



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

MONTHLY UPDATE

A Message from the Executive Director...

October 2006

I was reading an article in the Canadian Press the other day that really got me thinking. The article talked about examples of cities from California to Switzerland that treat sewage as a resource, not a waste. Of particular interest was a Chinese city where residential toilets had septic conversion systems installed resulting in each house having its own individual gas supply for the kitchen stove. I thought, what a novel idea! I can just see it now, developers like Lennar and Fieldstone showing off their new model homes and inviting the prospective buyers to make avail of the bathroom facilities, while they heat up the hors d'oeuvres on the stove. Wouldn't the local gas and electric companies just love this idea?

All joking aside, it may very well be coming down to this in the future. I see where UC Riverside researchers have partnered with a private company and are unveiling plans to construct a pilot plant to convert, among other things, sewage sludge to diesel fuel at a cost of roughly \$1 per gallon. As our esteemed Collection Systems Chair Nick Arhontes always says, "sewage is a resource."

To no one's surprise, regulations are getting increasingly tougher to comply with, especially for biosolids processing and disposal. If it's not ordinances banning biosolids land application, then it's the potential loss of emission credits for biosolids treatment facilities. Just ask Greg Adams and Dan McGivney, our Air Quality chairs. Both of these gentlemen have been actively campaigning on behalf of SCAP to modify SCAQMD's proposed changes to Rule 1309.1, which would make it difficult, if not impossible, for public agencies operating within the SCAQMD to receive emission credits from the priority reserve bank if they locate their facility off-site of their POTW or choose to contract out the facilities operation.

The net effect of these regulations will be increased costs to the agencies and ultimately to the customer. Not to mention that it leaves less agency dollars available for funding capital replacement of our aging infrastructure. As a former general manager, I am tired of hearing the same old excuse given to us by those that support increasingly restrictive regulations and costly monitoring and testing programs, namely, "Oh, you can just raise your fees." With the recent State Supreme Court decision on the Bighorn-Desert View Water Authority vs. Virjil case, all public agencies that provide water, sewer or trash collection must comply with the provisions of Proposition 218's amendments to the State Constitution when raising rates and fees. The bottom line for many public agencies is now becoming "how can we do more with less?"

Upcoming Meetings

Air Quality Committee Meeting – Tuesday, October 31st, 10am-12noon at LACSD.

Joint SCAP/Tri-TAC Meeting – Thursday, October 12th, 9 am at the Ontario Convention Center.

This is one of the reasons why SCAP scheduled a funding workshop on September 27th to assist its members in learning more about the various funding opportunities available to public agencies.

Although it is becoming abundantly clear that the legislators in California are acutely aware of the problem, it appears they are focusing primarily on transportation, flood control and water projects, leaving wastewater related projects high and dry. Just take a look at Propositions 1A, 1B, 1E and 84, not a penny for wastewater, even though Prop 84 specifically mentions water pollution and contamination control. As Mary Jane Foley repeatedly tells me, "we must insist on truth in advertising when it comes to these funding bills."

**Welcome Our Newest SCAP
Associate Members**

Aries Industries, Inc.
Fleet Industries, Inc.

While I realize that we will never see the kind of monetary incentives that were made available during the heyday of the Clean Water Program, I would like to see them at least throw us a few bones once in a while.

Mary Jane and I have made a pact that our new mission is to seek out or develop wastewater infrastructure funding programs for our members. Whether that be from existing programs or by newly created legislation. You'll hear me speak further on this topic throughout the year.

Speaking of infrastructure, coincidentally on September 27th, our Governor will have unveiled the statewide infrastructure report card, which includes grades for 9 areas of critical infrastructure including water, wastewater, flood control/levees and urban runoff. Like an expectant parent, I can't wait to see the report, but I have a strong feeling that the grades may not be very flattering this year.

