



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

MONTHLY UPDATE

A Message from the Executive Director...

March 2007

Please pardon me if I opine for a while on the benefits of SCAP to our member agencies. In my previous life as general manager for several water/wastewater districts, I often struggled to find the benefit derived from belonging to professional organizations such as SCAP. Knowing that for most of us every dollar of public funds is precious and could easily be used for staffing or capital replacement, I thought back to the time when I was first approached by Ray Miller in 1997 to join SCAP. My first inclination was to say I can't afford it and besides, I don't have the time to devote to reading all of the technical material provided in the newsletters. However, after Ray made me an offer I couldn't refuse (I don't know if there is such a thing as the Irish mafia?), not only did I consent to have my districts join, I also volunteered to serve on the Board.

Before long, I realized that the universe did not revolve solely around my districts. There was much more going on out there and just because I chose to keep my head in the sand, so to speak, the regulations and potential impact to my districts weren't going away.

In fact, the more involved I became, the more I realized how much of what our committees were doing at the forefront of the regulatory process ultimately affected the outcome of my permits. And yes, I will admit that back then I was a little intimidated listening to the likes of Greg Adams, Brian Whitaker and Sharon Green discussing the impacts of the Urban Air Toxics Program and California Air Toxics Rule. Little did I know that this was just the beginning and would eventually lead to stricter regulations on portable and stationary engines, as well as fleet and off-road vehicle emissions. I naively thought at the time that those regulations would only affect the bigger agencies or those agencies within the impacted air districts such as SCAQMD. Boy was I wrong again! I don't know if you've noticed lately but the trend seems to be moving towards more statewide standardized regulations, whether it's from the California Air Regulations Board (CARB) or the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). And as expected, the state agencies seem to look at their regional counterparts having the most stringent regulations when developing their standard templates. I suppose in that way they avoid being accused of any backsliding.

A good case in point is the newly enacted California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) promoted by our Governor. This Act, which is the first of its kind in the nation,

Upcoming Meetings

SCAP One-Day Wastewater Issues Conference and Associate Members Expo – Wed, March 7th, 9 am – 3:30 pm, at the Ontario Convention Center.
Reservations are required.

Air Quality Committee Mtg – Thurs, March 29th, 10 am – 12 noon at LACSD.

Water Issues Committee Mtg – Wed, April 18th, 10 am – 12 noon at LACSD.

Collection Systems Committee Meeting – Wed, April 25th, 10 am – 2 pm, at ETWD.

Biosolids Committee Meeting – Thurs, April 26th, 9 am – 12 noon, at OCSD.

establishes a greenhouse gas (GHG) regulatory program that commits California to reducing its GHG emissions to the equivalent of 1990 levels by the year 2020. The reduction in emissions will come from all sectors of society, including transportation, agriculture, energy production and, of course, sewage treatment.

You may ask, why is this law needed? Well it seems that at the dawn of the industrial era, civilization found itself on the brink of environmental catastrophe. Rapid urbanization, poor sanitation and neglected and/or non-existent infrastructure pushed many cities like Victorian-era London near the brink of collapse. It was largely the advent of proper and adequate sewage management that prevented certain disaster. In fact, the British Medical Journal very recently voted improved sewage disposal and clean water supply as **the most important medical milestone in the past century and a half.**

Today, many will argue that we are again witnessing a race towards environmental catastrophe. Rampant industrialization on a global scale has “unequivocally” created changes to Earth’s atmosphere not seen for the past 650,000 years, according to the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report issued on February 2, 2007. With the IPCC reporting that 11 of the past 12 years have been the warmest on record since 1850, along with many other climate changes tied to global warming, the level of concern is exploding by any measure.

With this in mind, the POTW community in California, including SCAP and BACWA, have banded together to form a Steering Committee to address climate change. This committee will begin by investigating the metrics used to determine greenhouse gas emissions from POTWs, but may address other greenhouse gas issues when they arise. The formation of this committee ensures that California’s POTW community will have a unified voice and a singular purpose in meeting the challenges presented by AB 32 and climate change issues in general.

