

TRI-TAC RETREAT

NOV 2008

2009 Action Plans [Responsible Party]

Collection system action plan (2009) [Ben Horenstein](timeframe—aim to do between now and June 09):

1. Convene No Cal/So Cal/CV Workshops
 - a. Lessons learned to date
 - b. Focused (1 hr) review of SSO data as group
 - i. Need to prepare data analysis ahead of time
 - c. Recommend how to improve spill reporting
 - i. Note private lateral issues sure to come up
 - d. Recommend how to improve general permit
 - e. **Use CWEA Dec meeting to prepare & plan – they will explore this plan w/SWRCB staff and ID a champion (someone to organize it and follow through on this project)**
 - i. **Other prep needed: list of questions, maybe a white paper? (or maybe that would be an outcome – synthesizing the input)**
 - f. Tie-in with Associations' Collection System Committees?
2. Tri-TAC/Associations (or the ad-hoc workgroup they convene to implement this action plan) meet to forge consensus on above input
3. Offer to assist SWRCB prior to 3 yr review of SSO WDR → SWRCB workshop

Not included in scope of what we are talking about focusing on:

- o Private lateral issues (e.g. outreach/education)
- o New legislation (e.g. federal spill reporting requirements)
- o Financial capability
- o Enforcement, amnesty & incentives?

Biosolids Technology & Regulations 2009 Action Plan [Greg Kester]

1. Tours of new technologies & operations
 - a. Summit Partners (e.g. Tri-TAC/SCAP joint meeting, CWEA) – work together w/Greg (CASA)
 - i. Examples:
 1. Enertec – planned for Jan 2009 after Tri-TAC in Ontario (?)
 2. Heat dryers (e.g. Encina)
 3. Compost (e.g. Synagro's South Kern, Santa Rosa)

4. Deep well injection (e.g. City of L.A.)
2. Hold workshops to cover:
 - a. New technologies
 - b. Regulations – update, new federal/state/local
 - c. Emerging issues (e.g. CECs, EDCs, etc.)
 - d. Climate change
 - i. Who does these: CASA and/or other associations
 1. BACWA had all day workshop on biosolids in June (materials all on BACWA website). Will be putting out white paper (their agenda for the future).
3. Clearinghouse – CASA w/SCAP, EPA, universities, WERF
 - a. Tech/research – website access via SCAP library
 - b. Make new website – get good domain name such as calbiosolids.org to use for this, though may host under one of our existing websites
4. Local ordinances/regulation – CASA/Tri-TAC joint tracking, organizing response efforts
 - a. Local agency staff often bring these forward (“front lines”)

Climate Change 2009 Action Plan [Jim Sandoval]

1. Background on CWCCG (CA Wastewater Climate Change Group) – has 42 paying members, current focus very technical (emissions protocol development). \$\$ collected by SCAP, CVCWA, BACWA and given to BACWA, which contracted with CH2M Hill (and manages that contract). Has Steering Committee of ~12 people.
2. Convene meeting of CWCCG (plus some additional folks representing Summit Partners) to discuss expansion of their scope (or create a new group or mechanism) to include policy issues (and broader set of regulatory issues) – need face-to-face meeting to discuss future needs and possible expansion
 - a. AB 32 regulations
 - b. Adaptation issues
 - c. Cross media issues
 - d. Multi-agencies working on climate change (not just CARB)
 - e. **Aim to hold this meeting in January (before Jan 27 Summit Partner meeting) – Stephanie to coordinate**
3. Tri-TAC role: Hold quarterly climate change discussions at Tri-TAC General session (all committees participate). Also react to rulemaking, especially when need to get lots of agencies to send letters
4. CVCWA, BACWA, SCAP discussion of scoping plan. Need to ensure that regional perspectives (and small vs. large agencies) are captured, coordinated.
5. Climate change coordinator

- a. Idea is to have a coordinator who focuses on spectrum of climate change issues that may impact POTWs (at least part-time, if not full time) – translator of tech info to policy arena (model is Greg, Bobbi)
- b. See if all or some Summit Partners want to co-sponsor this effort

2008 Highlights

NDDTD Statewide Campaign:

What we did – we did it!! A success story! Powerful example of collaboration. A report will be produced summarizing the campaign activities and results.