I am proud to announce that our Biosolids Committee and Water Issues Committee are up and running under new leadership. Karen Soares and Michelle Hetherington will be chairing the Biosolids Committee, having taken over for Diane Gilbert. Gus Dembegiotes (City of Los Angeles) and Valerie Housel (City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department) have volunteered to chair the Water Issues Committee, taking over from Roger Turner, who recently announced his pending retirement from Eastern Municipal Water District. We certainly want to thank Roger for his years of service to SCAP as committee chair and look forward to his continuing involvement as an associate member.

Both the Biosolids and Water Issues Committees will be conducting their first meeting of this fiscal year in Ontario on the 12th of October, in conjunction with the Tri-TAC meeting. This will be a great opportunity for those of you who can attend to meet your new committee chairs and listen in on the issues from a statewide perspective.

Gaseously yours,

John Pastore

Air Quality by Chair Daniel McGivney

SCAQMD Rules 1309.1 and 1315

SCAQMD Rule 1315 was adopted by the Board on September 8, 2006 by a vote of 9-0 as part of a very controversial package of rules that was considered that day. Rule 1315, the New Source Review Tracking System, is an accounting system rule the District has been negotiating/working with EPA on for over 3 years. The rule in essence instituted practices that confirmed the validity of the emission reduction credits contained in the SCAQMD’s emission credit banks. These credits are vital to offset remaining bits of pollution down to zero, after a project has installed best available control technology, per the federal Clean Air Act. This rule provides the credits that flow to essential public services from the Priority Reserve aka Rule 1309.1 that was also modified on September 8. Rule 1315 resulted in a reduction of overall available credits by 46% and for some pollutants, like critically-in-short-supply PM10, by over 92%.

The companion rule, Rule 1309.1, was much more controversial and had to do with opening up the Priority Reserve to in-basin power plant projects for their credit needs. After a three hour hearing and after an unclear motion, the Board agreed to proceed with the staff recommendation but wanted the staff to return in January 2007 with language qualifying that the distribution of the credits needed to be to projects that comported with SCAQMD’s environmental justice policies. Energy projects of regional significance (EPRS) and biosolids processing facilities will also be addressed in the January amendments. Given the sentiment of the Board at the September meeting, there is nothing that leads the Air Quality Committee to believe that credits for these remaining two categories of projects (EPRS and biosolids) would not be similarly conditioned.

Committee Chair Contact Info

Air Quality Chair:
 Dan McGivney –
dmcgivney@emwd.org

Biosolids Chair:
 Karen Soares –
ksoares@lacsdsd.org

Collection Systems Chair:
 Nick Arhontes –
narhontes@ocsd.com

Water Issues Chair:
 Gus Dembegiotes –
Gus.Dembegiotes@lacity.org

Air Resources Board (ARB) Proposed Amendments to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Stationary Diesel Engines

The ATCM provides minimum statewide standards for existing and new stationary diesel engines. The ARB is proposing rule amendments to regulate in-use agricultural engines. These amendments will also affect non-agricultural engines by clarifying that a certified tier 3 engine with a verified level 3 particulate matter (PM) filter, is considered to be in compliance with any of the 0.01 g/bhp-hr PM standards listed in the rule without additional compliance verification (e.g. an emissions source test). The rule amendments also clarify that biodiesel blends not verified as CARB diesel can be used as alternative diesel fuels. Proposed amendments also clarify that operator logs for emergency engines include monthly summaries.

Finally, provisions allowing limited sales of engines from dealer stock, even if they do not meet current NOx, VOC and CO standards, are proposed. CARB expects to release its board package on September 29th. The hearing to adopt the proposed amendments is scheduled for November 16th at the PUC offices in San Francisco.

Air Resources Board (ARB) Proposed Amendments to the ATCM for Chrome Plating and Anodizing

On September 28, 2006, the ARB will hold a hearing with the intention of adopting proposed amendments to the existing ATCM for chrome plating operations. While this regulation normally has no bearing on water and sanitation agency operations, this effort contains one troubling amendment. Historically, regulations controlling toxic air contaminants from various operations have contained requirements and/or thresholds that are triggered by a source's proximity to "sensitive receptors." Historic definitions of sensitive receptor have included such entities as schools (K-12), hospitals and convalescent homes. Some times the definition has included "licensed" daycare centers. In this proposed regulation, sensitive receptor has been defined to include private homes, condominiums, apartments, living quarters, preschools, schools (K-12), daycare centers, health care facilities such as hospitals or retirement and nursing homes, long term care hospitals, hospices, prisons, and dormitories or similar live-in housing. The concern to our industry is that this significant expansion of this definition will find its way into future rules affecting our industry and could make it extremely difficult to locate new facilities, as well as put new regulatory pressure on existing operations.

