



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2005

ADMINISTRATION

Lateral Inspection/Replacement

The Las Gallinas lateral inspection/rehabilitation ordinance has been tabled after significant resistance and lobbying by the Marin Realtors Association. Similar ordinances, which require that laterals be inspected at the sale of a home, have been passed in Burlingame, Albany, and a few sanitary districts around the State, and are working fine. Stege Sanitary District (Berkeley area) and the City of Santa Barbara are in the process of developing ordinances and are facing similar realtor resistance.

This topic came up several times at the recent CASA conference. CASA has formed a committee to consider all aspects of the issue and develop a strategy to address private laterals, which contribute up to 50% of I/I. One approach that the CASA executive director, Mike Dillion, suggested is for CASA, the State Water Resources Control Board and environmental NGO's to collaboratively craft legislation to address the issue at the State level, instead of instead of individual public agencies attempting to pass ordinance locally.

Desalination

The Board of Commissioners will be touring the MMWD pilot desalination facility before their September meeting. During that meeting, the Board will consider forming a desalination committee to closely work with our general manager and MMWD on addressing CMSA's concerns if the

desalination project moves forward beyond the pilot phase. We previously provided MMWD a detailed list of discussion topics and concerns that need to be considered before CMSA agrees to share the outfall. Our concerns range from desal facility operation during wet weather to increased solids deposition in the outfall.

Sanitary Sewer Management Plan

The Regional Water Board has issued 13267 letters to the Bay Area's sanitary sewer collection system agencies requiring them to develop a sanitary sewer management plan (SSMP). An SSMP is a comprehensive plan that establishes the appropriate means to operate, manage, and maintain the sewer system while providing enough capacity to convey design flows to the treatment plant.

CMSA has received a 13267 SSMP letter and have responded, in writing, to the Water Board, stating our belief that we should be exempt from the SSMP requirement because we do not own any collection system assets. BACWA will be assisting us in the effort to persuade the Water Board to remove CMSA from the SSMP list.

Personnel & Training

CMSA will hire two OITs (Operator in Training) in September. The hiring process is almost complete for the first, Brian Bokkin, who will join us in mid-September. Although we have had a couple of drop outs for the second position, we expect to have it filled by the end of September.

Congratulations to Jean Saint-Louis, he has accepted a job offer to become Lead Operator, filling the vacancy from Chris Finton's move to Business Services. Chris Magnelli, our summer helper who assisted Operations and Maintenance, finished working this month and has returned to school.

Kit Groves and Nathan Brennan completed a two-day Incident Command System (ICS) course at the Industrial Emergency Council facility in San Carlos. It is important for CMSA to have trained staff to respond in emergencies and use of ICS in emergencies is a requirement for state or federal reimbursement.

Polymer Supply Contract

The new liquid polymer supply contract should be advertised beginning in mid-September. We expect product testing to be completed by mid-October, and we hope to have a recommendation to the Board for its November 8 meeting. The new contract includes price escalator clauses, an approach that has been used successfully by other utilities, including East Bay MUD. We expect the escalator clauses to produce

estimates that don't have to account for "what if" scenarios, in turn producing overall savings in our new contract

AGENCY PROJECTS

Wet Weather Improvement Project

The contract with Carollo Engineers for the Wet Weather Improvement Project pre-design work has been executed and the kick-off meeting with our project team was held a couple weeks ago. Staff has been providing Carollo with a variety of equipment, process, and SCADA information that will be needed in the pre-design analysis, and the enhanced primary treatment and RAS testing study protocols have been developed.

The geotechnical exploration will begin next week with soil boring in the vicinity of the proposed locations of the new process tanks and related facilities. Staff is marking underground utilities and is working with PG&E to locate the natural gas and 12KV electrical lines to ensure that the boring is uneventful.

