



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

# Monthly Update

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

August 2009

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Air Quality

Tuesday, August 18, 2009  
10:00-12:00 noon, at LACSD.

### Biosolids

Thursday, October 8, 2009  
9:00-12:00 noon, at OCSD  
Joint SCAP/Tri-TAC meeting.

### Collection Systems

Wednesday, August 26, 2009  
9:00-1:00pm, at El Toro Water  
District.

### Energy Management

Thursday, October 22, 2009  
9:00-1:00pm, at LACSD.

### Water Issues

Tuesday, September 1, 2009  
9:00-12:00 noon, at City of LA,  
Hyperion Wastewater Treatment  
Plant.

## SCAP Staff

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## A Message from the Executive Director...

I have really been struggling lately making ends meet, as my individual income just isn't keeping up with my lifestyle needs. And I'm not really interested in giving up any of the luxuries that I am accustomed to, so in order to solve my individual "financial crisis", I have informed my family members, my neighbors and my co-workers that I will be taking (oops, I mean "borrowing") enough money from them to get me through the rest of this year. I anticipate paying them back sometime in the next few years, unless I file for bankruptcy in the meantime. In case I can't figure out how to change my lifestyle by this time next year, I reserve the right to take (oops, there I go again) I mean borrow their money once again. My logic being that it is much easier for them to raise some extra cash or do with less than it is for me to change the way I roll. In the meantime, I can keep on spending as if there is no tomorrow, never mind the financial bind I have imposed on them. However, I'm still quite upset with my rich uncle, who has been showering all of his nephews and nieces with money helping them through their own individual financial crisis. I asked him for some of his "bailout" money to help me get through my current financial challenges but he refused, saying that the money would be better spent by those with greater earning potential. I pointed out that many of these relatives have good paying jobs already but are squandering their money on lavish toys, risky ventures and even gambling. But to no avail. He said they did not work for the public as I did and were therefore much more deserving. I retorted that I had lost money too and am just as fiscally irresponsible as the rest. Yes, he said, that may be true, but at least you have the ability to borrow what you need from your friends and relatives and they don't. He added, look at it this way, if they don't spend all of the money I gave them in the next 6 months, then I'm taking it all back and am going to give it to the grandkids. Of course you all know that I'm joking and this could never happen in real life. Or could it?

I am happy to report that despite all of the economic doom and gloom, our public agencies are still out there being innovative and turning over every stone in an effort to be fiscally responsible and recover every bit of energy produced by their wastewater facilities. We were fortunate this past month to be treated to some excellent committee presentations by a number of our members, most notably the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (Bureau) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), that showcased some outstanding, state-of-the-art energy related projects. Our Biosolids Committee meeting was held at the City of Los Angeles' Terminal Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, where a presentation and tour of the Terminal Island Renewable Energy (T.I.R.E.) Program was made by Omar Moghaddam, Manager of Regulatory Affairs for the Bureau. What an interesting and one of a kind project this is, while incorporating so many environmentally positive

aspects. By injecting biosolids directly from the treatment plant into an injection well within an area of depleted oil and gas reserves, the City has found a way to save money as well as improve the environment. No longer needed are the Plant's solids dewatering centrifuges, nor the trucks hauling biosolids to Kern County. Think of the energy and fuel savings benefits derived from these actions alone. Not to mention, that the City will ultimately be recovering the methane gas from this well and using it to generate renewable electricity. It goes without saying that this project will become the model for all future projects of this type. This project reminds me of the old adage, "when life throws you lemons, make lemonade".

Another exciting wastewater related technology application was presented at our recent Energy Management Committee meeting by Layne Baroldi, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Supervisor for OCSD. The project consists of a 12 month pilot plant study that includes extracting hydrogen from digester gas and is a partnership between OCSD, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Fuel Cell Energy, Air Products and the National Fuel Cell Research Center at U.C. Irvine, and the AQMD. The intent of the study is to determine the quantity and quality of hydrogen that can be extracted from their wastewater plant digesters, how to maximize electricity and hydrogen output, optimize process efficiency, and to analyze the data obtained in order to determine the economic and environmental benefits. Some of the environmental goals OCSD hope to achieve include: creating an alternative to gasoline by establishing a hydrogen fueling station in line with the Governor's "Hydrogen Highway"; obtain emissions reduction (VOCs, NOx and CO), from digester gas combustion; and provide a clean/renewable energy source.

Again, this is an example of how our public agencies are looking at every possible way to maximize the energy potential of the wastewater treatment process and its byproducts. I know that many of our other members have similar projects that they have constructed or are currently working on and I would greatly appreciate hearing from you about them so that they can be showcased to our membership, either at committee meetings or in this newsletter.

