



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

Monthly Update

www.scap1.org

March 2010

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Upcoming Meetings

Air Quality

Tuesday, March 16, 2010
10:00-12:00 noon, at LACSD.

Biosolids

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
9:00-noon at Location TBA

Collection Systems

Thursday, May 20, 2010
9:00-1:00pm LACSD

Energy Management

Tuesday, April 27, 2010
9:00-1:00pm @ LACSD

Water Issues

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
9:00 am-12 Noon
Location @ IEUA

SCAP

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A Message from the Executive Director...

It has been more than a year since SCAP teamed with other state and regional associations and took on the task of preparing a utility branding manual for the wastewater industry. Yet I can't help thinking that the majority of our public agencies haven't completely embraced the ideas and principals presented within the manual. I am convinced that the downturn in our

economy has contributed to at least some apathy when it comes to spending time and money on improving an agency's image. It has to be very difficult to justify expenditures outside of normal operations these days, especially for our cities, which seem to be the hardest hit. But in retrospect, the timing of the manual could not have been better. With budget cuts reducing the level of services in some cases, reductions in staffing, and capital projects put on hold, the public is understandably frustrated. So what better time to restore public confidence by developing ways to put a positive spin on the current situation. To assist with this, I intend to work with John Ruetten of Resource Trends, Inc., who authored the original branding manual, in the coming months to conduct several workshops showcasing various ways in which many of our members are successfully promoting positive branding for the wastewater industry.

Speaking of positive branding, one of the terms that comes immediately to mind is the term that I have heard ourselves referred to as over and over again, which is "Stewards of the Environment". That in itself sends a pretty powerful message to the public but can we really say it with conviction? I believe so and my mission in the coming months will be to prove without a doubt that this is so. Or in other words, I plan to show that our money is indeed where our mouth is. Last month in this newsletter I featured several agencies whose water replenishment programs were on the cutting edge of current technology, some were even world class programs. To the average John Q. Public it would appear that these programs are simply about generating additional water supply. However, looking closer reveals the tremendous benefits to regional water quality, not to mention the natural resources saved by reducing the number of storage tanks and reservoirs that would have been constructed alternatively. But this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to our environmental prowess. Our treatment plants are another excellent example of how we strive to not only clean up the environment by taking wastewater and treating it to the extent that it is drinkable, but go many steps further by attempting to convert every by-product of the process into a beneficial product or renewable energy [Editor's Note: the word "attempt" was carefully chosen as a reminder that our air/water regulators currently prevent us from achieving all of our desired goals].

As a co-worker of mine, Bob Ohlund, likes to say, "there is no waste in wastewater". Now why didn't I ever think of that? Be forewarned, I am going to be contacting many of you, particularly the ocean dischargers, in the near future to learn how your agency is taking those extra steps beyond what the regulations call for to protect the environment. My desire is to ultimately construct a portfolio of case histories that can be shared with the public.

Investigatingly Yours,

John Pastore, Executive Director

Committee Reports



Air Quality

Chair Kris Flaig
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Despite deep cuts in the State budget and the budgets of every sanitation agency in California, we continue to be faced with the coming onslaught of AB 32 regulations, as well as several non-climate change regulations, all of which are keeping air quality engineers and specialists extremely busy.

Several legislative initiatives have reared their heads to curb climate change regulations, both federally and in California. For example, HR 4572 (Peterson) and HR 4396 (Pomeroy) would require that the six (6) specified greenhouse gases (GHGs) not be labeled as air pollutants, just because they might be GHGs, and US EPA not promulgate regulations only on the basis of these being GHGs. At the same time, AB 118 (Logue) would require suspending AB 32 until unemployment reached 5.5% for 4 consecutive quarters. Recent media attention makes this topic pertinent. Lacking sufficient groundswell to turn back the clock on enacted legislation and adopted regulations, POTW staff, including SCAP and CWCCG members, will continue to represent agency interests of ensuring public health with best technical productivity at lowest cost.

SCAP members continue to spear head several areas of Climate Change and other regulations, as seen in these pages. The CWCCG, thru its consultant (Jackie Kepke of CH2M), continues to provide POTWs throughout California with focused issue support with

the ARB, CEC, CPUC, and other agencies. Perhaps the most important event during February was the February 25-26 ARB Board meeting, at which board members considered adoption of an offset accounting protocol for use in the upcoming Cap & Trade program and phase out of voluntary protocols. Significant public discussion from industry and environmentalists indicated that proposed offset protocols would be either onerous or lenient, respectively. But, rather than phasing out any protocols, Mary Nichols, ARB Chair, "gave clear statements indicating CAR protocols will be useable for compliance in AB32's C&T program." (Evolution Markets, 3-1-10)

The weather vane points west (to California) and the barometer is low but continues to oscillate, indicating that the long road to Sacramento may also be a challenge to navigate. We hope to see you at one of the many upcoming workshops.

