



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

MONTHLY UPDATE

A Message from the Executive Director...

September 2004

You've got to wonder what Bill Gates' dad thought about what his son was doing. I mean, can't you see him wanting to tell his son to get a *real* job?

If so, I can identify with Daddy Gates. I didn't see home computers coming. Business computers, sure. Home - too expensive I thought. I missed out on plastics. Didn't foresee the big real estate boom or the Krispy Kreme phenomena. Admit it, more that a few of you out there are right there with me on this one.

But I've got one word for you: **biofuels**. [Editorial Note: In the interest of full disclosure, please note that Mr. Miller does not now, nor has he ever, owned stocks or had any financial interest in biofuels. Further, he is not qualified to give financial advice, and he loses regularly at poker and slot machines. He did, however, have something positive to do with his granddaughter Brenda winning first prize (in her age group) at the "Fathers and Daughters Golf Tourney" at a local country club.]

Upcoming Meetings

Air Quality Committee – Tuesday, September 14, 10-Noon, LACSD.

Collection Systems Committee – Wednesday, Sept 15, Noon-3:30, OCSD.

Biosolids Committee – Tuesday, Sept 28. See announcement in box below.

Water Issues Committee – SWRCB Board Members Pete Silva and Gary Carlton are arranging to come to the October Meeting - Date TBA.

Emerging Biosolids Technologies Workshop

Tuesday, September 28,
2004 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Eastern Municipal Water
District (EMWD), 2270
Trumble Road, Perris, CA

Vendors and contractors will be making presentations on their technology, and updates will be given on new regulations recently passed related to biosolids management.

A \$15.00 charge per attendee is being requested to cover the cost of the workshop (lunch is included).

Please RSVP, by phone or e-mail (kris@scap1.org), no later than noon on Friday, September 10. Please forward your check (made payable to SCAP) to the SCAP office. Upon receipt of your check for the workshop, an agenda and map to the EMWD will be provided.

Biodiesel. Biogas. Whether derived from kitchen grease and oils or dairy manure, the economic and environmental forces are such that these are not tomorrow's technologies. They are here today.

Just ask Willie Nelson. Willie is fueling up his brand new Mercedes diesel 320 CDI with biodiesel at his home in Hawaii (guess those nasty tax problems are history). The fuel is produced by Pacific Biodiesel, Inc. and is made totally from recycled cooking oil and used mostly in generators of all sizes, commercial diesel equipment, vehicles, and marine vessels. Since the opening of the Maui processing plant, it has become more economical for pump trucks to deliver used restaurant oil to Pacific Biodiesel than to landfill it, resulting in a landfill diversion total of over 40 tons of used cooking oil per month.

And consider Inland Empire Utilities Agency. In June, IEUA announced the first-ever sale of "Renewable Energy Credits" generated through "Cow Power" to occur in California. Renewable Energy Credits are created when energy is produced from a new renewable source, such as biomass or solar power, in place of a fossil fuel. The credits must be documented and verified by an independent entity before they can be sold. The purchaser is Commonwealth Energy of Tustin, California, one of the nation's largest green energy service providers for retail and commercial customers. "Poop to Power," hmm...catchy.

Currently, IEUA generates over 30% of its energy needs from methane gas produced through the treatment of biosolids and dairy cow manure – this is new energy, hence the ability to receive Energy Credits. Did we mention that this project also cleans the air and water? Dairy manure contributes to PM¹⁰ in the air and nitrate problems in the groundwater.

In the box to the left, you will see that SCAP is ready to jump on – if not the alternative fuels opportunities – the emerging biosolids technologies

opportunities. Diane Gilbert and Karen Vargas have put together an excellent program that will be useful whether you have an established long-term biosolids plan or are in the process of putting one together. Synagro, CH2M Hill, USFilter, Tetra Tech, Enertech and many others will be making presentations on their technologies and providing the latest regulatory updates. A \$15.00 fee (primarily to cover lunch costs) makes this one of the best educational values around for you and your staff. Please plan on attending and letting us know by September 10 so that we'll have enough food for everyone.

As our country continues to wean itself off of fossil fuels, it's clear there is a market for biofuels, and it's only a matter of time before biosolids play a substantial part of that effort. And while in certain sectors it is an article of faith that the public sector is non-innovative and inefficient – and frankly, it is not designed to be either of those – it is ironic that the public sector has been the breeding ground for many an innovative and efficient product.

