



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2006

ADMINISTRATION

FOG Management Study

A group of Marin County wastewater agencies is hiring a consultant to perform a "FOG Management Feasibility Study." The study will evaluate alternatives for disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from the sanitary sewer and restaurants. SASM has joined the group, along with CMSA, LGVSD, Novato, and Sausalito-Marin City. CMSA will serve as the lead agency for the study.

A committee of district representatives has reviewed the proposals submitted, and has selected Brown and Caldwell (B&C) as the consultant for the study. B&C has proposed an impressive team to do the study, with extensive experience on FOG issues. The committee will meet with B&C representatives in the near future to discuss the scope of work and other issues.

2007 Budget Planning & CIP Bond Program

At the February Board meeting, the Board selected the 3-year escalated rate increase program to support proposed tax-exempt revenue bonds for financing the Wet Weather Improvements Project (WWIP) and other capital

improvements. CMSA staff are currently working on a schedule, structure and documentation for the proposed bond sale.

To accommodate the bond program analysis into our annual budget process to allow the member agencies to reasonably perform their sewer service charge approval processes, CMSA managers and staff are escalating the usual budget timeline for preparing the FY 2006-7 annual budget. They are on schedule to present the Board with a proposed operating budget and 5-year forecast as well as a draft 10-year capital improvement plan. This 10-year plan is a new concept for CMSA, which will show the comprehensive capital planning and implementation required during and after implementing the WWIP.

ADA Accessibility

We have received the final draft ADA report and transition plan, and we plan to present them to the Board at their March meeting. We expect the first order of business to be correcting access obstacles in the front parking lot and entry plaza this spring. That will be followed with Admin building restroom and public area access improvements in FY 06-07, together with some minor work in the Treatment Plant. The balance of the anticipated work

in the treatment plant will follow in FY 07-08, which should wrap up this phase of the accessibility enhancement project.

O&M Personnel & Training

Operations staff attended training for secondary process control, wastewater operator certification, SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus), and CSE (confined space entry).

Maintenance staff attended a pump repair course for the pumps installed in the new Paradise Pump Station (SD#2). O&M staff had classes on the new cogeneration digester gas dryer after it was recently repaired under the contract warranty.

The Treatment Plant Manager attended the WEF/AWWA Joint Management Conference 2006 in Salt Lake City. Workshops and technical presentations focused on critical industry topics: succession planning, asset management, rate structure, and emergency planning and response.

Strategic Asset Management

Our Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) was accepted by the Board at their February meeting. The SAMP report documents the Agency's assessment of current practices, an asset

management vision, strategies and 14 tactical action plans (TAPs) or initiatives to be implemented by the Agency. TAPs provide detailed plans for developing or improving key asset management related areas such as asset plans, condition assessments, funding models, and standard operating procedures. The implementation begins in March. The initiatives will be incorporated into the Agency's Strategic Business Plan when it is revised in June 2006.

Contracts

As described in last month's report, there are three prospective bidders (Ciba Chemicals, Stockhausen/Degussa, SNF Polydyne) scheduled for full scale performance testing as part of a competitive bid process for the Liquid Emulsion Polymer Contract. Staff conducted polymer performance trials on two of the three vendors' potential products. The third performance trial is scheduled for March 1-2. The bid opening will be on March 7 at 10:00 am. We will then prepare a recommendation for Board consideration in March.

For the current Ferric Chloride Supply Contract, CMSA staff is reviewing a market survey of Bay Area wastewater agencies, supporting documentation from producer price indices, and vendor cost information. Staff will present its findings and recommendation to the Board in March.

US Peroxide, our current vendor for Hydrogen Peroxide, has agreed to extend our current contract at the same unit price. Staff is working with US Peroxide to finalize the documentation to extend the agreement for one year.

In addition, Aramark Inc, our uniform supply vendor, has agreed to extend its existing uniform contract with us. The contract will continue the same unit pricing, while adding flame resistant clothing, which allows CMSA to be compliant with National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA 70E) regulations for electrical workers.

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

We are working with Carollo Engineers to prepare a Scope of Work and a services fee proposal for the project's final design phase. These should be ready for Board review and consideration of approval at the March meeting. If approved, and CEQA is certified in April or May, we can begin final design in May. The design period will be 10-12 months in duration and construction will begin after an estimated 4 month bid period. Construction should commence in September/October 2007 and will last 24-30 months.

In the near future, our project team will be preparing separate RFPs for construction management (CM) and design review services. The design reviewer will assist our team

with reviewing the final design concepts and submittals (50% and 90%) to ensure that there are no fatal flaws or other problems with the design. The CM will be brought on board at the 50% design level to participate in the review process with the focus being constructability and value engineering. These additional team members will ensure the expansion project is properly engineered and can be built as designed.

