



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

MONTHLY UPDATE

A Message from the Executive Director...

May 2007

Well, April has now come and gone and I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful Easter and were able to spend time with family and friends. I know that most of you are probably knee-deep in finishing up your budgets and year-end projects, but don't you sometimes get the feeling that you've been here before (many, many times actually)? Wasn't it just yesterday that you were putting the final touches on your 06/07 budget and wondering how everything would get done? Is it just me, or are the days, weeks, months just blowing by at an incredibly fast rate? It boggles my mind to think that it's been nearly 18 months since I took on the role of executive director here at SCAP. Like they say, "time goes by fast when you're having fun."

As we gear up for the next fiscal year and begin work on the new budget, I thought it would be interesting to reflect on the successes we've had over the last 18 months and take a peek at what next year may have in store for SCAP.

The initial goals that I set for SCAP included:

- Organizing and strengthening the committees
- Expanding membership
- Developing a more pro-active role on statewide issues
- Fostering interaction with other wastewater organizations throughout the state

In achieving these goals, SCAP has conducted four major seminar/workshops. These included two WDR seminars, a grant funding workshop and the Ontario one-day conference. It appears from membership feedback that all of these events were very successful and much appreciated. We also participated in sixteen WDR electronic reporting program workshops in Regions 4, 8 and 9 that were sponsored by CWEA.

Internally, we have organized all four of our committees so that there are defined leadership roles and backup responsibilities, as well as a published schedule of meeting dates for the next twelve months. We have also added 19 new members and 12 new associate members.

Finally, SCAP has also participated in the following statewide issues:

- WDR-SSMP development
- Operator Certification
- Methylmercury objectives
- AB 32 Steering Committee

Upcoming Meetings

**Air Quality Committee
Mtg** – Thursday, May 17th,
10 a.m. – 12 noon at
LACSD.

**Board of Directors
Meeting** – Thursday,
June 14th, 9:30 a.m. – 12
noon, at LACSD.

New goals set for this next year include:

- Developing an interactive SCAP website that will be both useful and educational to our membership
- Continuing to grow membership, particularly targeting cities with collection systems
- Continuing to work closely and cooperatively with the other wastewater organizations
- Continuing to advocate legislative funding opportunities for wastewater projects
- Developing strategies for dealing with emerging contaminants
- Coordinating with CA Climate Registry and other state agencies to develop GHG protocols for AB 32 compliance
- Continuing to provide assistance to members with SSMP development for WDR compliance
- Fostering cooperative relationships between the CalEPA agencies on biosolids issues

As you can see, there's a lot on our plate for next year and, with the assistance of our committee members, I fully expect to realize the same level of success as in the past.

Agingly yours,

John Pastore

Air Quality by Chair Daniel McGivney

Statewide POTW Effort Regarding Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory

In recently reported federal and state greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories, wastewater processes have been identified as providing large contributions to both nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄) emissions, both very potent GHGs. Additionally, in response to the recent adoption of AB 32, a mandatory GHG emissions reduction program currently under development by the California Air Resources Board (ARB), many industries, including water and wastewater agencies, have joined the California Climate Action Registry (Registry) in hopes of getting a step ahead in the process of determining their GHG emission footprint and how they may be affected by the AB 32 program and how to respond.

One of the conditions of joining the Registry is to annually prepare an agency-wide GHG emissions inventory initially for carbon dioxide (CO₂), and within 3 years, all GHGs (CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, sulfur hexafluoride and some fluorocarbons). Currently, emission inventory protocols exist for most of these compounds but not for N₂O and CH₄ emissions from wastewater processes. Hence, a statewide effort is underway to research and develop emission inventory protocols for these pollutants for our industry. Agencies

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participating in this effort are members of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) and SCAP. This statewide effort ensures that we develop an emission inventory program that will provide consistency in how we calculate and report emissions from our industry sector.

This effort was kicked off in late March where a number of agencies from around the state met with the purpose of determining the scope of the project, how it should be implemented and funded. Since then, efforts have been underway by BACWA, CVCWA and SCAP to solicit interest among their member agencies in both participating in the protocol development project as well as providing financial assistance. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2 in Oakland. If there are any questions, please contact the SCAP office or a member of the Air Quality Committee.

