



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF  
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

# Monthly Update

[www.scap1.org](http://www.scap1.org)

August 2010

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Air Quality

Tuesday, August 31, 2010  
10:00-12:00 noon @ LACSD

### Biosolids

Thursday, October 14, 2010, Joint  
Tri-TAC meeting @ OCSD,  
Fountain Valley, CA

### Collection Systems

Tuesday, August 24, 2010  
9:00-1:00pm @ IEUA, Chino, CA

### Energy Management

Tuesday, October 26, 2010  
9:00-1:00pm @ LACSD, Whittier,  
CA

### Water Issues

Thursday, August 26, 2010  
9:00-12:00 noon at IEUA, Chino,  
CA

## SCAP

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## A Message from the Executive Director...

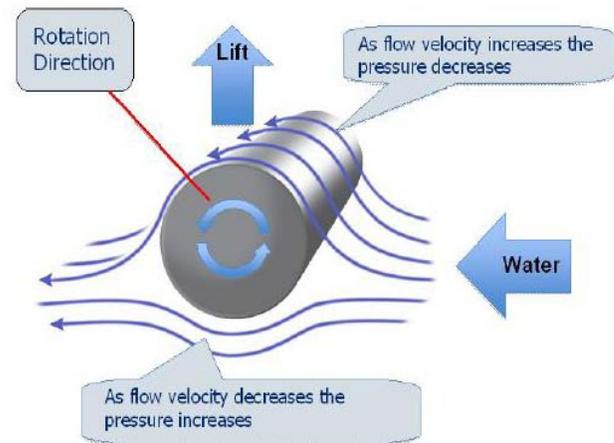
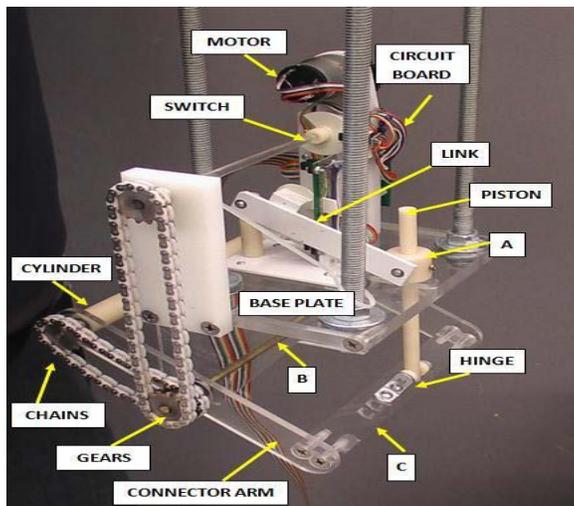
We have been talking about it long enough, now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get started. Preparation of a compendium of renewable energy case studies is now underway by SCAP and with assistance from all of you with renewable energy projects, we hope to provide a useful resource that can provide vital information to those of you considering development of similar projects or to those interested in simply comparing project data and costs.

Now with climate change legislation and the corresponding cap and trade programs in a state of flux, not only in California but around the nation's capitol, the only absolute is that energy costs will continue to rise. As managers of wastewater facilities with tremendous energy requirements, we have no choice but to turn over every stone in the hopes of finding ways to cut energy usage or generate cheaper electricity. Intuitively, the larger facilities have more options available to generate on-site electricity from renewable sources than do smaller facilities. As a general rule of thumb, it takes a minimum average daily flow of between 1.6 to 2.0 MGD to effectively operate anaerobic digesters, which are essential to generating digester (methane) gas for cogeneration. But what about the lesser sized treatment facilities using aerobic digestion? What options do they have? Obviously, gas generation is out of the question so energy efficiency becomes the highest priority. I imagine by now that most, if not all, treatment facilities have been audited to determine which pumps and blowers can be upgraded with high efficiency motors, which treatment processes can be operated more efficiently by using less air, reducing chemical usage or swapping equipment, such as going from a filter press to a centrifuge. Clearly there are not a lot of options available that haven't already been considered. Fortunately for all of us technology in the field of renewable energy continues to grow at a rapid pace, maybe not as rapid as cellular phone technology, but comparatively rapid nonetheless. Regardless of the size of the treatment facility, there are two inescapable products that continue to be generated: biosolids; and effluent.

According to a recent article in [Renewableenergyworld.com](http://Renewableenergyworld.com), researchers at the University of Reno are working on a demonstration project at the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility to convert sludge to electricity. The experimental carbon-neutral system is expected to produce 20 pounds of sludge per hour, that when dried, produces a solid fuel capable of generating electricity on-site. The project is being funded through the Energy Innovations Small Grant Program, the California Energy Commission and the Department of Energy.

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide the basis for designing a full-scale system that can ultimately generate 14,000 kW-hrs per day of electricity to power the reclamation facility.

While possibly not as practical as converting sludge to electricity, another interesting concept with unlimited potential is In-conduit Hydrokinetics. Researchers at the University of Connecticut School of Engineering have recently published a paper entitled, "Hydropower from a Small Scale Reciprocating System". The paper presents theoretical concepts behind a reciprocating hydropower system that can harvest power from low flow discharge and low head sources using two different methods: electromagnetic induction based on Faraday's law; and a linear inertial generator based on a conventional second order spring mass damper system. The first method uses a reciprocating cylinder hydropower system, incorporating technology based on the fact that flow past a rotating cylinder results in the generation of lift force driving a mechanical piston that can in turn power a generator.



The second method consists of a conventional second order spring mass damper system that operates like a fulcrum, which is based on a linear inertial generator and is designed to operate inside of a pipe.

Conventional hydropower systems that are designed for low head movement of water require high flow rates and are not designed to generate electricity under low flow conditions. The potential uses of this technology include generating small amounts of power to operate wireless systems, such as alarms, transmitters and control systems in remote locations or where battery power requires frequent charging or the cost of conventional electrical installation is prohibitive.

I know, it' all sounds like pie in the sky right now, but someday it might just be a practical solution to our never ending quest for sustainability. It's the American way, just like the Dick Tracy phone watches many of us remember when we were kids, the technology is there!

Enthusiastically Yours,

John Pastore, Executive Director

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## Committee Reports

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### Air Quality

Chair Kris Flaig  
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#### **Air Quality Update** by Kris Flaig, City of LA

This month is a time to take stock in where Congress and our legislature are on several issues. In one or two months, we can take stock of where we are as individuals. The various regulatory groups have been working together to some extent, as well as with legislative bodies, to see what can be done to adopt and implement a Cap & Trade Program. Regulators have also been addressing the problem of definitions for “renewable biomass,” “biogas,” and related terms. For the regulated community (i.e., us!), this is sometimes a slow and laborious process. If we can effect even a small change in these definitions, we shall have been successful. Otherwise, Cap & Trade legislation is relatively dead in Congress, but thriving in California, with notions of what might happen during a lame-duck session.

