

[Homepage](#)

[Air Quality Report](#)

[Biosolids Report](#)

[Collections Report](#)

[Energy Report](#)

[Water Issues Report](#)

[Meeting Schedule](#)

[Pretreatment Report](#)

[Announcements](#)



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Executive Director's Message

NEW FEATURE

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

DAVID W. GIBSON, E.O.-REGION 9



Goodbye summer, hello autumn! It's hard to believe that fall is already upon us, as it seems that this past summer just whizzed by. I hope everyone had a relaxing Labor Day holiday and now can concentrate on getting ready for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons ahead.

It recently occurred to me that there is an abundance of really interesting people out there in the regulatory community that we interact with, sometimes on a daily basis, yet know very little about. As my esteemed predecessor, Ray Miller, continually tells me, "John, it's a people world". Sure, we may come into contact with them on a regular basis, but generally workplace issues prevent us from getting to know them on a more personal level. It has been suggested, that in addition to showcasing our member's unique projects in this newsletter, SCAP should from time to time spotlight a leader in our industry that we can get to know better.

With that in mind, I have decided to initiate a new feature entitled, "**People You Should Know**". The idea will be to periodically provide an in-depth interview with someone from the regulatory community that either holds a key management position or fills an important liaison role with regards to permitting or financial aid.

To make this even more of a collaborate effort, I am asking for your input as to whom from the regulatory world that you would enjoy learning more about in the upcoming months. The only criteria is that the individual must work for an agency located in California that directly regulates the wastewater industry.

This month in **People You Should Know**, we are highlighting Mr. David W. Gibson, Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region 9.

Mr. Gibson was gracious enough to share some of his valuable time with me in order to conduct this interview and provide our SCAP members with an invaluable insight into his philosophies and goals for both himself and his agency.



Although born in Key West, Florida and having spent his early years growing up in Groton, Connecticut, David is for all intents and purposes a native San Diegan, having moved permanently to San Diego County in 1969. Interestingly, his mother is a 5th generation San Diegan, whose family purchased and ranched on a portion of the Monserrate Rancho near Fallbrook back in the 1870's. He attended Granite Hills High School in El Cajon and went on to complete his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from San Diego State University.

His main interest, however, has always been in the field of entomology and in particular, the study of aquatic insects. Perhaps his interest in the creepy crawlies was borne from a childhood experience in which he got sidetracked while walking home from school one day and spent the better part of that afternoon exploring all of the nooks and crannies in a local Connecticut stream. While he ended up in deep trouble with his parents and the resulting neighborhood search party, he unknowingly completed his first bioassessment study of a stream and likely set the foundation for his lifelong love affair with the biological aspects of water quality. His desire to learn more about freshwater streams continued even after moving to San Diego having explored nearly every stream from the Laguna Mountains to the Pacific Ocean during his high school years.

David's enthusiasm for the outdoors is not limited to just his career, as can be seen by his author of choice, David Quammen, the award winning science and nature writer, who has authored such notable books as *Monster of God* and *The Song of the Dodo* - being two of his favorite books. When not at work, David enjoys his spare time working with his dog Nalu, a smooth coated tricolor collie, practicing competitive obedience and agility training.

Not surprisingly, his first job after college graduation showcased his considerable ambitions while working for the City of San Diego in vector control. As luck would have it, David was assigned to the City of San Diego's Aquaculture pilot project located in Mission Valley and then later moved to San Pasqual Valley. The 1 mgd wastewater facility was a prototype for using water hyacinths to provide advanced treatment of the wastewater. Unfortunately, one of the byproducts of the process, which requires a large wet area to grow the water hyacinths in, was the proliferation of a healthy mosquito population. Conventional treatment methods, such as larvacides and mosquitofish, provided only limited success in controlling the mosquitoes, so David and his supervisor, Ed Heidig, took it upon themselves to study reams of facility records, which ultimately led to their finding a direct correlation between the mosquito population and an aeration experiment using pulsating sprinklers. Through their efforts, the plant effluent was sprayed onto the hyacinth ponds in a manner that effectively reduced the mosquito population by 97%.

His first major accomplishment in the field of bioassessment came in 1991 when he was recruited to perform river bioassessment of the Santa Margarita River for the Rancho California and Eastern Municipal Water Districts. Among the challenges were to find a suitable reference condition against which to compare the Santa Margarita River. His investigations led him ultimately to development of condition based criteria that resulted in choosing the Tijuana River as a lower (worst condition) benchmark and a number of other rivers as upper (best available conditions) benchmarks. More importantly, his research opened his eyes to how many people rely on the Santa Margarita River for recreation and municipal water supply and how important it was to protect the water quality of not only this river but all of the region's waterways. He also came to realize how much he enjoyed working on the river and decided this was the type of work he wanted to focus his career on.