Imperial County APCD

www.co.imperial.ca.us

The Imperial County APCD has a new website in operation.

Imperial County APCD has announced that a copy of both the Final 2009 Imperial County State Implementation Plan for PM₁₀ (2009 PM₁₀ SIP) and the Final Negative Declaration for the 2009 PM₁₀ SIP are now available on the District's website.

On September 23, 2009 the U.S. EPA filed Federal Register Vol. 74, No. 183 proposing a "determination of Attainment of the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard for Imperial County, CA". Once the Clean Data finding is finalized the Air District will finalize efforts in the development of a modified Ozone SIP.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for February 23, 2010 to consider the following Newly Proposed Rules:

- **Rule 116** - Emissions Statement & Certification
- **Rule 400.1** - Stationary Gas Turbines
- **Rule 400.2** - Boilers, Process Heaters & Steam Generators

Also the following Amended Rules:

- **Amended Rule 424** - Architectural Coatings
- **Amended Rule 425** - Aerospace Coating Operations
- **Amended Rule 427** - Automotive Refinishing Operations

The results of this Hearing have not been posted as yet.

There are currently no new public workshops or SIP meetings posted on the ICAPCD website for the month of March 2010.

Mojave Desert AQMD

www.mdaqmd.ca.gov

For those interested in solar power, the MDAQMD website includes a real time display of daily and yearly solar power information from within the district, as well as the amount of carbon dioxide saved.

MDAQMD has also introduced ENVIROFLASH on its website, which provides air quality forecasts directly to your computer's inbox.

Presentations from the 2009 California Desert Air Working Group (CDAWG) are now posted on the MDAQMD website.

Mojave Desert AQMD has posted its Winter 09/10 Desert Air Monitor Newsletter on its website.

The next meeting of the MDAQMD Board is scheduled for March 22, 2010. There are no new workshops or public hearings shown on the MDAQMD website for the month of March 2010.

San Diego APCD

www.sdapcd.org

San Diego APCD reports it has completed and submitted its Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan (AMNP) for 2007 and a copy can be obtained from their website. SDAPCD will be required to submit an Air Quality Plan to EPA in 2013 outlining the emission control regulations necessary to bring the entire region into attainment.

SDAPCD has added a custom Google search engine exclusively for their website and also offers an interactive air pollution simulator program called **Smog City 2**. This program will allow the user to make decisions that affect the air quality and can then view the resulting changes that occur.

On June 24, 2009, the SDAPCD adopted new Rule 55-Fugitive Dust Control. San Diego County does not yet meet the State air clean standards for particulate matter. Per State law, this lack of attainment requires the District to implement all feasible measures to attain the standard. Rule 55 become effective on December 24, 2009.

The CAPCOA Climate Change Forum in partnership with SDAPCD is scheduled for August 30-31, 2010 in San Francisco. The 2-day conference will focus on the integration and harmonization of California's climate policy with federal programs to allow development of effective and productive strategies in the fight against climate change.

The SDAPCD is currently in the process of applying with CARB to become a Greenhouse Verification Body. If approved the verification services will be offered by contract.

There are no new public hearings scheduled on the District's website at this time.

Santa Barbara APCD

www.sbapcd.org

The Santa Barbara APCD reports that they have a new fee schedule in effect as of 7/01/08, which can be viewed on their website. SBAPCD also reports that they are working with CAPCOA planning managers to develop GHG emission thresholds for CEQA reviews of new projects.

The next APCD Community Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010. The next APCD Board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2010.

Ventura County APCD

www.vcapcd.org

VCAPCD currently has application forms available for the Carl Moyer Program. The program will provide approximately \$2 million of grant funds for projects within Ventura County. The grant funds are available to qualifying owners of heavy-duty diesel powered

equipment that want to reduce air pollution by upgrading or replacing their present equipment.

The VCAPCD reports that the Draft 2009 Reasonably Available Control Measures State Implementation Plan (2009 RACT SIP) is now available for public review.

The VCAPCD reminds everyone that Tier 0 Portable Diesel Engines may not be operated in California after December 31, 2009.

The next VCAPCD Board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2010. At this time there no new Advisory Committee meetings scheduled.

South Coast AQMD

www.aqmd.gov

SCAQMD Proposed Rule 317 by Greg Adams, LACSD

With the issuance of the Section 185 fee program guidance by the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) on January 5, 2010, staff has briefed the Board and the Stationary Source Committee and met with the working group on January 19, 2010. The staff is reluctant to implement all of the flexibility addressed in the guidance as they believe it will be extremely difficult to do administratively and will result in inequities. At this point, they believe they can craft an equivalent fee proposal using fees already paid by permittees as part of regulation III plus using a portion of AB 118 funds the District expects to receive. Several Board members still want staff to pursue a legislative fix in Congress. Environmental groups led by Environmental Defense Fund have targeted Texas' draft rule for litigation saying, among other things, that the OAQPS guidance is contrary to the explicit language of the Clean Air Act. Local industry coalitions here in the South Coast are waiting to see a draft proposal from SCAQMD staff before making counterproposals. The next meeting of the working group has not been scheduled as of this writing.