CARB In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Rule

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is proposing to take its In-Use Off-road Diesel Rule for Board approval on May 25, 2007. Currently, a staff report has been released and CARB is taking public comment. CARB describes this proposed rule as the most expensive rule ever implemented (\$2 billion). The proposed rule impacts a person, business, or government agency that owns or operates within California any diesel-fueled off-road compression ignition vehicle engine with maximum power of 25 horsepower or greater. Impacted fleets will need to meet fleet emission average targets for NOx and particulate matter (PM) annually, beginning 2010 through 2020, depending upon the size of the fleet. Large fleets are those with total maximum power over 5,000 horsepower. Small fleets are those with total maximum power of 1,500 or less horsepower, and medium fleets are all those in-between. Large fleets must comply with annual fleet averages beginning in 2010, medium fleets in 2013 and small fleets in 2015. Fleets that cannot meet the annual fleet average target must instead apply Best Available Control Technology (BACT). For PM compliance, BACT requires that 20% of the fleet's total maximum power install the highest level certified diesel PM control device for that year, and for every year the fleet emission average target is not met. For NOx compliance, BACT requires that the fleet turnover 8% of its total maximum power until the fleet emission target goals are met. Re-powering with a Tier 2 or higher engine is allowed under BACT, as well as installing the highest level certified NOx control device.

The proposed rule has many allowances, including setting aside low use vehicles (operating less than 100 hours per year), and additional credits for electric and alternative-fueled vehicles. The most significant allowance is for fleets that have re-powered all the vehicles with Tier 1 or higher engines before March 1, 2009. For these fleets, compliance with the fleet emission average targets can be delayed for several years. All fleets should avail themselves of this credit if possible.

Proposed Amended Rule 1309.1 – Priority Reserve

SCAQMD staff, in their latest amendments to Rule 1309.1- Priority Reserve, the source of credits used by essential public services to build infrastructure, have completely scrapped the earlier proposals that contained up to six options (A-F) that the SCAQMD Board could potentially impose on electric generating facilities (EGFs) seeking to obtain emission reduction credits from the Priority Reserve. The Air Quality Committee carefully follows any changes to

Rule 1309.1 since there is no guarantee that similar conditions would not be imposed on water/wastewater facilities needing credits in the future.

Some of these earlier options included no-build zones in areas where high levels of PM_{2.5} exist in response to concerns raised by environmental justice groups. These have all been replaced by one proposal, again breaking the four county area into three zones with varying concentrations of PM_{2.5} and including environmental justice areas (EJAs). EJAs are those areas where 10% or more of the population is living in poverty according to the 2000 federal census and the cancer risk is greater than one thousand in a million per MATES II or the PM_{2.5} level is greater than 46 ug/m³ as determined by SCAQMD monitoring.

Fundamentally, the higher the zone number, the greater the requirements imposed on your project. Among other requirements, the costs for credits increase with increasing zone number. PM₁₀ credits in Zone 3 or an environmental justice area, for instance, are the priciest of all at ~\$100,000 per pound day or ~\$550,000 per ton per year (actual market prices are substantially higher!). Staff is estimating that these amendments will bring \$367MM into the SCAQMD coffers if the proposed power projects materialize. A large portion of the monies so collected must be used in the respective zone or EJ area for implementing renewable energy projects in those areas.

The comment period on the NOP for the program environmental assessment (PEA) closed on April 24, 2007. Biosolids processing facilities will be addressed in the PEA (SCAP is working with SCAQMD consultants on this) with a more focused analysis likely when Rule 1309.1 is modified once again in the future to include biosolids processing facilities located off the POTW site along with energy projects of regional significance. The proposed changes to Rule 1309.1 impacting EGFs is scheduled for July 13, 2007. The proposed changes to Rule 1309.1 dealing with biosolids processing facilities have yet to be scheduled.

Biosolids by Chair Karen Soares

Quarterly Biosolids Committee Meeting

The quarterly Biosolids Committee meeting was held on April 26th at the City of Riverside. The focus of the meeting was on Southern California/Arizona regional capacity, regulatory updates, and trends in land application and other management options. The biosolids management contractors were also invited to attend. Highlights of the discussion included details on the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) intent to re-open "Article 10" (Arizona's state regulation that is similar to the EPA 503 regulations), and a general discussion of ADEQ's biosolids programs and activities. The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 26th, when the focus will be on thermal drying and other biosolids projects being implemented within Southern California.