In 1994 David became involved with the California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup, which at the time included staff from the nine regional boards, the State Water Board, EPA and the DF&G. This workgroup has since grown to

over 300 participants from the private and public sectors, who regularly attend its annual conferences. David's experiences with this group have greatly contributed to his understanding of the fragility of our freshwater streams and rivers and the need for greater protection. It was this understanding that led him to seek employment with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in early 2000.

After spending considerable time with David discussing his position with the Regional Board, it became apparent that he is very passionate about his role as Executive Officer. Taking over the reins from the recently retired EO, John Robertus in November 2009, David has quietly placed his individual stamp on the direction that this state agency is heading. Over the last few years he has fought hard to convince the State Water Board and EPA that bioassessment monitoring requirements should be integrated into the statewide storm water program, as Region 9 currently does. His persistence also resulted in the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) being tasked by the State Water Board and EPA to prepare Statewide Biological Objectives for perennial wadeable streams, as part of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). It is his desire that this effort will serve as a framework for developing biological objectives for other water bodies.

Now firmly entrenched as the San Diego Regional Board's Executive Officer, one of David's major challenges is the on-going cleanup of the shipyard sediments in San Diego Bay. He has set a priority goal to create a single bay-wide sediment cleanup plan based on the State Water Board's Sediment Quality Objectives that he hopes to have completed sometime next year and implemented over the coming decade. Fortunately, his relationship with the U.S. Navy and the San Diego Unified Port District continues to improve, but as he says, "there still remain matters to be accomplished". Another pressing matter that he is personally involved with is the environmental concerns associated with non-point source pollution in the Tijuana River Valley caused by trash and sediment from across the Border. David has formed and personally heads up the Tijuana Recovery Cleanup Team. This team meets on a weekly basis to try and establish better relationships with Mexico and to develop a solution to this crisis, which threatens to undo all of the environmental cleanup accomplished to-date.

Like the rest of our state agencies, the San Diego Regional Board has felt the budget crunch and has suffered a 20% reduction in staff over the last couple of years. This has resulted in many of David's senior staff having to man the front desk and handle mail duties. David himself admits to taking his turn as well at the front desk and answering incoming phone calls on occasion. It is this pragmatic approach to his work that defines David and makes overseeing Region 9 somewhat unique. For example, Region 9 has 11 different hydrological units and 25 different watersheds compared to say Region 8, which has only 1 hydrologic unit and 6 parallel watersheds. Because there are so many different areas of concern within this multi-county region, interagency cooperation is much more difficult to achieve. One only needs to look at the current Region 9 San Diego Storm Water Permitting process that regulates the Counties of San Diego, eastern Riverside and southern Orange County to see the inefficiencies in the process. David believes a fresh new approach is necessary and he has set the following Strategic Goal: *"To focus municipal storm water programs to achieve the desired water quality outcomes as measured by chemical, physical, and biological integrity in the receiving waters (streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, bays, and the ocean) in the San Diego Region through a strategic and comprehensive effort on a watershed scale"*.

According to David, the following approach, which includes three key permitting principles, will achieve this goal:

General Change in Approach - The current permits are focused primarily on actions and development of tools (programs, plans, inspections, etc.). The permits have become more and more prescriptive, focused on telling the co-permittees what we want them to do to improve water quality, such as what sites to include in the inventories,

how to prioritize sites, frequency of inspections, what to enforce, what BMPs we would like to see. The problem with this approach is that we do not tell them what we actually want them to achieve and there is very little in the permit, even in the monitoring requirements, that would allow us to track whether or not progress is being made. The permits have become bean counting permits, and no longer appear to be focused on improving water quality.

Instead of focusing on actions and process, the new approach is to focus on the desired outcomes as measured by chemical, physical, and biological integrity in the receiving waters that we want their actions to achieve. This is a subtle shift in thinking and focus, but it is essential if we truly want to see improvements in water quality. This approach would provide the co-permittees more freedom and flexibility to choose how they implement their jurisdictional programs, but the measure of success would be based on achieving goals in the form of numeric targets and milestones within a schedule, all of which would be established by the co-permittees, and approve by the EO or Board.

Three Key Principles - There are three key principles that need to be included in the permit that will allow such a change in approach to happen. In the current permit, because we are basically dictating what the co-permittees must do, the co-permittees have very little incentive to plan, adapt, or work together. If we want them to try to achieve outcomes with their actions, then we need to provide a permit that includes provisions that incorporate the following principles:

1. **Strategic** - The co-permittees must be able to develop a plan that will be implemented and adapted over time to achieve a desired outcome. The plan needs to include specific goals that they will seek to achieve within a specific timeframe or schedule. The goals would be in the form of numeric targets and programs or BMPs that the co-permittees will implement and attempt to achieve; especially as measured by attainment of the Clean Water Act objective "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." The co-permittees would be given the responsibility to set the goals and also develop a schedule for achieving the goals. We would approve their plan, but the co-permittees would develop the plan with us. In doing so, ideally the co-permittees would feel ownership for the plan and thus be more vested in making sure the plan is a success because it is their plan.
2. **Adaptive Management**- Mistakes may happen. Failures may happen. The plan and priorities in it may need to be changed as more information contradicts previous assumptions. The permit must allow the plan to be changed if it becomes apparent that something is not working. A true feedback loop, meaning more specific monitoring and assessment expectations and requirements, is necessary to inform the co-permittees and the Board whether or not progress is being made toward achieving the goals of the plan. The feedback must be able to inform the co-permittees that receiving water quality is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same. Modifications to the plan can then be made based on the feedback. Changes to the plan may require modifying the goals and schedules. We have to be prepared for that and accept that it is a possibility.
3. **Synergistic** - The co-permittees must be given more flexibility to find ways to work together and share resources to implement the plan. The co-permittees must also be given more flexibility to work with other agencies and entities, who can help provide resources to fulfill their requirements and achieve their desired outcomes. Finally, we must be able to work with the co-permittees more to help them meet their goals. Providing incentives to the co-permittees to work with each other, other agencies, the public, and us will hopefully create synergies that would allow us to achieve things that are greater than what each individual entity working alone would otherwise be able to achieve.

This new approach and these three key principles will require that the Regional Board relinquish some control over what the co-permittees are doing, while nonetheless reserving compliance assurance authority for those occasions that warrant enforcement. However, if we have a regional permit that would be in place for 5-10 or more years, reducing the time and resources necessary to write permits, we would have significantly more time and resources to work with the co-permittees to guide them toward meeting their goals. Other resources like a Participation Agreement that provides immunity from enforcement in lieu of voluntary compliance efforts to achieve water quality objectives in the San Marcos Creek watershed may be brought into this approach.

Perhaps the accomplishment David is most proud of is the recently revamped Region 9 Triennial Review process. Although required every 3 years, rarely was it ever accomplished on time nor did it include significant outside input. Under David's direction, the 2010 Triennial Review began with the formation of a Triennial Review Advisory Committee or "TRAC". Initially, it was planned to invite 20 individuals from the regulated and non-regulated community to participate, but at staff's urging, the invitee list was expanded to include cities, counties, storm water agencies, POTWs, local Tribal representatives, Integrated Regional Water Management Plan members and the environmental community groups. Indeed, the invitation was thrown open to any interested person to participate in the TRAC. Ultimately, 37 individuals responded to the request to participate and serve on the TRAC. A solicitation of issues was requested and over 100 issues were submitted. The issues were then placed in one of three categories:

1. Housekeeping (administrative in nature).
2. Reasonable (changes to make the Basin Plan water quality standards more reasonable to comply with).
3. Protective (improve the protectiveness of the water quality standards).

The TRAC then prioritized each issue within the 3 categories and the list was sent to the Board for its consideration. The Board adopted Tentative Resolution R9 2011-0047 and directed the Executive officer to complete the approved Work Plan. Six projects were included in the Work Plan, with the 2 main projects being:

1. Refinements to the Contact Water Recreation Beneficial Use.
2. Develop a comprehensive Wetland Policy to fill in the gaps in the soon to be adopted statewide policy.

As far as David knows, San Diego is the first Regional Board to implement such a procedure. He hopes to do even better next time around by having a set a set of published guidelines available at the start of the next Triennial Review in 2014.

During our interview David indicated to me that he still has a few unfulfilled goals, not the least of which includes seeing California develop biological objectives for perennial streams beginning with short narrative objectives and eventually working towards numeric limits. He feels strongly that we currently have plenty of chemistry based standards but none for measuring the biological integrity of streams and rivers. He also wants to see the expansion of recycled water for potable reuse, as exemplified by the City of San Diego's water purification demonstration project. In fact, when he was hired for the Executive Officer position he was given specific direction by the Board to become a strong advocate for potable reuse.

As our session was coming to an end, I asked David what opportunities does he see in the near future for collaborative efforts with our wastewater agencies? He responded without hesitation that he felt the San Diego Region was already collaborating closely with our POTWs on issues associated with REC 1 standards, the Point Loma Wastewater Plant waiver and the formation of the TRAC in conjunction with the Triennial Review. In addition, on behalf of the San Diego Water Board, he also requested that the State Board address the manner in which brine wastes are regulated under the Ocean Plan to address concerns of several districts and cities about how these

discharges are regulated by the Regional Board. Facilitating the effective use of brackish groundwaters and recycled wastewater with effective brine waste management is a key priority for the Regional Board. He also believes that the work of SCCWRP in regards to emerging constituents of concern (ECCs) probably offers the best opportunity for collaboration and meaningful and useful regulation of these constituents.

I wish to thank David for his time and insights into his role as executive officer and I hope that this interview helps our readers gain a better understanding of what it is like to be responsible for the protection of our state's waters.