On a parallel note, the San Joaquin Valley APCD staff briefed their Board on February 18, 2010 and outlined their proposal for going into revised rulemaking on their equivalent rule, Rule 3170. Their design features will include application of Section 185 fees only to those units without BACT. Shortfalls in fees are to be satisfied with a combination of other equivalent fees or surplus emissions reductions. Any shortfalls in fees are to be distributed proportionally among mobile and stationary sources. They will also include in their legislative agenda advocacy for the repeal of Section

185 of the CAA or at least more favorable treatment of clean units.

Priority Reserve Lawsuits by Greg Adams, LACSD

Judge Chalfant has scheduled a April 15, 2010 hearing date for a noticed hearing seeking an injunction against the issuance of SCAQMD permits that rely on the SCAQMD credit banks. Complaints must be filed by March 5, 2010. Responses to the complaints by the defendants are due March 22, 2010.

Health Impact Assessment of Climate Programs Public Health Working Group by Frank Caponi, LACSD

The Public Health Working Group of the California Climate Action Team was established to address cross-cutting issues related to climate change and health, including issues specific to AB 32 implementation. The Working Group has broad representation from California State Agencies, such as the California Department of Public Health (CDPS), federal and local agencies and environmental groups. The overall purpose of the workgroup is to provide a forum for communication, coordination, and education across agencies and with stakeholders. The Working Group is currently undertaking a health impact assessment (HIA) with stakeholders to address many climate-related issues, especially, health impacts that may result if a cap and trade program is implemented. Other activities include methodologies to identify disadvantaged communities.

The HIA is being developed in a very quick time frame in order to have an impact on shaping the proposed CARB AB32 Cap and Trade regulation. The pathway by which this process is being conducted is a complex one because it is not necessarily focused on the direct health impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but the co-benefits (positive or negative) of criteria pollutant emissions. In addition, there is a significant debate on how to establish a baseline for the HIA.

AB32 directs CARB to determine methods by which co-benefits of the GHG reduction programs can be maximized. However, the HIA also addresses co-benefits that are "foregone" by purchasing allowances or offsets outset of a community where the effected facility is located. So for instance, if Facility A purchases 10 metric tons (MT) of GHG (as an allowance or offset) from Facility B, and in creating these 10 MT Facility B reduces 100 pounds of NOx and some carcinogens, then this reduction is considered a "foregone" reduction in the community surrounding Facility A. The HIA would then determine the health benefits that would have been gained in this

community if those reductions happened there. If these benefits would have been significant, the trade could be viewed as a negative health impact in that community. The situation would be further exacerbated if the community were deemed an existing "disadvantaged community." The results of this HIA analysis could be the development of "policy levers" that could shape the Cap and Trade regulation, such as restrictions on where and how much trading can occur, restrictions in the development of offsets, and how auction proceeds are distributed to disadvantaged communities.

Industry is very concerned about this process since it is viewed as potentially restricting the proposed Cap and Trade program. Although the wastewater industry is generally not included in the proposed Cap and Trade program, the HIA also has the potential to restrict offset development and markets which can impact our industry. This process needs to be watched very closely as it develops, not only for its immediate impacts, but for policy developments that could impact future programs that may also require health assessments.



Biosolids

Chair Mike Sullivan
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Update – Biosolids Compost VOC Emissions Study by Matt Bao, LACSD

In late 2009, a research study was proposed by Dr. Peter Green of UC Davis that would evaluate VOC emissions from biosolids composting and determine whether they are actually precursors to ground level ozone formation. Currently, local air districts that impose limits on VOCs assume that all VOCs are equally reactive with respect to causing ozone formation, which appears to be an overestimation. Similar studies on green waste composting have shown that less than 10% of the VOCs emitted actually are ozone precursors. Due to interest in this work, the CASA Executive Board has approved CASA to be the contracting agency with UC Davis for this work. To date, City of Santa Rosa, Orange County Sanitation Districts, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County,

City of Fresno and Synagro have agreed help fund this study, but additional funding is still needed. For those interested in providing funding for this study or would like a copy of the project overview, please contact Greg Kester of CASA at gkester@casaweb.org.

March 30th Workshop: Compost for Slope Stabilization, Fire-Ravaged Lands and Water Management BMPs by Matt Bao, LACSD

Dr. David Crohn, Science Advisor and Coordinator for the Association of Compost Producers, and his research team at UC Riverside, have completed new research on the effects of compost on water infiltration and stormwater runoff in burn areas with graded slopes. Their findings will be presented at a free workshop, co-funded by CalRecycle, on March 30th at the UC Riverside Extension.

