



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2005

ADMINISTRATION

CWEA Awards

The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) is the State's water and wastewater industry association. CWEA provides training programs, conferences, publications, and certification for maintenance, collection system, electrical, and laboratory, and environmental compliance staff. CMSA is in the Redwood Section of CWEA, which includes Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and parts of Mendocino and Solano counties.

We recently applied for and won several Section awards. These include the organizational awards for Treatment Plant of the Year, Engineering project of the Year (cogeneration), and Safety Program; and individual awards for Operator in Training (Virgil Sevilla), Operator (Linda Bodwin), Maintenance (Antonio Barros), and Laboratory (Jenny Bender).

Desalination Update

Our Board committee is tentatively scheduled to meet with the MMWD committee in late-November to discuss the status of the desalination

project, CMSA's participation to date and in the future, and review some of the considerations that need to be addressed before a formal outfall sharing partnership is established.

The desal facility's filter backwash effluent is discharged to the SRSD collection system and treated at CMSA. The effluent is tested quarterly to ensure compliance with our local discharge limits. In September, the effluent was tested for the constituents in our semi-annual priority pollutant sampling (160+ compounds). The results indicate that the effluent is within our local limits and the only additional compounds other than very low level dioxin were below the calibration standards for the testing equipment.

O&M Personnel & Training

CMSA's second OIT hire, Odell Gibbs, completed all his processing and started work on October 25th. Odell joins recently hired OIT Brian Bokkin on day shift for training with the Operations Department.

CMSA Operator Sandi Batis, passed her SWRCB Operators Certification Grade 2 exam in April, completed the experience requirement this month and received her Grade 2 Certificate.

Process Control Coordinator Al Fiore attended the Northern Regional CWEA Conference in Redding. Byron Jones and Bill Walker attended the Northern Regional Safety Day seminar at Woodland.

Financial Audit

The Agency's annual financial audit commenced the second week of October, with two Auditors from Vavrinek, Trine, Day coming onsite to begin the collection and dissemination of financial information. The financial audit is the second phase of the audit. The first of which is the internal control audit that took place in July 2005. The objective of the audit is to present an expression of an opinion by the auditors as to whether the general purpose financial statements are fairly presented and in conformity with the generally accepted accounting principles. The results of both the financial audit and the internal control audit, will be submitted as a draft report to the Agency in November 2005 and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners during the December 2005 Board meeting. The audit report is also incorporated into the financial section of the Agency's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Polymer Supply Contract

The new polymer procurement contract is out, and several vendors have scheduled product trials. Once the trials are completed we will analyze the results to compare with bid amounts. Bids will be opened Tuesday, November 29, at 10 o'clock, and we anticipate starting to use the new product early next year. Initial deliveries will be in totes while the polymer equipment upgrade capital project is being done.

BAAQMD VIP

The CMSA application to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Vehicle Incentive Program was accepted and we are qualified to receive a \$2,000 incentive on the purchase of a hybrid automobile. The deadline for our purchase is mid-December, although delivery can be up to 180 days later. The Maintenance Department is completing a review of the top two hybrids, Honda Civic and Toyota Prius, so CMSA can purchase the vehicle that best fits our needs.

CMMS

Staff have been writing work orders and becoming familiar using the new Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) for nine months now. In order to facilitate Phase three reporting requirements, Business Services has produced a series of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). These procedures will enable accurate report generation and

provide details critical to life cycle analysis.

Maintenance Connection, our CMMS vendor, is currently revising their Parts Inventory Receiving Module. In the mean time, Tuomas Groves our temporary IT technician has developed and implemented a software program that will allow CMSA to receive, update and barcode our inventory. Speaking of Tuomas, we said goodbye to him on the 19th of October. He will be pursuing a two year mission with his church. Tuomas has been a tremendous help bringing our CMMS system on-line, from the conversion of our old MP2 maintenance data to testing the functionality of the work order system. He will be missed.

Now that the Preventive Maintenance (PM's) Module has been populated and is in use, supervisors and lead workers are scrolling through their work orders verifying and updating the procedural data.

Environmental Services will be conducting an asset inventory audit and labeling said assets to align the department with the rest of CMSA's asset labeling protocols.

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

Carollo has submitted the first couple of the pre-design technical memoranda (TM) for review and comment. We expect to receive 12 TMs over

the next two months and have prepared an internal schedule for our project team to review these and provide comments in an timely manner. The first TMs were for the plant's hydraulic evaluation and the polymer facility.

The Peer Review contract with RMC engineering was executed and they have started reviewing the TMs in parallel with our team. The TM review should be wrapped up in December with the preliminary project scope and cost information being presented to the Board at their December meeting.

Recently the team has been considering stand-by power options for the new effluent pump station, and deciding on the level of geotechnical analysis to determine ground level seismic forces that will be used to size structure foundations.