The California Wastewater Climate Change Group (CWCCG) continues to make its presence known. Since returning from overseas less than a month ago, our consultant has informed us of CEC’s effort to revise definitions in its Renewable Portfolio Standard Guidebook and communicated our interests to CEC staff. Jackie has also put out a comment letter to the ARB on offset structure for any forthcoming Cap & Trade Program, is catalyzing discussion on USEPA’s recent solicitation for information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with bioenergy and other biogenic sources, informed us of upcoming climate and energy webcasts, and circulated a recent CPUC/WetCat report by UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, which recommends a public goods charge for water. Very importantly, the CWCCG submitted a letter protesting USEPA’s recent designation of biosolids for incineration as (non-hazardous) solid waste.

At our August CWCCG meeting, we shall be considering working on all these issues and many more. Contributors to SCAP’s CWCCG effort receive email blasts regarding our activities, with an opportunity to contribute to the many letters that are submitted to regulatory agencies. For the past few months, we have been working on a few small changes for the CWCCG consultant contract, including officially adding renewable energy to the scope.

At this time, SCAP’s regulatory and legislative weather seems to be blowing hard from the north with occasional storms from the east.

#### **Imperial County APCD**

[www.co.imperial.ca.us](http://www.co.imperial.ca.us)

The Imperial County APCD has a new website in operation, although parts of it are still under construction.

Imperial County APCD has announced that a copy of both the Final 2009 Imperial County State Implementation Plan for PM<sub>10</sub> (2009 PM<sub>10</sub> SIP) and the Final Negative Declaration for the 2009 PM<sub>10</sub> SIP are now available on the District’s website.

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

#### **Mojave Desert AQMD**

[www.mdaqmd.ca.gov](http://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.

MDAQMD has announced that the 2010 California Desert Air Working Group (CDAWG) Conference will be held at the Aquarius Casino Resort in Laughlin, Nevada on November 17 and 18. This year’s speakers will include: Senator George Runner, CARB Chair,

Mary Nichols and Kerry Drake, Associate Director/Air Division USEPA Region 9. See website for Agenda information.

**The MDAQMD is requesting nominations for a Clean Air Champion for the Exemplar.** Do you know of a business, organization, or resident who has demonstrated a keen awareness of the Mojave Desert's air quality through their contributions to preventing air pollution in local communities? Nominate them for the Exemplar Award, the MDAQMD's highest honor, which is awarded by the local air quality agency each year in association with National Pollution Prevention week in September. The application deadline is August 27, 2010 at 4:00PM.

The next meeting of the MDAQMD Board is scheduled for August 23, 2010. There are no new workshops or public hearings shown on the MDAQMD website for the month of August 2010.

## San Diego APCD

[www.sdapcd.org](http://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.

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.

A County of San Diego Board of Supervisors meeting has been scheduled for August 3 & 4, 2010 but as yet there is no Agenda available to determine if the Air District Board will convene. There is no Advisory

Committee meeting scheduled for the month of August at this time. A Workshop has been scheduled for August 9 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to discuss the 2009 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Report. There are no new public hearings scheduled on the District's website at this time.

## Santa Barbara APCD

[www.sbapcd.org](http://www.sbapcd.org)

The Santa Barbara APCD reports that they have a new fee schedule in effect as of 7/01/10, 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 SBAPCD, as Lead Agency under CEQA, will prepare a Draft EIR for the 2010 Clean Air Plan (2010 Plan for Santa Barbara County).

A Board hearing to accept comments and consider adoption of amended Rules 102, 202, and 321 (Amendments to Definitions and Amendments to Rules on Solvent Cleaning Machines and Solvent Cleaning, Definitions, and Permitting Provisions) has been scheduled for September 16, 2010.

A Board hearing to accept comments and consider adoption of amendments to Rule 901 (New Source Performance Standards) and adoption of a "Negative Declaration in Lieu of Rules to Adopt Certain Federal Guidelines for Existing Sources" has been scheduled for September 16, 2010.

The next APCD Board meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2010. There are no workshops scheduled for the month of August at this time. There is a community Advisory Council meeting scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> to consider repeal of Rule 334.

## Ventura County APCD

[www.vcapcd.org](http://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.

There is a VCAPCD Board meeting scheduled for August 10, 2010. There are no new Advisory Committee meetings or public workshops scheduled for the month of August.

## South Coast AQMD

[www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)

### Major Changes to Health Risk Assessments Will Elevate the Reported Risk from Many Facilities and Projects by Patrick Griffith, LACSD

Health risk assessments prepared for new permit applications or for facility-wide AB 2588 updates err on the side of caution and report an upper-bound of the potential risk. Local air districts can use these risk estimates to trigger public notices that a project or facility presents a significant risk to the community, or to justify mandatory facility-wide risk reduction plans in extreme cases.

The authority charged with developing risk assessment methodology for California's air districts, the Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has taken this conservative approach further by now including the increased potency of carcinogens for infants and children. By applying different weighting factors to various age groups (a 10-fold potency increase for populations in the last trimester to age two, for example), the standard risk calculation result will increase overall by roughly 70%. Moreover, OEHHA is drafting further conservatively-minded adjustments to account for increased pollutant exposure to infants and children, and cumulative impacts from nearby, yet un-related sources. Projects and facilities performing future risk assessments may easily trigger public notifications or mandated risk reductions even if aggressive toxics controls (T-BACT) are installed throughout.

### Clean Air Act Section 185 Guidance by David Rothbart, LACSD

In accordance with the Governing Board's June 4th direction to pursue an amendment to the Clean Air Act, SCAQMD staff and industry representatives (primarily small business) met with elected officials in

Washington DC on July 29th. Although it was our understanding that Governing Board members would participate in this trip, Dr. Wallerstein indicated that their participation in subsequent meetings would be of greater utility. As described by Dr. Wallerstein, the purpose of these meetings was to establish a dialog with elected officials. Overall, we successfully communicated that stationary sources, especially small businesses, will be unfairly burdened by the Section 185 penalty.