Biographically yours,
John Pastore, Executive Director

[Comments?](#)

If you would like to leave a comment about content or layout of this newsletter, please feel free to contact us at [SCAP](#).

[Clean Water Summit Partners Update](#) by John Pastore, SCAP

The latest Clean Water Summit Partners meeting was held on June 20th in Sacramento and featured a candid discussion of current issues with State Water Resources Control Board Executive Director, Tom Howard. Mr. Howard also indicated that the SWRCB is aware of concern over the current number of director vacancies on regional boards but budget concerns may preclude the Governor from filling all of the open spots at this time. Special emphasis will likely be given to those regional boards experiencing quorum problems.

Issues agreed upon for mutual cooperation by the Summit Partners include: CalRecycle Policy to leave LEA discretion over need for Transfer Station/Process Facility Permits for POTWs accepting FOG or food waste; and response to EPA's Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act. CVCWA Executive Officer, Deborah Webster, mentioned that the Central Valley Regional Water Board staff is working on mercury TMDLs in the Central Valley indicated that a statewide mercury TMDL (which will also include a statewide fish tissue objective) by the SWRCB and all nine regional boards is underway.



Photos Courtesy of Ralph Palomares

AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

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LOCAL AIR DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

Posted meeting dates and proposed new rule development for the following air districts can be found at these sites:

[Imperial County APCD](#)
[Santa Barbara APCD](#)

[Mojave Desert AQMD](#)
[Ventura County APCD](#)

[San Diego APCD](#)
[South Coast AQMD](#)

[Section 185 Issues](#) by Greg Adams, LACSD

As reported last month, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the January 5, 2010 EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards guidance implementing Section 185 of the CAA. The court said that the guidance must go through notice and comment rulemaking, among other things. On July 28, 2011 EPA published their intention to approve San Joaquin Valley's Rule 3170, a rule that comports with the EPA guidance, and to have the public noticing provisions of that rule serve double duty and satisfy the directive of the court. The comment period closed on August 29, 2011. EPA is processing SCAQMD Rule 317 which also comports with the EPA guidance and preliminary approval should be noticed soon. Legal challenges to both of EPA's actions are expected all around.

[SCAQMD Energy Policy](#) by Greg Adams, LACSD

The 11-page policy was reviewed at the special Stationary Source Committee meeting on August 26, 2011 with the recommendation that it go before the full Board on September 9, 2011.

[2012 AQMP Advisory Committee](#) by Greg Adams, LACSD

2012 AQMP development process kicked off last month and will focus on bringing the South Coast air basin into compliance with the 24-hour PM 2.5 standard. The Advisory Committee plans to meet the third Thursday of every month until the effort is done. Very strict limitations will be placed on NOx emissions from combustion devices as part of this planning process. There is still no word on the imminent release of the new ozone standard, estimated to be somewhere between 60-70 ppb. **[Editor's Note:** Late last week President Obama issued a surprising request to EPA to forego tightening of the federal ozone standard. More information is available in the following article: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904716604576546422160891728.html?mod=djemalertNEWS.>]

[SCAQMD Rule 1110.2](#) by David Rothbart, LACSD

The February 1, 2008 amendment of SCAQMD Rule 1110.2 proposed to substantially reduce emission limits for engines fueled by landfill or digester gas. Although these limits were intended to be effective by July 1, 2012, the SCAQMD Governing Board specified that a final technology feasibility assessment would be required before the standard would go into effect. SCAQMD staff was directed to report back to the Board to confirm that cost-effective and commercial technologies are available to comply with the proposed limits and that increased flaring of biogas

would not occur. Due to delays associated with the permit moratorium, biogas engine demonstration projects needed to assess the proposed limits were just recently completed. SCAQMD will be holding a Technology Review Committee meeting in September to discuss results obtained from these demonstration projects. For more information, please contact David Rothbart at drothbart@lacsdsd.org.

[SCAQMD Proposed Amended Rule 1470](#) by David Rothbart, LACSD

The proposed amended rule will establish PM limits for new emergency standby engines, which would effectively require the installation of diesel particulate filters. Unfortunately, under certain conditions, diesel particulate filters can cause engine failures. SCAP member agencies are currently working with SCAQMD staff to address this concern. The proposed amended rule is scheduled to be adopted by the Governing Board on October 7, 2011.

[SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1177](#) by David Rothbart, LACSD

On August 25th, SCAQMD held a public workshop to introduce proposed Rule 1177. The proposed rule is intended to reduce fugitive emissions of VOCs from the transfer and dispensing of liquid petroleum gas (LPG). Commencing in 2012, the proposed rule would require: (1) installation of smaller orifice fixed liquid level gauges, (2) use of low-emission fill connectors, (3) component leak detection and repair programs and (4) recordkeeping and reporting to demonstrate compliance. The proposed rule is scheduled to be adopted by the Governing Board on November 4, 2011.

