



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF  
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

# MONTHLY UPDATE

## A Message from the Executive Director...

**December 2005**

Well, as I mentioned previously, change is in the wind. However, I'm sure you will agree, change is good. This will be my last column as Executive Director of SCAP, although I'm sure John will allow me to strategically place a quip or two in future issues. I have been mulling over my status now that January 2006 approaches. I know my wife sure doesn't want me to hang around the house. Therefore, I have offered to make myself available to John, on an as-needed basis, for whatever time period he feels he needs assistance. In light of that, if John and the Board agree, perhaps I can be christened "Executive Director Emeritus?" I'm not sure, but I think that being designated Emeritus is better than John assigning me something I hate to even think of. (Just kidding, John). Seriously, I can be a "backup" to John when he tries to cover two meetings at the same time.

### Upcoming Meetings

Collection Systems Committee – Wednesday, December 7th, 10 am – 2 pm, at OCSD.

SCAP Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, at El Niguel Country Club.

SCAP Holiday Luncheon – Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am – 2 pm, at El Niguel Country Club.

Air Quality Committee – Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 10-Noon, LACSD.

You know, if there is one thing that an old geezer like me has to offer it's his experience, both good and bad. That is kind of what we have offered on the consulting side ever since I left South Coast Water District in 1992. It must have been the right decision, as we have hung in there for some 14 years. Originally, I thought I would be good for about five years. On the other end of the spectrum, when somebody asks me how long it has been since something happened, I might say "Oh, about five years ago." It seems to work out that it was perhaps 10 or 15 years. Time sure does go by fast.

Let me digress for a minute and bring our readers up to date on where SCAP has come over that period of time. (Those of you, who have heard this before, forgive me. I can hear Kris and Linda in the background groaning). In 1992, the air issue was the predominant "fly in the ointment" for the POTWs, with emphasis on the large agencies. Chuck Carry of LACSD and Wayne Sylvester of OCSD, along with some other key players, came to me as I was retiring from my district. They were concerned that the regulators were enacting new regulations, as well as making significant changes to existing ones. They asked me to put together an association of POTWs that could work together in harmony within the regulatory arena, with emphasis on the air problem.

SCAP was formed as an Alliance, under the State of California in the form of a Non-Profit Corporation. Its board of directors was elected by county, basically covering the majority of POTWs from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border. SCAP started out with six core member

agencies. That number has grown to 63 today. In addition to Air Quality, we have added Biosolids, Water Issues and Collection Systems to the committee list.

With a strong and supportive board of directors leading the charge, SCAP has saved its member agencies literally millions of dollars over the last 14 years and lent support when needed.

When Mary Jane Forster Foley joined us as SCAP's regulatory affairs director in 2002, this rounded out the menu of support services offered to our members.

With John Pastore coming on board in January 2006 (what a find), along with the SCAP staff (possibly including yours truly as emeritus), the transition will be seamless. The office will even remain in the same place.

I look forward to seeing you all at the SCAP holiday luncheon; I'll try to chat with as many of you as I can.

The Old Geezer,

Ray Miller

Water Issues by Chair Roger Turner

### **Total Chlorine Residual Policy**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) continues its work with developing a Total Chlorine Residual Policy for California. A revised draft policy is expected in December 2005. The public will have a review period and there will be a workshop with the State Board before the policy is finalized.

As reported last month, several significant issues remain with the draft policy. The issues concern the distinction between the standard approach of sampling wastewater effluent using very controlled laboratory conditions versus the real world of online continuous instrumentation working 24-hours per day 365 days per year. There is concern that the application of a very low effluent limitation of 0.019 mg/L for a 1-hour average and 0.011 mg/L for a 4-day average using current field instrumentation to determine compliance will require considerable evaluation and development of new approaches for compliance determination. The State Board has not developed this aspect of the policy, which will create significant policy implementation issues for the regulated

#### **Committee Chair Contact Info**

**Air Quality Chair:**

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**Biosolids Chair:**

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[dxg@san.lacity.org](mailto:dxg@san.lacity.org)

**Collection Systems Chair:**

Nick Arhontes –  
[narhontes@ocsd.com](mailto:narhontes@ocsd.com)

**Water Issues Chair:**

Roger Turner –  
[turnerr@emwd.org](mailto:turnerr@emwd.org)

community. SCAP is working with state board staff and Tri-TAC to develop our response to the policy.

### **Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)**

The State Board has scheduled a special workshop meeting for December 9, 2005 to discuss the recommendations from an external Scientific Planning and Review Committee regarding the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). The SWAMP's vision is that water quality is comprehensively measured to protect beneficial uses and to evaluate our protection and restoration efforts. This requires a comprehensive strategy that serves all water quality management needs and addresses all state waters including streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, coastal areas, and wetlands. Written comments on the program are due by December 6, 2005. Go to <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/index.html> for information on this program.