We have battled a long time to protect biosolids reuse for land application, and have long known it is a resource and not a waste product. I look forward to the day when farmers compete with fuels producers for access to biosolids.

Emergingly yours,
Ray Miller

Water Issues

TMDL Listing and Delisting Policy Available; Hearing Date Imminent

The SWRCB has released the "Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California's CWA Section 303(d) List" (Policy). This version is significantly different from the December 2, 2003 version. Unfortunately, the most significant change is the removal of the ability to reevaluate whether the water body should be on the list in the first place. The Regional Boards and the environmental community were effective in having this provision removed.

The Policy does contain a specific statistical approach to determining if water quality has been exceeded, and balances two types of sampling errors that can occur. This means that theoretically, it will be easier to delist a water body. Unfortunately, the state has also included a loophole for listing areas that wouldn't otherwise qualify called the "Situation-Specific Weight of Evidence" provision. It allows Regional Boards to use less stringent data or "other information" as listing criteria. This was specifically the type of listing situation that we had worked to avoid.

SCAP will be submitting a comment letter outlining our objections to the proposed Policy and echoing the concerns of Tri-TAC and others.

A hearing date has been set for Wednesday, September 8, 2004, at 10 a.m. in Sacramento.

New Feature!

Member Agency Spotlight

The Lee Lake Water District (LLWD) was formed in 1965 to provide water and wastewater service to the Temescal Valley (located between the cities of Corona and Lake Elsinore in Riverside County).

The District is governed by a five member Board of Directors; the General Manager is John Pastore (who also serves as President of SCAP's Board of Directors); John has been with the District since 1990.

LLWD is experiencing tremendous growth. Currently, the District has 2,600 customers, but another 2,200 will come on line in the next three years. They are just completing a \$6 million expansion to one of their treatment plants; however, that capacity is now sold, and they will be expanding again.

The District operates 3 treatment plants with a staff of 4 operators; all plants are equipped with SCADA systems. Customers pay \$27.50 a month for sewage treatment.

LLWD discharges their effluent to Temescal Creek. In an irony that many will appreciate, Lee Lake has a reclaimed water system that is supplemented with potable well water. They cannot use the groundwater for potable purposes because their discharge permit includes a TDS limit of 650 mg/L, while the groundwater TDS is in the 600-700-mg/range. Because of the salts added by consumers and businesses, they would have to treat it using R/O to use it.

The full text of the proposed policy can be viewed at:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/ffed_apxa072204.pdf

SWRCB Reduces Number of Proposed Ocean Plan Amendments; Hearing Date Set

The SWRCB released a revised Functional Equivalent Document for the proposed amended Ocean Plan that reduces the number of proposed amendments from four down to two.

Recommendations were made for the following two issues: 1) Choice of Indicator Organisms for Water-Contact Bacterial Standards; and 2) Reasonable Potential: Determining when California Ocean Plan Water Quality-based Effluent Limitations are required.

SWRCB staff proposes to add an enterococcus water-contact standard; delete the single sample standard currently in the California Ocean Plan and change it to a trigger for additional monitoring; and, require monitoring for total coliform at offshore stations.

State staff are also proposing to remove existing language that allows dischargers to certify that Table B pollutants are not present in their effluent *in lieu* of monitoring, and add general "reasonable potential" language to Chapter III (Program of Implementation) of the California Ocean Plan. Additional reasonable potential procedures would be added in the new Appendix VI of the California Ocean Plan.

A hearing has been set for Wednesday, October 6, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in Sacramento. These are significant issues for SCAP ocean dischargers and the Water Issues Committee is arranging for a conference call to be held among the ocean dischargers to discuss SCAP's approach to crafting our comment letter.

The full text of the FED can be found at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/docs/dfed_opamend2004.pdf

Proposed Electronic Reporting Comment Period Extended/State will meet with SCAP in Fall

Several SCAP members have asked for an extension to the deadline for submitting comments on the SWRCB's proposed electronic Self Monitoring and Reporting (e-SMR) system. The state is looking for confusing or conflicting requirements, inappropriate or inequitable requirements and anything that would streamline and improve the monitoring and reporting system in general.

The new deadline for comment submittal is September 10. SCAP is putting together a generic letter that includes a description of these requirements; however, the submitting agencies won't be identified.