Kern County Measure E and Litigation

Judge Gary A. Feess has set the hearing date for 9:30 am on June 4th for the summary judgment court hearing on the Kern County litigation. The Plaintiffs (POTWs) intend to move

for a partial summary judgment on their claim that Measure E is preempted by the California Integrated Waste Management Act. The Defendants also intend to move for a summary judgment on all of the Plaintiffs' claims. Briefs related to the summary judgment must be filed by May 11th and Reply briefs must be filed by May 21st.

Assembly Bill 1207 – Smyth

Assemblyman Cameron Smyth (R-Santa Clarita) has withdrawn SB 1207 which would have established statewide standards for land application of biosolids under the jurisdiction of the Integrated Waste Management Board. The bill would also have prohibited local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances that are inconsistent with the state regulations. However, this is a two-year bill and Assemblyman Smyth may choose to move forward with the bill again next year.

Senate Bill 55 – Florez

SB 55 would require POTWs to certify the quality of their biosolids, indemnify the receiving party and require the State Water Resources Control Board to conduct a study to determine whether additional testing and other statewide standards should be adopted. In a letter to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, the US EPA commented that 40CFR part 503 and the existing Statewide General Order already provide the needed oversight. There was a hearing on the bill in Sacramento on April 23rd at which CASA provided comments. The bill is currently being amended by the author, after which it will move to the Appropriations Committee. CASA will later be given the opportunity to provide further input. The revised text of the bill should be available next week.

WERF Update on the 2003 Biosolids Research Summit

In July of 2003, WERF held a "Biosolids Research Summit" where stakeholders identified what they felt were the top research needs related to biosolids. On March 28, 2007, WERF met and updated the stakeholders on the status of the research that stemmed from that effort. WERF's highest priorities are for research related to volume reduction, risk evaluation and communication, and biosolids odor issues. To date, 9 of the 10 top projects identified in that summit are already underway or have been completed. Some of the projects underway include the National Sewage Sludge Survey (EPA is sampling biosolids nationwide for additional parameters), a detailed Biosolids Odor Study (presented recently by Greg Adams at the SCAP workshop), and a nationwide biosolids survey conducted by NEBRA (see www.nebiosolids.org).

Collection Systems by Chair Ralph Palomares

SCAP Collection Systems Committee Meeting

The SCAP Collection Systems Committee held its first meeting for 2007 on April 25, 2007 at the El Toro Water District, and the turnout was outstanding with 23 members attending. The meeting was off to a good start at 10 a.m. sharp with Bob Kreg of Dudek explaining the latest on the SSMP and what it means to all of us now. Also in attendance was John Pastore, the

Executive Director of SCAP, who explained the petition filed by SCAP/CASA on the Region 9 WDR modifications. Region 9's response to the SCAP/CASA appeal has now been filed and copies are available in the Members Only section on the SCAP website (www.scap1.org).

Sam Espinoza with LACSD informed the group of his agency's experiences with SSO Electronic Spill Reporting. Requirements from different regulatory agencies have created a duplication of reports. Sam Espinoza also reported a proposed legislation (Assemblyman Ted Lieu, D-Torrance) to modify the state water code to require that public health officials be notified of sewage spills. As per Sam Espinoza the health department notification could be required in as little as 2 hours when, in most cases, it can take 2 hours to get to an SSO related problem and then assess the problem. The group will bring back any problems they have had for further discussion at our next meeting.

Ralph Palomares of ETWD brought up the issue of private laterals and it seems for now that his agency is the only one that TV video inspects and cleans/repairs private laterals for a cost unless the district owns them. The group feels that this is an up and coming issue in the near future that will affect all of us that maintain sewer collection systems.

Grease interceptors were discussed briefly, as were tree roots and chemical additives and H₂S gases in the sewer system. A major concern was disposable and flushable wipes that have an impact on our pump stations that are ragging up our impellers. It was mentioned that there are certain types of pumps, etc. that can eliminate this problem.

John Pastore reported on the SCAP wastewater conference held in March at the Ontario Convention Center and stated that it was a success. He also mentioned that SCAP would like to hold a wastewater conference every 2 years or so and will be looking for a good site location for the next one. John also advised the committee that SCAP will be updating their website by July 2007.

I would like to thank SCAP and its staff for the preparation in setting up our meetings and I look forward to seeing all of you on July 10, 2007, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at LACSD for our next committee meeting.