After listening to local business woman, Wendy Bollman's heart-breaking story, each of the elected officials became very sympathetic. Although no one wants to reopen the CAA, Congressman Waxman seemed to suggest that a legislative option might be on the table, if no other administrative solutions are identified. Accordingly, legislative offices have contacted the EPA, and Dr. Wallerstein met with Gina McCarthy on July 30th. It is my understanding that the EPA is working diligently in an attempt to resolve the problem, but we do not have any specific details yet. At this time, we seem to be moving in the right direction and SCAQMD staff is doing an excellent job communicating our dilemma.



## Biosolids

Chair Mike Sullivan  
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### CalRecycle's Document on FOG and Food Waste Digestion by Mike Sullivan and Matt Bao, LACSD

In 2007 and 2009, CalRecycle published two guidance documents associated with regulating conversion technologies and anaerobic digestion. Due to multiple requests for information, CalRecycle published a Frequently Asked Questions document earlier this year regarding accepting Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) and Food Waste for anaerobic digestion at POTWs. The document proposed another layer of regulation by CalRecycle for POTWs receiving FOG and food waste through the issuance of permits under CalRecycle's Transfer Station/ Processing Facility regulations.

After careful analysis, wastewater association members found several conflicts within this document and have been working with CalRecycle ever since.

Despite evidence that anaerobic digesters are already common at POTWs across California and fall under an extensive regulatory structure, the document included conflicting language such as, "as anaerobic digesters become more common.... CalRecycle will adopt comprehensive regulations". In addition, the CalRecycle document would hamper efforts to move FOG and food waste out of landfills. POTWs may be less likely to pursue such options if they require a Transfer Station/ Processing Facility permit, when their NPDES or other water and air permits will already cover such activities.

On June 22nd, CASA met in Sacramento with top officials at CalRecycle to discuss the document, and explain how POTWs are already regulated and should be excluded from permitting under the Transfer Station/ Processing Facility regulations. In summary, CASA reported that CalRecycle staff had been overly cautious with regulating POTWs, and have agreed to modify the Guidance documents and tour several WWTPs that operate a FOG or Food Waste digester. Tours have been scheduled for several Northern California treatment plants in late July. It was also reported that CalRecycle's major concern may simply be odor and nuisance problems associated with the receiving station for FOG and Food Waste, but most treatment plants have indoor receiving buildings that are well maintained.

**CDFA Regulations on Rendering** by Mike Sullivan and Matt Bao, LACSD

In recent months, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) issued proposed regulations for renderers, collection centers, dead animal haulers, and transporters of inedible kitchen grease. If passed, POTWs may now also be regulated by CDFA if they accept inedible kitchen grease and/or food waste. Similar to CalRecycle's FOG and Food Waste document, this proposed regulation would be an unnecessary duplicative regulation that will serve as a disincentive for POTWs to manage these materials. CASA submitted a letter to CDFA on July 19th citing these concerns and suggesting language to specifically exclude POTWs from the proposed regulation. It is anticipated that CDFA will hold a hearing to address public comment.

**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Compost Giveaway Update** by Mike Sullivan and Matt Bao, LACSD

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, an article in the San Francisco Chronicle was published regarding the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) releasing a comprehensive laboratory analysis of their biosolids

compost. The analysis compared SFPUC's compost with several different brands of soil amendment that were purchased from retail gardening and hardware stores.

SFPUC's intention is to provide detailed information about their biosolids compost to reassure the public about the quality of their biosolids compost in comparison to commercially available products. SFPUC began a compost giveaway program in 2007, which was publicly opposed earlier this year by the Center of Food Safety and RILES, both of whom cited concerns about safety.

The \$25,000 study focused on 127 different constituents, which were analyzed by laboratories certified by the California Department of Public Health Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. The test results indicate that SFPUC's biosolids compost is comparable to commercially available products, and that none of the priority pollutants found in any of the samples approached or exceeded regulatory-based pollutant limits or risk assessment criteria. It is anticipated that the analysis and report will be presented at a SFPUC hearing next month, where a decision could then be made on whether to continue the compost giveaway program.

**Southern California Facilities Briefs** by Mike Sullivan and Matt Bao, LACSD

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 1 to deny an appeal to block the Nursery Products LLC composting project from going forward. The Nursery Products project is a proposed 400,000 tons per year (biosolids and green waste) windrow composting facility, located 23 miles west of the City of Barstow and approximately 8 miles west of Hinkley. The board initially approved the project in 2007, but has faced opposition ever since, and was recently required to provide a supplemental EIR. Upon approval of the supplemental EIR by the Superior Court, construction can then begin on the 80-acre facility.

The Draft EIR for the Liberty Energy Center Gasification Project was posted on the [Kern County Planning Department website](#) in June. The proposed facility could gasify 657,000 tons of feedstock, including biosolids and green/wood waste, in a series of fluidized bed reactors with a heat recovery system that would produce a total of 19.5 megawatts (gross) of renewable electricity. The public comment period closes on August 7<sup>th</sup>, and a public hearing has been scheduled with the Kern County Planning Commission on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **July Biosolids Committee Meeting** by John Pastore, SCAP

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District graciously hosted this year's third meeting of the Biosolids Committee on July 20, 2010. The meeting included a tour of LVMWD's Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility located in Calabasas, CA. The indoor composting facility is unique in that it is almost entirely mechanically operated requiring only a small staff to operate and maintain. The facility, which processes wastewater biosolids from the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, produces a Class A Exceptional Quality composting product, which is sold during the week and given away to the public on Saturdays (for those who are willing to self load).

Prior to the tour, committee members were given a brief overview of LVMWD's wide array of services and facilities by Brett Dingman. Additionally, Matt Bao from LACSD and committee vice chair, Leyla Perez from OCSD, updated the members on numerous issues such as the Kern County Measure E and EPA's proposed Solid Waste Rule.



***Inside view of mechanized composting facility.***



***Imported feed stock for mixing with biosolids to produce composting product.***



***Mechanical agitator mixing wind rows of final composting product indoors.***



***Meeting of SCAP's Biosolids Committee at Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.***



***Outside view of Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.***

**Article taken from Bakersfield.com, entitled "Sludge power plant moving forward"** by Gretchen Wenner, staff writer

A \$200 million project outside Lost Hills that will make electricity from sewage sludge will soon head to county planning commissioners for a vote.

The Liberty Energy Center will essentially be a major upgrade of an existing composting facility -- formerly called San Joaquin Composting, now called Liberty Composting -- that opened in 1989. The operation, about 10 miles northwest of Lost Hills, is one of the largest composting facilities in the country. Lost Hills is located roughly 40 miles northwest of Bakersfield.