- Raised public awareness & diverted drugs. Leveraged \$50K to nearly \$100K of services.
- ~200 events and programs occurred in key week.
- Outreach materials & bill inserts – examples

Weaknesses –

- Lack of engagement by state agencies and staff. Opposition by some (Board of Pharmacy, DEA)
- Short time avail to organize the campaign
- Creating a unified message re disposal options

What worked –

- Jen! Jen's leadership, organizing skills, driving momentum, focus
- Having someone as focal point, chair
- Willingness of multiple organizations to fund and volunteer labor by many agencies
- Effective outreach by many, statewide effort

Future: Focused campaign will influence a more lasting set of solutions

Cross-media roundtable:

Collaborative effort. Genesis=action of SJAPCD (Rule 6545) air rule re: biosolids land app & composting & landfill ADC use. Similar situation with SCAQMD w/biosolids composting rule which put one site out of business.

Held "roundtable" with state agency representatives (Tam Doduc, Rosalie Mule, etc). We presented examples. Think it opened channels for recognizing silos among agencies, lack of focus on cross-media impacts during rule-making.

Outcome: drafting cross-media checklist (starting point – Appendix G from CEQA). Still drafting it and determining next steps. Started out w/biosolids focus, but the checklist will be broader than that.

AB 32 response -> formed CA WW Climate Change Group:

Brought together agencies throughout State. Collaboration between SCAP, BACWA, CVCWA. Short timeframe. Formed group now recognized by CCAR and ARB. Contract w/CH2M Hill (facilitated by BACWA).

Developed by mission statement & goals. Purpose: develop protocol for measuring GHGs from ww processes. (CH4 & N2O)

Focused on wastewater treatment plants. Driver – high on list of GHG emitters (EPA/IPCC Report), but unsure that was accurate. Wanted to be proactive, engage early, develop good science. However, rapidly developing and shifting regulatory environment; not a lot of clarity about direction CARB going in.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of readily available data
 - Literature review to understand emissions estimation protocols – Identified gap in avail protocols for wastewater treatment processes
- Failed to engage with EPA early on w/protocol development
- Failed to recognize that CCAR was going to be replaced with TCR (“The Climate Registry”)
- Too short a time frame to develop protocol
 - Waiting for NACWA & WERF studies
- Not representative of all types of wastewater treatment plants
- Actual plant testing is expensive (\$17K/plant to characterize each one) – so have to leverage funds. More testing = better data & protocols. Will need more \$ for phase 2

What worked:

- Created a recognizable statewide group – got a seat at the table!!
- Created a mechanism to enable wastewater agencies to work together toward common goal
- CARB agreed to amend protocol later (based on better data)

Follow-up: how do those of us not working on air quality/AB 32 get info or connect with those who are?

Clean Water Agency Associations – Clean Water Summit Partners (Debbie):

Meet quarterly, meet with each other and with state regulators (helps build relationships).

What we did:

- Training program on SSO WDR (joint project, statewide and regional);
- Branding Manual; NDDD statewide campaign;
- Outreach for workshops (Innovative Energy Mgmt);
- Joint comment letters on pending regulations/Policies/various initiatives;
- Stakeholder processes;
- Leveraging resources – letting different groups lead different projects that benefit all.

Big success: have built relationships among associations (as well as regulators).

Weaknesses:

Too much to do, not enough resources, prioritizing projects/issues (more to do than we can do).

Themes/what led to success:

- Good communication
- Focus
- Champion/leadership
 - Volunteers (sometimes expert, sometimes their bosses volunteer them)
 - Sometimes staff/consultants
- Get in early
- Collaboration
- Personal relationships
- Audience may dictate methods (i.e. sometimes face-to-face is necessary means)

Challenges:

- Avoid overload
- Develop subject matter expert list
- Resource vs. champion?
- Resources=money, human

Ideas:

- CASA or Summit Partners together should hire an air/climate change staff person!!

- Liked process followed by SWRCB to identify collection system WDR non-enrollment and/or non-reporting (spills)– circulate list of “non-enrollees” and let us follow up informally
- Cross-media – need to have more joint committee meetings, plug Water Com folks into AB 32 stuff

Themes for 2009 (brainstorming):

Climate change—not going away, touches everything (air/land/water), technical and policy implications, need a lot more engagement (breadth). Need coordinator, champion, better communications amongst our own single-media focused folks! Large agencies vs. small agencies impacts (hard to determine how cc affects them, and how they can have a voice).