Renewably,

John Pastore, Executive Director

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## Committee Reports

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### Air Quality

By Chair Kris Flaig  
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#### CWCCG Update by Kris Flaig

During the past few months, the California Wastewater Climate Change Group (CWCCG) has been working very hard on writing and advertising a RFP for a consultant who would be the face of the CWCCG for Climate Change (CC). The CWCCG has partnered with the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) to continue the selection process for a consultant to provide advocacy and education in regards to climate change regulations on behalf of California wastewater agencies. CASA has generously volunteered to handle all administrative activities and is seeking approval from its board for funding.

As this newsletter goes to print, five firms have submitted proposals, and interviews are being held. Evaluators and interviewers include the CWCCG Core Steering Committee (CSC), which is composed of the Air Quality Committee Chairs from BACWA (Stephanie Cheng), CVCWA (Vicki Fry), and SCAP (Kris Flaig); as well as key CASA staff.

The RFP requires the consultant to be the lead and face of/for this CC work through Task Orders and day-to-day direction given by the CWCCG CSC. To date, approximate funding commitments amount to \$50,000 from BACWA's general fund, \$20,000 from CVCWA member agencies, and more than \$50,000 from SCAP member agencies. CASA will be asking its board for up to \$50,000.

The CWCCG and CASA staff hope to have a final recommendation on the consultant and funding approved at CASA's August 12, 2009 meeting. Among the first items of business would be to discuss CC priorities and issue task orders.

The urgency to getting the ball rolling is underscored by the need to be prepared for regulatory and other meetings and workshops (that resume) in September. During August, regulatory staffs are also working to prepare for the September meetings. Chief among the topics are Cap & Trade, while many workshops are being held by the Air Resources Board (ARB), California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). While the ARB is making regulations, the CEC and CPUC develop many of the reports on which ARB regulations are based.

## Imperial County APCD

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

Imperial County APCD has announced a 30-day Public Notice for review of the Proposed Negative Declaration for the most recent Draft 2009 Imperial County State Implementation Plan for PM<sub>10</sub> (2009 PM<sub>10</sub> SIP).

A public hearing to consider adoption of 2009 PM<sub>10</sub> SIP has been scheduled for August 11, 2009.

## Mohave 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.

The 2009 California Desert Air working Group Conference is coming to the scenic Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch Resort in Death Valley October 21 & 22, 2009. An agenda is available on the MDAQMD website.

MDAQMD has released a copy of the **Preliminary Draft Rule 1159-Stationary Gas Turbines** for public review.

There are currently no public workshops posted on the District's website for June. The next meeting of the MDAQMD Board is scheduled for August 24, 2009 in Victorville.

## 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.

There are two rules tentatively scheduled for hearing at the August 5, 2009 meeting. **Amended Rule 69.3 Stationary Gas Turbine Engines-Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT)**; and **Amended Rule 69.3.1 Stationary Gas Turbines-Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART)**.

There are currently no workshops scheduled for August according to the SDAPCD website.

## 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 7/01/08, which can be viewed on their website. SBAPCD also reports that they are working with CAPCOA planning managers to develop GHG emission thresholds for CEQA reviews of new projects.

The SBAPCD has announced it will be conducting meetings in the future to discuss the following Rules:

- Rule 345 (Reserved)
- Rule 334 (Control of Hexavalent Chromium Emissions from Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing)

The SBAPCD Board will be conducting its next public meeting on August 20, 2009

## 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 has a link on their website to a large screen format film entitled, “**AIR-The Search for One Clean Breath**”, which was funded by the USEPA and produced by the VCAPCD. Information about the film can be obtained at [www.AirTheFilm.org](http://www.AirTheFilm.org).

The next VCAPCD Board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2009. Considered for adoption will be **New Rule 55.1 Paved Road and Public Unpaved Roads and New Rule 55.2 Street Sweeping Equipment**.

## South Coast AQMD

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

**Priority Reserve Lawsuits and Related Matters** by Greg Adams

After meeting five times, Judge George Wu of the United States Central District Court granted the SCAQMD’s motion to dismiss the NRDC challenge on the validity of the credits contained in the SCAQMD emissions banks, with leave to amend their petition. He also tentatively granted the motions of LACSD and OCSD to intervene. The plaintiffs have subsequently advised the court that they will appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court in San Francisco as opposed to amending their original petition before Judge George Wu.