When fully built, three steam-turbine generators will produce 19.5 gross megawatts -- 15 net megawatts -- or enough electricity to power about 18,000-20,000 average homes. Pat McCarthy, president of Liberty Compost and Recycling Inc. (which also uses the business name Liberty Energy Inc.), said the renewable energy facility has been in the works for a long time. "We've been excited about it for seven or eight years around here," he said. McCarthy traveled to Europe to study existing plants there, where so-called "gasification" is more common. Several gasification plants, which burn biomass to create fuel, already operate in the U.S., he said.

Sewage sludge will continue to be trucked in from southern California and other areas to provide the bulk of the feedstock. Sewage sludge, also called biosolids, is made up of the semi-solid remnants left over from the treatment of municipal sewage, which includes human and industrial waste. Currently, the material is composted along with other organic waste at the Lost Hills facility and then trucked to Kings County to be spread on land there. Liberty Composting is permitted to accept up to 786,000 tons of organic waste annually.

The gasification facility will be permitted to take in 657,000 tons of feedstock annually. The largest source will be sewage sludge that will mostly come from the Los Angeles basin. The plant will also take in ag waste and green waste. Power, which will be created 24/7, will be sold to Pacific Gas and Electric Co. New air quality rules prompted the project. Currently, Liberty Composting is an open-air affair. But the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Rule 4565 meant a major upgrade was required to significantly reduce emissions. The energy plant will be entirely enclosed, and any stored sludge would also be kept in enclosed silos. Brenda Turner, an air district spokeswoman, said the upgrade will mean a large

reduction in volatile organic compounds, though it will increase nitrogen oxide emissions.

The local Sierra Club officials haven't yet read through the facility's environmental report. But Tom Frantz, a Shafter environmental activist with the Association of Irrigated Residents, said he will oppose it. "It's obvious the citizens of Kern County don't want L.A. sewage sludge up here," Frantz said, referring to Measure E, the ban on land spreading of sludge overwhelmingly approved by Kern voters in June 2006. Frantz said he was concerned about heavy metals in the sewage sludge that could be released into the air from the burning process.

Liberty Energy's three units would be built in phases. McCarthy hopes to have the first operating in 2012, if all goes well. The first unit would create an estimated 16 on-site jobs and three off-site administrative posts. At full build-out, the numbers would be 20 and four, McCarthy said. The jobs would require some engineering expertise and pay well, he said.

The public has until Aug. 7 to comment on a draft environmental report that is posted on the Kern County Planning Department's website at [www.co.kern.ca.us/planning](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning), under the "environmental documents" link. You can also see a printed version at the department's office, located at 2700 M St., Suite 100. The project is currently scheduled for a planning commission hearing on Oct. 28.



## Collection Systems

Chair Sam Espinoza  
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### **The Root of All Evils** by Sam Espinoza, LACSD

It is common knowledge among collection system operators in California that roots in sewers is a major cause of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). A recent review of the electronic spill data being gathered by the State Water Quality Board through the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) confirms this fact. Many agencies know the specific locations where their sewers are prone to root intrusion and have developed maintenance programs to best deal with the issue for their particular system. However, even with a comprehensive root control program, regional sewer

agencies like the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County are still subject to SSOs caused by roots. Unfortunately for the Sanitation Districts, sometimes the problem is that the roots that have caused an overflow did not originate in the sewer that overflowed.

Over the years, the Sanitation Districts have experienced SSOs that were caused by root masses that were pushed into the Sanitation Districts' sewers during the cleaning of local sewers and private lateral connections. The investigation of these overflow events revealed that it has been a common practice of some plumbers and sewer cleaning crews to push roots dislodged during their cleaning operations into downstream sewers. This practice has been conducted with the belief that the downstream sewers are generally large enough to accept the root material without causing operational problems. This has not always been the case. There have been several incidents where balled up root masses were removed from a surcharged or overflowing sewer that has no trees near the area where the roots were found.

To protect against reoccurring events where outreach has not been effective, the Sanitation Districts have installed several Smart Covers in manholes where the problem of roots being pushed into the sewer have caused an overflow more than a few times. The Smart Covers are able to detect surcharged conditions in a sewer, which give an early warning to the operator that something is wrong. So far, this technology may have prevented at least 2 SSOs from Sanitation Districts' sewers through early detection of roots in the sewer.

The correct practice when removing roots from a sewers is to position a strainer basket or rake in the manhole immediately downstream of the sewer reach in which root cutting or rodding activities are being conducted. In this manner, roots and other large objects dislodged from the sewer during the cleaning process are retained and removed from the sewer system. The roots and other debris should be disposed of by hauling to a landfill or local transfer station.

### **Collections System Committee Meeting** by John Pastore, SCAP

The next meeting of the Collection System committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at the offices of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, in Chino, CA. In our continuing effort to make meetings more accessible for our members, we have moved our next meeting to the Inland Empire. The focus of the meeting will be on root intrusion within sewer systems and the role played by proper tree planting and

maintenance. We will also have a vendor present to introduce a new concept in sewer video inspection using a digital scan computerized format. We look forward to you joining us for this meeting.

### **USEPA CMOM Update** by Bob Kreg, SCAP

On July 14, 2010 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted its final "virtual listening session" via a webcast. Previously, the USEPA had held in-person listening sessions at various locations throughout the country. The objective of these listening sessions was to acquire input and answer questions from interested stakeholders on the possibility of the USEPA developing a broad-based regulatory framework for sanitary collection systems under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit system. The permit conditions EPA is considering would address the following areas: reporting, overflow right-to-know, notice of public health officials and recordkeeping requirements for SSOs, capacity assurance, management, operation and maintenance requirements for municipal sanitary sewer collection systems; and possible regulatory requirements or provisions for SSOs that are caused by exceptional circumstances. At the July 14<sup>th</sup> listening session the EPA spokes person stated that the NPDES permits might be issued to individual collection agencies; to POTWs with their satellite systems as co-permittees; or to individual states allowing the states to develop and administer their own programs.