Cogeneration

Metal Building Company is onsite building the gas dryer shed, which should be erected by March 10, weather willing. The replacement valves for the heat exchanger loop has been delivered and will be installed the week of March 13, the same time as our next engine service downtime. We will also install the engine's coolant at the same time, and we are arranging to have Stewart & Stevenson, the engine vendor, provide training on engine tuning and programming the air/fuel control module. The final payment to Stewart & Stevenson should be made by mid-March, with reimbursement from PG&E's grant program to follow shortly after.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

The polymer equipment upgrade project is on track. The Board authorized prepurchase of the polymer mixers at their February meeting based on a quoted price of \$30,762.63, and the executed contract is due back to CMSA by March 3. We have a quote for the dilute

polymer metering pumps and we are verifying their capacities in light of preliminary results from our emulsion polymer trials. Once the metering pump capacities are verified, we will request the Board to authorize the prepurchase of the metering pumps, planned for their March 14 meeting. This fits with the construction contract, now in the final stages of review and expected to be advertised by mid-March. This keeps all three contracts on track for demolition and reconstruction to start in late spring or early summer.

Outfall

We are in contact with Parker Diving, our historic outfall inspection contractor, to provide a second solids monitoring this spring. We have developed more detailed solids sampling procedures to get better information on the solids in the diffuser section. We are preparing a performance-based contract for doing a complete structural inspection of the outfall to provide information needed for the WWIP design.

Coatings

Staff is developing the specifications and area estimates for this year's coating project: replacing more of the waterproof concrete deck coatings in the plant, which are well past their useful life and no longer protect the galleries underneath. We also expect

to have Primary Clarifiers No. 4 and 5 recoated this year.

O&M Projects

CMSA has qualified for the State final for the medium sized plant of the year. O&M and all departments are getting ready for our inspection on March 10th by performing a major plant clean-up.

O&M collected recycled water use data with a portable meter for our consultant to complete a system supply and demand study. The consultant, Dodson Engineering, is analyzing current and projected use, and will make a recommendation.

Operations is reviewing the draft report from our process consultant which will give us our baseline process operations metrics for each treatment process in the plant. The consultant will also be assisting us in selecting the next process areas for analysis as part of the Strategic Business Plan Goal #4 activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

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

Laboratory

Staff has been performing extra sampling for the polymer contract performance testing that is underway in order to

determine which emulsion polymer works best at our facility. We are also 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

San Dominico School students toured the treatment plant on January 10th. The tour group consisted of two environmental education classes (juniors and seniors) that are studying water and water recycling. They were familiar with wastewater treatment techniques and were very enthusiastic to see the processes at work.

Staff gave a slide show presentation at the Career Day at Hall Middle School. We discussed careers that were available in the laboratory, environmental compliance, administration, and wastewater treatment. The teacher commented that the presentation was the best she had seen at a Career Day, that the children were interested and responsive, and that she enjoyed our enthusiasm.

The agency website has been updated with an annual calendar of upcoming public education events, descriptions of the events, tours that are

taking place at CMSA, and other activities that may be of interest.

Environmental Compliance

Staff has been working on annual reports for the State and Regional Water Boards and the EPA. These are comprehensive summaries of our monitoring data and activities that were performed throughout the year and that as required in our NPDES permit. The regulators want to see that we are continuing to meet our discharge limits, improve our environmental compliance programs, and educating more people through our public outreach efforts.

We have also been working on our NPDES Permit renewal application. It is a very comprehensive application that requires summaries of the last four and a half years worth of plant data, our comprehensive priority pollutant testing, biosolids testing and handling, microbiological testing, and bioassay toxicity testing and studies.

The dry cleaner inspections in the LGVSD and our service area are near completion. We are currently doing follow-up on the cleaners that do not have documentation showing they are hauling away their waste dry cleaner chemicals and for Notice of Violations that were issued to ensure they are correcting the problems we discovered. The purpose of the inspections is to ensure none of the regulated organics used in

their cleaning processes are discharged into the sanitary sewer.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

We have completed and submitted LGVSD's Annual Pollution Prevention Report for the Regional Water Board. This report has historically been prepared by a consultant because LGVSD does not have in-house technical staff. This activity is included in our LGVSD contract and results in revenue for us and a savings to them.

Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of the SD #2 pump stations for February.

CMSA and SD#2 staff are working on options for a phased implementation of radio telemetry for pump station data and alarms. This project will save the monthly data line costs (SBC/ATT) and the waiting for the phone company maintenance crews to have time to respond for repairs. Also, a radio link avoids the regular hazard of winter when the phone lines can be drowned.

Some radio telemetry progress has already been made, Electrical staff installed a radio at our chemical station on Sir Francis Drake that will collect and repeat signals to the plant. Boardwalk A pump station has been reprogrammed to transmit this route; After testing, we will

be able to cut one leased phone line.

San Rafael Sanitation District FOG

The Regional Water Board has mandated that collection systems agencies develop a Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) control program by August 31, 2006. Our environmental compliance staff has developed a FOG program for the Las Gallinas service area, and recently met with SRSD management to discuss CMSA developing a Fats Oils and Grease program for SRSD. Staff reviewed the LGVSD program provisions, the differences between "targeted" and "blanket" programs, and the tasks needed to develop a policy for SRSD and initiate implementation.

SRSD has asked us to prepared a draft FOG management contract for their review, and will be discussion FOG with their Board in the near future. Our general manager will give a FOG presentation to the SRSD Board in April.