Biosolids by Chair Karen Soares

Kern County Lawsuit

Kern County has now petitioned the court to throw out the lawsuit that was filed on August 15th by seven plaintiffs, including LA City, LA County Sanitation Districts, Orange County Sanitation District, CASA, and various biosolids hauling companies, challenging Kern County's voter-approved ban on biosolids land application. Kern County claims that the suit should have been filed in Fresno court instead of the US District Court in Los Angeles, and that the County has the right to regulate biosolids issues within their own county. The ban would be effective January 2007, but land appliers can petition Kern County for a hardship extension. Judge Gary A. Feess will hear the case in the US District Court in Los Angeles on October 16th.

SJVAPCD Rule 4565 – Composting/Biosolids Facilities

Several public workshops are being held on October 2nd through 6th to receive public input on the proposed San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) Rule 4565. The rule would regulate composting and other biosolids facilities, such as landfills and land application sites, within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which includes Kern, Kings, and several other counties in the Central Valley. The objective is to reduce VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions from biosolids facilities, by requiring them to implement a specified number of listed

Mitigation Measures. For existing large composting facilities over 100,000 wet tons per year, this would mean building state of the art aerated or in-vessel systems, or implementing comparable alternative control measures within 36 months, according to the draft language.

Pathogen Regrowth

In response to the WERF Study on Reactivation/Regrowth of Fecal Coliforms, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) has published a 50 page Technical Practice Manual entitled "Reactivation and Regrowth of Fecal Coliforms in Anarobically Digested Biosolids." The manual provides a summary of the current body of knowledge on this issue and a preview of ongoing research. The document is downloadable for free to members or else may be purchased on WEF's website at:

http://www.e-wef.org/timssnet/products/tnt_products.cfm?primary_id=P00611E&Action=LONG&subsystem=ORD

Quarterly Meeting of the Biosolids Committee – October 12 in Ontario

The next Biosolids Committee Quarterly Meeting will be held on October 12th from 9 am to 12 noon at the Ontario Convention Center. A detailed agenda is now available and will be distributed to committee members.

Collection Systems by Chair Nick Arhontes

Joint Committee Funding Alternatives Seminar – September 27, 2006

On September 27, 2006, the Collection Systems Committee (CSC) along with the Water Issues Committee (WIC) held an informational seminar at Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Chino. The focus was on Funding Alternatives. This was the latest in a series of informational seminars and workshops for SCAP members that the CSC has presented in an effort to inform our members in the wastewater community of our ever changing landscape. Results and highlights of the event will be presented in next month's SCAP Update.

CSC Chair Nick Arhontes is currently planning for a CSC meeting to be held in October 2006, with the date to be announced. Once a firm meeting date is established, an email stating the date, time and location will be sent to the committee members. Several topics are planned for this meeting, not the least of which will be what is required to develop and implement the new state mandated SSMP for publicly owned collection systems having more than one mile of sanitary sewer pipeline. The new spill reporting requirements and what SCAP's involvement will be with the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) for delivering training on spill reporting and SSMP awareness will be discussed. Additionally, past workshops and seminars will be analyzed to determine what direction future seminars should take in meeting the members' needs. Another hot topic for discussion will be laterals. Some cities and agencies already require lateral inspections at the time of property sale. There is a growing movement to

establish this statewide and possibly through legislation as compared to adopting local ordinances. Again, emails will be sent out announcing this CSC meeting once a meeting date is finalized.

