



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2006

ADMINISTRATION

2005 CWEA Plant of the Year

CMSA was in competition with treatment plants from the nineteen other California Water Environment Association (CWEA) sections to become a finalist for state's medium sized plant of the year. All CMSA staff contributed to preparing for our inspection on Friday, March 10. The two person team from the CWEA Professional Development Committee Team spent from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (much longer than advertised) inspecting and touring the plant. After all the questions were answered, records and data reviewed, life rings inspected, behind panels checked, and maintenance programs checked we waited. On March 17, CWEA sent out notification that CMSA won the California Medium Plant of the Year, CMSA will receive the award at the April CWEA conference.

CMSA also won the Statewide Safety Program of the Year for 2005 and took second place for the 2005 Engineering Achievement award for the our Cogeneration Engine Replacement project.

FOG Management Study

In early March, representatives from NSD, SASM, CMSA, LGVSD, and SMCSA met with the project manager from Brown & Caldwell to review the FOG Management Study's

scope of work. Several comments and guidance on the scope's tasks were shared with B&C who has revised the scope accordingly. Each participating District has approved the scope and received authorization from their individual Boards to participate in the Study. The next step is to bring the final scope and fee to the CMSA Board meeting on April 11th for consideration of approval. Our contribution is about \$30,000.

The FOG study will assess the current quantities of FOG removed from each District and the disposal locations; estimate the range of FOG that could be generated within each District for varying levels of Source Control; evaluate disposal at the six WWTPs within the County; and recommend a prioritized list of disposal alternatives. One option may be a FOG receiving facility at CMSA that will process FOG from our service area and possibly outside areas. The Study is scheduled to be completed in August 2006.

CIP Bond Program

In mid-March, CMSA issued a Request for Proposals to select Bond Counsel for the Bond Program. The proposals are due on April 10, 2006. The Bond Counsel selection is planned for approval at the Board's May meeting. This process is a key component in structuring the bond program and preparing documentation for the proposed bond sale.

2007 Budget Development

CMSA staff presented a preliminary operating budget and 5-year forecast to the Board at its March meeting. The budget included anticipated expenditure cost increases for cost-of-living salary, retirement and other employee benefits, chemicals, natural gas, and maintenance and repair activities. Other minor structural changes were proposed such as consolidating some line-item budgets, and transferring facilities maintenance and repair items from the capital budget to operating budget to better reflect proper budgeting to show the actual costs of operating the departments. The proposed revenue budget is anticipated to remain stable to meet the expenditure budget ends. The 5-year forecast demonstrated that the Agency could meet a Board-approved reserves target of \$5 million in FY 10.

ADA Accessibility

The Board of Commissioners accepted the final ADA Transition Plan at their March 14 meeting, and requested that we accelerate implementation so it is complete by the end of FY 2007. The first order of business is improving access in the front parking lot and entry plaza this spring. At the same time we are engaging Sally Swanson Architects, who produced the status report and transition plan, to be the architects of record to design the restroom modifications in the Administration Building.

We will also implement signage, stair contrast striping, and other miscellaneous work throughout the Treatment Plant in FY 2007.

Staff Training

Operators Sandi, Brian and Odell are preparing to take California Wastewater Operator's Certification tests on Saturday April 1. Maintenance Lead Mike Gardea attended a two day class on Asset Management. Byron, Mike C., Odell and Brian attended the traffic control (coning and flagging) class at SD#1.

During the recent Waukesha cogeneration engine site-work, the contractors trained O&M staff on the procedures to tune the engine for digester and natural gas operations.

Strategic Asset Management

Staff started implementation of the approved Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) by making presentations to staff on the SAMP structure and tactical action plans (TAPs), conducting training on the computerized maintenance management system, and developing implementation plans. These plans will be incorporated into the Agency's Strategic Business Plan in June 2006, while the SAMP implementation will continue for the next 2-3 years.

