



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF  
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

# MONTHLY UPDATE

**A Message from the Executive Director...**

**February 2006**

A belated Happy New Year to all. It's hard to believe that it's that time of year again and that Christmas and New Years have come and gone already. This year I even took some time off for a change to spend with my family and friends, as well as to clear my head. (Editor's Note: Jack Daniels on the rocks will do that.) Now it is time to get down to the business at hand.

A year ago, as manager of several water/wastewater agencies, I was concerned with agenda deadlines, budget constraints, customer relations and media coverage. Well, not much of that has changed, except that I now find myself accountable to 63 agencies in order to ensure that SCAP stays abreast of the ever-changing regulations in air quality, biosolids and water. Oh yeah, let's not forget sewer collections either, those new SSO WDR regs will be challenging, to say the least.

Nevertheless, I am extremely optimistic knowing that I have Mary Jane, Ray and all of the committee members on-board to assist SCAP with this mission. To start 2006 off with a bang, SCAP will be conducting a strategic planning workshop on February 21<sup>st</sup> in order to receive input from its membership to assist in charting its course for the future. (Editor's Note: You may notice that John likes the use of nautical metaphors. No, he wasn't in the navy, just a hopeless fisherman.)

With that said, I would like to deliver a few belated Christmas gifts to some of the SCAP folks.

- For Mary Jane Foley, a dozen red roses for all of her hard work and dedication.
- For Kris Whisenhunt, 2 dozen red roses. (1 dozen for putting up with Ray all these years and 1 dozen for having to put up with me in the future.)
- For Dave Caretto, a peaceful and fulfilling retirement.
- For Blake Anderson, a wonderful and exciting new opportunity.
- For Dan McGivney, Greg Adams, Roger Turner, Diane Gilbert and Nick Arhontes, lots of help and recognition.
- For Ray, the official title of "Executive Director Emeritus."
- And for myself, my promise to never refer to myself as an "old geezer." (For the record Ray, I will give you the "old" part but not the " geezer.")
- Lastly, for the SCAP member agencies, no I&l or sewer overflows in 2006.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

**Air Quality Committee –**  
Thursday, February 16, 10-Noon,  
LACSD.

**SCAP Board of Directors  
Strategic Planning Session –**  
Tuesday, February 21, 9:30 am –  
2:30 pm at OCSD.

**Collection Systems Committee**  
– SWRCB Region 4 workshop to  
be held in March. Date and  
location to be announced.

Here is to tight pipes and dry ground! Or is it tight lines and calm seas? (Editor's Note: See, I told you.)

Nautically yours,

John Pastore

## **Water Issues** by Chair Roger Turner

### **Total Residual Chlorine Draft Policy**

There is nothing new to report on the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) Total Chlorine Residual Policy for California. The expected public draft policy was not developed or distributed in January 2006. This policy will continue to be monitored. When new information is available it will be provided.

### **The 303(d) Listing Policy for 2006**

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 held a well-attended workshop on January 5, 2006 at the Hilton Pasadena Hotel. There were a number of comments provided with recommendations for changes to the section proposed 303(d) List. The State Board staff is compiling the comments. During the next 60 days, staff will evaluate all comments received and prepare recommendations that may affect the listed impaired water bodies. There will be a public review period, probably in April-May, to allow for final input on this process. Expected date for a public hearing on the proposed 303 (d) List for 2006 would be in June this year. 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.

### **State Water Resources Control Board Resources Section**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has an interesting section available online. This section provides publications of interest such as Acute Toxicity Bioassays - Examination of Freshwater Fish Species, California Water Quality Assessment Report 1998 - Staff Report (August 1999), Manual for Wastewater Chlorination and Dechlorination Practices (March 1981), etc. The Role of Science and Engineering in Decision-Making within California's State and Regional Water Boards is at this site. You may find other useful publications here. This site is located at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/general/publications/index.html>.