As to the California trial court CEQA actions, staff hosted a public scoping meeting on April 8, 2009 to review the scope of the CEQA work envisioned by staff for Proposed Rule 1315 and Proposed Amended Rule 1309.2. The proposed CEQA re-work is in direct response to Judge Ann Jones’ order issued on November 3, 2008. The proposed scope of work does not address Rule 1309.1 (Priority Reserve) at all. PAR 1309.2 (Offset Budget) is being modified to be consistent with the SCAQMD’s position that thermal power plants should not have access to any credit banks including the offset budget bank which has yet to kick in. At least two commenters at the workshop thought that the CEQA documents should be

addressing the thermal power plants as alternative projects. Staff said they would take this suggestion under advisement but later decided not to include the power plants. Staff was of the opinion that renewable energy power projects of any size could debit the Offset Budget account as well as thermal plants less than 50 MW. With the SCAQMD CEQA GHG threshold in effect, the proposed CEQA analysis must now include an evaluation of the greenhouse gas aspects of the project.

An appeal of the Judge Ann Jones’ action has been filed for a while with the California Court of Appeals and only recently a briefing schedule has been established. The SCAQMD must file their first brief stating their causes of action by August 11, 2009. A new motion to re-consider and the many declarations from impacted agencies and businesses that the SCAQMD has collected are awaiting further, possibly quicker, actions on proposed legislation by the SCAQMD (SB 696).

On an independent track to get around the current permitting moratorium at the SCAQMD, on April 3, 2009, the SCAQMD Board approved introducing SB 696 (sponsored by Senator Rod Wright). The original bill would remove the redundant CEQA requirement on certain, date-specific versions of SCAQMD rules and thereby allow permits to be issued to essential public services and small businesses. Another component of the bill would allow thermal power plants (electric generating facilities or EGFs) to debit the Priority Reserve, after complying with several significant requirements including paying substantial fees, having signed power contracts in place, and after the California Energy Commission performed a “needs assessment” similar to the analysis they did pre-deregulation era. Municipally-owned EGFs would also be required to service native load only. All plants would be required to demonstrate that they complied with New Source review rules (BACT, do not interfere with ambient air quality standards, etc.)

On April 21, 2009, the LA County Board of Supervisors, after delaying the issue for one week, considered a motion to OPPOSE SB 696, UNLESS AMENDED, which passed 3-2. There was much testimony on the subject marked by misstatements and misunderstandings. SCAP sent a letter to the individual members of the Board of Supervisors in support of SB 696. The SCAQMD has launched a major lobbying effort to get the bill through and SCAP has been asked to participate.

Senator Rod Wright decided to pull his bill SB 696 from consideration at the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications (EUC) Committee scheduled for May

12, 2009 after being contacted by NRDC. Senate Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg has also decided to take an interest in the negotiations. While it might be construed that the legislature's interest in the issue is a good thing, some SCAQMD staff worried that control of the matter could possibly be lost. The first meeting of the parties took place on Monday May 18, 2009. The output is confidential and no further meetings have been scheduled.

On June 9, 2009, the bill was substantially re-formatted and several key provisions were changed that presumably are more favorable to some of the power plants (those with signed Edison contracts). The "needs assessment" language in the original bill was modified and replaced with provisions citing existing CPUC obligations to make "adequacy" determinations and "procurement" plans during the process of planning for power plants. Barry Wallerstein, SCAQMD Executive Officer, argued before the June 12, 2009 SCAQMD Legislative Committee that these provisions, taken collectively, achieved the same protections as did the previous "needs assessment" language. Not all of his Board members agreed but the Committee directed the staff to continue to push the bill through the Senate EUC Committee hearing scheduled for June 16, 2009.

Other changes introduced with the June 9 amendment include making two sub-accounts of the credits identified in Rule 1315, an operating account and a set-aside account, the details of which are too cumbersome to address here. The bottom line is that the June 9 amendment still accomplishes what essential public services as well as small businesses seek, i.e., the breaking of the permitting moratorium by nullifying the Superior Court's action on specific versions of SCAQMD New Source Review credit management rules, while also accommodating some limited power plant growth. There is a presumption in the amendments that within four years, the CEQA issues surrounding the SCAQMD rules will be resolved.

The June 16 hearing before the Senate EUC Committee was a squeaker with the bill passing out by a final vote of 6-3. The consensus was that Barry Wallerstein was given a difficult time and that the bill will have to undergo substantial modifications if it stands a chance to make it out of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

At the SCAQMD Board meeting on July 10, 2009, Barry Wallerstein briefed the Board on the status of SB 696, the negotiations with the environmental groups and AB 1318. Board member Jane Carney remained concerned about dropping the "needs assessment"

language in favor of the new CPUC references, the same concerns she had articulated during the extensive discussion of the bill at the SCAQMD Legislative Committee meeting of June 12, 2009. Her motion, to let the legislature be aware that the SCAQMD Board was not opposed to bifurcating the bill, was eventually approved by the Board. Wallerstein promised to discuss with the author additional language and assurances that air quality considerations would be taken into account, particularly with respect to the location of in-basin power plants. Also on July 23, 2008 Dr. Wallerstein posted on the SCAQMD website dealing with SB 696 a memo announcing Judge George Wu's decision and how the AQMD is ready to start reissuing permits once SB 696 becomes law.