BIOSOLIDS COMMITTEE REPORT

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[Proposed CDFA Rendering Regulations Update](#) by Matt Bao, LACSD

In 2010, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) proposed rendering regulations that could possibly apply to POTWs accepting inedible kitchen grease and/or food waste. CDFA has worked with CASA, CalRecycle, State Water Resources Control Board, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District on this issue, and in February, released a draft of the proposed rendering regulations that exempted POTWs accepting FOG and/or food waste.

However, in August, CASA reported that CDFA released a new draft of proposed regulations that did not include the exemption for POTWs. CDFA staff indicated that there was resistance from renderers to the POTW exemption language, but that workshops will be held to try and resolve any issues. CDFA will be accepting comments between September 1 and 15, 2011. SCAP, CASA and others will continue to provide updates to these proposed regulations, and CASA has reported that a comment letter is in development.

[Update to CalRecycle and FOG and Food Waste Receipt at POTWs](#) by Tom Merregillano, OCSD (Source: CASA)

CASA along with its member agencies developed a draft template letter that would serve as a notification to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) or food waste receipt at POTWs. The draft template letter could be included as part of a NPDES permit application or as an application addendum if the POTW's permit is not up for renewal. In August, CASA shared the draft template letter with Johnny Gonzales, the State Biosolids Coordinator at SWRCB. He is scheduled to meet with Regional Water Quality Control Board members sometime in September to discuss the approval of the permit application/addendum approach. SCAP will continue to monitor the progress of this effort and provide its members with updates as information becomes available.

[Upcoming Conferences](#) by Derrick Lee, City of LA

The California Bio-Resources Alliance Symposium

When: Sept. 13-14, 2011

Where: California EPA Building, 1001 I St, Sacramento, CA

Fee: \$175.00 Includes morning refreshments, one lunch, and a field trip.

This conference brings together organic residuals industry professionals, municipalities, regulators, researchers and other stakeholders to identify and help realize options that provide the greatest ecological and municipal benefits for manures, biosolids, food wastes, green wastes and other organic residuals. Attendees can discover options that best serve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide local sources of fuels and fertilizers, help restore soils, ensure food safety, and protect public health and ecosystems.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

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[Collection Systems Committee Update](#) by Sam Espinoza, LACSD

In mid-August 2011, the State Water Quality Control Board held a meeting in which staff members Russell Norman and Victor Lopez provided their annual compliance update on the progress of the SSO Reduction Program. A brief background on the program was given to the Board explaining that the enrollees are operators of publicly owned collection systems that have greater than 1 mile of sewer in length to maintain and that the program did not cover combined sewers, treatment plants, or privately owned collection systems. It was reported that there are currently 1,081 enrollees in the State and that one third of the enrollees have reported having zero SSOs since the beginning of the electronic spill-reporting program in 2007. For the time period between January 2007 and February 2011, there have been approximately 22,000 sewer spills with a total spill volume of 93 million gallons. The vast majority of the total number of sewer spills (92 percent) were small in size, generally less than 1,000 gallons. Of the total volume spilled, 90 percent can be attributed to 54 of the enrollees in the program. In analyzing the sewer spill data, it was determined that the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley Sacramento Region have approximately 4 times the number of sewer spills per month than other regions. The San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley Sacramento Region have about 35 percent of the total sewer pipe length in the state.

The SSO Reduction Program has resulted in a 34 percent decrease in the number of sewer spills. Although there has been a decrease in the total number of spills, an increase in the total volume of the spills was observed. The volume seemed to correlate with the amount of rainfall received during a given year. It was reported that in 2010, the average spill rate for enrollees was about 8 SSOs/100 miles of sewer and the median spill rate was about 4 SSOs/100 miles of sewer. As expected, large collection systems had lower spill rates but larger spill volumes. In July 2010, 119 Notices of Violations were issued with 100 enrollees returning to compliance as a result. Over 900 of the enrollees had received email notifications for minor non-compliance issues. Enforcement staff conducted 10 site inspections/audits in 2010 and plans to increase this number to 24 in 2011. The State Water Quality Control Board staff plans to finalize the WDR review and update this year as well as target specific enrollees for inspection and records audits.

[Data Review Committee](#) by Bob Kreg, SCAP

On August 30, 2011 the latest Data Review Committee meeting was held. The Data Review Committee was formed to assist the state in ensuring that the data being collected via spill reports and the annual questionnaire is pertinent to the state's SSO Reduction Program. To this end the Committee has worked with the state on several projects including the revising of the spill report forms, the annual questionnaire, the Facilities Performance Report, etc. The following is an update on the status of some of the projects that the Committee and the state are working on.

