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What's Happening Now...

The Waukesha: A Critical Player at CMSA

The Waukesha co-generation engine has now run more than 19 months (that's over 14,000 hours!) since that fateful Christmas in 2008 when it had a major failure.

Our planned upper end rebuild is scheduled for 16,000 hours, which places us a little over three months from now. An upper end rebuild consists of replacing the cylinder heads, new cylinder kits, and replacing the pistons.

This month, staff contracted with a Waukesha service technician to inspect the engine and provide us with a written report on the current condition of the engine. Based on his preliminary inspection of the engine's mechanical components, he reported very little wear, and we were glad to learn that there were no immediate conditions of mechanical concern. We were gratified to hear from him that our engine is clean, and

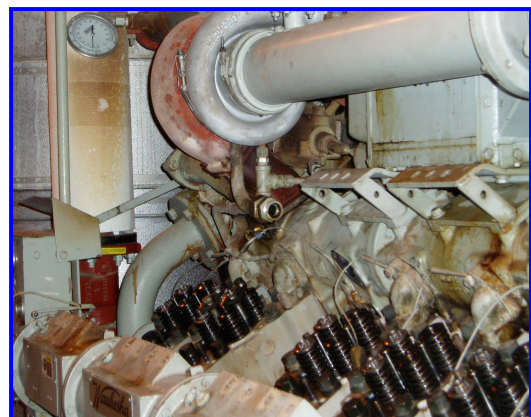
that he thought it was as well-maintained as he has ever seen.

After taking a look at the inspection findings, the technician recommended that we continue maintaining the engine as we have been doing over the past 19 months, and schedule the upper end rebuild for the fall of 2012, after the next PG&E peak power demand period. The end of the peak power demand period is October 31st, which will put the hour meter on the Waukesha at about 22,000 hours, or 31 months. We have asked the Waukesha manufacturer to opine on the life cycle of the engine's pistons, which are one of the best indicators of wear on this cogeneration engine system. This kind of information will assist the Agency with further planning and coordination of maintenance. ♦♦



Pictured, left: the cylinder head removed to inspect the piston.

On the right, a photo of the Head Kit: springs, clips, and O-rings.



Testing and Compliance

The CMSA lab testing was in compliance with NPDES permit requirements in November, and we had 100% fish survival in the bioassay test.



Laboratory

During high flows, there is an increased possibility of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) when the capacity of the collection system is exceeded and problems from roots, blockages, sags, or other challenges are magnified by the increased flow. We have been busy assisting our JPA member agencies by performing analyses on SSOs which allows

them to determine the impact of the spill on nearby water bodies or at the spill site. There are also additional samples from our member agencies responding to homeowners when rising groundwater appears and they believe it may be sewage, and rarely is. ♦♦

Pictured: Coliform test sample containers.



Finance News: Budget Performance & FY 2009-10 Financial Statements

As of October 31, the Agency has received 47.7% of budgeted operating revenue and incurred 30.4% of total budgeted operating expenses. Debt Service contributions from member agencies were 69.8% of budget.

Asset Management project and rehabilitation activities were at 26.7% of budget. Actual expenditures total \$156k, and there were outstanding purchase orders totaling \$135k for electrical equipment, CMMS and Asset Management, facility elevator repairs, grit system, cogeneration and centrifuge maintenance, effluent pump station, and vehicle/equipment replacement. The Revenue Bond Program is at 82.44% of budget and includes \$967k in contractual obligations associated with the Administration Building Modification Project, Agency Capital Master Plan, Biosolids to Energy, and Digester Improvement & FOG projects. The remaining budget balance of \$12.4 million represents Revenue Bond funded activities in FY11 through FY12.

♦♦

In other news, the Agency received an unqualified opinion from its outside auditor, Vavrinik, Trine & Day, for FY 2009-2010 financial statements. This means the financial statements are free of material misstatements and that the audit did not identify any deficiencies or material weaknesses with respect to the Agency's financial operations. The audit findings were presented and accepted by the CMSA Board on November 9, 2010.

FY 2009-2010 financial highlights are listed below. The complete FY 2009-2010 Financial Statements are available online at www.cmsa.us.

**The total ending Net Assets increased by \$1.5 million to \$51.2 million.

**Total Revenues decreased by \$238,588 to \$15.58 million. The primary decrease in revenues was for interest and investment income due to historically low interest rates.

**Total Expenses decreased by \$2,246 to \$14.29 million. There was

a slight increase in operating expenses offset by a decrease in interest expense on the 2006 Series Revenue Bonds.

**Capital contributions-capacity charges increased by \$148,482 to \$213,148. There was a one-time increase associated with a large new commercial sewer connection in the service area.

The audited financial statements will become an integral component of the Agency's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Agency has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the last eight years for its annual CAFR. Recognition from GFOA is highly coveted because it signifies that the Agency has achieved the highest standard in governmental accounting and reporting. The Agency's FY 2010 CAFR will be submitted to the Board for their review and acceptance on December 14, 2010.

