



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2006

ADMINISTRATION

CIP Bond Program

Staff received five proposals for Bond Counsel services in response to the Request for Proposals that was sent to selected firms in March. The proposals are currently being evaluating and interviews are being conducted. The Bond Counsel selection and contract are planned for review and hopefully 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.

ADA Accessibility

We received three bids for the concrete work at our front entry (three transition ramps and replacing part of the front plaza), and Whiteside Construction Corporation of Richmond was the low bidder at \$15,877. We have engaged them to do the concrete work. We will also engage an asphalt paving company to do the associated asphalt modifications and repairs, and a slurry coating company to apply a slurry seal, restripe the handicapped parking spaces, and install the ADA signage. Staff has worked with Sally Swanson Architects to produce an accelerated Transition Plan and are awaiting their fee proposal to be the architects of record to design the restroom modifications in the

Administration Building. We expect all elements of the Transition Plan to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Staff Training

Ken Katen, Virgil Sevilla, and Brian Bokkin went to an anaerobic digester process seminar given by CWEA and EBMUD. This is germane to our upcoming digester mixing/ gas compressor replacement project. These individuals will be part of the team that participates in the project.

This month we received the Bobcat skid steer loader which will be used for cleaning our upgraded vector station. The dealer gave operation training to O&M staff. O&M staff received training on regular PM tasks for the chlorination facility and annex building sprinkler systems.

Antonio Barros, Steve Schoenstein and Russ Turnbull, attended Fall Protection training at the Union Sanitary District that was coordinated by our new Safety Director Ed Vittorio. Jenny Bender and Lou Breuer attended Hazardous Waste training at the ABAG Training center in Oakland.

Lou Breuer, Mike Cadreau, Jenny Bender, Ken Katen, Antonio Barros and Joe Smith attended the 78th Annual Conference of the California Water Environment Association. Besides the many technical sessions and equipment show, they were on hand to receive the 2005 Plant of The Year and Safety Program awards.

Antonio Barros received third place for the CWEA Mechanical Technologist of the year award.

Budget Approved

At the April meeting, the Board approved the Agency's FY 07 Operating and Capital Budgets, along with an EDU rate increase to support the budgets and a projected 10-year Capital Improvement Project (CIP).

The FY 07 revenue budget supports the operating and capital budgets. With calculating a 5-year forecast of expenditures and revenue, the Board approved a 5% increase in the EDU rate to \$135 per EDU and a plan to continue annual 5% increases through the four-year period. This plan achieves the Board-approved reserves target of \$5 million by FY 09.

The Board also reviewed and approved a projected 10-year CIP that presented both estimated repair and replacement projects as well as capital improvement projects that will be funded by Agency revenues as well as through the Bond Program or other financing methods. Through the ten-year CIP, there is an estimated \$8.8 million required for revenue-supported projects. An estimated \$24 million in projects is planned to be financed after the current bond program is completed in FY10. This CIP will be reviewed and analyzed each year during the budget process.

Contracts

Bids for the Liquid Emulsion Polymer Contract were evaluated and verification testing performed, and a contract will be recommended to the Board at its May meeting. Costs for polymer will increase about 15% starting in July 2006.

For the biosolids hauling contract, it is anticipated that Staff will recommend to the Board an extension of the existing contract, which expires June 30, 2006.

Staff is currently reviewing the market for Sodium Bisulfite pricing to determine whether the current contract should be extended or put out for bid.

AGENCY PROJECTS**Wet Weather Improvement Project**

The final design contract with Carollo Engineers has been executed and the kick-off meeting scheduled for early May. The 50% design is planned for delivery in October 2006 and 90% design in February 2007. In the near future, our project team will be preparing 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 bidability. These additional team members

will ensure the expansion project is properly designed and can be built as designed.

