

A Message from the Executive Director...

January 2004

Happy New Year! With this issue, the SCAP Monthly Update has been published for 103 consecutive months (we started in July 1995). We have over 300 registered readers from all over the country.

We have a brief **Update** for you this month and a few highlights I'd like to touch upon:

Vaya Con Dios – Our thanks and regretful acceptance of the resignations of some longtime SCAP Board Members: Judy Wilson, City of Los Angeles and Director from Los Angeles County; Jerry Smith, Montecito Sanitary District and Assistant Treasurer/Secretary; Jim Colbaugh, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Alternate Director from Los Angeles County; and Bob Roebuck, City of Santa Barbara and Alternate Director from Santa Barbara County.

Paso Robles Earthquake/Mudslides – California is nothing if she isn't consistent and she not only gave us a large earthquake last month, but delivered mudslides to the burned areas in our local mountains. Look for our emergency planning/fire debriefing workshop in February/March.

Collection Systems – Efforts here are moving ahead with workshops being set up in varying geographical locations. The workshops will be aimed at potential members – outlining the benefits of being a SCAP member and finding out what is most needed by these agencies. A big thanks to Nick Arhontes who is doing an outstanding job getting this going.

New Website – Can't help but seek Alpha Nerd status for Mike Hamilton, our Webmaster. Mike's done a great job and we will continue to make monthly improvements so that it's a beneficial resource for your agency. Let us know if you'd like to see something added.

I never tell them enough – I really appreciate my staff and for the most part don't tell them enough. Mary Jane, Lisa, Kris, Linda, Bob and Mike – here you go. Don't bug me 'till next year.

And finally,

Bienvenidos – Our new President, John Pastore, is actually a very old SCAP hand. John's been with us from our 1992 beginning, and is only our third President. John is the contract general manager for four wastewater agencies and we get tired even thinking about it. Thank you for adding us to your list John.

He has tough shoes to fill, as outgoing President Kamil Azoury has been instrumental in initiating and overseeing a big strategic planning effort. Thank you Kamil and we look forward to your continued guidance on the Board.

Happily yours,
Ray Miller

Upcoming Meetings

Tri-TAC/CASA/SCAP -

All committees will meet in conjunction with this meeting in Ontario on Thursday, January 8. There will be a working lunch, so if you plan on staying for it, please RSVP to Emily Estrada at (562) 699-7411, ext. 2500.

Reminder!

Biosolids Survey Questionnaires are due to be submitted by Friday, January 9 to Layne Baroldi at lbaroldi@ocsd.com or fax to (714) 962-2591.

SCAP Board Meeting Recap

The SCAP Board took several actions at their December 16 meeting:

- Appointed James Stahl, LACSD, as the director for Los Angeles County and Ray Kearney, City of Los Angeles, as the alternate director.
- Appointed Virginia Grebbien, OCWD, as an alternate director for Orange County.
- Appointed Kamil Azoury, Goleta Sanitary District, as the director for Santa Barbara County.
- Appointed Mike Hogan, Encina WW Authority, as the Assistant Treasurer/Assistant Secretary.
- Approved a SCAP Evaluation Questionnaire developed as a result of the Strategic Planning Meeting. The short questionnaire will be sent to all SCAP agencies in January.
- Approved an Advisory System Policy, also developed as a result of the Strategic Planning Meeting. Beginning in January, **SCAP Alerts** will be distributed to members using a color coded system (similar to the system used by Homeland Security), that would rank the relative urgency and importance of the information in the Alert, or the action requested of the member agencies. The Policy distributed to all members in January.
- Approved an Award Nomination Form that will be used to recognize and encourage leadership in water and wastewater policy. Nominations will be requested in the summer, with the recipient(s) recognized at the December holiday luncheon.
- Approved an Annual Report (developed as a result of the Strategic Planning Meeting) that will be distributed to the member agencies in January.

Air Quality

Stationary and Portable Engine Operation Near Sensitive Receptors – Heating Up

Both the California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District appear to be ready to propose substantial limitations on the operation of stationary and portable engines near “sensitive receptors” – particularly school sites. Sensitive receptors refers to groups of people that may have, for example, immature or compromised immune systems (schools, daycare facilities, senior facilities).

Early CARB staff proposals considered limiting operations around schools to within a 300 ft radius when children were present (although “present” could include after school activities also). Recently, however, staff has floated the idea of 500 ft or 1,000 ft radius limitations. Such limitations are strongly supported by the California Air Pollution Control Officer’s Association (CAPCOA).

Because this could have significant impacts for wastewater agencies that have pump stations near schools, or who might have to respond to a spill or other emergency incident with a portable engine, the Air Quality Committee will be developing a position, and seeking member support, in early January (a hearing on the issue may be held as soon as February). Please watch for a **SCAP Alert** about this issue.

Committee Chair Contact Info

Air Chair: Dan McGivney - dmcgivney@emwd.org

Biosolids Chair: Diane Gilbert – dxg@san.lacity.org

Water Chair: Roger Turner – turnerr@emwd.org

Collections Committee Chair: Nick Arhontes – narhontes@ocsd.com

Water Issues

Scoping Meeting for Ocean Plan Amendments Deferred to January 23

The meeting that was originally scheduled for December 15, to seek input on the scope and content of the environmental document for the proposed Ocean Plan (Functional Equivalent Document) amendments, was moved to January 23 following a request from many entities, including SCAP. Jim Colston of OCSD has prepared some initial comments on behalf of Tri-TAC with regards to the four issues that will be addressed in the environmental document. A copy of the "Proposed Ocean Plan Amendments" table is available under the reference section on our website.

