

BACWA - Information Sharing Group  
Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2006  
10:00-2:00 at CCCSD

**ATTENDEES**

Nathan Brennan, CMSA  
Larry Bahr, FSSD  
Doug Craig, CCCSD  
Jim Kelly, CCCSD  
Ron Garner, SJ  
Kevin Maung, SJ  
Mike Barnes, WBA

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

06-1.1 Emergency Response and Planning

FSSD. If a substance of concern is potentially coming to the WWTP, they can divert flow to their equalization basins. If they know ahead of time, they could contain at a manhole or PS wet well. Problem is finding out if and when a problem substance enters the collection system so it can be tracked to be contained

Doug asked is anyone had a contingency plan for a flu outbreak, and how staffing would be impacted in this scenario. No one had planned for this. SJ has an avian botchulism control plan due to their lagoons. They keep an annual log for this.

CMSA is planning to replace its wide band communication radios with a narrow band system (FCC deadline is 2013). One option is the shared Marin County Emergency Radio system (MERA), however, the county system overloaded on 12/31/05 (MERA is having a study done and preliminary reports recommend expanding the system - cost \$2 to 4M). It was noted that EBMUD uses Nextel radios, and they have a repeater at their plant.

06-1.2 Current Events/Challenges

FSSD is completing an EIR to increase the plant capacity. Larry noted that this is a very challenging process.

06-1.3 Operator Certification

The multi-agency task force is supposed to be setting up a meeting with Celeste in the near future. However, it was noted that the task force members had differing views on what should be done, so it was unclear what would be presented at the meeting. It was noted that allowing out of state certified operators to obtain reciprocity for above a Grade II certification would be helpful.

#### 06-1.4 Staffing

SJ has 30 vacancies. They would like hire back more retirees, but can only use them for about 900 hours per year to avoid impacting retirement benefits.

CCCSD uses senior level operators to mentor new operators. They can overstrengthen positions for up to 1 years.

CMSA is asking for the authority to overstrengthen for up to 2 years. Three lead operators will retire in the next 3 years.

#### 06-1.5 Training Budgets

CMSA currently has a budget of 10-13% of their O&M salary cost to cover out of pocket expenses for training.

SJ has a goal of 40 hours of training per person per year. They have 2 in house staff dedicated to training staff.

CCCSD budgets about \$1300 per year per person for outside training services, which is about 2% of salary. The District wide budget is about \$330,000 per year.

#### 06-1.6 December 2005 Storms

The City of SJ had storm sewer problems.

CCCSD had a flow of 238 mg in one day

FSSD had a PWWF of 70 mgd. They had to use about 70 million gallons of their equalization basins.

#### 06-1.7 Site Tour

The group toured the CCCSD UV facilities and reviewed the repair work on District's secondary clarifier.

#### 06-1.8 Next Meeting at San Jose

The group agreed to have the next meeting at the San Jose WPCP. SJ will give a presentation on their BNR process which originally had a goal of removing copper, but is also saving energy. We also plan to discuss plastic collector chains.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- All can send their updated age demographics and projected retirement info to Mike. He will update the previously developed succession planning spreadsheet to all agencies after receipt of data from all agencies.

#### **NEXT MEETING SUGGESTION ITEMS**

- Current Events
- Tour of an EBMUD construction project (in 2006)
- BACWA committee update-operator certification
- SJ BNR process (RG 2-05)
- EBMUD scum to biodiesel (DF 2-05)
- Discuss Influent Pumping process
- SRWTP Recruitment CD
- O&M Organizational structures-pros and cons
- Shift Scheduling
- Joint marketing/joint public education
- Experience with plastic collector chains
- Energy issues
- Others?

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- May 18, 2006 at SJ/SJ WPCP
- September 21, 2006 at EBMUD
- November 16, 2006 at CCCSD