Aside from the potential for requiring collection system NPDES permits, EPA may also revive the Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) program. The concept of CMOM has a significant nexus with Asset Management approaches, which are becoming an industry standard for infrastructure management. CMOM's roots extend back to 1996 and by 1999 were virtually ready to become the law of the land. In 2001, after the presidential election, CMOM was essentially shelved and funding for its implementation removed. The CMOM program was developed to provide a comprehensive maintenance and asset management program for the management, operation and maintenance of a sanitary collection system. The WDR/SSMP program currently required by publically owned collection systems within the State of California is essentially modeled after the CMOM program. California collection systems that are currently compliant with the state's WDR/SSMP requirements should have little difficulty complying with EPA's new CMOM program should it become law. A draft permit and SSO fact sheet from EPA have been placed in the Collection System's reference library.

Several agencies and associations (including SCAP in conjunction with the Summit Partners) are submitting written comments on the USEPA's new proposals. The Water Environmental Federation (WEF) has also submitted a comment letter which is available on the SCAP website.

## **Data Review Committee Update** by Bob Kreg, SCAP

The Data Review Committee held two meetings in July completing its discussion of what indices should be used to evaluate the performance of collection systems. Currently, the state and USEPA use the annual number of spills per 100 miles of pipe as an index of how a collection system is performing. After reviewing and testing several potential indices, the Date Review Committee tentatively concluded that the following four indices would be used to compare a collection system's performance.

- SSOs per 100 miles of mainline per year
- SSOs per 100 miles of lateral lines per year
- Volume spilled verses volume not recovered per 100 miles of mainline per year
- Volume spilled verses volume not recovered per 100 miles of laterals per year

(SSOs and SSO volumes from laterals will only be considered for those agencies that have responsibility for laterals and will not be used for those agencies where the laterals are the responsibility of the property owner.) SSOs and SSO volumes may be further broken down by spill category.

These indices will be used by the SWRCB in the creation of its agency performance report. The agency performance report will provide a comparison of an agency's performance in various categories with other agencies within its region and within the state. Data for the report is provided by agency spill reports and the annual CIWQS questionnaire. The agency performance report will basically cover a twelve month period allowing the viewer to select a start and stop date so comparisons can be made from specified time frames. The report will be accessible by the agencies with a version available for public viewing. A "mock up" of the agency performance report developed by SWRCB staff has been posted at the SSO Google group at <http://groups.google.com/group/sso-data-review-committee?lnk=srg&hl=en>. The next Data Review Committee is scheduled for August 10, 2010. At this meeting the committee will begin its next task of determining what data is most appropriate for the CIWQS spill reporting and annual questionnaire.

## **Statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program Annual Compliance Update** by Bob Kreg, SCAP

On May 18, 2010 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released its Statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program Annual Compliance Update as part of the Executive Director's Report. The report is an update of the 2008 and 2009 reports and contains detailed information on the SSO Reduction Program implementation efforts, compliance, and enforcement actions. The report includes detailed charts and graphs illustrating the level of WDR compliance, spill frequency and volume, and includes narrative descriptions of spill trends throughout the state and in individual regions. Also included are conclusions by staff based upon the data analysis. The reported percentage of total state population served by collection systems in each region indicates that the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Central Valley (Sacramento), Santa Ana and San Diego Water Board regions account for most of the population served by collection systems in the state. The percentage of reported SSOs and PLSDs (private lateral sewage discharges) and spill volumes by Regional Water Board indicates that: (1) the San Francisco Bay and Central Valley (Sacramento) Water Boards account for 64% of reported spills in the state (San Francisco Bay = 34%, and Central Valley (Sacramento) = 30%); and (2) that 91% of the reported spills occur in San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles, Central Valley, Santa Ana and San Diego Water Board regions. This result is consistent with the population served by sanitary sewer systems in these regions. A copy of the Statewide Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction Program Annual Compliance Update is available on the SCAP website in the Collection System's resource library.

## **WDR Update** by Bob Kreg, SCAP

The SWRCB staff for the last several months has been gathering information and holding meetings with various stakeholder committees to revise the current statewide general waste discharge requirements (WDR). Staff was to present the revised Order to the Board in August 2010. This has now been pushed back to September 2010. A draft of the new Order was to be available as early as late July 2010 but will now not be available until August or September. After the draft of the new Order is released to the public there will be a comment period and public hearing before the new Order is adopted by the SWRCB sometime in December 2010 or January 2011.

On August 2, 2010 all publically owned sanitary collection systems having one or more miles of pipeline within the State of California are required to have developed and implemented a sewer system management plan (SSMP) to remain compliant with the statewide waste discharge requirements. August

2, 2010 was the deadline for SSMP implementation of the state's smallest collection systems, those that serve populations of 2,500 or less, thus completing the implementation process for all publically owned collection systems. The SWRCB has sent out notice of violation letters to 119 collection system agencies that had signed up for the program but have failed to comply with the CIWQS spill reporting or SSMP development.

The next milestone for collection systems under the statewide program is to conduct an audit. At a minimum, these audits must occur every two years and a report must be prepared and kept on file. This audit shall focus on evaluating the effectiveness of the SSMP and the Enrollee's compliance with the SSMP requirements, including identification of any deficiencies in the SSMP and steps to correct them. Audits are due every two years from the date that your agency's governing body approved its completed SSMP. If your agency serves a population of 100,000 or more the first audit is due by May 2011. For agencies serving a population between 10,000 and 99,999 the first audit is due by August 2011. Sample audits are available on the SCAP website in the Collection System's reference library.

**Sanitary Sewer Overflows Hit Another Record Low in Los Angeles** by Lauren M. Skinner, City of LA

**Los Angeles (July 23, 2010)**—The Bureau of Sanitation continues to be aggressive in implementing various projects and programs to manage effectively and renew the City's 6,700 mile wastewater sewer system. As a result, the Bureau of Sanitation has reduced the number of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) by 80% since the baseline fiscal year (FY) of 2000/2001, reaching yet another record low number of SSOs this year. The City of Los Angeles wastewater collection system is operated and maintained by the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation (BOS). There were 687 recorded SSOs in 2000/2001, 444 in 2003/2004, 200 in FY 2007/2008, 159 in FY 2008/2009, and just 139 in FY 2009/10. The number of SSOs during last fiscal year is 12 percent lower than the previous year's record low. The wastewater collection industry measures excellent system performance by the number of SSOs per 100 miles each year. The City's metric for last fiscal year was a record low 2.07 SSOs per 100 miles per year, one of the lowest in the nation.

"These numbers show that the Bureau of Sanitation has taken an aggressive approach in developing and executing programs to reduce SSOs. I am very proud of our wastewater conveyance and collections staff and crew. Rain or shine, day or night, our committed

staff is in the community, keeping the pipes flowing," said Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director for the Bureau of Sanitation. "These excellent results demonstrate the City's continued commitment to the protection of public health and the environment."