### **SWRCB 303 (d) Listing**

The State Water Resources Control Board has completed the list for impaired waterbodies in California. This is the well-known 303 (d) List. The State Board has scheduled workshops throughout California to accept comments on recommendations for changes to the section 303(d) List. The Southern California workshop will be held on January 5, 2006. Go to [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d\\_update.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_update.html) for more information and to review if a water body in your area is on the list.

## Air Quality by Chair Daniel McGivney

### **SCAQMD Rule 1401.1**

On November 4, 2005, the SCAQMD Governing Board adopted Rule 1401.1, Requirements for New and Relocated Facilities Near Schools. This new rule requires businesses to determine the facility-wide cancer risk that would be associated with a new or relocated operation and restrict that operation from locating within 1,000 feet of a school, if the increase in cancer risk equals or exceeds one in one million. This will especially impact companies that operate in cities that are pretty much built-out. This rule could have significant impact upon a water or sanitation agency trying to either construct a new facility or relocate an existing facility to an area near a school. These facilities could be something as simple as a drinking water pumping plant or a sewage lift station utilizing an internal combustion engine to drive a pump. The SCAP committee is still reviewing the new rule to determine whether or not the location of emergency engine-driven electrical generators is covered as well. If so, this would impose a great hardship as an agency would have to either construct the facility without a back-up power supply or try and locate the facility outside of the 1,000 foot boundary (typically, a diesel engine powered generator will exceed one in one million risk, even with a limitation on operation hours).

Now that the SCAQMD has completed the rule noted above, it will now begin development of a second rule that will cover existing facilities. If the SCAQMD uses the same risk and distance thresholds for this rule, it will have significant cost and operational impacts upon any agency that has facilities located near schools. The SCAQMD has targeted October 2006 as the adoption date for this rule. Additionally, the SCAQMD has titled this rule "Control of Toxic Air from Existing Sources Located near Sensitive Receptors." This title infers that the SCAQMD may be going after facilities located near a wider range of receptors rather than limiting it to schools, as is the case in Rule 1401.1. The SCAP committee will continue to participate in this rulemaking and keep the SCAP membership updated.

### **CARB H/D Public Fleet Vehicle Regulation**

On December 8, 2005, the State of California Air Resources Board will hold a hearing for the purpose of adopting a proposed regulation that will require public and private utilities to reduce the particulate matter emissions from their heavy-duty, diesel fueled, on-road fleet vehicles. Once adopted, deadlines kick in as soon as 2006. You can access the draft regulation and associated documents at the following website:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/dpmcm05/dpmcm05.htm>

### **Stationary Engine Regulations Update**

The SCAQMD has been in the process of adopting amendments to SCAQMD Rule 1110.2, which regulates stationary engines. The SCAQMD has now scheduled a formal hearing for these amendments for June 2006. Currently, the Industry Stakeholders group has kicked off a formal field engine testing program in hopes of generating data to support a less burdensome monitoring program than currently proposed by the SCAQMD. Weekly portable engine testing on six engines began on November 28 and a second project that will test state of the art air to fuel ratio controllers begins on December 5, 2005. And shortly, a third project to test the viability of portable emissions analyzer technology for use as a semi-continuous emissions analyzer will begin as well (targeted for mid-December to early January).

As a note, the SCAQMD has scheduled a new rule (targeted for adoption in July 2006) that will regulate health risk from stationary diesel-fueled and other compression ignition engines. Little is known about this proposed rule at this time, but it is likely to have a major impact upon operators utilizing diesel engines to supply back-up power generation.

## Collection Systems by Chair Nick Arhontes

### **SCAP Collection Systems Committee Update**

On November 8, 2005, the Collection Systems Committee (CSC) and the Water Issues Committee (WIC) presented a workshop entitled "Collection Systems in Motion – What's changing upstream of those WWTPs." The workshop was held at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and had over 90 persons registered. Five different topics, all related to changes taking place within the collection system community, were presented.

Bryan Brock from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) was the first presenter and gave an update on the current status of the statewide WDR initiative. A public comment period is expected to begin soon. The proposed requirements may be submitted to the Board members for adoption at their January meeting.

Brad Hogin, Esq. of Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart in Orange gave the next presentation on the differences between an NPDES Permit and a WDR as a regulatory vehicle for collection systems. A requirements document that provides for an affirmative defense is desirable by the POTW that owns the sanitary sewer.

The third presenter was Tom Meregillano of Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) who discussed OCSD's urban runoff program and new washwater disposal issues as a possible model for others.

This was followed by Ralph Palomares, El Toro Water District, and Mike Zedek of OCSD, who presented real world case histories of effective fats, oils and grease (FOG) reduction programs from the local district and regional agency with satellite systems perspective.