WDR Training

If your collection system is located in Region 4, 8 or 9, you will be required to report all SSOs to the statewide CIWQS database, via the Internet, after January 2, 2007. In an agreement reached with the state, CWEA has agreed to develop and implement training programs to offer instruction in the reporting process statewide. SCAP has partnered with CWEA to assist in this training effort with several SCAP members volunteering to become trainers. SCAP’s Executive Director John Pastore and CSC Chair Nick Arhontes are currently in the process of securing several training sites throughout the effected regions. Train the trainer sessions will be held in late October with the training for all the effected regions being offered in November and December. Once the training sites and dates have been identified, notification emails will be sent out to the membership. Information will also be posted on the SCAP website at www.scap1.org and the CWEA website at www.cwea.org/sso. If you are located in Regions 3, 6, or 7, your phase in dates regarding compliance can be found on the CWEA web link. CWEA is doing training product testing in late September as part of their agreement with the SWRCB. Chair Arhontes has been serving on the Subject Matter Expert (SME) team for CWEA.

WDR Enrollment Deadline

Just a friendly reminder, all publicly owned wastewater collection systems having more than one mile of pipeline must “Enroll” with the state by November 2, 2006. This includes paying enrollment fees and filling out a form and providing data on your sewer system. You should have already received your invitation to enroll thru the Notice of Intent (NOI) including the application form. If you have not received your NOI, you are advised to kindly download one at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sso/. Please feel free to share these links with your associates.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**NO DRUGS
DOWN THE DRAIN**



Unused prescription and over-the-counter medications that are put in drains or flushed down the toilet pollute the environment, so please take as prescribed and dispose of unused portions properly.

www.nodrugsdowndrain.org

In case of overdose or accidental poisoning, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 24 hours/day

**UNUSED
MEDICATIONS
SHOULD BE**

1

Taken to a household hazardous waste collection center or event (no controlled substances allowed) or

2

Put in a sturdy, securely sealed container, then in a trash can where children and animals can't reach them.







This announcement was prepared by LACSD in conjunction with a presentation they recently made promoting public stewardship. Pharmaceuticals in wastewater that have entered through the sewer system are not completely removed during conventional wastewater treatment. LACSD, along with the City of Los Angeles, City of San Diego, the California Pharmacists and the California Poison Control System, are promoting a public education campaign entitled, “No Drugs Down the Drain.” SCAP has a supply of these announcements, which are also printed in Spanish on the backside and can furnish them to your agency on a limited basis. Please call or email the SCAP office with your request.

Agency Profile

El Toro Water District

www.etwd.com

Formed: September 1960

Service area: Approximately 5,430 acres including all of the city of Laguna Woods, and portions of the cities of Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo, Lake Forest and Aliso Viejo.

Population served: 51,000

Budget: \$19 million average annual budget

Employees: 56

Water Facilities

Reservoirs: 6 with combined capacity 136 million gallons (Owns/operates largest covered drinking water reservoir in Orange County – Shares capacity with Santa Margarita and Moulton Niguel Water Districts)

Distribution system: Over 130 miles of water lines and 8 booster stations with 13 water pressure zones.

Water service connections: 10,000

Sanitation Facilities

Wastewater treatment plant: 6 mgd capacity

Collection system: 142 miles of 4" to 24" sewer collection pipelines

Sewer pumping facilities: 11 (8 submersible and 3 dry well) and 1 large gravity zone

Effluent pumping: 2 effluent pumping stations to convey treated secondary effluent to the ocean

Effluent storage: 12.5 mg



WRP Generator

For the El Toro Water District board and General Manager Bob Hill, strategic planning this year takes its place alongside master planning and CIP planning.

The district's first strategic planning process during Hill's tenure is underway and will be completed by year-end. Initiated by the board, strategic planning seeks to get a top-down view of the district's mission, long-term vision and focus.

“With master planning and CIP planning, staff drives recommendations up to the board,” Hill said. “With strategic planning the board members, representing their constituents, will be identifying who we are and what we want to accomplish in the long-term. Once the board identifies strategic objectives, it will be staff’s responsibility to align specific goals and timelines with those objectives and to reach consensus with the board on how we will measure progress toward achieving them.”

