



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2005

ADMINISTRATION

CWEA Awards Banquet

The annual California Water Environment Association Awards Banquet was well attended on November 18th by CMSA staff. A total of 18 people represented CMSA when we won the Plant of the Year Award and the many other awards that were detailed in last months Newsletter. The awards banquet attendance demonstrated our staff's dedication to the Agency, and the eight awards received show the leadership position CMSA and many of our staff have in the wastewater community.

Desalination Update

Environmental Services staff have been assisting MMWD with the toxicity screening phase requirements for their full scale desalination facility. It is one of the requirements in the Permit they will eventually need to receive from the Regional Water Board for discharge into San Francisco Bay. We have provided them with a detailed description of our permit requirements, including the testing specifications to determine what species of organism and how many they need to use in order to set up their program. We have also been collecting samples of our effluent for MMWD so it can be mixed with the brine from the pilot plant to perform the actual tests.

ADA Accessibility

Sally Swanson Architects of San Francisco surveyed the front entry, the Administration Building, and the treatment plant for accessibility under the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Because we hold public meetings in the Administration Building, and provide tours to school groups and other interested members of the public, we are assessing our level of accessibility and developing a plan to correct barriers. The preliminary report indicates that the tour route in the treatment plant is largely compliant and that there are some barriers in the front entry and those parts of the Administration Building used for public meetings. The ADA Project Team is reviewing the preliminary report, and once the architects incorporate our comments, they will present the report and a transition plan to the CMSA Board of Commissioners at a meeting early in 2006. The transition plan will be a planning and budgeting tool for attaining compliance with ADA requirements over a reasonable period of time.

O&M Personnel & Training

Our Safety Director and I/E staff have developed an Electrical Safety class that has been given twice to CMSA and other sanitary district staff. The class is approved by the CWEA for 8 hours of continuing education units. We have another presentation scheduled in Dec.

Other training this month included the Internet based Diversity training for all employees. Two operators, Jean Saint-Louis and Virgil Sevilla attended a two day seminar with an intense curriculum on all aspects of the activated sludge process presented by Penn State University in Santa Rosa. Two Maintenance employees, Mike Gardea and Antonio Barros, attended Flyte submersible pump training at the Fairfield service facility. The two day class includes hands-on pump disassembly and reassembly.

Virgil Sevilla has passed the Operator in Charge (OIC) test, which allows him to act in a Lead Operator role for staff coverage when Lead Operators or Supervisory personnel are not available. This is quite an accomplishment, demonstrating Virgil's interest and commitment to learn and advance in his new career

Audit

As previously reported, the Agency's annual financial audit commenced the second week of October. To-date, all information requested by the auditors has been submitted by staff. The auditors have provided the first draft financial statements, which the Business Services Manager used to develop the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). The MD&A provides an analysis of the Agency's overall financial position and

results of operation, and is incorporated into the final audit report. The final audit report and findings will be presented to the Board during the December Commission meeting. The audit report will also be incorporated into the financial section of the Agency's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Strategic Asset Management Plan

The development of the Agency's strategic asset management plan (SAMP) continues to move ahead. The first overall SAMP document has been drafted by our asset management consultant from Brown & Caldwell, and is currently being reviewed by the Asset Management Team (AMT). The SAMP tactical action plans (TAP's) have also been drafted and are being reviewed by AMT as well. Once the SAMP and TAP's have been finalized, they can be consolidated into one integrated SAMP document. The SAMP is scheduled to be presented to the CMSA Board at the February 2006 Commission meeting.

Contracts

CMSA is currently in negotiations with Pioneer Americas regarding the extension of our Sodium Hypochlorite Contract. Pioneer Americas indicated verbally that they would not be able to extend the Contract at our unit cost (\$0.74/gallon), but would be open to further discussion on extending their contract with a cost adjustment below the current market value. CMSA has asked Pioneer Americas to prepare a letter with the new unit price for our consideration.