The reduction in SSOs is a direct result of the effective implementation of proactive programs by the Bureau, including enhanced and increased sewer cleaning and inspection; expansion of the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) control program; the focused tree root control program and improved sewer planning and renewal. More sewers are being inspected; many sewers are being cleaned; and older sewers are being upgraded. This strategic progress is the result of strong partnerships with the Bureaus of Contract Administration and Engineering. The environmental and regulatory communities are thrilled with these results as well.

"The City of Los Angeles and staff of the Department of Public Works are to be commended for the unprecedented job of greatly reducing sanitary sewer overflows from its sewer collection system. The talent, experience, and focus of the City managers and personnel have resulted in an improved environment for all Angelenos to enjoy," said Samuel Unger, PE, Interim Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region. "An 80% reduction in sewer spills is an outstanding accomplishment for the health of our communities and our coast. Baykeeper congratulates the Bureau on this significant success for water quality and public health," said Liz Crosson, Executive Director, Santa Monica Baykeeper.

Along with efforts to reduce the number of SSOs, the City also is working with the community, especially is South Los Angeles, to address, mitigate and control sewer related odors. Many measures and projects have been implemented and more are on the way. These include an odor hotline, pressure and sewer gas monitoring, a citizen advisory board, sewer cleaning, installation or replacement of sewer gas traps, chemical addition and the construction of state-of-the-art air treatment facilities (ATFs). Two ATFs are under construction and should be operational within the next six months.

The Bureau operates and maintains 6,700 miles of sewers and serves a population of more than four million people, 29 contract agencies, 100,000 businesses and industrial users located within a 525 square mile service area. The Department of Public Works focuses on essential needs for a better quality of life and environmental protection and is responsible for construction, renovation and operation of public

facilities and infrastructure including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and the urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers, catch basins and storm drains; recycling and integrated solid waste management.

**Article taken from the Desert Dispatch, entitled "Truck Wash Owner Plans Grease Treatment System"** by Jessica Ceinar, staff writer (Courtesy of Ralph Palomares, ETWD)

BARSTOW • The owner of a Barstow truck wash hopes to reduce his potable water usage and provide local restaurants with a sustainable way to get rid of their used grease.

Ghassan Nassar, owner of Vernon Truck Wash on West Main Street, hopes to install a system that would treat used grease collected from restaurants in the Victor Valley and in Barstow. The system would bind the solids together and treat the liquid with lime to kill the bacteria.

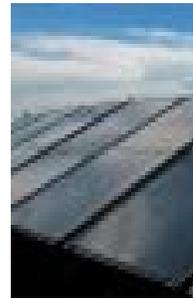
The water would be used at his truck stop and the solids would be taken either to the Mitsubishi cement plant in Lucerne Valley to be used as fuel or to Red Star Fertilizer in Corona to be composted. The material could also be recycled, said Bill Phillips, owner of Alpha Omega Septic Service, who will install the system.

Three members of the Barstow Planning Commission granted Nassar and Phillips a conditional use permit for their project Monday. Commissioners Diane Flores and Mike Lewis were absent. City staff will review the project every six months to make sure Nassar and Phillips are complying with the conditional use permit.

Nassar and Phillips agreed with each condition except one that said they could only take grease from Barstow restaurants. There are about 75 restaurants in Barstow, according to the city. Nassar said he wouldn't be able to sustain his business with only 75 restaurants, which would only generate about 75,000 gallons of grease a year. "It would take 5,000 gallons a day four days a week to be profitable," he said. Nassar also said that because he would reduce his potable water usage, the amount of water that goes back into the sewer from his truck wash will be negated. He estimated that he uses 1 million gallons of water a month to clean out trucks transporting livestock.

Planning Commissioner Bob Clemmer said that since Nassar's water usage won't increase because of this project, he would be in favor of allowing him to take

grease from restaurants outside the Barstow area. But he wanted to make sure that staff would review the project in six months. Commissioner Carmen Hernandez asked Nassar and Phillips if this project is in use elsewhere. Phillips replied that there are grease treatment facilities in Hemet and Temecula. City Engineer Nick Nichols said there is a grease treatment facility in Santa Ana.



## Energy Management

Chair Andre Schmidt  
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**Benchmarking with ENERGY STAR** by Jesse Pompa, IEUA

The ENERGY STAR program, a joint venture between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy, focuses on providing energy efficient products and energy management tools for commercial and industrial use. Though it may be most recognized for designating energy efficient household appliances, the program also contains a free online Portfolio Manager tool that utilizes standardized comparable metrics for 13 different space types in order to rate facilities against similar space types that have entered operational data. Although most space types are eligible to receive an ENERGY STAR label with verification of superior energy performance, wastewater treatment plants are included only as a ratable space type that can use the program for energy management. With limited, readily available information, POTWs can create energy portfolios for individual treatment plants that can be updated monthly on the ENERGY STAR website.

To establish a baseline and obtain a rating of energy performance, a POTW's design capacity, monthly influent averages, and at least 12 months of monthly energy consumption data must be input into the portfolio. The ENERGY STAR program uses the data to rate the facility in relation to its peers on a performance scale ranging from 0 to 100, with the most efficient space types at the high end of the scale. While this rating system is typically used to identify space types that are eligible to apply for the ENERGY STAR label, it can also be used to indicate the level of improvement needed to reach energy efficiency goals. For POTWs looking to reduce energy consumption, the

website also includes tools that can be used for energy assessments and collections of best practices that can be used for improving energy and, concurrently, financial performance.

Once a baseline is set in a facility's portfolio, energy targets can be set and the program can be used to track progressive energy usage through monthly consumption inputs, making dynamic energy management possible. Continuous energy management offers the ability to verify improvements once conservation measures have been implemented. All data entered into the Portfolio Manager is password protected and can only be accessed by those with knowledge of the login credentials. Information on the program access to the available tools can be found on the ENERGY STAR website at:

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=water.wastewater\\_drinking\\_water](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=water.wastewater_drinking_water).

### **Energy Management Committee Meeting** by John Pastore, SCAP

For those of you who may have missed the last meeting of the Energy Management committee, the speaker presentations have been posted on the SCAP website in the Reference Library section under energy management. Excellent presentations were made by OCSD staff, including a very informative discussion on Engine Emission Control Systems by Lisa Rothbart. I encourage those interested to read over Lisa's presentation, as it is filled with an abundance of pertinent data and discusses the challenges in meeting SCAQMD Rule 1110.2 compliance.

