

## A Message from the Executive Director...

January 2005

In my mind I still see him, sitting precariously next to the great wall, his little finger stuck in the hole. So tired, yet determined to keep the angry water – that’s what his father always called it, “angry water” – out of his beloved country.

I was very small when I first read about Hans Brinker, the hero of Holland. But in a world peopled with adult heroes, Hans made me believe that even a kid could be a hero, and save an entire country.

And I came to believe that the Dutch were a heroic people, always living one moment away from disaster, with those relatively fragile dikes being the only thing standing between them and that angry sea.

It was in this way that I first comprehended that humans could be *noble* and that even though they could go elsewhere and maybe live easier or more prosperous lives, they often chose a harder course for their life: staying in a place where the work of many years, as well as their lives, could be taken away in seconds.

Of course, years later I learned that Hans was just a wonderful figment of the imagination of American Mary Mapes Dodge, the author of “*Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*,” but I’ve never lost my appreciation for the Dutch, or for any people who wrest their living dealing with daily travails that make my distaste for traffic jams and bureaucracies seem petty in comparison. And, they are.

As an adult, I began to wonder about the wisdom of fighting nature, knowing fatalistically that eventually the sea would reclaim part of Holland, because no man-made structure could last forever. But I’ve grown wiser through the years, and I understand building walls to keep the sea out is as much about the human spirit as it is about the ability to farm marginal land. And part of that spirit is the innately human concept that any of us, children included, can do anything, even stop impending doom by the simplest of acts – like plugging a leak with our fingers.

When I looked out at the more than 100 SCAP members that attended our Holiday Luncheon – our largest crowd ever, by the way – I briefly thought about how our industry plugs holes in metaphorical dikes day after day. Our treatment plants clean billions of gallons of water; even Mother Nature at her best would need weeks or months to do what we can do in days. We are also limited by the cost of our mission; we don’t have unlimited resources. There are days when a finger may be all we have to plug a hole, and a finger is all we really need.

I listened to the remarks made by my waiting-in-the-wings-‘til-2006 successor, Terry Tobel. Terry is physically large in stature, but it pales in comparison to the size of his heart. He’s worked in water and wastewater plants all over the world, and has an appreciation of the ways other cultures plug holes in their dikes.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Air Quality Committee** – Tuesday, January 4, 10-Noon, LACSD

**Collections System Committee** – Wednesday, January 5, 10-2, OCSD. Lunch provided, please RSVP to Lynn Jensen, 714.593.7108 or [ljensen@ocsd.com](mailto:ljensen@ocsd.com).

At the Luncheon, we recognized the spirit and tenacity of two special men, Chuck Carry of LACSD and Wayne Sylvester of OCSD, both Founding Fathers of SCAP. I am glad that we have kept faith with these two men and with the concept they had for SCAP's mission. I know they are pleased that the organization has grown so much, but I suspect that they are more pleased to see the wastewater "family" that has been formed – a pleasant by-product of getting us all together to plug our common holes.

Our committee chairs spoke about holes plugged and holes that may need to be plugged in the future, as well as holes that will never be plugged. But these are not life and death issues, and unplugged holes here are more like annoyances than crises; President John Pastore applauded the spirit of our chairs and their committees, for they understand the role they play, and they could choose an easier way of life, but they don't.



Chuck Carry, SCAP Executive Director Ray Miller and Wayne Sylvester.

As I write this in the waning days of 2004, I struggle, as many are, with trying to grasp the devastation that occurred in southeast Asia on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The funny thing about seeing so many disaster movies is that you think you can imagine the horror and the terror of what occurred. But, you know going into the movie two things that people who face the real thing don't: 1) even if you don't know the plot of the movie, the music – or lack of it – usually warns you that something bad is about to happen and that 2) no matter how realistic it seems – it isn't really happening.

A sunny, calm morning. Brilliant blue sky. People working and playing and in an instant, the world changes forever. No angry sea, no warning. An impossible hole to plug. No Hans Brinker to save the day here.

Or was there? Let me leave you with one story of hope amidst all of that tragedy.

The *New York Post* reported that 10-year old Tilly Smith from Surrey, England was vacationing with her family on the island of Phuket in Thailand. Tilly was on the beach when the sea rushed out and began to bubble and people on the beach began to walk toward the water to look at what was happening. Tilly, who had studied about earthquakes and tsunamis in school, ran to her mother and told her and others around that they had to get off the beach because a tsunami was coming (actually she had to say "tidal wave" before anyone took her seriously). The warning quickly went up and people ran off the beach.