Guidance Workbook Update: To provide instruction and clarity for making a spill report, a revised Discharger Guide is in the works. The Discharger Guide is to provide step-by-step instructions on how to properly prepare spill reports and complete the annual questionnaire for the CIWQS online database. The new guide is intended to offer additional help and clarification on what data is needed and how it is to be submitted when making a spill report or completing the annual questionnaire. Additionally, it is intended to offer clarification of the terminology used. Several members of the Data Review Committee have volunteered to assist the state with this effort and a kick-off meeting has been scheduled from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on September 29, 2011 in Fairfield California. The meeting will also be on WebEx for those who cannot attend in person. The state will be sending out a lyrics email with the WebEx instructions. It is anticipated that the new Discharger Guide will be released with the release of the new reporting forms or shortly thereafter. If you are interested in participating in this project or want to make sure that you get the email notification please contact Victor Lopez at the SWRCB vlopez@wateboards.ca.gov.

Flat Files: The state is working on a new web page on the CIWQS website that will provide all the data in the CIWQS collection systems data base broken down by category (no spill, PRA, questionnaire, Spill, and SSMP) for all enrollees. Data, referred to as a flat file, will be in text format and will be available to both enrollees and the public. At the Committee's request, the state has made some revisions to the web page and the data available. The web page is essentially complete and is scheduled to be released for enrollee review in late September. The public release will occur after enrollees have had an opportunity to comment on the web page.

Facility Performance Report: Victor Lopez of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff reported that staff was continuing to work on perfecting the Facility Performance Report (also referred to as the Agency Performance Report) before its public release. The state intends on adding a couple of additional charts for comparison. This report conducts a comparison for each enrolled agency with other like agencies within their region and the state. The comparisons are presented in tables, charts and other graphics. One table is a comparison based upon the number of spills per 100 miles of sewer pipe owned. A second table shows a comparison of spill volumes per 100 miles of sewer pipe owned. Spill data is also broken into Category I and II type spills from sewer mains and laterals (for those who have responsibility for laterals). Additional information such as spill cause is displayed by bar and pie charts which have recently been revised to make the information displayed easier to understand. The report

also contains tables that display specific enrollee data and whether the enrollee has completed their SSMP. All of the data displayed is from enrollee's spill reports and the annual enrollee questionnaire. The state is not asking the enrollees to provide any additional data specifically for this report. Although the public cannot review the report at this time, the enrolled agencies can by logging into the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) website.

Revised WDR Update: During the meeting, Victor gave an update on the status of the revised WDR. He reported that SWRCB staff is continuing to work on capturing the comments from the 170 comment letters (over 1,100 individual comments) received. Staff is also working on the response to comments that is anticipated to be completed sometime in September. This will be followed by a Public Workshop tentatively scheduled for the first week in November with an adoption meeting being held the last week of January 2012. Due to the staff's workload it is anticipated that the Public Workshop and adoption hearing may be pushed back. The Public Workshop will also allow for additional comments on the proposed revision. When asked if the comments submitted would be used to create another draft of the revised WDR, Victor would only state that the comments were being reviewed and that staff had not made a final decision on whether another draft should be prepared.

Annual Report: Victor also announced that the state had released its Annual Report prior to August 16, 2011. The report is available on the SWRCB's website and on the SCAP website under the Collections Committee in the reference library. The Annual Report contains data on how the SSO Reduction Program is progressing.

Audits: There are two types of audits for the SSMP. The SSMP requires that each enrollee conduct an internal audit of their SSMP every two years due by the anniversary date that the enrollee's governing body approved the SSMP. It is permissible for an enrollee to conduct their internal audit earlier than their anniversary date. If an audit is conducted early the date that the audit is due is still based upon the anniversary date and not the date the last audit was completed. Although the internal audit does not have to be submitted to the state it is recommended that it be placed in the enrollee's SSMP and may be requested by the SWRCB or the Regional Board at any time. In fact, the SWRCB is routinely requesting a copy of the internal audit to assist them in selecting possible enrollees for inspection and audit.

The second type of audit is conducted by the state and or Regional Board. The SWRCB has a goal of conducting at least 24 SSMP audits each year. These audits may be announced or unannounced. The purpose of the audit is to determine the enrollee's understanding of the WDR and measure the success of the enrollee's development and implementation of the SSMP. The following is from a previously conducted state audit and illustrates how the state conducts an audit. "The audit includes an onsite inspection and subsequent technical review of pertinent collection sewer system information, including review of the SSMP, maintenance, operations, management, sewer use ordinances, financial information, and other areas to evaluate the enrollee's compliance with all requirements of the SSSWDR, including efforts to eliminate, reduce and/or mitigate SSOs. The audit is the primary tool used by staff to support enforcement decisions." The state is continuing to refine the process of selecting who shall be audited as the goal is to match resource to the need. Not accurately submitting spill reports or not submitting spill reports, including no spill reports, is a good way to move your agency up on the list of audit candidates.