Cogeneration

The cogeneration engine began full dual-fuel operation the last week of August, marking a major milestone towards project completion. The remaining tasks to be completed include engine emission testing for both fuels, correcting minor issues that arose during the extended shakedown period, and integrating routine maintenance into our maintenance schedules. On that last point, as our engine settles in to full operation, we expect to be able to extend many of the routine maintenance intervals, producing enhanced savings in operation costs, over and above the major

savings produced by using our digester gas for engine fuel.

We are entering into negotiations with Stewart & Stevenson, the engine vendor, to resolve final contract costs, including damages to CMSA arising from the delayed engine and switchgear delivery. Once those issues are settled and final payment made, we will submit our reimbursement package to PG&E, which will bring project costs and revenues back into the planned alignment.

Vactor Station Improvement

Two workshops have been held with Kennedy/Jenks, CMSA staff, and member agency field crews to first brainstorm and then refine conceptual improvements to the Agency's vactor receiving station. The improvement selected by the team is to expand our existing facility and to provide better containment and drainage. Solids from the vactor loads will be washed and then transferred to a dumpster using a bobcat loader. Another aspect of the project is to improve the RV receiving station by adding containment, and expanding it to receive septage instead of at the vactor station.

Server Upgrade

In order to support an upgrade of our accounting software, we had to upgrade our network server. Maintenance bought the new server, set it up, set up a tape backup, and tested it in preparation for the switch. The first switch over had file copying failures and Maintenance had to put everyone back on the old server. After solving that glitch, the switch to the new server is working well. The last step will be to arrange for the software vendor to install the accounting system upgrade in September. The old server performed exceptionally well through its five-year life span.

CMMS

Phase Two of CMMS has been completed. The collection, collating, delineating and populating of preventive maintenance (PM) procedure data for plant, pump stations and odor control stations has been captured in the CMMS database. With the upgrade of the CMMS software to the latest version, we now have the ability and have completed 'consolidating' PM's in order to reduce the total number of work orders generated. Operations and maintenance (including pump station) PM work-orders have been enabled within CMMS and both are now using CMMS as their source for notification and tracking PM tasks.

Staff also developed and implemented an automated procedure to capture run-time data from our SCADA system and download the information to CMMS, allowing scheduling of PM's based on the actual run-time of a piece of equipment vs. a fixed frequency. With historic information increasing within CMMS databases, staff will continue to work on producing reports. Future implementation of CMMS functionality will be integrated with the strategic asset management plan (SAMP).

Strategic Asset Management Plan

Phase one of the strategic asset management plan (SAMP) continues to move ahead. The scope of work for the first phase is to evaluate current asset management practices and capabilities, comparing these to industry best practices, and developing a tangible strategic asset management plan that compliments the Agency's Strategic Business Plan.

Several Asset Management workshops and focus groups meetings were conducted in June and July to collect information on

existing asset management practices, perform a gap analysis of existing asset management practices vs. industry best practices, and develop the Agency's Asset Management vision, goals and strategies.

During the month of August, the Agency's Asset Management Team, working with the consulting firm of Brown & Caldwell, held two additional workshops. The objective of the first workshop was to refine the strategies previously drafted and determine priorities for each strategy. The objective of the second workshop was to begin developing tactical plans for the strategies to be tentatively implemented during fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Once the tactical plans are finalized, the Asset Management Team along with the consultants, will complete the development of the strategic asset management implementation plan and roadmap.

O&M Projects

Summer is the time of year that more equipment can be taken off line for repairs and renovation. In Primary Clarifier #1, maintenance is replacing the flight shoes and the bottom track for the sludge collectors. Maintenance also replaced one sludge pump and one grit pump this month.

The cathodic protection anode field for the outfall was damaged by a contractor doing some landscaping work near the bay. Our USA crew did not know about the anode field (which extends up to 100 feet away from the outfall alignment) nor were the plans correct in showing where the field was located. CMSA staff repaired the conduit and replaced the damaged wire. The conduits were also marked

in the field and on the plans for any future needs.