There were about 100 people on Maikhao Beach that day, but it was one of the only places along the shores of Phuket where no one was killed or seriously injured.

Anyone can be a hero.

Welcome 2005,  
Ray Miller

[Editorial Note: If you would like to help with the Bay of Bengal relief efforts, the US government website provides excellent information: [http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/Asia\\_Tsunamis.shtml](http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/Asia_Tsunamis.shtml)]

## Board of Directors Meeting

### Executive Successor Named

After interviews with Board members in September and November, the SCAP Board of Directors entered into an agreement with Mr. Terry Tobel of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to become the next Executive Director of SCAP commencing in January 2006. During 2005, Mr. Tobel will travel to Southern California on a monthly basis to work with Mr. Miller on familiarizing himself with SCAP operations and meeting with SCAP member agencies on their needs. Mr. Tobel will be reimbursed for his travel expenses, but no compensation will be paid by SCAP for his services during 2005. Mr. Tobel will be profiled in next month's Update.

In reviewing the professional services agreement for both Mr. Miller's and Mr. Tobel's services, the Board agreed that the scope of services would be reviewed during 2005 and performance goals inserted into the agreement prior to consideration for 2006.

### Survey Responses Presented to Board

SCAP staff reported on the results of the performance survey that was sent to the membership in February, and then – due to a lack of responses – was sent out again in September. Ultimately, 48 responses representing 32 member agencies were received. The overall rating was 4.2 out of a possible 5 points. Ray Miller also met with representatives of both Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and Orange County Sanitation District relative to addressing concerns they raised in their responses.

It was noted that a recurring issue was the difficulty members have in attending meetings, and suggestions were made to having them in various geographic areas, rather than centralized in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Chuck Rogers extended an invitation to host meetings at the City of Thousand Oaks. However, he noted that it was easier for one or two to attend meetings in other areas rather than ask "many" to travel a greater distance. Roger Turner, Chair of the Water Issues Committee, stated that it was their intent to conduct some of their future meetings in the San Diego and Calabasas areas.

Roger Turner stated that he would like to challenge staff and the committee chairs to set a goal of meeting or speaking one-on-one with member agencies to identify priority issues during the next year. President Pastore noted that the one item on the survey that ranked the lowest was "*has provided a service or acted upon an issue that has saved your agency money.*" He stated this would be an excellent topic to follow up on with member agencies. Mary Jane Foley, Regulatory Consultant, shared several examples of where it was difficult to "quantify" or translate an activity to actual dollar savings where services have been provided to member agencies.

### **Have you seen us lately on the Web?**

We are working hard to improve our website. Here are just a few of the improvements now included on the site:

- A new job listings area is available showing employment opportunities available from our member agencies. This information is provided as a courtesy to our member agencies and to visitors of the site. SCAP member agencies may request to have job openings posted on this site by e-mailing pertinent job information to [info@scap1.org](mailto:info@scap1.org) or by contacting the SCAP office.
- SCAP members may update contact information, change their account password or establish a membership account for a fellow employee all in the "member profile" section of the Members Only area.
- Forgot your membership account password? No problem – simply go to the Members Only login and click on the "Forgot your user name or password" link. Enter your e-mail address and your user name and the password will automatically be sent to you via e-mail.
- A new reference library area, containing useful documents and information, is being developed in the Members Only area.
- Have a comment or suggestion for our website? Use our feedback form in the Members Only area or simply send us an e-mail to [info@scap1.org](mailto:info@scap1.org). Either way we look forward to hearing from you.

Be sure to stop by and give us a few mouse clicks!

## **Associate Membership Fees Approved**

The Board approved the fee recommendation for Associate Members that was made by the Finance Committee; as of January 1, 2005, Associate Membership fees were set at \$1,000 per company, per fiscal year. For fiscal year 2004/2005 only, fees are \$500 per company.

## **Board Reviews 2004 Annual Report**

SCAP staff and committee chairs briefly reviewed the SCAP Annual Report. Mr. Miller noted that he will ask each committee to consider ways in which SCAP can increase its usefulness to members. Copies of the Annual Report will be mailed to each SCAP member agency.

## **Water Issues**

### **SWRCB Set to Adopt New Ocean Water Quality Standards**

The SWRCB released the final Functional Equivalent Document (government agency's functional equivalent to an EIR) on December 27, that proposes revising bacterial indicator sampling requirements and setting new water quality standards by amending the California Ocean Plan. The State has set a January 4 hearing date to consider adopting these changes.