In the meantime, however, the permitting moratorium continues.

### **SCAQMD Proposed Rule 317 (Clean Air Act Non-Attainment Fees)** by Greg Adams

This proposed rule implements very punitive provisions of the 1990 federal Clean Air Act Amendments (contained in Section 185), the imposition of significant penalties, up to \$35MM per year, escalated at the CPI each year and continuing possibly forever, on emissions from stationary sources in non-attainment areas, even if those sources that are operating at the best possible control levels.

After a significant lobbying effort and extensive testimony at the April 3, 2009 SCAQMD Board meeting, Supervisor Bill Campbell introduced a motion that directed the staff to a) return to the June 5 Board meeting with a revised proposal that included an analysis of the legality of the BACT exemption b) include BACT language similar to that implemented by the San Joaquin Valley APCD [their "clean unit" exemption] and c) exclude the student "T" analysis and instead use the EPA guideline for looking back at the [average of] the two highest in past ten years. The last part of the Supervisor's motion dealt with how the funds that were collected from PR 317 fees would be allocated. First, they would be spent for additional controls at the respective facility; secondly, they should be used to improve the environment around a permitted facility; thirdly, if any funds were left over after that, they could be used by the permittee to improve other permitted operations under their control in the District and fourthly, they could be utilized in the fashions proposed by the staff to improve air quality. Staff clarified during the Board action that BACT was that which would exist in 2010 thus greatly confounding the issue for those facilities "near" BACT.

Subsequent meetings and discussions with staff continue to make little progress as staff seems reluctant to fully implement the intent of Supervisor Campbell's motion. At the June 5, 2009 SCAQMD Board meeting, final action on the rule was postponed once again while staff awaits a proposed action by Region IX on San Joaquin Valley APCD's sister Rule 3170, which the Assistant Administrator promises to sign by June 30, 2009 and which should appear in the Federal register shortly thereafter. Another public consultation hearing has been scheduled for July 2, 2009 in the SCAQMD auditorium.

In a parallel effort, the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) Section 185 Task Force met in Washington D.C. on April 30 to refine a package of flexibility options that most members ultimately hoped would be brought to the full CAAAC for their blessing with the goal of forwarding all the recommendations to EPA for implementation. One of the goals of the Southern California contingent of the workgroup was to make sure sufficient flexibility existed to embrace the SCAQMD Rule 317 program as articulated by Supervisor Campbell's motion. After much discussion and compromise (and opposition from environmental groups), the full CAAAC on May 14, 2009 voted to send the recommendations to EPA to get a determination as to their legality. We are still awaiting this determination.

At the July 10, 2009 Board meeting, Supervisor Bill Campbell immediately opened the discussion on PR 317 with a three-point motion moving the hearing to September and directing staff to send a letter to EPA expressing the urgent need for their updated guidance to inform the Board's decision-making. His motion also stated that the guidance should also contain the maximum flexibility under federal law, including consideration of a BACT exemption. The Supervisor's motion also added an item to the SCAQMD's legislative agenda for next year, that if the EPA guidance fails to provide adequate flexibility, that the SCAQMD should seek to have appealed or significantly modified those provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. A stakeholder working group meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2009.

### **Update on Climate Issues at CARB** by Frank Caponi

The issue of whether the wastewater industry will be regulated under a declining cap (Cap-and-Trade) in the AB32 Global Warming Program continues to be a top issue for the industry. The Climate Wastewater Climate Change Group (CWCCG), of which SCAP is a core member, strongly objects to being regulated under a declining cap program.

Key members of CWCCG had a meeting with CARB staff on March 18 to discuss our concerns with being included as a regulated entity under a declining cap program. CARB had promised to follow up with a white paper dealing with the biomass issue and further workshops, however, neither have happened. A CWCCG member has learned from conversations with a key CARB staff person that CARB no longer intends to proceed with this approach, but instead proceed with proposed regulatory language for the entire Cap-and-Trade program, and include at that time, the final thinking on how waste management will be treated in the program. The time frame for releasing draft rule language is October/November of this year.

SCAP and CWCCG believe that our ability to provide constructive input will be greatly reduced if the first look at CARB's thinking on the Cap-and-Trade issue is contained in proposed regulatory language. Therefore, we are moving to have further meetings with CARB staff as soon as possible. CWCCG is heading up this effort.