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

##### **Air Quality Chair:**

Dan McGivney –  
[dmcgivney@emwd.org](mailto:dmcgivney@emwd.org)

##### **Biosolids Chair:**

Diane Gilbert –  
[diane.gilbert@lacity.org](mailto:diane.gilbert@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)

**State Water Resources Control Board Fee Structure 2005-2006**

You may be getting fees for your facilities regarding storm water permits and or discharge permits. At the State Water Resources Control Board, the Division of Administrative Services - Fee Branch is responsible for setting and collecting fees for the Water Quality Program. If you have questions regarding your permit fees, contact the Fee Branch at (916) 341-5247.

**Eastern Municipal Water District's "Curious Beings" wins CASA award** *(Excerpt Courtesy of Eastern Municipal Water District Community Involvement Department)*

Perris, CA (January 20, 2006) – Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) was honored on January 20, 2006 with a California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) 2005 achievement award. The awards recognize the achievements of publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies throughout California.

Malea Ortloff, EMWD education specialist, accepted the award for her education program's "Wastewater Treatment for Curious Beings" presentation. The presentation uses entertaining and colorful characters to explain the basics of the wastewater treatment process from the time sewage leaves a home until the treated wastewater and solids are recycled.

EMWD was one of two winners in the Public/Outreach Education Award category. This category recognizes an agency's efforts for development and implementation of programs intended to impact or educate a segment of the local community on issues important to the agency. The other agency in this category was Big Bear Regional Wastewater Agency.

EMWD's presentation was created with a \$5,000 grant from Metropolitan Water District's Community Partnering Program. The grant will also fund an activity book that will be distributed to schools within EMWD's service area in 2006.

According to Malea, "What the presentation really shows well is how we recycle during the entire wastewater treatment process, even the methane gas. Kids and adults can gain a greater understanding of the wastewater treatment process and how to be conscious of what they put in the drain."

All curious beings can view the presentation and get more information about EMWD's education program online at [www.emwd.org/learning](http://www.emwd.org/learning) .

**Air Quality** by Chair Daniel McGivney**SCAQMD Rule 1146**

The SCAQMD is amending Rule 1146, which affects boilers with a rating equal to or greater than 5 million btus per hour. The SCAQMD is proposing to lower the allowable emissions limits for existing boilers. This could trigger equipment retrofits. Any agency that operates a process heater or boiler at or above the rating noted above should monitor this rule amendment.

Currently, Rule 1146 is scheduled for amendment at the SCAQMD Governing Board's May board meeting.

### **NACWA Air Committee Meeting**

This past week, the National Association of Clean Water Agency's (NACWA; formerly AMSA) air committee met in Palm Springs. Many topics were discussed that affect POTWs on a national level. A few of the topics discussed were: EPA's proposal to pursue a more stringent PM 2.5 standard, the potential listing of hydrogen sulfide as a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act, the Maximum Achievable Control Technology standard for spark-ignited internal combustion engines and the development of a standard method for emissions testing from biofilters.

### **CARB Air Toxic Control Measure for Off-Road Mobile Sources**

The State of California Air Resources Board (CARB) is currently developing a control measure that will require the reduction of particulate matter emissions from off-road mobile sources. Translated, this means construction equipment. This measure will impact most, if not all, water and wastewater agencies. The CARB held a workshop on January 31 to discuss proposed regulatory approaches. The documents developed for this meeting are available at the following website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/workshops.htm>.

### **Upcoming Compliance Deadlines:**

1. Annual SCAQMD Rule 431.1 Sewage Digester Gas Fuel Consumption and Sulfur Content Report due **March 1, 2006**.
2. SCAQMD Rule 461 requires all non-retail gasoline storage and dispensing operations to implement a formal maintenance program and document it in an O&M manual. This must be done by **June 30, 2006**.
3. Under SCAQMD Rule 1133.2, existing co-composting facilities to demonstrate an 80% reduction in VOC and ammonia emissions by a formal emissions source test conducted prior to **January 1, 2007** and every two years thereafter.