Hill easily recites challenges facing special districts – the impact of the state’s budget crisis on special districts, the future of imported water, recycled water expansion, on-going infrastructure investment, energy costs, staff succession planning, increasing regulations, and biosolids disposal. This list, in part, served as impetus for strategic planning.

“We have a cohesive board that’s been together a long time,” Hill said. “We’ve been pretty much on the same page as we go through master planning and budget development year to year. Strategic planning will cause us to agree on our challenges and really analyze our approaches.”

The district has retained an outside facilitator to direct the strategic planning process, which Hill believes has several important elements. First, the facilitator’s individual interviews with each board member and Hill should yield well thought out and candid views. Second, the facilitator will integrate the individual views expressed in the interviews and “connect the dots” to help clearly define the board’s vision, he said. Third, the process will result in common themes that will require prioritization. Fourth, the process will include establishing ways to measure progress.

The outcome is a strategic roadmap from the board that staff will use to develop a draft planning document to take back to the board identifying how, what and when objectives will be accomplished.

“Strategic planning will be completed by the end of year and will position us for our planning for the annual budget and for 5 year and 10 year capital improvement planning,” Hill said. “I expect strategic planning to be an iterative process that necessitates yearly rebalancing of priorities and actions by the board and staff to accomplish our mission and meet our customer’s service expectations.”

###

Water Issues Committee by Chair Roger Turner**Draft Total Residual Chlorine and Chlorine-Produced Oxidants Policy – July 2006**

This policy process for the Total Residual Chlorine and Chlorine-Produced Oxidants Policy for California continues to develop. SCAP, Tri-TAC, BACWA, CASA, CVCWA, and other agencies in California provided numerous comments to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding the ability to measure Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) at 0.019 mg/L for a one-hour average and at 0.011 mg/L for a four-hour average in fresh water and Chlorine - Produced Oxidants (CPO) in saltwater at 0.013 mg/L for a one-hour average and at 0.0075 mg/L for a four-day average. These comments have prompted the SWRCB to further investigate several of the technical issues raised in these comments. In late September, the SWRCB sent out a survey to the POTW industry to gather information regarding chlorine facilities used in California. Responses to the survey questions will help SWRCB evaluate potential approaches to resolving several technical issues in the proposed Policy. These issues include the quantification requirements for online chlorine and dechlor analysis, the required bench-top method to quantify chlorine, and the potential impacts of sulfite in receiving waters. SCAP recently sent out the survey to member agencies. Responses are requested to the SWRCB by October 18, 2006. If you have any questions, please contact Regina Linville, SWCRB Environmental Scientist, at (916) 341-5579 or by email at rlinville@waterboards.ca.gov. You can also call the SCAP office for assistance or to have the survey sent again to you.

Also, the latest revision of the Chlorine Residual Policy is at the SWRCB web site; http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/iswp/docs/chlorine_policy_dfrt_063006_accept.pdf. We encourage you to read it as it will become a new condition in your permits. As always, if you have comment or thoughts on this new policy, please send them to the SCAP office.

This is a very important new policy that will significantly affect our industry. The Water Issues Committee will bring you news as it happens regarding this policy.

The California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS)

The California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) program continues to grind forward. State Board staff has completed training for Regions 7, 8, 9, and 4. They are currently working with Region 5, which will take some time because this region has the most permits in the state. The technical problems continue within each Region and for each agency brought into the system. State Board staff is working on these problems. The program appears to be improving its performance.

Funding for development of this program has changed. EPA has stopped a grant fund supporting this program. The State Board is committed to completing this program and is now funding the program. The EPA contractor developing the program is completing some final tasks on this program before they stop work. More work remains to complete the entire program. Recently, the State Board sent out a RFP for a new contract to complete the program

work. They expect to have a new contractor on board working on development of the program soon.