## Biosolids

By Chair Mike Sullivan  
[msullivan@lacs.org](mailto:msullivan@lacs.org)

### **SWRCB and CIWMB Workshop on Composting Regulations** by Matt Bao

On Monday, August 17, the SWRCB and CIWMB (as long as it still exists) will be holding a joint public workshop on identifying potential water quality impacts from composting facilities and appropriate water quality protection measures. The development of a statewide waiver which addresses water quality protection is under consideration, but both agencies are working together to ensure that CIWMB diversion goals (AB 939) are met alongside water quality protection goals. Although information regarding the agencies' recommendations towards a statewide waiver is not yet available, SCAP has reported that Mary Jane Foley has contacted State Water Board member Francis Spivey-Weber regarding the workshop, whose response is as follows: "It may help to know that the real focus for this workshop is green waste mostly in rural areas in the Central Valley. Most urban areas have composting facilities co-located at landfills to which green waste is carried, and there are few problems. In more rural areas, however, green waste

often includes (agricultural) green waste, which would be okay if it did not get mixed with animal manure and other non-green waste. In addition, collection and disposal of the green waste is not centralized, as it is in urban areas. So, a conflict has developed. The Waste Board staff want to have smallish green waste composting facilities spread throughout the Valley, and the Water Board staff is concerned that the waste is not truly green and will be a further contamination source for groundwater and surface water. Hence, the workshop will seek to get stakeholder input on what should be the criteria for green waste composting facilities in mostly rural areas, and the two staffs will develop a waiver for these facilities.”

**EPA Preliminary Decision on Incineration** by Matt Bao

It has been announced that EPA’s Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery have made a preliminary decision that biosolids that are ‘discarded’ would be defined as a solid waste. Currently, sewage sludge incinerators are regulated under CAA Section 112, but as a result of this preliminary decision, EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation have shown their intention to begin the process of developing regulations that would subject incinerators to maximum achievable control technology standards under CAA Section 129. Although the decision of biosolids classified as a solid waste is not final, it should be noted that under Section 129, potentially many incinerators in operation would be shut down. NACWA has reported that it will continue its efforts to debate the solid waste definition with EPA, and will be working to ensure that the development process for maximum achievable control technology standards would use the most appropriate data for incinerators. CASA, in addition, has indicated that it will continue to help coordinate proactive responses and input to EPA so they may fully evaluate the issue and the ramifications of their decision.

**Nursery Products, LLC Composting Facility Update** by Matt Bao

The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Nursery Products, LLC Composting Facility project is now available on the County of San Bernardino Land Use Services website. The website is: (<http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/landuseservices/Public%20Notices/Projects/Projects.htm>). The draft SEIR was prepared under direction of the San Bernardino County Superior Court that the County must address the economic feasibility of an enclosed composting facility and to identify the water source for the project. The draft SEIR, which also evaluates greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts of the project, will be used

by the County in its deliberation of the project’s water supply and economic feasibility. Nursery Products, LLC staff has indicated that after the end of the SEIR public comment period on September 13, pending approval by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, construction of the project can begin as soon as November.

**July Biosolids Meeting—City of LA Terminal Island Renewable Energy Program (T.I.R.E.)** by John Pastore

The July 21<sup>st</sup> Biosolids Committee meeting was hosted by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation at their Terminal Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. We were joined by Greg Kester, CASA Biosolids Program Manager, who briefed everyone on numerous topics including, the Arsenic Rule-cancer slope factor development, the EPA Digester Gas Rule and the EPA Biosolids Rulemaking. Committee vice-chair, Leyla Perez, and Matt Bao further briefed the committee on the status of projects by EnerTech and Nursery Products and the biosolids initiative adopted by the City of Banning. By far, the highlight of the meeting was a presentation on the Bureau of Sanitation’s Terminal Island Renewable Energy (T.I.R.E.) Program by Omar Moghaddam. Mr. Moghaddam presented a comprehensive overview of the planning, design, construction and operation of the biosolids deep well injection project there at the Terminal Island facility.



*Bureau of Sanitation’s Omar Moghaddam during presentation of City of Los Angeles’ Terminal Island Renewal Energy Program.*

A copy of the power point presentation is posted on the SCAP website in the public section of the Biosolids Reference Library, should anyone wish to access it. Following the presentation, a tour of the actual installation was conducted, which allowed everyone to see the equipment in operation. Again, we want to thank the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation for their hospitality and congratulate them on such a fine project.



Omar Moghaddam leading tour of the Terminal Island Renewable Energy project located at the Terminal Island WTP.



