



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2006

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Desalination Update

MMWD is planning to extend the operation of their pilot desalination facility through the spring to capture the seasonal water quality changes of the SF Bay intake water, and measure the resulting desalination system performance. This information will augment the pilot facility report and enhance the project EIR. The draft EIR will likely be delayed until the end of 2006 to include the revised MMWD water supply master planning information and data.

In late 2006, our Board desal committee met with the MMWD desal committee to discuss our concerns with sharing the outfall and CMSA's future participation in the project. One positive outcome of the meeting was an assurance from the MMWD committee that our costs for participating in the project will be reimbursed. We recently received a letter from MMWD formally stating that they will compensate us for expenses associated for evaluating operational, financial, technical, and regulatory issues associated with the desalination project.

#### 2006 Budget Planning

Two of our member agencies are planning to begin the public approval process (Prop 218) to raise their sewer service charges in April 2006. To accommodate their schedule and provide CMSA's rate increase information, our staff is accelerating the usual budget

timeline for preparing the FY 2006-7 annual budget. We intend to provide operating and capital budget rate information and the debt issuance rate increase to the members by April.

In February, the operating and capital budgets will be prepared to present to the CMSA Board for its initial review at its March 14 meeting. In addition, within this process, the capital improvement budget will be expanded from a 5-year program to a 10-year program.

#### ADA Accessibility

The CMSA ADA team has reviewed the draft access survey report and returned comments to Sally Swanson Architects. We plan to present the report and the Transition Plan for attaining compliance with access requirements to the Board of Commissioners at their March Board meeting. We expect to implement some of the changes and improvements this spring. The first order of business will be correcting access obstacles in the front parking lot and entry plaza. That will be followed with restroom access improvement and some other access improvements in the public areas of the Administration Building in FY 06-07, together with some work in the Treatment Plant that will both improve access and enhance our overall risk management efforts.

#### O&M Personnel & Training

O&M had our first in-house annual OSHA required forklift certification training this month. CMSA has two trainers: Sandi Batis from Operations and Mike Cadreau from

Maintenance. With our own trainers, we can adjust scheduling to train staff, train new staff as they start, and we achieve significant cost savings over hiring an outside firm.



The Treatment Plant Manager attended an EPA funded class on Wastewater Security Assessments and Emergency Planning. E/I set up network accounts, Computer access accounts, Voice mail accounts, email addresses, and Access cards for the doors and gates for new employees on site: the safety director Ed Vittorio and Business services manager Fred Weiner.

#### Revision of Overtime Pay Compensation When Standby Pay is Also Compensated

An Hours and Wage regulation in the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA) modifies the overtime premium compensation calculation when a public employee receives standby pay during the same 40-hour work week. The change is the calculation of the "regular rate" of pay that is applied to overtime hours when standby pay is also compensated during the regular 40-hour work week. Starting January 1, 2006, the revised calculation was included in our payroll system. Two-years

back pay was also paid to the relevant CMSA staff.

### **Strategic Asset Management**

The development of CMSA's strategic asset management plan (SAMP) is nearing completion. The overall SAMP report has gone through several review, update, and edit cycles and is now approximately 98% complete. The SAMP tactical action plans (TAPs) are included as a section within the SAMP report, which provides specific plans for developing specific asset plans, condition assessments, funding models, and standard operating plans. It is expected that the SAMP report will be completed the second week in February, in time to be submitted for approval to the CMSA Board at its February 14 meeting.

### **Contracts**

A revised Liquid Emulsion Polymer Supply Contract (06-04) was mailed to prospective bidders on January 18, and the pre-bid facility tour was conducted on January 30. As of February 1, there are three prospective bidders (Ciba Chemicals, Stockhausen/Degussa, and SNF Polydyne) scheduled for full scale performance testing that will be conducted throughout February. It is anticipated that formal bids will be accepted in early March with a staff recommendation for Board approval at its March 14 meeting.

The current Ferric Chloride Supply Contract (04-02) will expire on March 28, 2006. Market surveys with other Bay Area wastewater agencies have been conducted and assembled with supporting documentation from producer price indices. Staff will present its findings and recommendation to the CMSA Board at its March 14 meeting.

Staff is currently reviewing the possible extension of the Hydrogen Peroxide Supply Contract (05-03) with US Peroxide, which expires on March 28, 2006 and has two one-year extension that could be mutually exercised. US Peroxide visited CMSA staff on January 20 to discuss the pending contract extension and possible price surcharges for industry fuel increases. Staff is currently conducting market surveys and reviewing contract language before recommending Board action.