Larry Walker and Associates, our regulatory consultant, is working with ESA to prepare the CEQA documentation for the project. They have prepared the project description and recently toured CMSA to understand the scope of the project and the new facilities' locations. The Initial Study (IS) and Public Draft Negative Declaration (ND) will be brought to the May Board meeting for review. 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 contract with Stewart & Stevenson, the engine vendor, was closed out at the end of March. Stewart & Stevenson will continue providing warranty service through the end of the three-year extended warranty period. The \$658K PG&E incentive rebate for the project was received and the local account representative will attend the July Board meeting with the media to present the "big check".

The gas dryer and siloxane filters are working well, and we are scheduling the first replacement of the siloxane filter's graphite medium. Siloxanes are silicone-based oils used in a number of personal care products that produce a sand- or glass-like residue when burned in internal combustion engines, so removing them from digester gas before it's burned in our engine is critical to the engine's longevity. We monitor the status of our siloxane

filter media monthly and, once more performance history is available, we expect the monitoring frequency to drop to quarterly.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

We opened bids for the construction contract on April 4. The Engineer's Estimate for the contract was \$545,000 and there were two bidders, Pacific Infrastructure (\$531,000) and Monterey Mechanical (\$557,000). Pacific Infrastructure, of Pleasanton, was the low bidder and the Board awarded them the contract at their April Board meeting. We have reviewed equipment submittals from U.S. Filter Stranco for the polymer mixing units, and expect submittals this week from Burlingame Engineers for the Milton Roy metering pumps. All three contracts are on track for demolition and reconstruction to start around June 1.

Outfall

This year's extended rainy season has resulted in poor diving conditions lasting longer than usual in San Francisco Bay, but we hope to have the additional solids inspection performed in late May or early June. We are also developing the performance-based contract for a complete structural inspection of the outfall for use in the WWIP design.

Coatings

The extended rainfall delayed our inspection of Primary Clarifiers No. 4 and 5, and we are moving forward with their draining and inspection now that the rains are

winding down. We expect to advertise this year's coating contract early in May, and to open bids in time to make a recommendation to the Board at their June meeting. This will dovetail with an expected start date of July 1, and a finish date of late September, allowing ample time for coatings to cure before next fall's rains.

O&M Projects

Maintenance took the Waukesha cogen unit down overnight to check and confirm oil leaks that will be fixed under warranty. The next day, after recording the leaks, Operations could not get the unit to start and run. S&S sent out a technician to help reprogram the AFM and then he had to adjust the manual air valve to get it back in operation. It is operating now, but time is running out to complete the warranty work before May first's beginning of the high summer peak period penalties.

Operations continued running tests of the Contact Stabilization mode for the aeration process for wet weather flows. This mode shows great promise to handle high flows while protecting our biomass from wash out. We will be analyzing the data and then rewriting our wet weather procedures for next winter.

Operations is beginning some follow up tests on our CEPT (chemically enhanced primary treatment) trials. We are meeting with the polymer vendor to review jar tests and confirm appropriate doses for the best settling in the primary clarifiers. We will run some

trials to collect more data next month.

Ross Valley Sanitary District's Larkspur pump station is now sending data to our process control system, which will enable CMSA staff to monitor the pump station alarms and operating conditions. The pump station graphic will need to be built and the alarms will be tested from the station.

We have begun the installation of the radio telemetry equipment at the Greenbrae Nitrate station. The computer program at the station has been modified and the radio polling PLC has also been modified to request the data. The antenna mast is being installed and the graphics and alarms will need to be built in the plant HMI software.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

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

Laboratory

Staff has been very busy performing extra sampling during the rainy season, which is required in our NPDES permit when we blend during periods of high flows. The sample analyses also assist us with determining the best manner to operate the plant to minimize negative impacts to the biological life in our secondary process and the enhance the quality of our effluent.

We have also been performing extra sample analyses for the

polymer performance trials to determine which polymer formulations produce the best dewatering results.