## Collection Systems

By Chair Ralph Palomares  
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### SCAP Collection Systems Committee Report by Ralph Palomares

Well it's finally the dog days of summer and what does that mean exactly? Does it really affect us in the wastewater collections industry as to what we do on a daily basis? For me, it's the same as any other month or day, as SSOs don't have a time frame when they are going to occur. All I know is that I don't like SSOs because when one occurs I have to write a report and start making phone calls and, if I'm lucky, I could get some fame in the local newspaper or maybe some TV coverage that we don't really want. So you see, what we all do is very important from hydro cleaning, to TV video inspecting, to being an engineer in sizing grease interceptors, all the way to the person who answers customer service complaints, or who keeps our vehicles nice and clean. Because now days it's all about public perception. With all the cutbacks in local government we have to do better at our jobs or else we will fail at what we are trying to achieve. For me that's means more and better training and learning as much as I can from all of you out there in the waste water collections industry. It also means training the newest generation of collections personnel who are entering this field. I have seen a lot friends retire lately from this industry and with them goes a lot of knowledge and years of experience, so if you are new to the industry or have been working for just a few years, I highly

recommend that you ask questions of those with the experience, as once they are gone so is their wealth of information. Conversely, if you are one of the old timers who is going to retire in the next year or so, I would ask that you to come to a SCAP Collections Committee meeting and share some of that good down to earth knowledge and experience that you have retained over the years and maybe even tell us a good story or two. You can go to all the collections seminars and learn the latest about the industries' new SSO's regulations and equipment, but it's those little nuggets of wisdom that keep us safe or prevent us from having to re-invent the wheel that are so valuable. That's what we try to get across at our SCAP Collections meetings. At our next committee meeting we will be discussing odor control, root problems, calcium deposits, disposable/flushable wipes, SSO regulations and much more, so please join us. I could go into much more detail and make this monthly report longer, but its like the old saying goes in Hawaii, "we can do it tomorrow or next month", and I know the Executive Director of SCAP, Mr. John Pastore will also add more information to the collections section of the newsletter anyway, so I thank him and his staff for that, as I go back to dreaming of fishing next month in Cancun.

### Recap of the July 29, 2009 SSO Users Group meeting by Robert Kreg

On Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup> the SSO Users Group held its bi-monthly meeting at the Orange County Sanitation District's (OCS D) facilities in Fountain Valley. The meeting was facilitated by Russell Norman from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Although, the SSO Users Group primarily deals with issues related to the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) online SSO reporting other WDR issues are also discussed. The SSO Users Group is open to all interested stakeholders and meets bi-monthly with meetings alternating between northern and southern California.

At the meeting Russell reviewed the list of fixes to the CIWQS data base that are scheduled for release on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The state has created a list referred to as the SSO Mantis Issues list that documents and prioritizes issues for correction to the CIWQS reporting system. The list is comprised of issues or bugs that have been reported or requested by users. Every other month the state releases a group of fixes from the Mantis list. The August 24<sup>th</sup> release 5.2 will include 10 issues. Some of the fixes are internal while others will be more visible such as screen changes and the ability to export a spill report into Excel. The latest Mantis list of all issues is available on the SCAP website in the Resource Library under Collection Systems.

Of special note: **THE CIWQS SSO REPORTING SYSTEM WILL BE DOWN ALL DAY ON AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>.**

Due to the numerous changes that have been incorporated into the CIWQS SSO reporting system the state is anticipating an update to the SSO Discharger Workbook. This workbook gives detailed instructions for the use of the CIWQS SSO reporting system. The current workbook is available at: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ciwqs/chc\\_sso.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/chc_sso.shtml). The anticipated release date for the updated workbook is September/October 2009.

### **Auto Email Notification Update** by Robert Kreg

The SWRCB had previously announced that they would begin an auto email notification to all enrollees who were not compliant with reporting, questionnaire update, or compliance with the development and implementation of their Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) elements in July 2009. Although, the mechanics for the auto email notification are functional, the state has some additional work on the policies and procedures of the program. The new release date for the program is September/October 2009.

Russell Norman offered a brief description of how the auto email notification program is envisioned to function. Initially, the program will run once notifying the legally responsible official (LRO) that their agency has a deficiency or deficiencies and list what the deficiencies are. The enrollee will have 30 days to correct the deficiencies. If corrected, the deficiencies will be removed. If left uncorrected or the enrollee is non respondent the enrollee will be issued a notice of violation (NOV). Details for enforcement are still being finalized by the state. Currently of the approximately 1,100 agencies enrolled in the program approximately 800 have one or more deficiencies.

### **SSMP Audits** by Robert Kreg

The SWRCB has set a target of conducting 24 SSMP audits this fiscal year. At least 2 audits will be conducted in each Region. The audits will be conducted jointly by state and Regional staff with the possibility of the EPA Region 9 staff also being involved. This will be a formal audit with an audit report being issued and deficiencies will have to be corrected. When asked what the criteria will be for selecting who will receive an audit, Russell stated that all enrollees are subject to the audit. Enrollees with low spill rates and full SSMP development and implementation are as likely to receive an audit as enrollees with high spill rates and or SSMP compliance issues.