It’s coordinated responses to major regulatory issues like this that really point out the value of belonging to SCAP. Without the assistance and financial backing from the larger agencies, the smaller, resource challenged agencies could not begin to accomplish the technical research and development needed to address these extremely complicated regulations. Conversely, the added support gained by having a large membership base within SCAP greatly enhances the effectiveness we bring to the table when presenting ourselves before the regulators.

This interesting topic and more will be discussed at SCAP’s one-day conference scheduled for March 7, 2007 at the Ontario Convention Center. Each of our four committees will be presenting information on timely topics affecting air, biosolids, water and collection system regulations. I hope to see you all there.

Symbiotically yours,

John Pastore

Air Quality by Chair Daniel McGivney

Proposed Changes to Engine Rule 1110.2

On February 6, 2007, SCAQMD held a public workshop on PAR 1110.2 where they presented rule language, preliminary staff report and economic analysis, and accepted comments. This rule applies to stationary non-emergency IC engines 50 HP or greater. Written comments were due February 23, 2007. The proposed amendments are scheduled for SCAQMD Board consideration on June 1, 2007.

Additional monitoring and lower emission limits are proposed. These include NOx and CO CEMS for engines rated 1000 HP and above and co-located units with combined HP >1000, to be operational by 07/01/08. Non-CEMS engines will require weekly portable analyzer checks by certified personnel by 05/01/08, with non-compliance reported within 1 hour. Source tests will be biannual or every 8,760 hours, with no adjustments within 1 week and no pre-tests. Emission limits are being dropped to BACT levels (e.g., 11 ppm NOx averaged over 15-minutes, not 1-hour) by 2010 (or 2011 if <500 HP) for existing natural gas units. Biogas engines defined as 90% or more of digester/landfill gas on an annual basis have until 2012 to meet 11 ppm NOx. Similar CO and VOC reductions are proposed. Engines using the efficiency correction will need to use ASME PTC-17 to prove compliance. CARB 2007 distributed generation standards will apply to new natural gas-fired generators. Lastly, a 15-minute startup exemption is proposed.

These changes will have significant impact on engine operations and potentially plant biogas management. Eastern MWD, SCGas and LACSD are among those preparing comment letters. Lobbying of SCAQMD Board members is also underway. SCAP agencies with concerns about the effect on their engines should look at www.aqmd.gov/rules/proposed.html and contact the SCAP Air Quality Committee right away.

SCAQMD Permits Required for LPG Storage Tanks > 10,000 Pounds

SCAQMD Rule 219 lists specific equipment that is exempt from permitting, and specific conditions under which the exemptions apply, e.g. minimum size, particular usage, application, etc. Due to May 2006 amendments to the rule, **equipment used exclusively for the storage and/or transfer of > 10,000 pounds liquefied petroleum gases (LPG), such as propane, will require SCAQMD permits beginning May 4, 2007.**

The 2006 amendments lowered the previous 19,815 gallon (about 83,600 lbs) exemption threshold for LPG tanks to the Federal-RMP (Risk Management Plan) threshold of 10,000 pounds. However, although the Federal-RMP exempts LPG tanks that are used for fueling purposes, the revised Rule 219 does not. Therefore, since the Rule 219 review and amendment process for 2007 is currently underway, if you would like to see the LPG fuel tanks

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exempted, or a rollback to the previous exemption of 19,185 gallons, please provide comments to the SCAQMD during this rulemaking period. Adoption of the rule is scheduled for May 4, 2007.

Biosolids by Chair Karen Soares

Biosolids Legislation

On February 23rd, Assembly Member Smyth introduced AB 1207 that would require the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), by July 2009, to establish regulations and minimum standards for biosolids composting, land application, and disposal. The bill would make void any existing and future local ordinances that are contrary to, or inconsistent with, state regulations. More information will be provided at the March 7th SCAP Specialty Conference, and will be forwarded to the SCAP membership as it becomes available.

Kern County Measure E and Litigation

In January, U.S. District Court Judge Gary Feess ruled that Kern County will not have to reimburse the plaintiffs in the Measure E litigation for their legal costs. The plaintiffs, including the sanitation districts and their contractors, were seeking reimbursement for nearly \$1 million in attorney's fees. Earlier In November 2006, Judge Feess ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, stating that the Measure violated the existing California Integrated Waste Management Act, and granted a preliminary injunction allowing land application to continue as the case is resolved.