Due to the recent rain events here in Southern California, Dr. Crohn has gathered data and information on how various compost applications positively benefited slope stabilization, water infiltration, and water holding capacity of disturbed soils. There are also key findings on the chemical and physical constituents in stormwater runoff from various test beds, with and without compost applications.

To register or for more information, please contact Linda Coco by e-mail at sciences@ucx.ucr.edu, phone at (951) 827-5804 or by fax at (951) 827-7374.

Encina Wastewater Authority Maintains Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) Certification by Matt Bao, LACSD

On December 10, 2009, an independent audit of the Environmental Management System (EMS) was conducted for the Encina Wastewater Authority's (EWA) biosolids program. The audit was performed at the request of the National Biosolids Partnership, which is the Interim Audit #4, following verification of EWA's biosolids EMS on August 10, 2005. This audit included a review of significant changes affecting EWA's biosolids management program, such as the use of use of two new biosolids contractors and implementation of the new biosolids pelletizing operation.

The auditor verified that EWA's biosolids EMS continues to meet the expectations and requirements of the NBP. Encina Wastewater Authority has achieved NBP Platinum Level status of its EMS program since 2006.

WEF 2010 Residuals and Biosolids Specialty Conference – May 23 to 26, Savannah, GA by Matt Bao, LACSD

The Water Environment Federation's Residuals and Biosolids Committee, in cooperation with the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the International Water Association, is sponsoring the 24th annual specialty conference on residuals and biosolids management on May 23-26, 2010 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center in Savannah, GA. The theme of the conference is "Leveraging Biosolids in the Energy-Climate Era." The technical program will offer in-depth learning opportunities over four days, and include sessions, an exhibition, workshops, and tours. This conference will highlight beneficial reuse options, science, and technologies currently available to leverage biosolids as a valuable resource. Example benefits include heat and power production, nutrient recovery, and use of treated biosolids as a carbon-rich soil amendment. The conference provides education, training, technology transfer, and best management practices through workshops, technical sessions, a tour, and an exhibition. For more information and to register, please visit www.wef.org.

H.M. Holloway WPCF by Terry Arca, Aqua Arca Inc.

H.M. Holloway is expecting to have all approvals needed for accepting biosolids by the end of April or May. After 7.5 years of permitting a classification change for a reclamation/disposal system that essentially has been operating for 14 or 15 years, Holloway is finishing the final touches on earthen cell works and minor wash rack adjustments to its biosolids disposal system that includes a designated pit area of 168 acres.

H.M. Holloway started its open pit mining business in 1932 and rapidly became the largest supplier of agriculture grade gypsum to the San Joaquin Valley. The new biosolids area represents a depleted pit that is ± 55 feet deep which was created during normal mining operations. Biosolids will be covered on a daily basis with the more than 5 millions tons of stockpiled native soil on adjoining mine and SWFP facility properties.

The present SWFP facility area has a total disposal volume of approximately 8.35 million tons when finally capped. In general, these depleted pit complexes at Holloway are essentially considered to be "clay vaults" that collectively have a projected project life of 65 to 80 years. Operating capacity will be 2000 tons/day. The walls and floors of the pits consist of 125' to 350' of clay and clay-rich silts that generally have a hydraulic

conductivity far better than that of liner performance material. This is coupled with the fact that the local groundwater only exists in very thin perch zones, and commonly has a TDS of 4,550 to 9,500 ppm.

As far as air quality, our carbon emissions are negligible because the biosolids are covered as soon as they have been unloaded. We are actually investigating another mine site that is being reclaimed and hope to be receiving carbon credits with the process we hope to implement.

Among those who are already very familiar with this project the consensus has been that there is probably no safer long term solution for biosolids disposal. In the process of reclassifying Holloway's existing reclamation/disposal operation, the California Integrated Waste Board grandfathered Holloway's SWFP facility with an exemption to California AB 939, to accommodate local agencies.



Views of Holloway Facility



Anaerobic Digestion and Composting by John Pastore, SCAP

Greg Kester, CASA's Biosolids Manager, has been working with Cal Recycle to clarify language regarding an exclusion that exists in the Transfer Station/Process Facility (TSPF) regulations which applies when hauled in waste (FOG, food waste, etc.) is introduced into a

mesophilic sludge digester at a POTW. The exclusion states that **no TSPF permit is required** in this case if the facility is already as strictly regulated by another permit (NPDES, WDR, etc.). However, Cal Recycle's current position would require that in order to qualify for the exclusion every POTW would have to independently convince their Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) that they are already adequately regulated.