Water Issues Committee by Chair Gus Dembegiotes

SCAP Water Issues Committee Meeting

On April 18, 2007, the SCAP Water Issues Committee held its quarterly meeting at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts facility in Whittier. Jeff Armstrong of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) and Shivaji Deshmukh of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) gave presentations on emerging contaminants. Jeff spoke about the studies that OCSD and others have done to determine possible effects on aquatic life and other organisms exposed to pharmaceuticals and other emerging contaminants that get into the wastewater treatment stream. Shivaji discussed OCWD's Advanced Water Purification Treatment and the efficiency and capabilities of the various processes in removing pharmaceuticals and other contaminants. Both of these presentations are posted on the SCAP website at: www.scap1.org/reference/water.

Heather Lamberson of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) also gave a presentation on LACSD's campaign, "No Drugs Down the Drain." She described the LACSD's public outreach program to address the proper disposal of household medications. The Committee was also provided an update on State Water Resources Control Board's Water Recycling and 303d List workshops that were held in March. The presentation is on the SCAP website at: <http://www.scap1.org/browser.asp?loc=reference\general\2006&sort=DATE&dir=D>.

State Board Public Hearing for Perchlorate Contamination in the Rialto Area

The State Water Resources Control Board sent out a Third Revised Notice of Public Hearing stating that it will be taking testimony regarding the legal responsibility, technical need for investigation and cleanup, feasibility of cleanup, and appropriate clean-up standards for a 160 acre site in the Rialto Area. The new hearing is scheduled for July 9-12, 2007 and July 18-19, 2007 at the San Bernardino County Auditorium in Rialto. Interested persons may present non-evidentiary policy statements to the State Water Resources Board by Thursday, May 31, 2007. The Third Revised Notice of Public Hearing can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/wqpetitions/docs/a1824rialto/rev3_hearingnotice.pdf

California Water Boards Effort to Update Their Strategic Plan

The California Water Boards have begun an effort to update their Strategic Plan. A series of forums are being conducted over the next few months to receive input from stakeholders and staff. Stakeholders provided their perspectives at a Statewide Strategic Plan Summit on March 12-13, 2007, to address issues and trends relating to water quality and water rights. They identified key areas of focus for the Water Boards to consider in their planning for the next five years. Each Regional Water Board will be hosting a public outreach meeting between April and June 2007 to discuss the input received during the statewide summits. Information on the dates for regional meetings can be found at the following site: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/strategicplan/regl_meetings.html

Agency Profile

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD)

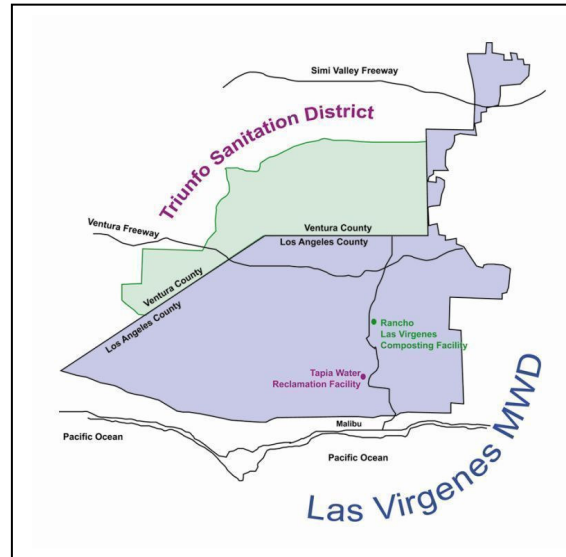
www.lvmwd.dst.ca.us

At a Glance:

Name: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD)

Location: Calabasas

Structure: LVMWD is a public agency governed by a five-member elected board that represents specific geographic divisions. The District provides potable, recycled water and sanitation services to a 122 square mile service area that serves the residents of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and western portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The total budget for FY 2006-07 is \$54.5 million.



In a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with Triunfo Sanitation District (which serves a portion of Ventura County), the agencies operate the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.

Customers: LVMWD serves a population of approximately 66,000; the combined service area for wastewater treatment serves approximately 80,000.

Facilities:

Water Supply-

- Approximately 22,000 customer connections serving 22,900 acre-feet of potable water and 5,200 acre-feet of recycled water annually.
- 25 storage tanks
- 24 pump stations
- 9,500 acre-foot Las Virgenes (potable water) Reservoir and filtration plant located in Westlake Village, CA.
- Member Agency of Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. LVMWD is completely dependent on MWD; there are no local water sources.

