon, the size of this particular fatberg is stunning, perhaps even record-breaking.

"This fatberg is up there with the biggest we've ever seen," Rimmer said in a news release. "It's a total monster and taking a lot of manpower and machinery to remove as it's set hard."

These masses form in most major cities — in New York, for example, clearing out such blockages cost an estimated \$4.65 million in 2013 — but they seem to be particularly problematic in London.

In 2015, for example, a 10-ton fatberg broke a section of the London sewer, requiring Thames Water to replace nearly 100 feet of piping, as The Washington Post's Sarah Kaplan reported.

At the time, Thames Water repair and maintenance supervisor Stephen Hunt told the Guardian, "We see blockages all the time on household sewer pipes, which are about big enough for a cricket ball to pass through, but to have this much damage on a sewer almost a meter in diameter is mind-boggling."

If only he had known what the city was in for a few years later.

The problem is so insidious in London, in fact, Thames Water "even formed a 'fatberg hit squad' to tackle the problem," as Kaplan wrote.

Of course, given that they would rather not deploy this special team, Rimmer urged everyone to be cautious when it comes to flushing.



September 20, 2017

The Honorable Judge Kelly V. Simmons  
Marin County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Ron Brown, Foreperson  
Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Subject: Central Marin Sanitation Agency's Response to the May 17, 2017, Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report – Marin's Retirement Health Care Benefits: *The Money Isn't There***

Dear Honorable Judge Simmons and Foreperson Brown,

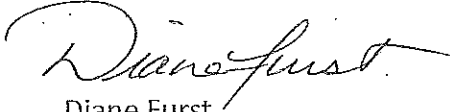
Central Marin Sanitation Agency's (CMSA) Board of Commissioners appreciates the Grand Jury's report on Marin's Retirement Health Care Benefits that presents several OPEB cost containment strategies for local agencies to reduce unfunded future OPEB liabilities.

CMSA successfully negotiated and initiated two significant OPEB cost containment measures during labor relations negotiations in 2010. First, employees hired after July 1, 2010 receive a defined contribution of 1.5% of their annual compensation for eligible retiree medical expenses, instead of a defined lifetime benefit. Second, the Board authorized establishment of a CalPERS retiree medical trust fund, called the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT). In the Agency's January 1, 2015 GASB 45 actuarial report, the future projected cost of all retiree medical benefits is \$4.512 million. Since 2010, the Agency has been funding the CERBT at the GASB 45 annual required contribution (ARC) level each year, and as of June 30, 2017, that fund has \$2,274,471 in assets. With that amount, CMSA's future retiree medical benefit expenses are approximately 50.4% funded.

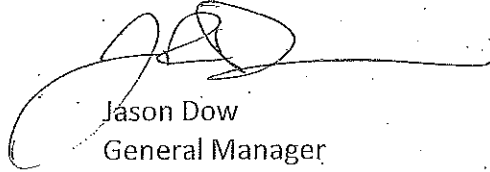
CMSA's Board reviewed and discussed the Retirement Health Care Benefits Report at their June 13 Board meeting. At that meeting, the Board tasked its recently formed ad hoc grand jury response committee to work with staff to prepare draft responses to the Report's eight recommendations. On September 12, the CMSA Board reviewed and approved the Agency's responses, and directed us to submit them.

CMSA appreciates former Foreperson Jay Hamilton Roth granting our submittal extension request to September 30. If you would like to discuss the Agency's responses and our implementation schedule, please contact General Manager Jason Dow at 415-459-1455, extension 145, or at [jdow@cmsa.us](mailto:jdow@cmsa.us).

Sincerely,



Diane Furst  
CMSA Board Chair



Jason Dow  
General Manager

Attachments



September 20, 2017

The Honorable Judge Kelly V. Simmons  
Marin County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Ron Brown, Foreperson  
Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Subject: Central Marin Sanitation Agency's Response to the June 5, 2017, Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report – The Budget Squeeze: *How will Marin Fund Its Public Employee Pensions***

Dear Honorable Judge Simmons and Foreperson Brown,

Central Marin Sanitation Agency's (CMSA) Board of Commissioners reviewed and discussed the Grand Jury's Budget Squeeze Report at their June 13 Board meeting. At that meeting, the Board formed an ad hoc committee to work with staff to prepare draft responses to the Report's recommendations, and staff informed the Board that Foreperson Jay Hamilton-Roth granted CMSA's submittal extension request to September 30.

The CMSA Board appreciates the Grand Jury's work on the Budget Squeeze Report, and the opportunity to respond to its recommendations. On September 12, the CMSA Board reviewed and approved the Agency's responses, and directed us to submit them.

If you would like to discuss the Agency's responses, please contact General Manager Jason Dow at 415-459-1455, extension 145, or at [jdow@cmsa.us](mailto:jdow@cmsa.us).