Mike Puccio and Mike Dorman presented information on OCSD's Power Monitoring and Control Systems and Jeff Brown updated members on OCSD's Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Filling Station followed up by a tour of the project, which is currently under construction.

Thanks also go out to Ralph Slone, President of Noxtech, who made a timely presentation on ICE Emission Controls for Methane Gas Fueled Engines using NOxTech Technology.



***OCSD's Lisa Rothbart discussing challenges encountered in complying with SCAQMD Rule 1110.2.***



***Site of OCSD's future hydrogen filling station.***



***Tour of OCSD's fuel cell and hydrogen filling station project.***



*Tour of OCSD's Cen-Gen building.*

**Article taken from the Stanford University News, entitled "Stanford engineers use rocket science to make wastewater treatment sustainable" by Daniel Strain and Mark Shwartz, staff writers**

*Researchers encourage bacteria that produce nitrous oxide and methane in sewage sludge. The gases can then be cleanly burned to produce energy to run the plant.*

*Stanford engineer Brian Cantwell and colleagues originally designed this nitrous oxide thruster for spacecraft. A similar device could be used at wastewater treatment plants to decompose excess nitrous oxide gas into hot air.*

Within the sludge of wastewater treatment plants is an invisible world teeming with microbes. Here, diverse species of bacteria convert solid and liquid wastes into gases, some of which contribute to global warming. Now two Stanford University engineers are developing a new sewage treatment process that would actually increase the production of two greenhouse gases – nitrous oxide (aka "laughing gas") and methane – and use the gases to power the treatment plant.

"Normally, we want to discourage these gases from forming," said [Craig Criddle](#), a professor of civil and environmental engineering and senior fellow at the [Woods Institute for the Environment](#) at Stanford. "But by encouraging the formation of nitrous oxide, we can remove harmful nitrogen from the water and simultaneously increase methane production for use as fuel." Criddle, an expert in wastewater management, has joined forces with [Brian Cantwell](#), a professor of aeronautics and astronautics, who has spent the last five years designing rocket thrusters that run on nitrous oxide.

With support from a Woods Institute [Environmental Venture Projects](#) grant, Cantwell and Criddle are applying that rocket technology to sewage treatment, with the goal of making the process energy neutral and emissions free. "We want to reduce the cost of wastewater treatment, increase energy generation and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions," Cantwell said. "For too long we've thought of treatment plants as places where we remove organic matter and waste nitrogen," Criddle added. "We need to view these wastes as resources, not simply something to dispose of."

For Criddle and Cantwell, the first step in building a green treatment plant is growing the right kind of bacteria. "We're really managing a zoo," Criddle said. "To get the right microbes, we need to encourage the growth of bacteria that produce nitrous oxide gas." Professor Brian Cantwell, graduate student Yaniv Scherson, Professor Craig Criddle, and graduate students George Wells and Koshlan Mayer-Blackwell in the Criddle lab with the nitrous oxide decomposition cell.

One way to accomplish that is by reducing the bacteria's oxygen supply, he said. Conventional treatment plants pump air into wastewater sludge – a process called aeration. The idea is to convert nitrogen waste into harmless nitrogen gas by promoting oxygen-loving bacteria that thrive on sugars and other organic matter in the sludge. But aeration is a costly and energy-intensive process. As an alternative, the Stanford team wants to create a low-oxygen environment in the treatment plant, where nitrous oxide-producing bacteria are favored while aerobic species die off. These nitrous oxide producers consume relatively small amounts of organic matter. That's good news for other anaerobic microbes that produce methane gas by feasting on organic compounds. "When bacteria make nitrous oxide, less organic matter is oxidized, so more can be converted into methane – potentially two or three times more than is possible in a typical treatment plant," Criddle said. "That extra methane can be used as fuel to run the plant independent of outside power sources." Using less oxygen also could reduce costs, Cantwell added. "In a typical treatment plant, aeration is responsible for about half of the operating expenses," he said. "So pumping less oxygen could save a lot of money."

In recent experiments, the researchers demonstrated that under laboratory conditions nitrous oxide gas could be produced from wastewater using a low-oxygen technique. But there's a downside to the process. Nitrous oxide is a significant greenhouse gas that's more than 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. That's where Cantwell's rocket thruster comes

in. Designed for use in spacecraft, the thruster runs on nitrous oxide – a surprisingly clean-burning propellant. "When it decomposes, nitrous oxide breaks down into pure nitrogen and oxygen gas," Cantwell explained. "At the same time, it releases enough energy to heat an engine to almost 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, making it red hot, and it shoots out of the engine at almost 5,000 feet per second, producing enough thrust to propel a rocket."

In 2008, [Yaniv Scherson](#), one of Cantwell's graduate students, was looking for a suitable topic for a doctoral thesis that would incorporate the thruster research. "We wondered whether nitrous oxide could be exploited as an emissions-free source of energy," Cantwell said. "Since the product of the decomposition reaction is simply oxygen-enriched air, energy is generated with zero production of greenhouse gas. But first we needed to find a cheap, plentiful source of nitrous oxide." Scherson eventually turned to Criddle, who had spent years studying microbial communities in wastewater treatment plants. Criddle explained that wastewater sludge contains bacteria that naturally convert nitrogen wastes into nitrous oxide, providing Scherson a cheap source of the gas. Soon, Scherson, Criddle and Cantwell joined forces in a unique experiment bridging two very different fields – space propulsion and environmental biotechnology. "It took a couple of rocket scientists to make this happen," Criddle said.

The result was a novel design with the potential for treating the world's wastewater: First, reduce oxygen levels at the treatment plant to encourage the production of nitrous oxide and methane gas. Then use the extra methane to power the plant and a small rocket thruster to break down the nitrous oxide into clean, hot air. "A single thruster about the size of a basketball could potentially consume every ounce of nitrous oxide produced by a typical treatment plant," Cantwell said.

Most treatment plants in the United States are using technology developed in the 1970s and are in dire need of an overhaul, according to Criddle. "In the U.S., we haven't invested much in wastewater treatment in recent decades," he said.

Cantwell envisions a new generation of plants that are energy self-sufficient. "You even have the prospect of installing a wastewater facility where there is no energy source," he said. "This could be especially important in the Third World, where millions of people live with contaminated water." Both researchers say that the technology could have other applications beyond wastewater treatment. For example, they also want to explore ways to recover energy from nitrate-

contaminated groundwater beneath fertilized agricultural fields. "We're thinking very broadly about all the ways nitrogen gets into the environment and how we can exploit it," Cantwell said.