Five different audits conducted by the state have been placed on the SCAP website under the Collection Systems in the reference library. These can be used as an excellent resource to see how the state conducts an audit and as guidelines for conducting an internal audit.

The next meeting of the Data Review Committee is scheduled for 10:00 am September 11, 2011 at the SWRCB offices in Sacramento.

[Fallbrook Public Utilities District Kitchen Grease Can Decoration Competition](#) by Noelle Denke, Fallbrook PUD

[Editor's Note: In response to a recent SCAP survey on the availability of household grease containers posed by one of our members, SCAP received information from Noelle on an innovative program developed by the Fallbrook PUD that enlists school age children to help bring an important message home to their parents that has successfully raised awareness in the importance of properly disposing of FOG. We asked Noelle if she would provide the following information on their amazing program, which we are sure you will agree is a super idea.]

But first, let me tell you the reason for the contest. We have a big problem here in Fallbrook with kitchen grease. When grease, fat and oils are poured down the drain, they stick to the sewer pipes and clog the passageways. Eventually, the grease build-up is so thick that it causes back-ups and sewer spills. In fact we've identified kitchen grease as a leading cause of sewer spills here in Fallbrook, and we're working on changing that.

We enacted a grease ordinance that restricts the amount of grease that restaurants, schools, hospitals and other food-serving establishments can put down the drains. But the ordinance doesn't help us with the residents of Fallbrook who CAN and DO contribute to the problem. So that puts us in a tough spot. How do we go into people's homes and tell them not to pour grease down their kitchen sinks?

Well, that's why we developed the **Grease – in the Can, Not the Drain!** PR campaign. Then we took it into Fallbrook schools and asked schoolchildren, grades 1 through 5 to help us by decorating cans that they could take home. The idea is that their parents keep the decorated cans out on the kitchen countertop, line it with a plastic bag, and pour their grease into the bag instead of down the drain. The bag of grease can then be tossed in the trash when full.

I ask these kids, during the classroom presentations, -- should we flush a diaper down the toilet? They say "no." Then I ask them why. And they say "it will get stuck." What about their little brother's toy Matchbox cars? Should we flush them down the toilet when they get mad at them? They say, "NO!" I ask them why and they say, "they'll get stuck." And I ask them, "what about when mom and dad ask you to do the dishes, and you don't want to, should you shove the knives, spoons and forks down the sink to hide them? And they say "no. They'll get stuck." So – well, some things just should not be put down the toilets. Or the sinks. And grease is one of them.

And our hope is that as these kids go through their school years, they'll grow up knowing NOT to put grease down the drain. Hopefully, they'll remember having fun, making this really cool grease can.

Well, this is our seventh year of this contest, and this program is growing. The first year, we were thrilled to have about 100 entries. The next year, we had 236. And every year since then, we've averaged about 600 entries. 600 grease cans.

This year, the artwork was so amazing that I had to create a whole separate category... Honorable Mention.

And in the 7 years since this program began, we've crossed a few milestones: more than 4,500 grease cans have been made in Fallbrook as of this year. And that's between this contest, and children making grease cans at our booth at the Avocado Festival, and children making grease cans in classroom presentations.

We've also been selected, for the third year in a row, to receive the "Community Cornucopia Award." We were selected by the Fallbrook School District, due to our support of the children of Fallbrook, for providing presentations on keeping Fallbrook drains clean and for the grease-can decorating contest.

We have gotten three grants for this program for \$,1,500 over the years. And a few years ago, NBC came all the way up here from downtown San Diego to do a feature story on the grease can project, and filmed great footage of little first graders gluing together their beautiful grease catcher cans.

So, on to our winners. Some teachers at Fallbrook Street School, Maie Ellis, Zion, Live Oak, Frazier, Iowa Street School and La Paloma made this a class project, others just passed the information along to their students, who went home and decorated a can. As you can see from our display here, cans were decorated with styrofoam, beads, starfish, Playdough, lots of glue and paint.

Then a couple weeks ago, we had a panel of judges come look at them. And it was so hard to choose. But we chose 16 out of the hundreds. **[Editor's Note:** A copy of a local television station news report on the FPUD program can be found on the SCAP website at: <http://www.scap1.org/Collection%20Reference%20Library/Forms/AllItems.aspx> .