Chapter II of the 2001 California Ocean Plan (the current Plan) contains only a total and fecal coliform water-contact standard and requires the measurement of enterococcus at all stations where total and fecal coliform are sampled only as a bacterial assessment and remedial action.

However, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, the USEPA adopted the "Water Quality Standards for Coastal and Great Lakes Recreation Waters; Final Rule." This rule establishes enterococcus criteria for California's coastal waters, including bays and estuaries. The State has taken these criteria and incorporated them into the final FED.

The new requirements will be:

1. Add an enterococcus geometric mean and single sample standard to the Ocean Plan. These standards are identical to USEPA's enterococcus criteria; as of December 16, 2004, the USEPA criteria apply to ocean, bay, and estuarine waters in California. Total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococcus would be monitored at all stations within a zone bounded by the shoreline and a distance of 1,000 feet from the shoreline or the 30-foot depth contour, whichever is further from the shoreline, and in areas outside this zone used for water contact recreation as determined by the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), and all kelp beds;
2. Add single sample maximum standards for total and fecal coliform and for enterococcus, and require additional monitoring if any of these standards are violated;
3. Require monitoring for only total coliform at offshore stations; and
4. Strongly encourage use of the geometric mean bacterial objectives as the principal tool for assessing whether a water is impaired.

The final FED is available for downloading at  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/docs/bactffed.pdf>.

### **SWRCB Set to Reverse LARWQCB on Ballona Decision (courtesy SWRCB)**

The State Board is set to consider adopting an order at their January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting that would reverse a Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) decision to reject its staff proposal to amend

the regional water quality control plan (basin plan) to modify recreational use standards for Ballona Creek. Staff recommended that the Regional Board revise recreational use standards associated with swimming activities for two reaches of Ballona Creek. The two reaches were highly modified in the 1930s to serve as concrete-lined flood control channels for the Ballona Creek watershed, the largest drainage tributary to Santa Monica Bay.

Staff recommended deleting primary contact recreational use, which is designated as a potential use, for each reach. In addition, staff recommended adding an existing beneficial use, called Limited REC-1, for the lower reach and adopting bacterial objectives for this use. The Limited REC-1 designation recognizes that body contact is limited in this reach due to physical conditions, such as restricted access and very low water depths.

The Regional Board voted against the recommendation after conducting a public hearing in June 2003. The Regional Board was primarily concerned that the proposal was inconsistent with ongoing watershed management efforts. Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District then filed a petition asking that the State Board review the Regional Board's failure to act on the State Board's own motion.

The draft order concludes that the Regional Board erred. The staff proposal was consistent with USEPA's water quality standards regulations and with the evidence in the Regional Board record. Evidence in the record clearly indicates that a fully-realized body contact recreational use does not currently exist nor appear feasible for years in either Ballona Creek reach. The staff recommendation was also consistent with State Board direction to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to initiate basin plan amendments, where appropriate, when they become aware that designated uses do not exist and are not likely to be realized in the future. In addition, the draft order concludes that the proposal does not conflict with the Ballona Creek watershed management effort.

### **Public Hearing Set on Revisions to the SIP**

The State Board will hold a public hearing to seek comments on the draft Functional Equivalent Document (FED) for the proposed revisions to the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (SIP) adopted in 2000 and the redline strike-out draft of the SIP document. Review of certain sections of the SIP is required triennially; however, the State has also included non-water quality sections in the review. The proposed revisions to the SIP include:

1. Establishing Water Effects Ratios as part of the permitting process;
2. Eliminating the reasonable potential trigger for situations when ambient background concentrations of a pollutant are greater than a criterion;
3. Correcting non-regulatory language by eliminating, rephrasing, or adding sentences to improve clarity.

Wastewater agencies and associations, including Tri-TAC/CASA and LACSD support these amendments for the most part, with the exception of wording regarding "discharge-specific" WERs, which may negate any of the streamlining benefits intended, by requiring that basin plans be amended for certain site-specific WERs.

The hearing is scheduled for February 2, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in Sacramento. The draft FED can be viewed at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/iswp/index.html>.

### **Comment Period Extended and Hearing Date Changed for 303(d) Listing Policy**

The SWRCB has extended the comment period and has changed the date to hold a public hearing to seek comments on the proposed Water Quality Control Policy for Addressing Impaired Waters: Regulatory Structure and Options (Policy) from January 4, 2004 to February 2, 2005. The comment period has been extended to 5:00 p.m. on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Copies of the proposed Policy and information on submitting comments can be obtained from: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>.