Greg feels that this is an unnecessary step and has recommended that Cal Recycle give direction to the LEAs that POTWs are always regulated by either USEPA and/or the SWRCB, therefore the exclusion would be in effect and no TSPF permit should be required when hauled in waste, which is under 122 degrees, is introduced into anaerobic digesters at POTWs, when they are likewise kept under 122 degrees. Greg cautions, however, that if you operate your anaerobic digester in the thermophilic range (122 degrees and over), then LEA notification is still required and if you separately digest (at any temperature) food waste or other hauled waste without any biosolids then a TSPF permit may still be required.

According to Greg, Cal Recycle has indicated that they are willing to work with the POTWs and are developing some language that, if approved, would be posted on their website and shared directly with the LEAs. For further information regarding this issue, please contact Greg Kester at gkester@casaweb.org.



Collection Systems

Chair Sam Espinoza
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Collection System Utility Marking Requirements by Sam Espinoza, LACSD

For the past couple of years I have been hearing some grumbling over the current exemption that collection system owners and operators have when it comes to marking the location of gravity sewers prior to excavations. Presumably the complaints are a direct result of excavators having to repair or pay for the repair to a sewer pipe that was damaged by their operation. It has been my experience that when an excavator damages one of our sewer lines the first

thing we hear back from them is that we failed to mark the sewer and are therefore responsible for the cost of repair. When we explain that non-pressurized sewer lines are exempt from having to be marked, we sometimes get back a look of surprise.

When it comes to marking utilities, existing law holds an excavator liable for damages to a subsurface installation unless the owner of the facility has not complied with regulations. As members of Underground Service Alert (USA), we are obligated to properly locate and mark subsurface installations when notified through the DigAlert System at www.digalert.com. However, when USA established the DigAlert System to notify its member operators of impending excavation at or near their subsurface installations, non-pressurized sewers and storm drains were specifically exempted. Some excavators are not familiar with the way "subsurface installations" are defined in Government Code and believe that all utilities must be marked by the owner. Section 4216 of the Government Code, Item (f) defines subsurface installations as "any underground pipeline, conduit, duct, wire, or other structure, except non-pressurized sewer lines, non-pressurized storm drains, or other non-pressurized drain lines." This language has been the basis for cost recovery by collection system owners and operators for damage to their gravity sewer lines.

When it comes to marking pressurized sewer lines (i.e. sewer force mains) our obligation remains. The adoption of Senate Bill No. 1359 a year or so ago, introduced a few changes to procedures for marking utilities. Specifically, only a "qualified person" can perform subsurface installation locating activities. [GC §4216.3(a)(2)] A "qualified person" is defined as a person who completes a training program in accordance with the requirements of Title 8, California Code of Regulations, Section 1509, Injury Prevention Program, that meets the minimum training guidelines and practices of Common Ground Alliance current Best Practices [GC §4216(i)]. So be sure that you have a "qualified person" marking your utilities or you may end up paying the bill for damage to your system. There are local companies that can provide onsite 8-hour training sessions to fulfill this requirement.

Data Review Committee meeting by Bob Kreg, SCAP

On February 23 the Data Review Committee held its kickoff meeting. The meeting was held in Northern California and facilitated by Russell Norman from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The purpose of the Data Review Committee is to review the type of sewage spill data being reported to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) to

determine if changes are necessary to improve the Monitoring and Reporting Program's (MRP) effectiveness. The actual data will also be reviewed to gauge the overall effectiveness of the General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDR). Previously, the SSO Users Group Order Review Committee had been meeting during 2009 with its last meeting on November 18. These two committees have been meeting in preparation for the SWRCB's opening the GWDR for review in August of this year. Norman reported that the SWRCB has an internal policy of opening WDRs for review every 3 years.

The Data Review Committee will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month rotating between Northern and Southern California. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9th at Orange County Sanitation District (OCS D) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Meetings are open to those who have signed up and can be attended in person or via teleconference. To participate on the committee sign up on the SWRCB's website.

Currently, there are three topic areas for consideration by the committee.

- 1) Refine the CIWQS SSO spill report form data fields - Is there data we are now collecting that can be eliminated from the spill report?, Is there data we should be but are not currently collecting on the spill report?, How should we refine the drop down selection lists for fields like "Appearance Point", etc.
- 2) Re-design the SSO spill report form to be event not location based - incorporate multiple "appearance" points into the spill report form.
- 3) What indices of Collection System performance should be used to compare collection systems in California?

Item 3 generated the liveliest discussion as it will establish performance benchmarks that can be used to determine the effectiveness of the management, operation and maintenance of a collection system. Additional topics could be added but the committee must complete its tasks by June as the SWRCB is considering releasing the draft revisions of the GWDR for public comment in July 2010. Additional topics discussed included a review of the annual Questionnaire and the Public Reports and what should be included in them.