♦♦

Public Outreach

It's almost the new year and we are working to plan our events calendar for 2011 and continue our award-winning public education program. It may be the holiday season, but we are in full gear to make sure we have Marin County scheduled for public education and outreach that will cover activities in the different service areas. Various drafts of our new logo and slogan for the next two fiscal years are in development and will be ready to review. Our mascot will be the "Octopus" and our slogan will be "Get a Grip on Pollution." There is always a lot of hard work and collaboration in the development process. It will take a few drafts to make sure everyone is happy with the final product and that it will be effective in communicating our pollution prevention message. ♦♦♦

The mercury reduction dental program continues to progress and every month the compliance numbers keep increasing as the dentists continue to install their amalgam separators. More than half of the dentists have installed separators and are assisting us in preventing the mercury from being discharged into the sanitary sewers and San Francisco Bay. ♦♦♦

Administration Building Expansion



Pictured above: A contractor is getting ready to install the door frame at the public education materials storage shed.

The Contractor, DL Falk, continues working at various locations inside the Administration Building. Wall framing at the women's locker room, new bio-assay lab and storage rooms, and the public education materials storage shed have been completed. Electricians are installing conduits and pulling wires into new areas. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) technicians have been working on replacing the existing fire dampers, modifying existing duct work for better ventilation control, and installing new ducts to the new areas.

Agency staff is reviewing DL Falk's change order proposal for the required men's locker room ADA access upgrades. Staff plans to bring it to the Board in December for their review and authorization. ♦♦♦

Environmental Compliance/Industrial Waste Program

We are finishing up the last of our annual regulatory inspections and sampling at industrial facilities for our medium-sized dischargers. They are too small to fit into any of the categories in our Federal Pretreatment Program, and they are larger than the small auto shop or industrial dischargers in our pollution prevention program, and they have the potential to impact the treatment plant. They consist of Golden Gate Bridge & Transportation District (both bus and ferry), Marin Airporter, Marin Sanitary Service, VA Optical, EO Products, and Big 4 Rents. ♦♦♦

Aeration Blower Replacement Project

CMSA staff has been working closely with Carollo Engineers on evaluating the aeration blower replacement alternatives. A progress meeting was held early in November and staff provided requested plant operation data for analysis. The aeration blowers supply compressed air as an oxygen source for the Activated Sludge process. The current blowers were installed when the Treatment Plant was built in 1985, and have reached the end of their service life. Also, blower technology has improved greatly since 1985 and newer designs are much more energy-efficient. We anticipate receiving a Technical Memorandum from Carollo in December and moving forward to the design phase early next year. ♦♦♦

Training

Several CMSA employees attended “Verbal Judo,” a tactical communication course, in November. The CSRMA-sponsored seminar taught techniques on how to communicate articulately and maintain a professional posture when confronted with stress while assisting the public. Techniques help decrease potential complaints, while lowering job stress and improving performance and morale through the achievement of the desired outcome in difficult situations. ♦♦♦



Contract/Outside Services

The FOG programs are proceeding and most inspections are complete for this calendar year. There were no violations at San Rafael restaurants, and the Ross Valley Sanitary District restaurants were in compliance after staff offered a little education to newer restaurants. The Tamalpais Community Services District program is progressing with all but one restaurant in the process of installing traps. The Town of Corte Madera is finalizing program details before issuing installation letters.

The pollution prevention inspections for Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District were completed for auto shops, printers, and photo developers. Sears Auto was issued a Notice of Violation for pH, copper, zinc, and lead violations. They will have to pump their interceptor, *pictured right*, and provide documentation for proof of pumping, why the violation occurred, and what they intend to do to prevent violations in the future. ♦♦♦



Strategic Business Plan Update

During the first week of November, HDR conducted interviews with 15 Agency Strategic Planning Committee (ASPC) members over a two-day period regarding his/her assessment of Agency operations. Afterwards, HDR facilitated a workshop with the ASPC to analyze the Agency’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. HDR brought in material wastewater and biosolids experts to provide an overview of the state and national changes which could impact how CMSA operates in the next five years. HDR posed questions to stimulate discussion of the Agency’s current Purpose, Vision, and Mission statements.

The ASPC recently held a brainstorming session to discuss

these questions. The Committee reviewed the Agency’s current statements and deliberated on whether they convey what the Agency does. Anecdotally, the current Purpose Statement is taken directly from the Joint Powers Agreement that established CMSA: *CMSA was formed for the purpose of planning, administering and coordinating wastewater treatment and disposal services throughout Central Marin County, to protect the public health and the environment.*

The ASPC will meet again in December to draft proposed versions of the statements for the Board to consider at their upcoming workshop. In addition to the December Board workshop on the SBP, HDR will be conducting external stakeholder interviews. ♦♦♦

CMSA wishes Treatment Plant Manager Nathan Brennan an eventful and happy retirement!