The E/I crew did a confined space entry into the Process Waste Sump to replace a failed float on the level control. This was scheduled to coincide with the cogeneration engine shutdown for an oil change, because the engine dumps a large amount of water into the sump when running.

Polymer Equipment Upgrade

We received the 20% design submittal from Kennedy/Jenks for the Phase IV of our Dewatering Improvement Project: upgrading CMSA's polymer handling equipment. This design submittal included high-level cost estimates, and we will review the design elements with an eye to optimizing project details with cost considerations. The design process is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year, with advertising and bidding due in January and February. This should allow us to start construction in April, with the project being complete by the end of next summer. This schedule dovetails well with our new polymer procurement contract.

Coatings

The Secondary Clarifier No. 2 and miscellaneous metal coating project is moving ahead. F.D. Thomas, Inc. has completed much of the metal blasting and prep work in the clarifier, and should start coating the first week in September. This puts them on track to finish the secondary clarifier work by the end of September. The coating work on the dewatered biosolids hoppers will start shortly. The Board approved the change order to include replacing the concrete deck waterproofing between the secondary clarifiers, and that work will start once the clarifier coating work is finished. Both the hopper and deck coatings are the original systems installed when the plant was built, and have both lasted well beyond their predicted service

life. We hope for similar performance from their replacements.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NPDES Testing

The NPDES testing we performed at CMSA for August was in compliance with our permit requirements, and all of the fish survived in our bioassay.

Public Outreach Events

We are currently finishing up the details for our school outreach program for the 2005-6 school year titled "Go with the Flow" designed for school aged children kindergarten through sixth grade. The program is a joint venture with Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, Novato Sanitary District and Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. It will combine juggling and balancing tricks and focus on wastewater treatment and how we provide a valuable service to the community. The program will also discuss the importance of preventing hazardous materials from going down the drain.

Green Business Certification

On August 10th CMSA was recognized at the Marin County Board of Supervisors meeting as a certified Marin County Green Business. Green Businesses are certified for complying with environmental regulations and taking extra steps to conserve energy, water, reduce waste, and prevent pollution.

Environmental Compliance

Marin Airporter has responded to the Notice of Violation we issued for their 4000 square foot uncovered washpad, which exceeds our 400 square foot limit. They are claiming the costs to cover the washpad, to comply with our ordinance, would

be a financial hardship. As an alternative, they have proposed to continue to treat their wash water, but during the rainy season they will store, treat, and re-use the initial rains of each storm to prevent soap and vehicle fluids from entering the storm drains. Staff will consider their proposal and determine the additional monitoring that would be required.

CONTRACT SERVICES

LGVSD Assistance

On August 12th, we mailed letters out to the Food Service Establishments (FSE) in the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District's service area. It included the Proposed Fats Oil, and Grease(FOG) Policy, cover letter, and time schedule for implementation of the Policy. There will be an initial meeting with the FSEs on September 9th at 10:30 AM. They will have a chance to ask questions and provide comments on the Policy, and what Grease Removal Devices (GRD) will be required, the schedule for installation, inspection procedures and enforcement.

After the comment period and any changes, the Final FOG Policy will be mailed to the FSEs. They will be required to submit an application for a permit, and if they need to install GRDs, they will have to submit a GRD compliance plan and then they will have up to six months to install the GRD that is specified in the plan. Starting in fiscal year 06/07 there will be a proposed annual permit fee of \$350.

SD#2 Pump Stations

Maintenance completed regular checks and routine maintenance of all 18 pump stations for August. Operations responded to after-hours alarms at Lakeside, Pixley, Lucky and Tamalpais. The sump cover at Old Landing PS was retrofitted with an inspection hatch, which addressed safety concerns when the whole hatch was opened by one person. Burned belts were replaced at Lucky PS and Maintenance found and removed rope wound into the Tamalpais pumps that had caused high amperage trips.