The SWRCB's project manager for this effort, Jim Maughan, has notified SCAP that they will be down to meet with us again in late fall to explain how the database management and permit streamlining will work. They will also advise agencies about how to plan for the changeover.

EPA Allocates \$1 Million in Funding for Wastewater Security Training

EPA is allocating \$1 million in FY 2004 funding to state environmental training centers. With this funding, state environmental training centers will be equipped to provide on-site operator training assistance or classroom training on the use of vulnerability assessment tools, emergency response plan development and upgrades, and security system upgrades. Additional information can be accessed on EPA's website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/owm/mab/smcomm/104g/104secur.pdf>

City of Los Angeles Settles Civil Penalty Claim

The City of Los Angeles has negotiated a settlement to a joint enforcement action (EPA and the SWRCB) for \$1.6 million in fines and an agreement that will see the City spend another \$2 billion on improvements to its infrastructure.

The joint enforcement action was undertaken after the Santa Monica Baykeeper filed an action against Los Angeles in 1998. Subsequently, community groups including the Baldwin Hills Estates Homeowner's Association, Inc., Baldwin Hills Village Garden Homes Association, United Homeowners Association, Village Green Owners Association, and Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles also joined the action.

Half of the fines settlement will be paid into the U.S. Treasury and the other \$800,000 will be used to fund local environmental improvement projects. Many of the collection system operating improvements undertaken to limit sewage spills have already been implemented by the City.

Air Quality**Large Spark Ignition Equipment Emissions Statewide Rulemaking Process Beginning**

Air Quality Committee Chair Dan McGivney reports that the ARB is beginning the rulemaking process to adopt regulations aimed at reducing emissions from Off-road Large Spark Ignition (LSI) Equipment. Equipment covered by this regulatory effort includes forklifts, street sweepers, generators, large turf-care equipment and other equipment. This measure will affect gasoline and propane operated equipment. It will establish new emissions limits for newly manufactured equipment as well as require retrofit of existing equipment. Since this regulatory effort has just kicked off, we do not know much yet. More information can be obtained at the following ARB website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/offroad/orspark/orspark.htm>

Portable Diesel Engine ATCM on Hold

The Air Quality Committee is tracking the Portable Engine ATCM so as to be able to address any new proposal that would address operation near schools. It is their understanding that due to changes on the Air Resources Board, staff is holding off any proposal until they "feel out" the new Board members regarding their position on the school issue. Other ATCMs (the public H/D fleet vehicle and stationary engine) are still moving slowly through the bureaucracy. The Fleet Rule appears to have slowed to a crawl, and has still not made it to the ARB governing board for a hearing. The Committee is also awaiting the final regulation to come out of the Office of Administrative Law for the Stationary Engine ATCM.

Heavy Duty Diesel Engines Restricted from Idling

On July 22nd, the ARB adopted a new regulation that restricts H/D diesel fueled vehicles from idling under certain circumstances. The rule is currently out for a 15-day review which ends on September 7, 2004. Individual agencies should review this regulation for impacts and the need to revise operational practices in order to implement the requirements of this rule. Information is available on the web at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/idling/idling.htm>

Regulatory Compliance by Contractors Scrutinized

The Air Quality Committee is reviewing member agency specifications for contractor compliance with environmental regulations (specifically, we are concentrating on air quality regulations). This effort is due to the

requirement upon agencies who will be issued federal Title V permits to account for contractor compliance with regulatory requirements and the potential requirement to track and/or report contractor emissions.

Biosolids

Solano County Grand Jury Calls Biosolids Safe

After receiving odor complaints regarding the safety of biosolids application, the 2003-2004 Solano County Grand Jury investigated the complaints as well as the overall safety of biosolids application. The Jury reviewed numerous documents, including the 503 Regulations and the SWRCB's General Order and PEIR (2000 version). Among other things, they concluded the following:

“Grand Jurors examined soil and plant growth in biosolids-treated and untreated areas at several locations. There was a noticeable visual difference in plant growth between treated areas and the adjacent buffers...Biosolids spreading is highly regulated at the federal, state and local levels...There is no evidence that the spreading of biosolids under the conditions set by the County is unsafe or hazardous to health.”

Non Sequitur

You need only two tools. WD-40 and duct tape.
If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40.
If it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.