Contracts

Bids for the Liquid Emulsion Polymer Contract were received on March 7. We are currently evaluating the bids and obtaining bid clarifications. The next step will be to conduct product verification testing with the apparent low responsive bidder to bring a bid award

recommendation to the Board for contract execution on July 1.

Uniform vendor Aramark Inc. agreed to extend the Agency's uniform contract for one year at the same unit price. Staff is currently working with Aramark to finalize the extension. As mentioned in the previous month's report, the contract will include a new item for flame and spark resistant uniforms for staff who work with electrical and other potential fire hazardous equipment.

Staff recently completed a comprehensive market survey of biosolids hauling contracts with Bay Area wastewater agencies. A request for bids will be prepared in April because CMSA's current contract expires June 30, 2006.

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

The project's final design scope of work has been finalized and approved by the Board. We intend to execute the final design contract within the next couple of weeks and the kick-off meeting between our internal project team and Carollo is planned for early May. The first tasks of final design involve assisting CMSA with the waterchamp disinfection testing, evaluating influent flow metering technologies, and performing preliminary design on the mechanical improvements for grit tank #3.

Larry Walker and Associates, our regulatory consultant, has started the CEQA documentation for the project

and we anticipate bringing the Initial Study(IS) and Public Draft Negative Declaration(ND) to the May Board meeting. The public has 30-days to comment on the IS/ND after which we will provide responses. CEQA will be certified by the Board in either June or July.

Cogeneration

The replacement valves for the heat exchanger loop have been installed and calibrated. The engine's coolant has been installed, and Stewart & Stevenson is wrapping up their training by the end of March. We will send final payment to Stewart & Stevenson by March 31, and expect the reimbursement from PG&E's grant program in late April or early May. The gas dryer shelter is completed, and Metal Building Company, the contractor, did an excellent job.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

We held the construction contract prebid walkthrough on March 23, and will open bids on April 4. We expect to have a recommendation to the Board for its April 11 meeting. We are also awaiting submittals from the prepurchased equipment vendors – U.S. Filter/Stranco for the polymer mixing units, and Burlingame Engineers/Milton Roy for the metering pumps. All three contracts are on track for demolition and reconstruction to start around June 1.

Outfall

We requested a proposal from Parker Diving, our historic outfall inspection contractor, to provide a second solids

monitoring this spring, using our more detailed solids sampling procedures. We hope they will be able to do the inspection in late April or early May, once the weather clears and diving conditions improve. We are also developing a performance-based contract for a complete structural inspection of the outfall per recommendations made by Carollo Engineers to develop a baseline for use in the WWIP design..

Coatings

We are developing the specifications and area estimates for this year's coating project: recoating the metal parts in Primary Clarifiers No. 4 and 5, and replacing the waterproof deck coatings adjacent to the headworks building and the biotowers. This is about half of the deck coating area that needs replacement, and we anticipate replacing the remaining areas in FY 08.

O&M Projects

Maintenance took the Waukesha cogen unit down for a few days to upgrade cooling loop valves that had been supplied with improper materials. This also allowed them to install coolant in the system. During the same period the oil was changed, plugs replaced and the valves adjusted. I/E installed a power plug, light and ethernet hub in the engine control cabinet for easier maintenance. E/I assisted in connecting a load bank to the Waukesha for the contractor to tune the, air fuel module, AFM.

E/I added a modem to RVSD's Larkspur pump station and worked with the phone company to repair the data line to Larkspur. We should soon be able to monitor the station from CMSA and maintain history for the site.

Operations continued working with our process consultant to maximize secondary treatment in wet weather. Through better process control for improved sludge settling, and use of the Contact Stabilization mode for the aeration process in extreme wet weather flows, we increased secondary flow by **30%**.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

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

Laboratory

We collected our comprehensive semi-annual testing of our effluent which is required by section 13267 of the California Water Code. It is a very comprehensive group of testing requirements for our effluent that includes herbicides, pesticides, dioxin, and volatile organics. Additional bioassay testing is also required to ensure our effluent is not toxic to the development of larval organisms in the bay. We have also been collecting digester gas samples to ensure that the pretreatment

equipment is function properly to protect the generator

Public Outreach Events

Redwood High School sent all of the junior and senior environmental studies classes to tour our plant on March 15th. It has become an annual event and the students are required to write a paper and answer questions based on wastewater treatment.