Cogeneration

The cogeneration engine is scheduled for emissions testing on Nov 4th. We expect it to pass this final milestone and become fully operational. Our experience so far show it will operate 11 – 12 hours out of every 24 on digester gas, a significant improvement over the old engine's 9 – 10 hours a day. The last few punch list items are being finished up by Stewart and Stevenson's (S&S) field staff after which we will close-out their contract.

Staff successfully negotiated with S&S for a contract cost

reduction to defray direct delay-related costs to CMSA. The negotiated settlement was a cost reduction of **\$224,000** for actual damages to CMSA arising from project delays. We expect PG&E's \$600,000 rebate to follow soon after we close out the Stewart & Stevenson contract.

Vector Station Improvement

The 50% design for the new facility should be delivered by Kennedy/Jenks next week. Final design is scheduled to be completed in late January 2006 with the bid period start-up soon thereafter.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

The CMSA Polymer team reviewed Kennedy/Jenks Engineers' 50% design for Phase IV of the Dewatering Improvement Project. We expect to receive the 90% design by Thanksgiving. The project remains on track for contract bidding early in 2006, with construction starting in April and completing late next summer.

Marine Outfall

Parker Diving's outfall inspection showed all the diffusers are intact, indicating that the new diffuser design is successful at preventing diffuser damage. However, there has been a significant increase in solids accumulation, from about 110 cubic yards last year to about 600 cubic yards this year. We will have the solids measured again next spring to determine

if this is a seasonal effect or a more permanent phenomenon, and develop an appropriate plan based on those results.

O&M Projects

The maintenance crew power washed, surface prepped, and painted the second DAF tank, completing the job just before October's one day with rain.

Operations, with help from the Maintenance and Environmental Services departments, took on our second summer process test. Maintenance installed a plywood baffle to split our flow into the secondary process. This allowed us to stress test one clarifier and RAS pumping system without jeopardizing our permit compliance. The test shows that we can increase flow through the secondary system with increased RAS pumping, but there are flow limitations in the RAS system and piping. This trial information will be used in design considerations for the Wet Weather Improvement Project.

Maintenance installed a new DO probe mount in the #4 Aeration basin along with a new #3 water hose. The mount, hose, and accompanying procedure makes cleaning and storing the probe easier, quicker, safer and prevents damage to the sensor.

The Radio telemetry project for our four nitrate dosing facilities (odor control) is progressing. Data is being received from the West Railroad station in San Rafael. Over winter we will resolve transmitting issues for

North Francisco, Greenbrae and Paradise, the other nitrate stations being converted to a radio telemetry.

Card reader access control locks were completed for two Administration hall and office doors. This controls access to these critical areas and improves facility security and employee safety.

Coatings

The recoating of Secondary Clarifier No. 2 is completed and cured, and the clarifier is ready to go back in service. The waterproof coating replacement on the secondary clarifier deck is also completed. Two of the three biosolids hoppers have been coated and cured, and the third is due for recoating in 3 weeks. The project will be brought to the Board in December for acceptance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

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

Laboratory

We had our bi-annual Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) bioassay inspection. Every

month we are required to set up a test, called a bioassay, where our effluent is constantly flowing through tanks for 96 hours and very young fish are required to be able to live in our effluent. The purpose of the inspection was to ensure all of the regulatory and current requirements of the latest testing methods are being met. It was an excellent inspection where no major changes to our current practices, SOP's, or quality control will be required. Our inspector informed us that he had to find something to write in his report, and that we could not be perfect. In his letter there will be one minor requirement. We will need to test the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) of the effluent prior to aeration in case the DO is greater than 6 mg/L, in which case we would not need to aerate.

Another ELAP activity we performed this month was the analysis of our unknown Standard Plate Counts. It is the final part of the testing required in 2005 to maintain our laboratory certification. We will find out the results of the unknown testing in late November .

Public Outreach Events

On Saturday October 15, we set-up our public education booth at the Canal Fest in the Canal Area in San Rafael. Our booth was very popular and 110 people took our environmental quiz. The

majority of the people taking the quiz were Hispanic children within our service area. Las Gallinas participated in our booth and several other public agencies had booths including MMWD.

Environmental Compliance

Bob Adamson, our lead industrial waste inspector, gave a presentation to our member agencies and other wastewater entities within Marin County about the upcoming Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) requirements. The Regional Board is requiring collection systems to develop guidelines for a FOG Control Program as part of their Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) by August 31, 2006. Their available options were discussed, the FOG Policy we developed for LGVSD was outlined, and the regulatory drivers reviewed.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

The LGVSD Board of Directors has decided to postpone implementation of a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Policy and an ordinance to ban commercial food grinders at Food Service Establishments (FSEs). They wanted to allow more time for the City of San Rafael and other Cities and Districts in Marin County to develop FOG Policies. It would be easier to regulate FSEs if everyone had similar requirements in their FOG Policies.

Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for October. E/I completed annual electrical PM's to ensure reliable operation for the winter. A problem was found with one pump at the new Village pump station and is being fixed under warranty.