Wastewater Treatment-

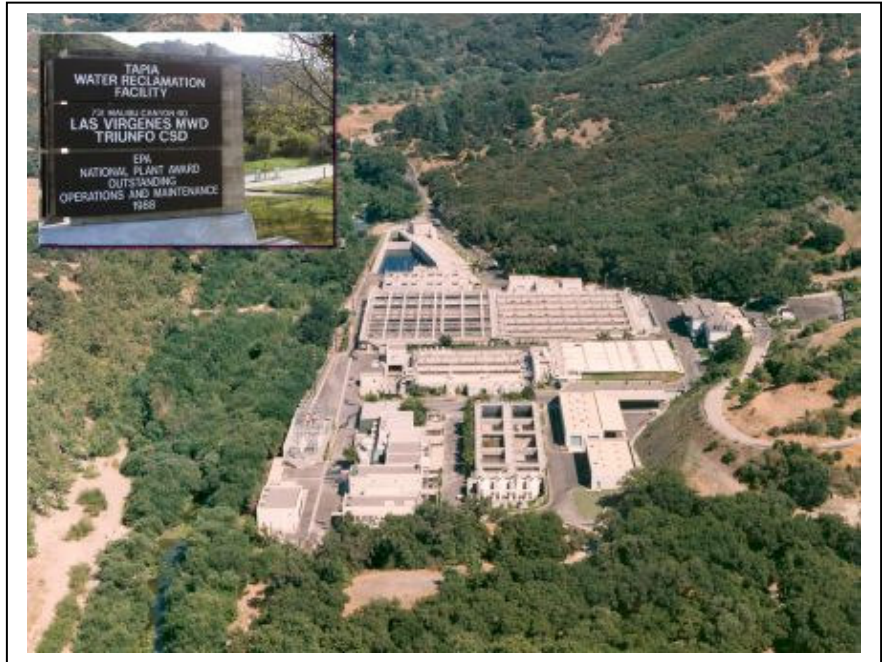
- Tapia Water Reclamation Facility – 12 MGD Capacity – Treats to Tertiary Title 22 standards.
- 56 miles of trunk sewer lines; 2 collection system lift stations.
- Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility – Produces 11,000 cubic yards of Class A High Quality compost annually.
- Recycled water distribution system includes 63 miles of water lines, 3 storage tanks, 3 reservoirs, 4 pumping stations and 592 connected customers.

Employees: 123 employees providing administrative, operational, maintenance, laboratory, conservation and public outreach services.

Established: 1958

LVMWD’s service area includes a significant portion of the Malibu Creek watershed. The JPA’s NPDES permit specifies that none of the surplus tertiary-treated effluent may be released to Malibu Creek between April 15 and November 15 each year. While recycled water demand is adequate through the warm summer months, the cool-weather “shoulder months” in the spring and autumn pose a challenge on how to dispose of excess effluent.

In response, LVMWD personnel closely track usage, provide incentives to recycled water customers, operate sprayfields as needed, divert a portion of the District’s untreated sewage to the City of Los Angeles and may also pump recycled water over the Calabasas Grade to an outfall that flows into the Los Angeles River.



Currently, LVMWD is planning construction of pumps that will provide increased recycled water pumping capacity to the City of Calabasas and is in the design phase of a denitrification facility located at the Tapia Water Reclamation plant.

A major retrofit of the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility was completed in the autumn of 2006, the first time that installation was offline since its construction 12 years prior. In addition to producing Class A compost, the facility was also designed to generate energy from gasses recovered during treatment. Heat to maintain the digestion process is generated by burning gasses, but a technologically “early” attempt to operate a fuel cell proved problematic. As a result, an internal combustion engine will soon be installed for onsite power generation. A large biofilter at the Rancho site has been effective in keeping odors from escaping into areas adjacent to the facility.

“In the early 1990s, our JPA Boards made a commitment to the concept of ‘total beneficial reuse,’ ” said John Mundy, LVMWD’s General Manager, who also acts as the Administrating Officer for the JPA. “That decision, though considered costly at the time, has paid significant dividends in terms of how our districts have been able to manage biosolids and recycled water without the concerns some other communities now face.” Mundy added the compost produced at the Rancho Las Virgenes facility is well accepted in the community and since there is no manufacturing in the service area, heavy metals are not present in the final product. “We get glowing endorsements from our local gardeners and their word-of-mouth promotion to others helps keep the output flowing into the community.” The District was also recently honored by the US EPA for its outreach efforts in promoting the use of compost in the community.