WDR Deadlines by Bob Kreg, SCAP

If your agency serves a population of 2,500 to 10,000 the Design and Performance Provisions, System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan, Monitoring

and Program Modifications, Program Audits and Communication Program elements and the final SSMP are due on May 2, 2010. If your organization serves a population of 2,500 or less, the Design and Performance Provisions, System Evaluation and Capacity Assurance Plan, Monitoring and Program Modifications, Program Audits and Communication Program elements and the final SSMP are due on August 2, 2010.

February 25, 2010 FOG Seminar by John Pastore, SCAP

It was standing room only at the City of Carlsbad's Faraday Center when SCAP, CWEA SARBS, CWEA San Diego and Cal-FOG conducted a seminar on FOG inspection and enforcement. Hosted by the City of Carlsbad, the seminar drew an overflow crowd of more than 170 attendees, who were treated to perhaps the largest contingent of speakers on the subject of FOG ever assembled in one event. Our thanks go out to all of the speakers, moderators and to all of those who helped make this event a success, especially SCAP's former Collection Systems Chair and workaholic, Ralph Palomares, who is also the SARBS Chair. Also a big thank you to Jim Guzman and the City of Carlsbad for making their first class facility available to us and arranging those great lunches. Attendees from all over Southern California, including large contingents from the cities of Vista, Compton and Inglewood, earned CWEA certification credits for presentations from the San Diego County Health Department's Julayne Gath; SCAP's Bob Kreg; Elsinore Valley MWD's Ted Eich; Los Angeles County DPW's Joe Baiocco and Frank Chin; City of Los Angeles' Sherill Bond; South Coast WD's Joe McDivitt; SWRCB's Russell Norman; EEC's Jim Kolt; City of Riverside's Larry Salazar; Baker Communities Grease Pumping's Charlie Hernandez; and the contingent from Eco-Clean who came all the way from Mexico.



Standing room only at FOG Seminar



Guest Speaker, Elsinore Valley MWD's Ted Eich

Flushable Products Legislation by John Pastore

As reported last month, we have been working with State Assembly Member Huffman to draft language for inclusion in a bill which would make it a violation of state law to package or label a consumer product that has an affixed label stating that the product is "flushable" unless it meets certain stated criteria. AB 2256 has now been introduced and will be heard in committee sometime towards the end of this month. A copy of the bill's fact sheet can be found on the SCAP website at:

www.scap1.org/SCAP%20Alerts/AB%202256%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf. Also, a downloadable copy of a sample support letter can also be found at:

www.scap1.org/SCAP%20Alerts/Forms/Current%20Alerts.aspx. I will be sending out requests for letters of support in the near future and will ask that they be submitted on your agency's behalf approximately one week prior to the bill going to its first committee hearing.



Energy Management

Chair Andre Schmidt
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Renewable Energy Credits by Andre Schmidt, LACSD

In December 2009, the California Public Utilities Commission issues a proposed decision (PD) that

would authorize use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to meet Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements. Highlights of the PD include:

- All distributed energy generated in California is eligible.
- The decision will be available immediately upon passage.
- REC's with a generation date of January 1, 2008 can be sold. A three-year average can be used for RPS compliance, so REC's generated in 2008 will still have a market value in 2010.
- Investor Owned Utilities would be limited to a 40% REC usage cap for annual renewable energy compliance obligations.
- All out of state power is defined as unbundled REC-only power. This subjects out of state power to the 40% cap on RECs.

The PD was originally scheduled for February 4 PUC meeting, but was delayed until February 25 and subsequently to March 11 due to opposition by the utilities to the decision's limits on import of renewable power from out of state. The utilities claim that these provisions violate the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. Significant modifications to the PD are expected.

WERF Issues Research Report on European Energy Efficiency Practices by Andre Schmidt, LACSD

The Water Environment Research Foundation recently issued a research report entitled "Best Practices for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment: Initial Case Study Incorporating European Experience and Evaluation Tool Concept." This research evaluated the European experience with energy reduction and best practices at wastewater treatment plants. The project team considered European facilities with a history of process optimization that could serve as examples of best practices for the industry. The report highlights Strass im Zillertal WWTP near Innsbruck, Austria, a municipal facility that provides for both nitrogen and phosphorus removal. An optimization process spanning more than a decade has enabled the Strass plant to attain the goal of producing more electricity on an annual basis than it consumes. Factors specific to the plant contributed to its transformation into a net electricity producer. However, the report highlights ways in which North American plant operators can apply these success factors to their facilities. The report can be accessed on the WERF website by searching the project number (OWSO4R07a) or project title.



Water Issues

By Chair Valerie Housel
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Basin Monitoring Efforts in the Santa Ana Region

by Valerie Housel, City of San Bernardino Water Dept.