The bid opening for the supply of liquid emulsion polymer was on November 29, 2005 at 10:00am. CMSA received four responsive bids, and we are currently reviewing our field testing data to help us identify the responsible bidder with the lowest net cost to the agency. An award recommendation will be brought to the Board in December.

BAAQMD

Operations has completed the data request package from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) for renewal of our Air Permit. With the information, the BAAQMD will update our permit and send the \$5,000 invoice for the permit fee.

The Maintenance Department completed an evaluation of the two hybrid vehicles, the Honda Civic and Toyota Prius. MMWD assisted by providing information from their testing of the two models and let our maintenance staff drive each. The evaluation found that both cars meet our needs so we have solicited bids from local Honda and Toyota dealers. Bids will be opened on Friday December 2 at noon, then we will complete the purchase process and submit proof to the BAAQMD by 12/16. The BAAQMD rebate is \$2,000.

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

The pre-design phase of the wet weather improvement project is coming to a close. Over the past several months, our project team has been reviewing technical memoranda (TM) prepared by Carollo Engineers for the various new facilities and process

improvements to expand the treatment plant from 90 MGD to 125 MGD. The new facilities include two primary clarifiers, a polymer chemical feed facility, two chlorine contact tanks, and an effluent pump station. Other plant improvements include valve automation for the secondary treatment aeration tanks, enlarging the effluent holding pond, and strengthening the expansion joints on the land portion of the outfall.

RMC Engineering has been peer reviewing the TMs on a parallel track with our team. Combined comments were provided to Carollo for inclusion in the final TMs that form the basis for design. The final draft TM was submitted last week for the project's preliminary cost estimate and show the cost being about \$38 million, but may have a range between \$35-\$41 million. The cost range takes into consideration several decisions that need be made within the next few months, such as the type and layout of the effluent pump station, new facility foundation requirements based on the geotechnical engineer's site specific seismic analysis, and the condition of the end of the outfall that will be determined this summer after an internal inspection.

Cogeneration

Our new cogeneration engine passed its emission tests with plenty of room to spare, which is consistent with the new, more efficient engine design. With this milestone, and the \$224,000 negotiated settlement with Stewart & Stevenson, the engine vendor, we're moving forward with closing out that contract. We expect PG&E's

\$650,000 rebate to follow soon after we close out the Stewart & Stevenson contract. Also, we have completed design of the gas drier equipment shelter and will be requesting construction proposals soon.

Vactor Station Improvement

Kennedy/Jenks has submitted the 50% design drawings and our project team has reviewed them and provided comments. The 90% and final design packages are scheduled for submittal in early January and February 2006, respectively. The public bid period will commence in February and the award recommendation will be brought to the Board in April.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

The CMSA Polymer team is reviewing Kennedy/Jenks Engineers' 90% design, and will meet with the K/J design team for a design workshop on December 13. We expect to prepurchase the polymer mixing units, which will both produce cost savings in the overall project and allow us to have a new mixing unit available for the temporary emulsion polymer handling system we will construct for use during construction. The project remains on track for contract bidding in early 2006, with a planned construction start date in April and completion late next summer.

Outfall

As noted last month, the marine outfall inspection showed a significantly increased accumulation of snail shells and other solids since last autumn's inspection. We plan to have the outfall inspected

again this spring to evaluate whether this is a seasonal phenomenon or a more pervasive trend, and we will develop an appropriate plan.

O&M Projects

We have received a new FCC license for the plant radio system. The supplier of our existing system had neglected to license our system and then went bankrupt. E/I completed the application and frequency search and received a license. We are reprogrammed our repeater and radios to the assigned frequency. Staff are starting to study a replacement "narrow band" system, since our "wide band" system is becoming obsolete and the equipment will not be supported. By 2010 all agencies will have to move to narrow band.

Steve Lowry, one of our longest tenured operators, successfully completed our solids de-watering polymer trials this month as part of the new contract bid procedures. Three different vendors brought their products for testing.

From the annual CMSA plant safety inspection, a work order list is written up. Mechanical Maintenance has started on the work list, while E/I completed all the electrical safety work orders.