David Lippman is LVMWD’s Director of Facilities and Operations and has been at the District for 20 years. He cites many interesting operational challenges in the service area including dramatic contrasts in elevation, aging infrastructure, land movement, wildfires and a mosaic of collection systems operated by cities and the county that flow into the treatment system’s trunk mains.

“One of our ongoing challenges is compliance with our NPDES permit,” he said. “The seven-month prohibition on releases to Malibu Creek consumes significant staff time from the operational and maintenance perspectives and the annual cost of creek discharge avoidance is in excess of \$1 million,” he said.

Construction of a denitrification facility at Tapia is another condition of the NPDES permit issued in late 2005. "That facility will bring nitrates to 8 mg/L and may cost upward of \$16 million," he said. Lippman points to the agency's success in compliance with the strict provisions of the permit saying, "Our staff is very capable, dedicated and experienced; they are responsible for a decade of compliance with a very stringent set of operating constraints."

A rather unique pilot program is currently being introduced to the service area through LVMWD's Resource Conservation unit. The Malibu Creek Runoff Control (MCRC) Project is a grant-funded voluntary-participation program that seeks to significantly reduce urban runoff into storm drains found in the Malibu Creek watershed. LVMWD has the lead role in this environmental stewardship program which is being done in cooperation with local governments in the watershed service area.

Data is refined by comparing customer use to known averages, overlaying the data on the District's GIS system and evidence of runoff is noted by LVMWD's meter-readers as they make their rounds. Properties found with excess runoff receive contact by District personnel who offer a free outdoor water use survey and a written report with recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate the condition. As an incentive, the customer may receive a rebate of up to \$500 to incorporate the suggested improvements.

"We see the MCRC program as another positive step in our watershed stewardship efforts," said Dr. Randal Orton, Interim Director of Resource Conservation and Public Outreach for LVMWD. "We're anxious to see how effective the program can be in helping communities address and comply with the water quality standards now in place."

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Regulatory Affairs by Regulatory Affairs Consultant Mary Jane Foley

SCAP continues to campaign for Prop 84 grant dollars for wastewater system improvement. We have been successful in having a Round 2 grants process for Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP). If you are in an IRWMP group or would like to be in an IRWMP group, the time is to act is now. The new IRWMP draft guidelines for Round 2 are public and workshops are being held. Wastewater treatment is a category for funding. Every month I extend an offer to help you if you would like to apply for grant dollars but don't understand the IRWMP process. Just call and I will do everything possible to assist you to get your project into a high ranking priority for grant funding in this process. For more information go to: <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>

Regulatory-wise, there were no critical State Waterboard orders up for comment this month. Legislatively, SB 1001 (Perata) passed out of the senate committee. This is a bill to amend the regional water quality control boards' membership, which would be reduced to 5 members: One member with a masters in biological science or ecology, one member with experience in public sector finance who also understands water quality and watersheds, one member with a masters in urban planning or closely related field, one member with experience in representing environmental justice and one member who holds at least a masters degree in public health with experience concerning health consequences of impaired water quality. The overarching requirement is an understanding of water quality. There is a lot of language directing the State Waterboard to withdraw programs from the regional boards if they are not complying with the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and the state. Two non-profit groups spoke for the

legislation, and several members of industry opposed the bill. SCAP is watching this bill closely.

Another bill that we are following closely is SB55 Florez (Sewage Sludge). This bill calls for a statewide policy on biosolids reuse. The senate committee asked the supporters and opponents to come up with testing protocols as soon as possible. It was recognized that most of the requirements in the bill were already being done under requirements by the State and Regional Waterboards and the required 503 regulation studies are being done by EPA. For the state to do more of the same studies required in the bill would be redundant. The bill is being sent back to appropriations due to the large costs that the bill imposes on the public agencies and other agencies named in the bill.

Finally, I would like to be informed if any regional board is asking for monitoring of emerging contaminants of concern in permit renewal. This is a big issue that needs brainstorming on what to monitor for and what the monitoring results mean. There is little information out there to be a roadmap on how to address this issue and SCAP would like to help in dealing with this.

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

To us is given the honor of striking a blow for freedom which will live in history, and in the better days that lie ahead men will speak with pride of our doings.

Sir Bernard Law Montgomery

(Message to his troops, on the eve of the Allied invasion of Europe on June 5, 1944)