Biosolids Committee Meetings

A quarterly Biosolids Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the morning of April 26th at the Orange County Sanitation District office in Fountain Valley. The topic of the meeting will be Southern California/Arizona biosolids management capacity, issues, and regulatory updates. Please mark your calendar and notify any staff that will likely be attending. Additional details will be sent out next month.

Collection Systems by Chair Ralph Palomares

SCAP March 7th Conference

Well, it's hard to believe it's already going to be March and, as you know, SCAP will be having a conference with all the committees doing some type of presentation related to their committee's work such as collections, air quality, biosolids, etc. The conference will be on March 7, 2007 at the Ontario Convention Center.

Collection Systems Committee 2007 Meeting Dates

The Collection Systems Committee has set four meeting dates for this year so be sure to look at the SCAP master calendar and bring any ideas you might have so that we may address

them, such as laterals, pipe repairs, roots, calcium deposits, etc. The SCAP Collection Systems Committee has many talented individuals with many of years of experience, working at many different agencies, who have had problems that we will be addressing. Please e-mail me (Rpalomares@etwd.com) with your ideas so that I can get them added to the next meeting agenda.

Water Issues Committee by Chair Gus Dembegiotes

Methylmercury Objectives

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) held a California Environmental Quality Act scoping meeting on February 20, 2007 to seek input on the scope and content of the environmental information for proposed methylmercury objectives for inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries in California. The State Board is considering adopting a statewide policy for methylmercury that would apply to inland waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries in the State. With the California Toxics Rule, USEPA promulgated total recoverable mercury criteria for the protection of human health for California waters of 0.050 µg/L for consumption of water and organisms, and 0.051 µg/L for consumption of organisms only. Based on the USEPA's revised methylmercury fish tissue-based criteria guidance (USEPA, 2001), elements of the proposed policy may include a methylmercury fish tissue objective, a total mercury water quality objective, a methylmercury water quality objective, or some combination of these objectives. The proposed policy may also include implementation procedures related to the NPDES permitting process. The deadline for commenting on the proposed objectives is February 28, 2007. SCAP will be submitting a comment letter in cooperation with CASA and Tri-TAC, which will also be posted on the SCAP website for review. Additional information is available at:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/docs/mercury/notice4scoping.pdf>.

Nutrient TMDL for Big Bear Lake

The State Board is accepting comments on a Basin Plan Amendment adopted by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board on April 21, 2006 that establishes a nutrient TMDL for dry hydrological conditions for Big Bear Lake. The State Board's item language and draft resolution are available on the State Water Board's website at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html>. Comment letters must be received by 12 p.m. on March 19, 2007.

"The SWAMP Monitor" Newsletter

The State Board recently published a new issue of the water quality monitoring newsletter regarding the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). The Winter 2006-2007 Issue highlights upcoming Bioassessment Protocols, SWAMP Quality Assurance Management Plan, and the following two new statewide monitoring programs in the initial stages of development: 1. Bioaccumulation Monitoring involving human health risk assessment from eating fish. 2. Design and implementation of an expanded statewide stream survey. The newsletter is available at:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/docs/newsletter/monitor200607winter.pdf>

Agency Profile

Eastern Municipal Water District

www.emwd.org

At a Glance

Headquarters: Perris
 Founded: 1950
 Employees: 611 (full-time equivalents)
 Service Area: 555 square miles serving a population of 630,000