## Energy Management

By Chair Andre Schmidt  
[aschmidt@lacs.org](mailto:aschmidt@lacs.org)

### **California Energy Commission IEPR Committee Workshop** by John Pastore.

On July 23, 2009 the California Energy Commission (CEC) conducted a public workshop in Sacramento to discuss the Combined Heat Power to Support California's AB32 Climate Change Scoping Plan. The workshop was well attended with a diverse attendance from all types of industry representatives. Presentations in the morning session focused on market potential for CHP projects, modeling CHP usage in commercial applications, discussing CO2 minimization strategies and CHP legislation (AB1613). The afternoon session featured presentations by public agencies, including LACSD's Mark McDannel who spoke on their experiences with fuel cell technology at the Palmdale WRP. Pramod Kulkarni from the CEC also presented a summary of his report entitled, Wastewater Treatment Facilities-Renewable CHP Opportunities and Barriers. This report is a culmination of the survey results obtained from working with SCAP members about the opportunities and barriers to CHP projects using digester gas generated at treatment plants. It is our hope that the information provided at this workshop will help shape future legislation to make grants and low cost financing readily available for these types of projects as well as restructuring the feed-in tariffs administered by the utility companies.

### **July Energy Management Committee Meeting** by John Pastore

The July 28<sup>th</sup> Energy Management meeting was held at LACSD and attended by 35 members. The meeting featured many interesting and informative presentations (all of which are now posted on the SCAP website in the Energy Committee public reference library) primarily focused on fuel cell technology at wastewater treatment plants. We first were given a complete overview of fuel cell technology by Jeff Cox of Fuel Cell Energy, whose company happens to be the main player in the fuel cell market for digester gas to energy projects. It was very interesting to learn what actually is inside the fuel cell units and how they operate. Next, LACSD's Mark McDannel presented an in-depth look at the results of LACSD's first fuel cell project that was installed in 2003

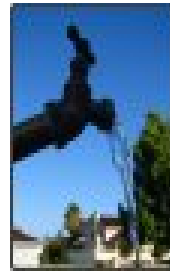
at the Palmdale WRP. This was one of the first fuel cells to be run on digester gas. According to Mark, many lessons were learned from this project both good and bad. One of the more notable improvements that have taken place since then is in the area of bio-gas pre-treatment. Lastly, presentations on OCSD's Energy Management Program and their Fuel Cell Research Program were made by David Halverson and Layne Baroldi, respectively. David presented an overview of the electrical systems at each of OCSD's wastewater treatment plants and discussed the challenges faced and what OCSD has been able to accomplish in creating an energy management program. One of the most interesting projects underway is OCSD's case study entitled, "Hydrogen from Sewage". Layne described how the research project, depending upon its outcome, could ultimately lead to recovering biogas from their wastewater digesters, running a fuel cell with the gas, returning heat back to their digesters and the treatment plant, providing power from the fuel cell back to the treatment plant and siphoning off the hydrogen to a fuel station for running a fleet of hydrogen fuel cars. The project is quite impressive.



Layne Baroldi presenting on OCSD's "Hydrogen from Sewage" research project.



Mark McDannel discussing lessons learned from fuel cell installation at LACSD's Palmdale WRP.



## Water Issues

By Chair Gus Dembegiotes  
[Gus.dembegiotes@lacity.org](mailto:Gus.dembegiotes@lacity.org)

### Statewide General Permit for Landscape Irrigation Uses of Municipal Recycled Water by Gus Dembegiotes

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) adopted the General Permit for Landscape Irrigation Uses of Municipal Recycled Water. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the State Board published a change sheet prior to the hearing. The change sheet added a provision that required water recyclers to notify a regional board of unauthorized discharges in excess 1000 gallons within 72 hours. The change was intended to ensure compliance with the Incidental Runoff Best Management Practices, but was a change to the existing law which only requires notification for discharges greater than 50,000 gallons. Although speakers focused their testimony on this new requirement, the State Board did remove the requirement. However, the State Board did move the requirement from the permit to the Monitoring and Reporting Program which provides staff some flexibility in making changes in the requirement without having to return to the Board. Several other minor changes and clarifications were made to the final permit which can be viewed at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_recycling\\_policy/landscape\\_irrigation\\_general\\_permit.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/landscape_irrigation_general_permit.shtml)