The State Board staff is well aware of continuing problems with the program and continues to work on them. This program is designed to track information, manage permits and other discharge orders, track inspections, manage violations and enforcement activities. CIWQS includes an electronic Self-Monitoring Report (e-SMR) tool for submission of monitoring reports via an Internet web site.

To get help with CIWQS call (866) 79- CIWQS (2-4977) or visit the web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ciwqs/index.html> or call Jarma Bennett at (916) 341-5532.

Funding Alternatives Workshop

The SCAP Collection Systems Committee and the Water Issues Committee jointly sponsored a Funding Alternatives Workshop on September 27, 2006. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency graciously provided the location for this program. The program provided the latest information on Sewer System Rates and Fees, presented by Dave Bruns of LACSD, Grants and Grantsmanship (how to be successful in developing your own grant program), presented by Denise Landstedt of Dudek & Associates, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program, presented by Christopher Stevens of the State Water Resources Control Board and a panel discussion with the presenters and Mark Adelson of the Santa Ana RWQCB. This was a well rounded program to help member agencies understand the different funding programs and to better develop and manage programs to obtain funds for developing studies and capital improvement projects for required infrastructure projects.

The presentations and contact information will be posted on the SCAP web site. Take a look at these presentations and to learn more about these programs.

State Water Resources Control Board Permit Template

The SWRCB has developed a Master Permit Template for NPDES permit use throughout the state. SCAP is working with Tri-TAC on edits to the Master Permit. The edits were submitted in late September 2006 for State Board consideration. SCAP and Tri-TAC will continue working with State Board staff toward final acceptable language for this Master Permit template. More next month on this topic.

Regulatory Affairs by Regulatory Affairs Consultant Mary Jane Foley

California's legislative session ended on August 31st, sending 1,100 bills to Governor Schwarzenegger for his veto or signature. This has to be done by September 30th. Some legislators are already announcing proposals for new legislation next year. Senator Dean Florez took on the banning of biosolids in Kern County and now is looking at laws governing crops and packaging that would ban the use of reclaimed water on organic vegetable crops. The spinach episode has rocked the nation and will potentially have its ramifications on

reclaimed water and biosolids application. I suspect POTWs will have a challenging year supporting the wise use of these vital resources in our regions.

The November elections are a few short weeks away. There are several bonds on the ballot including Prop 84: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. If passed, \$5.4 billion will be available for water quality, flood control, rivers and coastal protection. There is \$285 million for water quality but the fine print reveals that most of that money does not appear to be the water quality dollars that POTWs need for wastewater system improvements. There is \$80 million for the Clean Water Revolving Fund, the SRF program run by the Waterboard. All the bonds over the last few years have used the wording "safe and clean," but the money is marginally used for mandates of the state and federal clean water mandates. Prop 84 does not look like it has the leading edge right now in the polls. SCAP's Executive Director John Pastore and I have decided to launch a campaign to develop principles and priorities for a possible 2008 California Water Bond that some of the water districts are working on. A senior Senator who is in a powerful position has invited the industry to bring him ideas and concepts for such a bond. We are going to take up the offer and work with other POTW organizations to focus on wastewater system needs, along with water and storm water. Many of our members offer all three program services. We will keep you informed, and as this gathers momentum, we will seek your support with your local legislators.

Have you seen the new "No Drugs Down the Drain" campaign? SCAP Board President Jim Stahl gave a presentation at the recent Ocean's Conference. SCAP has a supply of 4 x 6 postcards that can be used at pharmacies to educate the public on the proper disposal of used medications. SCAP has posted the "No Drugs Down the Drain" presentation on the SCAP website www.scap1.org. This is truly a necessary campaign. At the Ocean Conference, there were scientists who were demonstrating effects of trace pharmaceuticals on the fish at the end of ocean outfalls. We all need to work together to stop this problem at the source. Please join the outreach efforts in your communities.

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.

Reminder: 303 (d) List is out for your review; call if you need to confer on any listing that you do not agree with.

Non Sequitur

We don't see the end of the tunnel, but I must say I don't think it is darker than it was a year ago, and in some ways lighter!

Florynce Rae Kennedy