Sincerely,

Diane Furst  
CMSA Board Chair

Jason Dow  
General Manager

Attachments

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNORMATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

*Sent by email*  
*Confirmation of Receipt Requested*

September 22, 2017  
CW-213889

Central Marin Sanitation Agency  
1301 Andersen Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
ATTN: Chris Finton, [cfinton@cmsa.us](mailto:cfinton@cmsa.us)

San Rafael Sanitation District  
111 Morphew Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
ATTN: Doris Toy, [Doris.Toy@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Doris.Toy@cityofsanrafael.org)

Sanitary District No. 1 of Marin County  
2960 Kerner Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
ATTN: Greg Norby, [gnorby@rvsd.org](mailto:gnorby@rvsd.org)

Sanitary District No. 2 of Marin County  
300 Tamalpais Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
ATTN: David Bracken, [dbracken@tcmmail.org](mailto:dbracken@tcmmail.org)

**NOTICE: Tentative Order for Central Marin Sanitation Agency, San Rafael Sanitation District, Sanitary District No. 1 of Marin County, and Sanitary District No. 2 of Marin County, Marin County, NPDES Permit No. CA0038628**

Dear Mr. Finton, Ms. Toy, Mr. Norby, and Mr. Bracken:

The Regional Water Board intends to consider the reissuance of the NPDES permit for the facility noted above during a meeting that will commence at the time and place indicated below:

DATE/TIME: December 13, 2017, 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Auditorium, Elihu Harris State Building  
1515 Clay Street, Oakland

Please send comments in writing to the attention of **Vincent Christian**. We must receive comments no later than **5 p.m. on October 23, 2017**. Our responses to comments will be posted on our website one week prior to the hearing.

DR. TERRY F. YOUNG, CHAIR | BRUCE H. WOLFE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1515 Clay St., Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay)

Copies of the Tentative Order and Notice of Public Hearing are enclosed. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Vince Christian at (510) 622-2336 or email at [ychristian@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ychristian@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Johnson".

Bill Johnson  
Chief, NPDES Wastewater Division

Enclosures: Notice of Public Hearing  
Tentative Order

Copy to (via email only):

Lyris notification to NPDES Wastewater Permits list  
Becky Mitschele, USEPA, [becky.mitschele@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:becky.mitschele@epamail.epa.gov)





## CENTRAL MARIN SANITATION AGENCY

Jason R. Dow P.E.  
General Manager

1301 Andersen Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901-5339

Phone (415) 459-1455

Fax (415) 459-3971

[www.cmsa.us](http://www.cmsa.us)

September 25, 2017

Angela Clapp, CPSWQ  
Department of Public Works  
Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
3501 Civic Center Dr., Room 304  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**Subject: CMSA Pretreatment Program and Pollution Prevention Program Inspections**

Dear Ms. Clapp,

The Central Marin Sanitary Agency (CMSA) implements a Pretreatment Program to reduce the pollutants discharged into sanitary sewers by industries, and a Pollution Prevention Program to go beyond the Pretreatment Program in reducing discharge of pollutants to the sanitary sewer. Several types of businesses, including auto repair shops, commercial car wash and rental facilities, restaurants, and dry cleaners are permitted by CMSA under these programs. As part of the permit process, these businesses are inspected periodically ranging from multiple times per year to once every two years. In Fiscal Year 2016/17, CMSA performed approximately 415 inspections of these businesses.

Please note that CMSA inspectors primarily focus on issues related to each business's sanitary sewer connection. Our inspectors will inform the local MCSTOPP coordinator if they observe a condition that could adversely impact the stormwater collection system. Under an agreement with the City of San Rafael, CMSA staff may issue citations for a violation of the City's Stormwater Ordinance. CMSA's citation authority is limited to conditions related to facilities that CMSA regulates through our Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention permitting processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Dow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Dow, P.E.  
General Manager



September 26, 2017

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

Attention: Vince Christian

Subject: **Monthly Self-Monitoring Report (SMR) – August 2017**

The August 2017 monthly self-monitoring report for the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA) treatment plant has been submitted using the eSMR /California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). This SMR conforms to CMSA's NPDES Permit, Order #R2-2012-051. There are no reportable NPDES Permit violations for this reporting period. The CMSA treatment facility did not exceed the maximum secondary capacity of 30 MGD, resulting in 0 blend events in August.

The CMSA Quality Assurance Report dated August 2017 for all regulatory daily, weekly, and monthly quality control calibrations and checks conducted during the month has been uploaded with August's monitoring reports for your review.

If there are any questions please contact me at (415) 459-1455, extension 101. Quality assurance data are available for all test results cited in this report. Values reported are measured values and are each subject to analytical variability. CMSA reserves the right to question data in an enforcement proceeding.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments are prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for known violations (40 CFR 122.22(d)).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loren C. Finton', is written over a horizontal line.

Loren C. Finton  
Treatment Plant Manager