In the early 1990s, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board found that specific areas in the watershed were impaired for inorganic nitrogen and/or total dissolved solids. Stakeholders in the region joined in a cooperative multi-year, multi-million dollar effort with the RWQCB to address the impairments and a Santa Ana River Salt and Nitrogen Management Plan (SAR SNMP) was developed. As part of plan implementation, long-term water quality monitoring and modeling programs were developed and approved which included an annual monitoring report and triennial modeling of the data to ensure effective management of the watershed while protecting water quality and beneficial uses.

In 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) approved the Recycled Water policy (RWP) that set a goal to increase the use of recycled water in a manner that protects water quality as required by law. The RWP required all Regional Water Quality Control Boards to develop and enact salt and nutrient management plans to ensure attainment of water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses while increasing use of recycled water to meet the stated goal. The SAR SNMP meets the requirements outlined in the RWP and a Declaration of Conformance (DOC) has been drafted for approval so that no other salt and nutrient management plan need be submitted for the Santa Ana Region.

In development of the SAR SNMP, a reclamation guidance policy was drafted to help guide stakeholders through regulatory requirements for recycled water projects. Much of the policy was included in the SAR SNMP basin plan amendment so no separate policy was finalized. Some of the pieces that were not included in the basin plan amendment were tables and flowcharts to clarify the requirements for recycled water projects and guide stakeholders through the approval process. These charts and tables include discussions of assimilative capacity, mitigation, maximum benefit, points of compliance and such which allow for

streamlined permitting procedures and are included in the DOC draft document.

Cooperative monitoring in the watershed also includes investigating emerging constituents in recycled water. In order to manage monitoring cost and ensure data integrity, a work group was formed to develop a monitoring strategy that can populate a database useful in answering some of the questions surrounding emerging constituents. As instrumentation capabilities have advanced, lower levels of regulated and unregulated constituents can be detected. Several experts were asked to give presentations regarding their work related to monitoring methods and any fate and transport or other useful information. From the presentations and other work a list of eleven constituents has been determined. Selection criteria included (but were not limited to) type of constituent, available methods, number of detections and data quality. A sample and analysis plan has been drafted and is under review.

In most cases, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is the administrator for these efforts. Many of the task force and work group meeting notes including the emerging constituents expert presentations are available on SAWPA's website at SAWPA.org, by following the planning, resources and stakeholder links.

Development of Biological Objectives for California

by John Pastore, SCAP

The State Water Board is initiating the process to develop biological objectives for freshwater streams and rivers in California. They have scheduled two meetings in March to educate stakeholders on the project and to initiate the process of assembling the stakeholder, regulatory, and scientific communities that will assist them with this effort. The State Water Board believes that the absence of biological objectives to-date has limited the effectiveness of many of its programs and has lead to:

- the inability to objectively assess whether aquatic life beneficial uses are supported;
- the inability to assess whether chemical and physical criteria are sufficient to protect aquatic life;
- inconsistencies in identifying impaired water bodies;
- costly development of biological targets on a project-by project basis.

The proposed objectives likely will be in the form of a narrative statement that will be applied statewide. The narrative objective will be accompanied by a detailed implementation plan which sets regionally appropriate

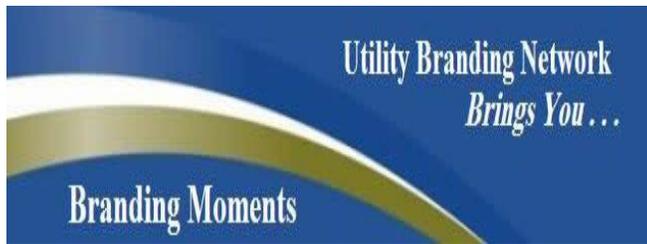
numeric targets. Where data are not sufficient to define numeric targets, the implementation plan will describe the process for developing them.

The State Water Board plans to establish the following three oversight committees for the development and public vetting of the regulatory and technical policy statements: 1) a Stakeholder Committee; 2) a Scientific Steering Committee; and 3) a Regulatory Oversight Committee.

The meetings have been scheduled for March 8, 2010 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in Sacramento and on March 11, 2010 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Costa Mesa. Further information on these meetings can be found on the SWRCB website at www.waterboards.ca.gov.

Associate Member Commentary

Utility Branding Network by John Ruetten, NWRI



Building the Environmental Stewardship Brand

It is easy for wastewater utility managers to become frustrated with the environmental brand of their organizations. This is because they spend large amounts of time, energy, and resources on protecting the environment, yet they are often branded as the polluters. Building an environmental brand requires that the utility have a branding strategy, which means understanding how to formulate clear commitments to value, and appreciating how to build brand credibility with respect to these value points.