Sewer System

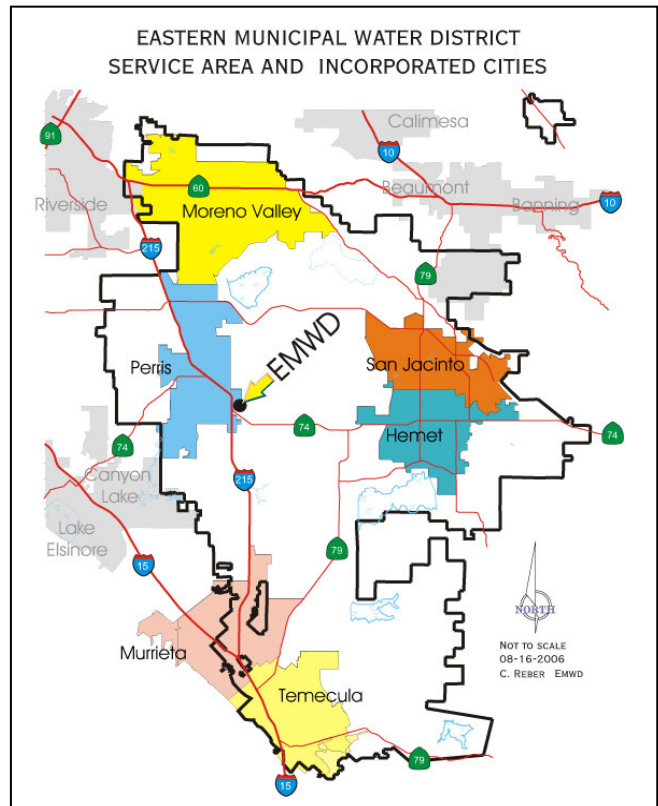
Miles of sewer lines: 1,750
 Treatment plants: 4
 Treatment capacity: 56 mgd
 Treated per day: 46 mgd

Recycled System

Miles of pipeline: 174
 Pumping facilities: 23
 Acre-feet of storage and percolation ponds: 6,660

Water System

Miles of water mains: 2,345
 Storage tanks: 81
 Max. storage capacity: 190 million gallons
 Pumping plants: 88
 Service connections: 125,000 (domestic) 130 (agricultural)



When Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) managers gather to discuss projects, the conversation quickly focuses on how technology is driving efficiency and energy-savings throughout operations at California's fifth largest water/wastewater district.

Technology plays a key role in helping the district respond to growth-driven increase for services. Capacity is projected to grow from 46 mgd today to 64 mgd by 2013. In the past three years, the district's capital expenditure budget has been \$68 million, \$139 million and \$158 million, respectively.



“Our philosophy is to be open to investigating and implementing new technologies that save energy, are green, and promote automation,” said John Jannone, director of water reclamation. The following looks at three operational areas impacted by recent technology implementation.

Water Reclamation

In 2006, the district introduced two new technologies for waste material processing and recycled water.

For waste material processing, the district converted the Moreno Valley Reclamation Facility from an energy-intensive Bardenpho process designed to greatly reduce nitrogen and phosphate to an activated sludge process using a new 70-foot anaerobic digester. The \$12.6 million conversion cost was relatively low to increase capacity from six mgd to 15 mgd, Jannone said.

The conversion occurred after the district decided it could meet discharge requirements at its discharge point in the Santa Ana River with the activated sludge process. “That gave us the flexibility to make an innovative change,” he said.

New cloth media filtration technology was installed at San Jacinto and Temecula Valley regional water reclamation facilities as a lower cost, more energy efficient, and less labor-intensive alternative to existing filtration technology for tertiary effluent treatment. “There was nothing wrong with the dual filtration and single-media filtration systems we had in place,” Jannone said. “We considered cloth media a better technology, as we can repair it ourselves to eliminate the downtime and cost associated with outside contractors.”

Jannone has two tips for others concerned about being on the “bleeding edge” when implementing new technology. “Talk to the people who have already done it, and expect some growing pains,” he said. “It’s a misconception that everything works right away. Every implementation has nuances that need to be worked out.”

Water Operations

Energy costs for pumping have fallen 12 percent since an energy management system was installed in the Moreno Valley water service area last July.

When all three water service areas have the system operating by this summer, a 12 percent savings district-wide could translate to a \$600,000 savings on the approximately \$5 million annual energy cost for water operations. The software system cost approximately \$1 million, said Dan Howell, director of purchasing and contracts. (The district’s approximate \$10 million annual energy costs are split fairly evenly between water and wastewater operations, he said.)

The system incorporates pumping history and then projects ahead 24 hours to select the most efficient pumping scenario.

“Measuring value is more than just comparing kilowatt hours saved,” he said, “We determine dollar value by measuring kilowatt hours used to achieve the same amount of pumping in the most opportune time period.”

The water operations group also expanded the recycled water system through pressurization which will help reduce future demands for imported water and relieve demand on over-drafted groundwater basins.

EMWD is among the top recycled water agencies in California and sells about 25,000 acre-feet to customers at 110 different sites.