We have been asked to speak at a local girl scout troop that meets in downtown San Rafael. They heard about our presentation at our fair booth and called our 800-SAV-R-BAY hotline. Staff is currently working out the details to set-up a demonstration similar to those we conduct at school classrooms.

Environmental Compliance

We had our annual EPA Region IX and California State Water Resources Control Board inspection of our plant to ensure we are complying with the requirements in our NPDES permit. They reviewed our annual and monthly reporting data to ensure everything required is being reported, inspected our laboratory, then toured the facility to view the treatment processes and determine if they are as stated in our permit. The inspection went well and we are waiting for their report to determine if they have any minor changes or comments.

Our dry cleaner inspections have been completed including the follow-up work to verify the dry cleaners in the CMSA

and LGVSD service areas are in compliance. We will also be doing a joint inspection with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to familiarize each other with our respective programs and establish point of contact.

Marin Airporter has completed the installation of the required pretreatment equipment for their washpad. We have worked with them to install equipment to prevent excessive rainwater run-off from a very large bus washing pad at their maintenance facility. We will be monitoring the system to ensure they are operating it properly and reducing rain water into the sanitary sewer.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

We have been assisting LGVSD in determining a potential problem involving disposal of petroleum products into a section of their collection system. They noticed a petroleum odor at one of their manholes while doing maintenance on the sewers in that area. We inspected the gas stations upstream of the manhole, instructed LGVSD on the proper samples to collect and assisted them in reviewing the data. The problem appears to have gone away and based on our suggestion they have been checking and have not found any signs of an explosive atmosphere in the sewers.

In March we performed a comprehensive drive-by survey of the industrial areas discharging to LGVSD. We wanted to ensure that there were no businesses that should be monitored that are not included in their database.

Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for March. O&M responded to alarms as required, and Maintenance came in on OT to fix some weekend "com" fails.

The Pixley station across from the Town Hall failed on Friday, March 10; I/E replaced the 24 volt power supply to get the station working again. Kit is working with Control Systems West to set up alarm and data communication for the new Golden Hinde station (this is a radio data link).

SD#2 staff has agreed to begin a program to convert their pump station's telemetry systems from data line to radio telemetry, which is becoming more common in the industry due to their increased reliability. Data telemetry lines are expensive to install, take extended time to schedule repairs with the phone company, require monthly payments, and the phone company is losing staff that knows how to troubleshoot and maintain them. The conversion should be completed over the next few years with the critical stations being converted first.

I/E changed the radio antenna configuration at our Sir Francis

Drake odor control site to allow a wider area of coverage of Corte Madera for improved signal strength.

San Rafael Sanitation District FOG

San Rafael Sanitation District (SRSD) has requested that we develop and administer a "targeted" FOG program within their service area. CMSA has the trained environmental compliance staff to do the work and recently developed a very similar program for Las Gallinas. We plan to work with SRSD and LGVSD to align the two programs so the restaurants within the City of San Rafael will be regulated in the same manner.

A draft contract has been prepared and reviewed by legal Counsel. Our general manager will give a FOG presentation to the SRSD Board in April when they will consider the contract.

SASM P2 Inspections and Training

The Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM), in Mill Valley, has requested that we assist them in conducting pollution prevention program (P2) inspections of the dental offices, auto shops, and print shops in their service area. Due to SASM's size, they haven't been required in the past by the Regional Water Board to have a P2 program. Staff has provided a estimate for the initial inspections, about 26 facilities, and training of their staff. SASM staff will administer the program in the future.