When it comes to branding, clarity is critical and actions speak louder than words. In previous editions of "Branding Moments," we have summarized elements of both the water and wastewater utility brands, such as water reliability, water quality, public health, and environmental stewardship. However, the real challenge for utilities is to clearly understand what these commitments to value mean and how to demonstrate credibility with respect to a given commitment. Often, utility managers are hesitant to

make a commitment to something because they think their organization needs to be perfect in its execution to the commitment. No brand is perfect. Even brands known for high quality have product failures. What is required is that the utility be truly committed and demonstrate credibility through its actions.

The Commitment: Protecting Natural and Local Environments

What It Means - The word "environment" is a general term, so we need to be clear on what "protecting the environment" means. For example, a wastewater utility needs to protect nature, as well as the natural environment's role in serving wildlife and people. Protecting the environment also involves being sensitive to people's local environment, including the impact of the utility's operations (such as odor, visual aesthetics, and traffic). Another factor is that the public is becoming more interested in being "green," or pro-environment, meaning they may expect more from utilities in regards to environmental stewardship. The challenge for utilities is to define the appropriate level of environmental commitment and demonstrate credibility with respect to that commitment.

Demonstrating Credibility

Regulatory Compliance or Choices? - Many wastewater utility staff members think of themselves as environmentalists. However, it is important to remember that compliance with an environmental regulation does not demonstrate an environmental ethic because the utility has no other option but to comply. Compliance is not a strong branding moment because ethics are demonstrated by the organization's choices. So, how do utilities build credibility with respect to environmental stewardship? It requires understanding and addressing a few basic (but often challenging) issues with respect to being committed to a purpose or cause.

Balancing Environmental Value and Costs - Environments are local; therefore, demonstrating commitment begins with being knowledgeable about the specific environment that you are impacting. Without this knowledge, people will justifiably question the utility's actual values and dedication. If you are discharging treated effluent into a lake, river, or ocean, it follows that you should be gathering, sponsoring, or at least advocating for the collection of information on the characteristics and health of that environment. It also means you err on the conservative side if adequate information is not available. Given typical financial pressures, adhering to these standards can be difficult. Many environmentalists have a difficult time trusting that wastewater utilities are environmental

advocates because they know that agency officials are often pressured to address the “waste issue” at the least possible cost. Because of these pressures, utility professionals often find themselves in the middle, trying to balance costs with protecting the environment. Balance can be a good thing, but it is difficult to have it both ways.

Beyond Regulations - Given these credibility issues, becoming known for environmental stewardship requires that the utility expand its thinking. Utility managers should advocate for investment in the environment that goes beyond regulations and the traditional waste management function. Fighting regulations, even if their value is “questionable,” is not the best way to build the “protectors of the environment” brand. On the positive side, many wastewater agencies are already investing hundreds of millions - if not billions - of dollars in treatment and processes designed to protect the environment. This fact cannot be disputed and should be communicated.

Understanding Community Needs - Knowledge of the specific environment and local issues is also key when working with residents who may be potentially impacted by the utility’s facilities or operations. Collaborating with the community about the best ways to minimize impacts or enhance the aesthetics of local facilities is an effective brand-building technique. Assuming you already know what locals want with respect to their environment does not demonstrate credibility and is a recipe for conflict. It also misses an opportunity to build important relationships. Facilities that have been developed without collaborating with the local community, or have poor aesthetics, will brand the utility in negative ways. Aesthetics brand people, places, products, and organizations. True or not, it is hard to imagine that students can learn in a dirty or poorly maintained school.

In summary, be clear on the standards of value you are committed to, and demonstrate credibility through actions that reflect organizational choices and ethics.

Questions and Comments - *Feel free to ask questions or to comment on this email. Questions and*

comments will be compiled and responded to with a follow-up call or email. Please reply to this message or email us at news@utilitybranding.net.

About the Network - *The Utility Branding Network for water and wastewater agencies is committed to helping utilities better understand branding principles and to help them build a strong brand with their communities. A strong brand increases trust, support, and investment.*

If you are not yet a member of the Network, or just want more information, please contact John Ruetten at john@utilitybranding.net or Jeff Mosher at jeff@utilitybranding.net.

The Network is administered by the National Water Research Institute (NWRI).

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Regulatory Affairs

Mary Jane Foley

Regulatory Help Desk

Having a regulatory problem and want to talk to someone confidentially about what your options are? Helping individual members is one of my charges and a rewarding part of this job. Please feel free to call me at (949) 493-8466, or email at mjfconsulting@cox.net

Non-Sequitur

Education is what you have left over after you have forgotten everything you have learned.

- Saying

Some of our Supporting SCAP Associate Members

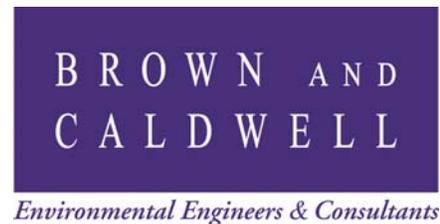
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