A new pH instrument was installed in the headworks to replace the old meter, which has been in service since 1986. The radio telemetry project for our nitrate dosing facilities is progressing. Data is being received from the San Rafael's West Railroad Pump Station and

North Francisco Pump Station. After the completion of the new Paradise Pump Station we will finish the Nitrate radio telemetry.

Coatings

F.D. Thomas completed the recoating of Secondary Clarifier No. 2 and all 3 biosolids hoppers, and we expect to get many years' good service from the new coatings. We look forward to recommending acceptance of the job as complete to the Board at its December 13 meeting. Once the job is accepted as complete and the Notice of Completion has been filed with Marin County, we will move the project to closeout and final payment.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

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

Laboratory

We performed very well on our Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program unknown bacteriological samples. We are required to analyze the samples every year to maintain our laboratory certification to test for total and fecal coliform and heterotrophic plate counts. All of the results we reported were very close to the statistically derived true values.

Public Outreach Events

On November 8th, environmental services staff gave a classroom presentation at Timothy Murphy School for their 5th grade students. Their teacher requested the presentation after meeting staff at the San Rafael Farmer's Market during Pollution Prevention Week in September. We showed the students how the wastewater treatment plant cleans the water and how we help protect the environment. The classroom sent us a nice thank you card signed by the students, and hopefully it will become an annual event.

Also on November 8th, we sponsored our first Classroom presentation called "Go With the Flow." It is a show about wastewater treatment and pollution prevention and covers the differences between storm drains and sanitary sewers. Rock Steady Juggling is the entertainment company that is performing the show and has booked a total of 28 shows in Marin County for the 2005-2006 school season reaching 3,949 students. We have a total of 10 shows in our service area and the additional shows are supported by the other wastewater treatment plants within the county.

Recently, staff gave an thorough tour and a detailed explanation of the treatment processes to the Environmental Science Class at Dominican University. They have a new professor teaching the course and she inquired about a tour and lecture explaining wastewater treatment. Hopefully it they will be added

to the list of colleges who tour our plant annually, which includes Sonoma State University and College of Marin.

Environmental Compliance

We are currently working on developing a Dry Cleaner inspection program to ensure none of the regulated organics used in their cleaning processes are released into the sanitary sewer. We have not experienced any problems, but believe it is prudent to conduct a blanket inspection and update our database with information about the facilities in our service area.

Two dischargers have not met our local limits for copper and zinc. We have issued Notice of Violations to Wincup (the styrofoam cup manufacturer in Corte Madera) and North Star Automotive (a new auto dealership and service facility) requiring them to pump and clean their pretreatment equipment. We will verify the required work has been completed and recollect additional samples to ensure continued compliance.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

Bob Adamson, our Lead Industrial Waste Inspector, met with Marin County Environmental Health Services (MCEHS) to discuss the proposed Fats Oils, and Grease program at LGVSD. He wanted to ensure that they were familiar with the program and to enlist their assistance in ensuring the specified pretreatment devices will be included in restaurant remodels and new facilities that are required to submit their plans to MCEHS for approval. Bob met with David Smail, Supervising

Environmental Health Specialist, and Rebecca Johnson, Senior Environmental Health Specialist in the Plan Checking Department. They were very supportive about making sure there will be a program in place that includes approval of FOG removal devices prior to signing off on the plans. No final procedure was established because we are hoping San Rafael Sanitation District will proceed to establish a FOG Policy and the two Policies will be similar making the program easier to maintain.

We also mentioned the possibility of their inspectors performing the inspections of the grease removal devices with reimbursement by the sanitary districts. They were not supportive at this time due to the extra time requirements for their inspectors and the scope of work is outside their normal activities.

Staff has completed the annual inspections for LGVSD. The inspections are required by their Pollution Prevention Program and will be documented in the annual report we prepare for them that is submitted to the Regional Board.

Sanitary District #2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all the pump stations for October. CMSA and SD#2 met to discuss the status of the possible projects list for this fiscal year. We agreed on which projects to pursue and a schedule of when to follow up.