This issue will be discussed at the January 8 Tri-TAC meeting; SCAP will be following this closely and keeping ocean discharging agencies apprised of the issues.

Nutrient Criteria Study Available

The results of the State's Nutrient Criteria Pilot Study are available from the SCAP office, as well as a copy of a draft comment letter that, while the results of the study are lauded, raises some concerns about the subjectivity of some of the implementation wording. The "Pilot Project" documents are available under the reference section on our website.

EPA Region 9/SWRCB Checklist Available

The November 5, 2003 update of the EPA/SWRCB NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) checklist is available for downloading and review under the reference section on our website. This checklist is being used by an EPA contractor inspecting POTWs in the Bay Area.

Environmental Defense Funds List POTWs as Hazards

On December 3, the EDF released a report that identifies POTWs that use chlorine gas for disinfection; unfortunately, several of the plants cited ceased the use of chlorine gas years ago. SCAP members may wish to go to the EDF site and correct any similar mistakes:

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/pdf.cfm?ContentID=3357&FileName=Eliminat> .

State Audit of Water Quality Control Boards Now Available

A review of the SWRCB's and RWQCB's collection of fines and expenditures of those funds under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act is presented at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa/summaries/2003-102.html>.

Biosolids

EPA Issues Final Action Plan Responding to NRC July 2002 Biosolids Report Recommendations

On December 31, the EPA announced in the Federal Register its final action plan to address the recommendations made in the National Research Council's July 2002 report on the land application of biosolids. Included in the plan are 14 specific projects that will be used to enhance ongoing research and outreach activities. These projects will be initiated over a two to three year period. The notice also included the results of the EPA's review of the existing biosolids regulations per the Clean Water Act requirements. EPA identified 15 pollutants for possible regulation, based on a screening assessment of chemical pollutants for which there was adequate data.

The 15 pollutants are acetone, anthracene, barium, beryllium, carbon disulfide, 4-chloroaniline, diazinon, fluoranthene, manganese, methyl ethyl ketone, nitrate, nitrite, phenol, pyrene, and silver. The identification of these 15 pollutants does not mean that EPA has concluded that these pollutants in biosolids adversely affect human health or the environment. To view the Federal Register notice, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2003/December/Day-31/w32217.htm>.

EPA Denies Petition Seeking Immediate Moratorium on the Land Application of Biosolids

On December 22, the U.S. EPA responded to the Center for Food Safety petition asking the U.S. EPA to place an immediate moratorium on the land application of biosolids. After carefully evaluating the information in the petition and other sources of information, the EPA found that the evidence did not support granting an immediate moratorium on the land application of biosolids and therefore denied the petition. The petitioners requested that the U.S. EPA:

1. Freeze the issuance of new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits authorizing the land application of biosolids.
2. Rewrite and reissue the NPDES permits to require a method of biosolids disposal other than land application to replace all NPDES permits currently in force that allow the land application of biosolids.
3. Initiate rulemaking to change the Part 503 Sludge Rule (promulgated under the authority of the Clean Water Act in 40 CFR 503) to eliminate land application as an acceptable practice for biosolids disposal.

The EPA found that the assertions the petitioners made concerning the hazards of land applied biosolids are not substantiated and also that the petitioners have not substantiated claims that that adverse health and environmental effects described in the petition were caused by exposure to land-applied sewage sludge. For the complete report and detailed information visit the link below <http://biosolids.policy.net/relatives/27141.pdf> .

Association of Compost Producers (ACP) Drafting Compost Marketing Standards

The ACP (motto: "We Build Healthy Soil!") is comprised of POTWs and compost producers that have been working together to craft Compost Marketing Standards. A first draft of the "ACP Marketing Standards" was produced in December, and is available for review under the reference section on our website. The ACP is looking for feedback; send comments to Dan Noble at dan@resourcetrends.com.

Collection Systems

On December 8, 2003, SCAP Executive Director Ray Miller and Collection Systems Committee Chair Nick Arhontes (OCSD) met in Sacramento with John Norton of the State Water Resources Control Board and his technical staff. Additionally, representatives from all of the state's Regional Boards were in attendance via video or voice teleconferencing. SCAP was the only non-state participant at the meeting. The topic of discussion was the need for a consistent, statewide, means of electronically reporting sanitary sewer overflows. State officials were in agreement with SCAP's contention that a consistent statewide electronic reporting format would be beneficial to all. Also discussed was that although a statewide database currently exists, it is cumbersome and difficult to use, thus several of the regions have developed their own local databases. Comments from the various regions indicated the need for a statewide, user-friendly database with electronic reporting to accurately track SSOs. The meeting concluded with the agreement that a future meeting should be held to include state and regional representation along with representation from the discharger groups SCAP, BACWA and CVDA on the development of the electronic reporting and data base format.

Non Sequitur

“This is our new neighborhood; we hit the sweet spot.”

*Dr. Steve Squyres of Cornell University
Principal Science Investigator for the Mars Rover “Spirit”*