### California Water Quality Monitoring Council unveils Internet Portals to Water Quality Information by Gus Dembegiotes

The California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council) is unveiling the first of several new internet portals addressing different water quality themes. The first is: *Is it Safe to Swim in Our Waters?* The site includes interactive maps and monitoring data that focus on swimming safety. The California legislature mandated in 2006 that water quality monitoring and assessment activities be coordinated among organizations inside and outside California government, and that this information be made available to decision makers and the public via the internet. The Monitoring Council was formed in 2007 by a cooperative agreement between the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural

Resources Agency for this purpose. The new portal can be viewed at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/monitoringcouncil/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/monitoringcouncil/)

**CWA Section 316(b) Regulation, Power Plant Once-Through Cooling Regulation** by Gus Dembegiotes

The State Board issued a notice of public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling. The hearing is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The proposed Policy establishes technology-based standards to implement federal Clean Water Act section 316(b) and reduce the harmful effects associated with cooling water intake structures on marine and estuarine life. The proposed policy would apply to the 19 existing power plants (including two nuclear plants) that currently have the ability to withdraw over 15 billion gallons per day from the State's coastal and estuarine waters using a single-pass system, also known as once-through cooling. The public notice can be viewed at: [Notice of Public Hearing](#).



## Regulatory Affairs

By Mary Jane Foley  
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**Regulatory Affairs Update** by Mary Jane Foley

I had the delightful opportunity to speak at a recent Collections System Seminar in Huntington Beach. I was asked by our collection system chair, Ralph Palomares, to speak on the past, present and future regulations related to sewer system overflows. This opportunity took me back to when I first served on the San Diego Regional Water Board. We were inclined to hold off assessing penalties for sewer spills if the agency or city would use the resources to fix the problem. We would give them a time line and were very generous in understanding if they had a few slips in meeting deadline dates due to some compelling hardship situation. The San Diego Regional Board was often listed in state reports as assessing the least amount of penalties of all the Regional Boards in the State. I continue to think this was the superior way of helping communities use their resources where most needed.

EPA was always in the background saying they were going to tackle Sewer System Overflows on a national level. CMOM was initiated but never quite made it nationally. So, as California is so prone to do, we did our own CMOM. In 2006 a new regulation was adopted by the State Waterboard that required a whole new regime to manage sewers, clean and replace pipelines, train collection systems operators, and create manuals for every aspect of sewer operations: What many refer to as an Asset Management Plan. The good news is that it is working. Because of the decrease in sewer spills there is a huge decrease in beach closures and mandatory penalties. The SSO program is a continuing success.

I took this speech opportunity to praise the collection system workers by telling them they were the some most important staff in their agency or city. Because of their daily diligence in working the vac trucks and all else that is related to collection systems, they are making a big difference. They understand that the good old days of using your money to fix problems is over due to mandatory minimum penalties and the water quality enforcement policy. On a personal note in my speech, I reminisced about a friend's son who got a job in collection systems and once asked me, "What do I say at a party when someone asks me what I do?" I said, "Tell them you are a water quality systems staff person at a local water district. Be proud, and say 'my job protects the environment and public health everyday.'" I hope that the collections systems operators understand how management appreciates every day that there are no sewer spills. In the near future, the smaller communities will be under the same SSO regulations as the larger communities. I am sure new requirements will arise. The seminar speaker following my talk mentioned a potential new requirement to notify everyone down stream when there is a spill. Contacts lists, phone numbers, and a record of calls to key downstream stakeholders will be part of the regulation. At the end of my speech, I passed on a fact that I heard recently. The International Medical Association has stated that the largest improvement in public health in the world has been because of sanitation. So to all you folks in the POTW industry, and collection systems operators: Be proud!

A couple of water quality regulations that became final or are in final draft this month are the General Waste Discharge Requirement for Landscape Irrigation Use of Municipal Recycled Water and the final version of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy. I am sure the water committee column will give the update on the Landscape Irrigation General Permit. I will just make a few remarks on the Enforcement Policy. After carefully reading the 42-page document, I contacted CASA's

regulatory expert Bobbi Larson. She was a very active stakeholder along with some SCAP Members. We believe the policy is better in a few ways. Some POTW folks worked the penalty formulas by crunching the numbers using specific case examples. The penalties actually came out lower. There are some other improvements and a number of problematic provisions. SCAP will be a part of the comment review team responding to this final document. Comments are due in September. The adoption date of the new policy is October.

Help Desk: Need help with a regulatory problem and want to brainstorm your options? Please contact me at 949-493-8466, or MJFConsulting @cox.net.

## Non Sequitur

*“Too much success, too fast, can lead to unrealistic expectations. A dose of realism, while unpleasant, is helpful in keeping your feet firmly placed on your chosen path.”*

- Clifford Cooper, “The Runt Pig Principle”

### **Regulatory Help Desk**

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

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