## **EPA Funds Water Security Efforts (courtesy USEPA)**

Through EPA grant funding and the collaborative efforts of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Interim Voluntary Water Infrastructure Security Enhancement Guidance Documents were released on Dec. 9, 2004.

The guidance documents are intended to assist drinking water and wastewater utilities in reducing the vulnerabilities of their systems to man-made threats through the design, construction, operation and maintenance of both new and existing systems of all sizes. These interim documents will be the basis for the development of voluntary consensus standards and published in late 2006. Training materials for each of the guidance documents are currently being developed and will be available in Spring 2005. Additional information and links to the documents can be found under the What's New section of the Water Security page at [www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity).

## **California NPDES Profile Published**

EPA is implementing a nation-wide assessment to improve the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit programs. This assessment, Permitting for Environmental Results (PER), is the result of a 16-month effort by the states and EPA to evaluate the management of NPDES programs. The culmination of this effort is documented in NPDES individual state profiles that have been or will be released by Spring 2005.

EPA and the states have been working through a detailed process to carefully assess each of their NPDES programs to gauge effectiveness, identify strengths and target areas for improvement. The profiles are intended as a guide for state and EPA managers as they work to strengthen and ensure the long-term success of each NPDES program. This effort began in August 2003, and includes three primary components to enhance the NPDES program:

- Integrity - Ensuring that NPDES programs have the information and tools they need to issue effective permits.
- Program Efficiency - Providing tools to the states and sharing information among NPDES programs to streamline the permitting process to effectively apply resources where needed in each watershed.
- Environmental Results - Identifying environmentally significant permits, prioritizing and reissuing them to improve water quality.

California's profile can be viewed at: [http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/california\\_final\\_profile.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/california_final_profile.pdf). SCAP member agencies should review these profiles, and comment as appropriate, as they will be amended as additional or more accurate information becomes available. Particular attention should be paid to statements regarding meeting public noticing and comment time requirements and the number of permit writers available for review of permits.

## **Air Quality**

### **SCAQMD Schedules Workshop for Amending Rule 1470 – Stationary Diesel Engines**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has scheduled a public workshop and scoping meeting to solicit comments regarding Proposed Amended Rule 1470 – Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines.

Rule 1470 was adopted by the SCAQMD on April 2, 2004. The rule implemented the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines that was adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) in February 2004, and also established more stringent requirements than the ATCM for engines located on school grounds or within 100 meters of existing schools.

The ATCM was adopted contingent upon ARB staff making modifications to regulatory language, followed by a 15-day public comment period. Following three supplemental 15-day notices (May 12, 2004, July 1, 2004, and July 21, 2004), the ATCM was approved by the State Office of Administrative Law in November 2004 and filed with the Secretary of State. The ATCM is now operative in the state as of December 8, 2004. The proposed amendments to Rule 1470 are proposed to incorporate changes made to the ATCM since February 2004 and include addition of effective dates for rule requirements, definition modifications, and to add clarifying language. Grammatical and typographical corrections are also proposed.

SCAP Air Quality Committee members will be at the hearing to comment on the technical and economic feasibility of the proposal and its potential economic impact.

## Biosolids

### **Biosolids Media Guide Available On-Line** (courtesy NWBA)

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ORACWA) has made a biosolids media guide available for downloading. The guide presents useful tips on how to prepare for and "manage" an interview with the media. It also presents sample biosolids key messages and tips on how to involve the public in your biosolids program.

Non-ORACWA members can download one copy of the guide, prepared by Mark Jockers of Clean Water Services and Joan Saroka of the City of Portland, from:

<http://www.oracwa.org/Pages/03BiosolidsMediaGuideUpdate.pdf>.

### **WERF Releases Biosolids Public Perception Report** (courtesy NWBA)

The Water Environment Foundation has released its report, *Public Perception of Biosolids Recycling: Developing Public Participation and Earning Trust*. The report includes fourteen case studies profiling biosolids reuse across North America, the results of a survey on the public's perception of biosolids, literature review and an annotated bibliography.

To order the report, visit the WERF website at: <http://www.werf.org>.

## Non Sequitur

There'll be two dates on your tombstone  
And all your friends will read 'em  
But all that's gonna matter is that little dash between 'em..."

- Kevin Welch