Broader issues regarding small agencies: need for regionalization (where there may be benefits from consolidation, such as economies of scale). Local control is “sacred.” Sometimes “no growth” opponents weigh in. What are the triggers and incentives?

Co-regulator concept:

- Tri-TAC, Summit partners, EPA, Regional Boards, State Water Board
- How to address small, satellite, inefficient agencies
 - Ideas: CA utility management forum? Asset management/sustainable infrastructure? Mentoring program (ala Water for People or Engineers w/o Borders) to have folks from large agencies help small agencies? Nevada Public Service Commission model? SEPs for tech support to smaller agencies?
 - Joint effort by CVCWA, RCRC, Rural Water Agencies?

SSO database (arising from SSO WDR) –

- NGOs (and Regional Boards) are going to go after agencies not performing well on SSOs – is that the outcome we want? How can we either react (afterwards) or forestall it? SSO database leads you to obvious candidates! Should we identify struggling agencies and try to help them improve performance? At least tell those folks what their vulnerabilities are and what their options are.
- Maybe we need to examine the database to identify ways to improve it – is it accurate? What are the “stories” behind the data?

Collection system issues/Private laterals:

- Need for public education on private lateral issues
- Outreach program (joint effort w/SWRCB) (idea from Dorothy Rice)
 - SSO & Infrastructure Video proposal (10-12 min)

- BACWA idea: video
 - New FAQs on BACWA website: What are SSOs? What is I/I (inflow and infiltration)? What are Private Laterals?
- Revive Cal-FOG workgroup and see if they can champion private lateral issue!

Collection system WDR – would be good to start thinking about reopening the WDR and renewing it – what needs to be adjusted? Should start thinking about this. SWRCB staff are thinking of doing this in Spring 2009.

- Perhaps start with symposium or workshop (North/South) to discuss “lessons learned” and assess progress with the program, and challenges, need for changes.
- CWEA working on face-to-face meeting w/SWRCB staff and other players to plan next steps on outreach program

SSO Reporting: examine our current system of requirements -> can we make it work faster, smarter, better!? Consistency issues, duplication & overlap, lack of clarity about who does what, timeframes, etc.

Salt issues:

- Pretreatment/Pollution Prevention:
 - Food processors
- Also affects biosolids

CWA changes coming: Waters of the US, BEACH Act Reauthorization, Sewage Community Right To Know Act, SRF reauthorization

Biosolids mgmt – new technologies – work with Summit Partners for field trips on regular basis

- Also, new local ordinances, new regulations

Information availability – clearinghouse – how do we make the linkages? How do we make it easy so you don’t already have to know where to go to look for the info?

Cap & Trade rule development – needs to recognize realities of POTW community! Accounting issues – need to make sure incentives are in right direction!

Recycled Water Policy – expect adoption Jan 09. Will lead to GW salt/nutrient mgmt plans (ongoing activity).

K-12 education – need to instill more awareness on wastewater & water quality. Need to plug into what already exists!

Public & Targeted Education & Outreach on Water Quality – join with Water Ed Foundation and expand their focus?? Summit Partners should discuss!

Impacts from economic downturn – affects POTWs (local agencies), and affects associations (membership may drop, some members may have trouble paying dues). Ripple effects? Do we need new business models? Leverage resources, we have to be “lean & mean!”

Infrastructure funding & SRF: SWRCB has not been spending down the SRF cap grants in a very timely way. There are models in other states for more efficient SRF loan requirements.

- SWRCB processes – CASA & Tri-TAC are engaged! [note, BACWA doesn't work on these funding issues]
 - Streamlining the loan requirements
 - Modifying SRF Policy to reduce SWRCB's risk
 - Action item coming up Nov 17 or 18
 - Point people: Bobbi & Dave Bruns
 - Federal legislation – Econ Stimulus package, SRF reauthorization

Prioritization (aka voting):

1. Climate change/global warming
2. SSO Issues
3. Biosolids technology & regulations

Salt (TDS & nitrate) issues:

1. Pollution prevention – BMPs, water softeners, water supply
2. Connected to recycled water issues
3. Antidegradation Policy – hockey slapshot!!!