### **Collection Systems** by Chair Nick Arhontes

The primary efforts of the Collection Systems Committee continue to be working with the SWRCB and their desire to implement a statewide WDR for all publicly owned collection systems in the state. Several of the Committee members have actively participated in the process of trying to achieve a WDR that not only results in a reduction of SSOs but is also workable for the collections community. Information on the statewide initiative, including the draft WDR, Monitoring and Reporting program and an informational fact sheet, is available on

the SCAP website. A public hearing on the statewide initiative will be held in Sacramento on February 8, 2006. SCAP's new Executive Director, John Pastore, will be attending the hearing on behalf of the SCAP membership. Please direct any last minute comments on the statewide initiative to [info@scap1.org](mailto:info@scap1.org).

For 2006, the Committee intends to continue its educational and informational workshops focused on the requirements of the statewide WDR. Currently, in the planning stages is a workshop to be jointly hosted by LACSD and LACDPW in Region 4. This workshop is tentatively scheduled for March and will focus on the latest developments of the statewide WDR.

## **Biosolids** by Chair Diane Gilbert

### **Kern County Biosolids Initiative**

On January 17, 2006, the Kern County Board of Supervisors addressed the certification of the petition signatures for the initiative Ordinance for a Biosolids Land Application. The actions for the board to consider were: (1) Adopt the ordinance without alteration, (2) Submit the ordinance without alteration to the voters on the June 6, 2006 ballot or (3) Order a report pursuant to Elections Code Section 9111 and, at the time the report is presented to the Board, either adopt the ordinance or order an election.

The Board voted 4-0 to submit the ordinance to the voters on the June 6, 2006 ballot. The Board also approved a motion for staff to review and report back concerning the County's existing biosolids disposal practices and to provide recommendations for handling their biosolids so that the County would be consistent with the initiative ordinance.

## **Regulatory Affairs** by Regulatory Affairs Consultant Mary Jane Foley

Over the next 60 days, the legislature will determine if they will support nearly \$222 billion in bond measures for statewide investment in transportation, education, water, public safety, and public service infrastructure. The administration has two legislative bills: AB 1839 and SB 1166. These bills have water fees: \$3/month for residences, \$5/month for commercial, \$10/month for multifamily and industrial, and fees for agricultural users. This money is for funding water infrastructure, flood control and public trust needs in the Northern California rivers. Fifty percent of this fee is to be returned to the "region" for regional purposes. The region would be required to have an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to receive the money. Space is too limited for me to explain the details of what an IRWMP includes.

As the Regulatory Consultant for SCAP, I closely follow all legislation that might impact SCAP members. It is critical to note that wastewater infrastructure is MISSING in the administration bonds. This is probably because both bills were authored by DWR, and they don't deal with wastewater funding. I have raised this omission with Sacramento leaders in the

administration, State Water Board Members, CASA and other wastewater associations in the state. SCAP President Jim Stahl has asked Mike Dillon of CASA and myself to work together and advocate for Clean Water Grants for wastewater needs.

This week, Speaker of the Assembly Nunez introduced AB 1783 – Infrastructure Financing. This bill includes the wording, “Improvements to wastewater treatment systems to provide good water quality for the public and the environment and meet growth demands.” This is the language we need to see in all bond legislation. SCAP will be working every possible venue to ensure this wording is included in any bond measures that move forward to the ballot. We encourage our members to do the same.

Last month, SCAP sent a letter opposing an effort of the SWRCB to have grant recipients sign a waiver for litigation if they receive grant dollars. This waiver would be hard to implement on the part of the SWRCB; furthermore, it is unnecessary and unprecedented. The SWRCB vote has been delayed.

In February, SCAP will provide testimony on the SSO WDRs proposed regulation. One of SCAP’s main themes during testimony will be the lack of funds for this new expensive regulatory program, which impacts 2000 collection systems statewide.

### **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

The difference between “involvement” and “commitment” is like an egg-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was “involved” – the pig was “committed.”

Unknown