The final presenter was Pat McNelly of OCSD who presented a brief overview of sewer laterals and their ownership, current and potential issues and some of the creative ways laterals are being handled by agencies throughout the state and the nation in order to solve watershed problems.

CSC Chair Nick Arhontes of OCSD was the workshop moderator. As an added benefit, the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) pre-approved 6.5 contact hours for all who attended the entire workshop. Contact hours are valuable for staff that possess a CWEA certification in Collection Systems Technology. Many cities and agencies are adopting this voluntary certification program for their staff. The CSC intends to continue partnering with CWEA in presenting future workshops and seeking contact hours based on the curriculum.

The committees would again like to thank all of those who attended, the speakers who gave of their time and knowledge and especially IEUA for offering their hospitality, their excellent meeting facility and staff who assisted with the setup of the workshop.

The next CSC meeting will be on December 7, 2005, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at OCSD. Among the topics to be discussed will be future workshops, including one similar to this past one, for Los Angeles County in early 2006. Contact the SCAP office if you would like to attend. The CSC intends to continue to present workshops throughout the SCAP membership area to assist members in developing and implementing their site specific Sewer System Management Plans (SSMP) which will be required by the pending statewide WDR.

**SCAP Collection Systems Chair  
Nick Arhontes honored**

Our esteemed Collection Systems Chair was honored recently at the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Annual Conference held in Washington, D.C. Following nomination by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), Nick was selected over several other talented and dedicated wastewater professionals. WEF presented its prestigious Collection Systems Award to Nick for his service and dedication to advancing the state of the art of wastewater collection.

We are certainly very fortunate to have Nick as an integral part of the SCAP family.  
Congratulations, Nick.

Over the past six months, the CSC has held several value added workshops or presentations in San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties.

Joint workshops or meetings with the Water Issues Committee will be developed where synergy in goals or information content provides value to current and prospective SCAP members.

Biosolids by Chair Diane Gilbert

### **Withdrawal of Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR)-Disposal of Radioactive Material into Wastewater Treatment System**

In a Federal Register notice on November 10, 2005, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a notice to withdraw an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) that presented possible changes to the regulations governing the release of radionuclides from licensed nuclear facilities into sanitary sewer systems. Changes were proposed to account for the potential for radionuclide concentration during some types of wastewater treatment processes. NRC is withdrawing this advance notice of proposed rulemaking because it has determined that there are no widespread public health and safety concerns due to potential radiation exposures associated with the handling, beneficial use, and disposal of sewage sludge containing radioactive materials. This notice of withdrawal acknowledges public comments sent in response to the ANPR. The advance notice of proposed rulemaking was issued in February 1994. Click the link below to access the federal register notice.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-22432.pdf>

Regulatory Affairs by Regulatory Affairs Consultant Mary Jane Foley

Update on 303 (d) List Workshop and Comment Period: SCAP has been working with the SWRCB to request more time for review of the volumes of materials related to the listings and delistings. The SWRCB has announced that they are extending the comment period to January 17, 2006 and changing the Southern California 303 (d) Workshop to January 5, 2006. The location at this time is the Hilton Hotel in Pasadena.

On another SWRCB topic, the Total Chlorine Residual and Chlorine-Proposed Oxidants Policy is moving forward. Several POTWs asked for a six-month extension to gather more data. The request was denied. The SWRCB felt that the last two stakeholder meetings were able to address "almost all issues surrounding the proposed policy."

#### **SOCWA Names New General Manager**

Congratulations to Tom Rosales who has been named General Manager of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA). Tom replaces Dave Caretto who is retiring after 10 years with SOCWA. With 17 years of service, Tom is currently Assistant General Manager. Chairman Bob Moore stated that "the Board has confidence that Tom is just the right person for this position..."

Biosolids is a constant challenge. The signature gathering for banning biosolids in Kern County is moving forward. A new federal bill, HR 4130, Sludge Disclosure Act was introduced by Congressman Andrews. It is too impractical to be successful. On another front, the investigative branch of the Department of Health Services responded to a site specific problem with a nursery composting facility and, in the response, did some global assumptions that are harmful to biosolids composting. SCAP will be joining with TriTAC and CASA to work with DHS to educate them on the value of biosolids composting and the correct scientific literature and regulations that support the beneficial use.

On the air side, the environmental justice issues get more complicated and challenging.

### **Help Desk**

Remember the HELP DESK is open 24/7 for members who need to discuss permitting issues and strategies to assist agencies in resolving problems with regulatory agencies. Please contact Mary Jane Foley at [mfoley@scap1.org](mailto:mfoley@scap1.org).

### **Non Sequitur**

To me the word retirement hints at inactivity, a slackening hold on the reins of living. In that sense, I don't believe in retirement. I do most certainly believe in a change of activity, when it becomes time for what is commonly called retirement.

**James Cash Penney**