Top left to right: Christian Kittle; Corbin Nash; Grace Meacham
Bottom left to right: Jerrid Reser; Katie Underwood; Zaira Hilsabeck

ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Andre Schmidt, Chair
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Chris Berch, Vice Chair
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[SGIP Modifications Debated](#) by Andre Schmidt, LACSD

Senate Bill 412 legislated changes to the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), most notably requiring that technology eligibility be based on greenhouse emissions reductions. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) indicated that renewables, including wind turbines, fuel cells, gas turbines, micro-turbines, internal combustion (IC) engines, and pressure reduction turbines, would all be eligible for SGIP funding in a Proposed Decision (PD) issued in July that would implement SB 412. Non-renewable CHP eligibility would be determined on project-by-project basis. The CPUC received many comments regarding the PD, focused on the following topics:

- Whether or not to include out-of-state directed biogas in SGIP eligibility. The PD included in-state directed biogas, but not out-of-state biogas.
- Allowance for sale of surplus power. The PD allows 25% export to the grid on an annual basis.
- Inclusion of stand-alone advanced energy storage in SGIP eligibility. The PD included this technology.
- Funding caps. The PD caps SGIP funding at 30% of project costs and sets a minimum customer investment of 40%. However, projects not eligible for federal investment tax credits and “emerging technologies” (including biogas and fuel cells) are not subject to the incentive cap.
- Emerging vs. established technologies. The PD has separate funding levels for “emerging technologies”.
- Incentive payout period. The PD calls for a 50% upfront payment of the incentive, with the other 50% coming over a five-year period based on system performance.

The CPUC has indicated that the earliest the SGIP would be implemented is the beginning of November.

[Having Problems with Your Cogen Power Purchase Agreement \(PPA\)?](#) by John Pastore, SCAP

On August 24th Energy Management Committee chair, Andre Schmidt, former committee vice chair, Chuck Rogers, and I took a road trip to the beautiful City of Santa Maria to meet with representatives from the cities of Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, the Laguna County Sanitation District and the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District to discuss experiences that they have had over the years with co-generation power purchase agreements.

The group shared many interesting situations that have arisen in conjunction with the PPAs, especially in the areas of maintenance, qualified service providers and warranty protection. The idea behind the meeting, which was arranged at the request of SCAP Director, Shannon Sweeney, was to share experiences and find out what other SCAP members have experienced. Of particular interest is the development of standard agreement language that offers protection to the agency from hidden costs, maintenance deficiencies and equipment warranty problems, etc.

Many of the representatives shared “lessons learned” with us and it was agreed that this issue would make for a lively discussion at a future energy management committee meeting. Plans are in the works to schedule a meeting sometime in January to more fully explore this subject. Chuck Rogers has graciously offered to host the meeting at his Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant in Calabasas and even provide one of his famous barbeque lunches as well.

In the meantime, Shannon has provided the following lessons learned from the City of Santa Maria's experience with its PPA:

- Make sure that there are tangible guarantees.
- Make sure the system has redundancies to address outages for service.
- Understand that demand charges can be a significant portion of the bill for facilities under certain electrical rate structures.
- Either have a direct relationship with the service provider, or provide specific requirements in the agreement about how service is to be handled.
- Make sure the design is safe- have a third party check design prior to installation.
- Have performance expectations clearly spelled out.

WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT

Valerie Housel, Chair

housel_va@sbcitywater.org

Al Javier, Vice Chair

javiera@emwd.org

[SWRCB Whole Effluent Toxicity \(WET\) Policy Workshop](#) by John Pastore, SCAP

On August 22nd, the State Water Board staff conducted a workshop to present the latest information on the "Test Drive" results of their proposed new WET test methodology using data submitted from a number of agencies, both in California and out of state. In addition, comments were solicited from those attending on both the technical aspects and the Policy in general.

All three regional wastewater associations, SCAP, BACWA and CVCWA in addition to CASA made formal comments on the Policy. While there are many technical issues that were discussed, in general, there is complete agreement that the new Policy is not justified, will be more expensive to comply with and will result in an increase in the number of violations.

SWRCB will be reviewing the comments received both from the POTWs and the environmental community and will issue a final draft policy prior to presenting it to the State Water Board for consideration.

[Extended Deadline for Written Comments on Amendments to the Ocean Plan](#)

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on proposed amendments to the California Ocean Plan related to model monitoring, vessel waste discharges, and non-substantive changes and the Draft Substitute Environmental Documentation for the proposed amendments. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present; however, no Board action will be taken. The location and time of the public hearing are provided below.

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.

Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Headquarters Building

Coastal Hearing Room

1001 I Street, Second Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

BACKGROUND

The Ocean Plan establishes water quality standards for California’s ocean waters and provides the basis for regulation of wastes discharged into the State’s near-coastal ocean waters. The Ocean Plan applies to point and nonpoint source discharges.

Section 13170.2 of the California Water Code directs the State Water Board to formulate and adopt a water quality control plan for ocean waters of California. The State Water Board first adopted the Ocean Plan in 1972. The current 2009 Ocean Plan is available from the State Water Board’s Web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/index.shtml.

WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Coming soon! SCAP is in the process of forming a new committee that will meet quarterly to discuss current issues and share ideas and concerns between members with wastewater pretreatment programs. If you are interested in participating in this new committee, please let me know at jpastore@scap1.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Non Sequitur:

Politicians and diapers need to be changed regularly, and for the same reason– *Unknown*

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