## **AGENCY PROJECTS**

### **Wet Weather Improvement Project**

The pre-design phase of the wet weather improvement project (WWIP) is complete. Carollo is finishing up the final pre-design report and its executive summary, which will be presented to the Board at their February meeting. The WWIP expands the treatment plant from 90 MGD to 125 MGD and enlarges the effluent storage pond from 3 MG to 7 MG. The estimated construction cost is \$41 million and the estimated project cost, including engineering and construction management services, is about \$52 million. We plan to issue debt to fund the project (see bond program below).

Larry Walker Associates, our regulatory consultant, has started the CEQA documentation and believes the project will comply with a negative declaration, meaning we do not have to prepare an EIR. The CEQA certification is planned for April 2006, after which we can begin final design.

### **Capital Improvements Bond Program**

CMSA staff and our financial consultant are currently analyzing various options for funding capital improvements to the treatment plant through the issuance of

tax-exempt revenue bonds. In December 2005, the Board approved that CMSA issue debt to fund the Wet Weather Improvements Project (WWIP) and other capital improvements. Bonds are issued in a public sale to provide funding for large capital projects when pay-as-you-go funding is not available or affordable. Bond funding is paid back with interest to the bondholders over a specified period of time. This payment is known as debt service.

CMSA will pay debt service through commensurate increases in the sewer service charges to CMSA's member agencies. CMSA is investigating bond structures that will have a payback term of 25 and 30 years as well as scenarios that involve increasing the service charge at one-time, gradually, or by delaying it for a two to three years. In any case, the increase will be substantial, but warranted, to ensure that necessary operational improvements are made to the treatment plant and wet weather flows are handled effectively and efficiently within CMSA's regulatory permits.

### **Cogeneration**

The Stewart & Stevenson contract is moving close to completion. Staff is planning to meet with the S&S project manager in mid-February to determine the contract close-out schedule. We expect to sign the service agreement for construction of the refrigerator/dryer shed in the near future, and hope to have the structure built by the end of the month; the shed will protect the dryer from the elements. We are awaiting replacement valves for the heat exchanger loop and will install the engine's coolant at the same time that we replace the valves.

**Vactor Station Improvement**

The vactor station improvement project is nearing the 90% design level. Kennedy/Jenks is performing field grading and drainage inspections to verify the design on paper will work. We anticipate having the final design completed in late February and construction beginning in May 2006.

A subcommittee of our vactor project team has prepared a matrix table and visited several vendors of bobcat style loaders. They have identified three units that will work with the new station. A selection and purchase will be made in the near future.

**Polymer Equipment Upgrade**

The polymer equipment upgrade project is on track. The Board of Commissioners approved our request for sole-source prepurchase authorization for the polymer mixers and the dilute polymer metering pumps, and we expect to have the equipment vendors' quotes back for their consideration soon. After we receive Board approval, we will place the prepurchase order, with delivery to follow in 8 – 12 weeks. This fits with the construction contract, now in the final stages of review and expected to be advertised by mid-February. This keeps all three contracts on track for demolition and reconstruction to start in late spring.

**FOG Management Study**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is finalizing a General Waste Discharge Requirement for collection system agencies. The GWDR will regulate the agencies and requires them to develop a sewer system management plan

with the goal of minimizing the frequency and impact of sewer overflows. One component of the management plan is to develop a Fat, Oils, and Grease (FOG) source control program as these are a major contributor to overflows.

A question that CMSA and several other county POTWs have is in regards to the disposal options for the FOG that will be removed from regulated restaurants. Working with Novato Sanitary, Las Gallinas Sanitary, Sausalito, and Tiburon Sanitary, we prepared and sent RFPs to conduct a feasibility study to estimate how much FOG will need to be managed in each district and to assess disposal options. A committee comprised of district representatives will be reviewing proposals in the near future.

**Outfall**

We plan two marine outfall inspections this spring and summer. The first will repeat the usual autumn inspection to see whether the high solids observed in September have left the diffuser section as a result of high wet weather seasonal flows. Once we know the clearances in the diffuser section, we will schedule a more extensive inspection of the outfall for overall condition of the pipeline and its structural supports to determine if any work would be needed to accommodate the planned effluent pumping station, which will be constructed as part of the plant expansion project.