"If successful, this technology could be a game changer, with the potential for worldwide impact on several fronts," Criddle said. The world's supply of nitrogen exists in a never-ending loop, moving from the atmosphere to nitrogen-fixing bacteria to plants and animals, then back to bacteria and, eventually, to the air. But humans have broken this natural cycle, according to Criddle. "We now take more nitrogen from the air, mostly through the manufacture of agricultural fertilizers, than we give back," he said. Tons of excess nitrogen fertilizer also flow into groundwater, rivers and eventually out to sea, where it feeds massive algal blooms that can damage marine ecosystems. Nitrogen also impacts human health. Too much nitrate in drinking water can be harmful to infants and pregnant women, according to the Centers for Disease Control.



## Water Issues

By Chair Valerie Housel  
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### **New and On-going Water Quality Regulations (State and Federal)** by John Pastore, SCAP

Although the State regulators are forced to endure shorter hours due to furloughs and such, you would never guess it by the number of proposed regulations and policies that are being considered for adoption. Without a doubt, this is the busiest year I have seen in quite a while in terms of both state and federal water quality policies.

### **SWRCB 2012 California Integrated Report**

Even prior to the deadline period for comments on the 2010 Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality and Assessment closed, the SWRCB began asking for comments on the 2012 Integrated Report – Surface Water Quality Assessment and List of Impaired Waters (Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305 (b)). The deadline for submittal of all data and comments has been extended to August 30, 2010.

For those not familiar with the 2010 Integrated Report, the SWRCB maintains an interactive website that can be used to access information about the 2010 Integrated Report including, a map of all water bodies in CA, all impaired water bodies in CA, copies of all administrative records and past records. You can access this site at the following link: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml)

## **Integrated Report Categories**

The 2010 Integrated Report places each assessed water segment into one of the five non-overlapping USEPA categories based on the overall beneficial use support of the water segment. In California, the 303(d) list is made up of three of the Integrated Report categories, 5, 4A, and 4B. These categories contain water segments that are not meeting water quality standards or not expected to meet water quality standards.

[Category 5](#) - 303(d) list requiring the development of a TMDL

[Category 4A](#) - 303(d) list being addressed by USEPA approved TMDL

[Category 4B](#) - 303(d) list being addressed by an action other than a TMDL

[Category 3](#)

[Category 2](#)

[Category 1](#)

## **California Ocean Plan – Triennial Review**

Comments towards the SWRCB California Ocean Plan – Triennial Review are due by noon on September 10, 2010 and a public hearing to provide input on the proposed changes is scheduled before the SWRCB on September 22, 2010.

The 2009 Ocean Plan was recently adopted by the State Water Board and approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Amendments made for the 2009 Ocean Plan included non-substantive changes, such as the clarification that metals are expressed as total recoverable metals; the removal of Section III (F)(1) on compliance schedules and the addition of Section III (G)(1) on Compliance Schedules in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits; the correction of toxicity definitions and references in Appendix 1; the addition of maps of California's ocean waters, bays, and estuaries; and an updated list of exceptions in Appendix VII. Staff is currently preparing amendments for model monitoring (2005-2008 Triennial Review Issues 15, 17, and 18), replacing the current invalid radioactivity numeric objective (based on human health) for marine aquatic

life with a narrative objective (2005-2008 Triennial Review Issue 13), and salinity objectives/desalination (2005-2008 Triennial Review Issue 10).

## **Developing Biological Objectives for Perennial Wadeable Streams in the State of California**

As Al Javier, our committee vice chair previously reported, on May 27, 2010, the stakeholders group held a meeting to review the technical work plan for the development of biological objectives for California. The general approach of the meeting was to define basic tasks for development of the biological objectives at a broad level. One of the tasks involved creating a list of technical committee members that would be reviewed and agreed upon. Subsequently, that list has been developed and approved.

According to Brock Bernstein, "approximately 60 members of a range of interest groups either volunteered or were recommended for membership on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. After reviewing this list and talking with representatives of some interest groups, the project finalized criteria for selecting committee members and combined some areas that overlap, both in their areas of management responsibility and their suggested representatives. These decisions were based on judgments about how best to structure the Committee to accomplish its objective, which is to support two-way communication between other elements of the project (i.e., State Water Board, other regulatory agencies, the technical team, the Scientific Advisory Committee) and members of each interest group statewide". Interest areas included:

- Agriculture
- Builders / developers
- Environmental protection
- Fish hatcheries
- Flood control / municipalities / stormwater
- Forestry and timber harvest industry
- Hydropower and other electric utilities
- Management agencies (state and federal) (e.g., CA Dept. Fish & Game, CA Dept. of Water Resources, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service)
- Manufacturing / effluent-dominated flows
- Mining
- Mosquito abatement
- Pesticide manufacturers
- POTWs
- Recreation
- Water agencies
- Transportation
- Tribes

Potential Committee members were prioritized based on whether they:

- Represent a statewide or regional professional organization / association.
- Are an employee of an affected agency, organization, or other entity.
- Contribute to geographic coverage of as much of the state as possible.

According to Brock,

- All future meetings of the Committee will be open to all interested parties, with no restrictions on participations by any participant.
- The Committee's role is to foster effective communication between members of specific interest groups and the project team and to bring their constituents' concerns to the Committee meetings for discussion.
- Committee meetings are intended as a forum for exchange of ideas and information and to provide a means for stakeholders to have input into the development of the objectives; Committee meetings are not a decision-making or a consensus process.

## **EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0606; FRL-9182-1 Revisions to Water Quality Standards Regulation**

The EPA has announced its plan to initiate national rulemaking to make a limited set of targeted changes to EPA's water quality standards regulation. EPA expects to publish its proposed rule changes in the Federal Register in Summer 2011. EPA's intent is to improve the regulation's effectiveness in helping to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. EPA intends to conduct two informal public "listening sessions" in August 2010. The sessions will allow EPA to inform the public about the rule making, and will offer an opportunity for the public to express views on the general direction of the rulemaking, including six specific elements of the rulemaking. The public listening sessions are scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:30 am PST. Registration is required and further information can be obtained at: [www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/wqs](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/wqs).

Docketed material regarding this plan can be found by referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0606 at [www.epa.gov/edocket/](http://www.epa.gov/edocket/).

### **Non Sequitur:**

It is surprising how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit.

- Abraham Lincoln

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