Greg Millar, water operations manager, said reliability has increased significantly in recycled water operations because of additional high head pumps and off-site storage facilities, as well as dedicating staff directly to this effort. "A dedicated staff means they can spend more time on the system," he said. "For example, the accuracy of the reads taken on a daily basis has increased tremendously." Millar said he expects recycled water sales to increase 15 percent next year with one significant new customer, a new 500 megawatt energy plant in Perris Valley.

Environmental/Regulatory Compliance

The department is currently deploying a new information management system to automate collecting and reporting environmental and compliance information.

Jayne Joy, the group's director, said the software's compliance tracking module is the first to be deployed with other modules for water, wastewater, air quality, and incident reporting slated for future implementation. "Deployment is going very well," she said. "It should save time, and improve accuracy because it has built-in review steps for managers to approve information earlier in the data collection process." She said everyone in the district has access to the information. The reporting feature allows automating reports for internal use as well as to be sent directly to regulatory agencies.

Joy said the district selected off-the-shelf software from Environmental Support Solutions (ESS) that is being customized for the district's specific needs.

Joy is also proud of the district's well-respected fat-oil-grease (FOG) program. "We have very few spills, and we believe it's due to the work we do to prevent grease blockages," she said. "We approach our restaurant inspections from an educational standpoint. We visit facilities annually and more frequently if there is an issue."

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Regulatory Affairs by Regulatory Affairs Consultant Mary Jane Foley

SCAP has kept its promise to campaign for Prop 84 grant dollars for wastewater system improvement. Our short term campaign was to comment on the rollout of Prop 84 dollars and to present justification on why wastewater was an appropriate category to meet the requirements of improved water quality and pollution prevention. SCAP developed a sample letter and executed an outreach program to other POTW associations and Tri-TAC. As the regulatory affairs consultant, I also did personal outreach to the management of the Department of Water Resources, the executive management of the State Waterboard, and each of the members. The long term campaign is with the legislature. SCAP developed some simple key message points and sent out a memo to all of our member agencies asking for their help in educating their legislators on the need to ensure grants for POTWs through their lobbyists. We have already received feedback from Orange County Sanitation District that the message was well received by the Orange County legislative delegation. We encourage others to follow OCSD's lead.

Congratulations this month go to:

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD).
 The Orange County branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) honored the IRWD's Irvine Desalter Project (IDP) with a Project Achievement Award and named IRWD employee and IDP project engineer Steven L. Malloy as Government Engineer of the Year.

SCAP also sent out a notice of critical meetings that will be held during March and April to inform the public how to get involved in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, where \$1 billion will flow to regional projects. If you missed that notice, the DWR website for the scheduled meetings is <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>

Two new State Waterboard appointments were announced this month. Art Baggett was reappointed to the State Waterboard and Frances Spivey Weber was appointed in the public seat. Both appointments are excellent. Art is serving his third term. Frances is the former executive director of the Mono Lake Committee. She is an excellent collaborator. I have worked with her in several venues and look forward to her role as the public member of the Waterboard.

Finally, the Chair of the Waterboard and all of the Chairs of the Regional Boards have invited me to participate in the update of the State Waterboard's Strategic Plan. This is a good opportunity for our membership, and I welcome any issues that you would like raised during those sessions.

Water isn't the only area of focus for the month. John Pastore, SCAP's President Rich Atwater and I took the opportunity while in Sacramento at the POTW Association Summit to visit the Air Board. It was a good opportunity to create a working relationship with the top managers for AB 32 Climate Solutions Act. SCAP has organized a steering committee on this activity.

MARCH 7, 2007...SCAP ONE-DAY WORKSHOP: I had the opportunity to sit in on the planning session and it is going to be an absolutely incredible event for learning high priority issues that will be impacting the industry in the coming year.

Help Desk

Remember, the HELP DESK is open 24/7 for members who need to discuss permitting issues and strategies to assist agencies in resolving problems with regulatory agencies. Please contact Mary Jane Foley at mfoley@scap1.org.

Non Sequitur

It is very hard to realize that this present universe has evolved from an unspeakably unfamiliar early condition, and faces a future extinction of endless cold or intolerable heat. The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless.

Steven Weinberg