**O&M Projects**

Maintenance has been handling Preventive Maintenance tasks and responding to breakdowns. The Equipment has been very reliable through the winter storms. The plant operated in wet weather mode from December 18 through the end of the month, with multiple events in January. The extreme

storm and tides of December 30 through 31, exceeded plant hydraulic capacity and after filling the pond, overflowed it for an hour at high tide. Staff was able to contain the flooding and continue operation. Our Wet Weather procedures have been reviewed and only a few slight adjustments need to be made. The remote nitrate odor control stations with radio telemetry worked throughout the storm without loss of telemetry. This was a good test of the system and gives us confidence to move forward with other stations. The radio telemetry project for CMSA's nitrate dosing facilities is continuing. The radio and PLC installed in the San Quentin Odor Control Site on Sir Francis Drake are up and running. This station will act as a central polling site for all radio sites on the west side of the hill, including Paradise and Greenbrae. Work is continuing and will be completed in May.

Operations and Maintenance are working to spruce up the plant in preparation for a tour / inspection by the State level CWEA awards committee. As winner of Plant of the Year for our local section, we will now be in competition for the state "Plant of the Year" award

**Coatings**

The secondary clarifier and biosolids hopper coating project is completed and final payment has been made. That's just in time for us to begin developing the specifications and area estimates for this year's coating project. We anticipate replacing the remainder of the concrete deck coatings throughout the plant, which are well past their useful life and no longer protect the galleries underneath. From water intrusion Depending on resources and need, we may also initiate a metal coating project at the

primary clarifiers and/or the grit handling area.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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### NPDES Testing

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

### Laboratory

We have been performing extra sampling during the wet weather periods and storm events. The purpose of the sampling is to assess the increased loading on the plant and treatment processes and how efficiently they function during high flows. It also allows us to better characterize the inflow coming into the plant and how the blending channel affects overall effluent quality.

### Public Outreach Events

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the Bay Area Environmental Education and Resources Fair (BAEER Fair). It is a Bay Area wide event that puts educators in touch with environmental resources that are available to them. Some of the other public agencies that participate include East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Sonoma County Water Agency, and Marin Municipal Water District. CMSA and Novato Sanitary District set up a public education booth where we handed out our environmental quizzes, and those getting 100% received one of our logo prizes. It was a very well attended event and our booth was very busy handing out over 100 quizzes. A teacher from San Dominico School that

attended the fair has contacted us for a plant tour for their class.

We will be updating our website with an annual calendar of upcoming events, descriptions of the events, tours that are taking place at CMSA, and other participants that may be of interest.

### Environmental Compliance

About a quarter of the dry cleaner inspections in the LGVSD and our service area have been completed. We have had to issue one Notice of Violation to Maxwell's requiring them to either berm or plug their floor drain. The purpose of this request is to protect the sanitary sewer from spills resulting from handling of dry cleaning chemicals. The purpose of the inspections is to ensure none of the regulated organics used in their cleaning processes are getting into the sanitary sewer. We are doing a blanket inspection and updating our database with current information about the facilities.

Staff has completed the annual inspection of San Quentin Prison (SQ). SQ has been hauling away all of their trash and has removed the garbage grinders they were previously using to grind up the trash and discharge it to the sanitary sewers. They are continuing to use the auger washers at the main pump station to remove additional plastics that get into the sewers from the cell blocks. As a result of these actions that we required of SQ in 2004, operations staff have observed a reduction of plastics entering the plant and in our dewatered biosolids.

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## CONTRACT SERVICES

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### LGVSD Assistance

Staff is currently working on the LGVSD Annual Pollution Prevention

Report for the Regional Water Quality Control Board. We will submit a draft to them for comments and review and then submit the final report including any additional information or comments they will want to include.

### Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for December and January. During December there was a power failure at Paradise pump station and several voltage fluctuations when a 4KV line was blown down. These power fluctuations caused the pumps to fail. Arriving at the station we found that the pumps would not run and the alarm showed a transducer failure. After looking at the code we found that the level, while still OK at the station, was high enough to make the PLC think that the transducer failed. The code was changed and all is working OK. This code is original and has been in service for years.

The end of December brought heavy rains and storm surge. The flooding caused a loss of a large phone cable which resulted in the loss of our station telemetry. Due to the large amount of damage to the phone company's equipment it took four days to get the telemetry back. During this time the stations were checked every four hours. Even with the flooding, the stations worked very well with little equipment problems.