Public Outreach Events

Jenny Bender, one of our two environmental compliance analysts, attended the California Water Environment Association's Annual Conference in Sacramento. She received the State CWEA Laboratory Analyst Award, the Water Environment Federation Laboratory Analyst Award, and the CWEA 5 S Golden Shovel Award for exceptional service to CWEA. She was part of the recognition CMSA received as one of the leaders in our field at the CWEA Annual Conference.

The Marin Independent Journal had a special section for Marin County Green Businesses for Earth Day week. Our current shark logo and adage "Take A Bite Out of Pollution" along with our 1-800-SAV-R-BAY pollution hotline were included in their Earth Day event advertising. It was good publicity for our efforts to minimize our impact on the environment and to protect the Bay.

Environmental Compliance

During the heavy rains in April, the Hazardous Materials Response Team of the San Rafael Fire Department (SRFD) responded to a chemical spill at Marin Sanitary Service on Andersen Drive. An unknown chemical had leaked from a trash dumpster delivered to Marin Sanitary. SRFD was unable to identify the brightly colored chemical, but they were able to impound the storm water that contained the spilled material

and pump it into a vacuum truck.

SRFD asked to discharge the impounded water at CMSA. Environmental Services staff assisted SRFD staff with collecting a representative sample and specified a battery of required laboratory analyses. After the results showed that the wastewater contained no toxic substances, permission was granted to discharge it at CMSA.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

Environmental Services staff generated a draft budget for the LGVSD Pollution Prevention Program for FY 06/07. The budget has been submitted to LGVSD for review. In addition to the activities budgeted for previous years, this budget includes implementation of the LGVSD FOG Program and the initial work on a Dental Mercury Program.

The Sears Auto Center at the Northgate Mall has had a recurring problem with low pH discharges to the sanitary sewer from their oil/water separator. In response, Environmental Services staff drafted an Administrative Order which was issued by the LGVSD General Manager in January. The Order required Sears to investigate the problem and take corrective actions. A recent visit by CMSA determined that the problem has been corrected.

Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for April. O&M responded to alarms as required. Maintenance rebuilt the standby pump for Trinidad 1, but the day after installing it they removed it and install it as the back up pump for Lakeside Pump Station. The Lakeside pump was found faulted, it had shorted to ground. The pump was removed and sent out to be rewound. Borrowing the Trinidad pump allows both station to have a back up pump until the Lakeside pump can be repaired.

The new Golden Hind station radio communication system was tested and the antenna installed. It communicates data to the plant fine. We tested and found that the antenna worked as well down low on the station as when it was on top of the light pole, this allowed us to make an unobtrusive installation. To complete the project, the radio modem will need to be installed and the graphics and database built on the CMSA servers.

We are working with the design firms for the rebuild of three of Corte Madera's stations on the telemetry issue. Kit Groves built a test radio for a 900 MHz path test from the three stations. Lucky and Tamalpais were very good and OK, respectively. Trinidad 2 will not reach our Sir Francis Drake vault site on 900 MHz. The alternative will be to look at using Saba Lane as a repeating site when a radio is added there.

San Rafael Sanitation District FOG

Staff has prepared a survey notification letter for distribution to the 170 restaurants in the SRSD service area. Within the next couple of weeks, we will

survey the restaurants to determine if they have a grease removal device installed and what size, the device's cleaning frequency, type of food prepared, number of meals served, and other relevant data. This information will be stored in a database for use in regulating the restaurants upstream of an identified sewer system hot spot, and for the FOG quantity analysis task in our FOG Management Feasibility Study.

The SRSD Board will be considering contracting with CMSA to develop, implement and administer their FOG program at their May 3rd meeting. If approved, the contract will be on the CMSA May 9th agenda.

SASM P2 Inspections and Training

Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM) has hired a consultant (EOA) to develop a Pollution Prevention Program that is being required by the Regional Water Board. They have asked us to perform inspections of industrial facilities in their service area, and to provide Best Management Practices that we have developed for dischargers in our service area to their businesses, and train their staff on doing inspections. We have agreed to provide the training, assistance, and materials, and they will reimburse us for all labor and associated costs.