

Operations and Maintenance Infoshare Group Report to BACWA Board

Committee Meeting on: 5/31/17
Executive Board Meeting Date: 6/16/17
Committee Chair: David Stoops

Committee Request for Board Action: None

15 attendees representing 7 member agencies

Highlights of New Items Discussed and Action Items

Chlorine residual compliance

David Stoops and Lorien Fono gave an update on the status of chlorine residual permitting. BACWA members spend about \$3.5M annually on sodium bisulfite (SBS) to quench chlorine residual, yes chlorine still causes relatively frequent violations. During EBDA's permit negotiations, they requested a change in implementation on the Basin Plan's 0.0 mg/L instantaneous chlorine limit. Regional Water Board staff did not feel that they could support an alternative implementation, but they are open to a Basin Plan amendment, if POTW provide resources to support its development. The likely amendment would treat chlorine like any other constituent with a water quality objective, and dilution credit, and likely a one-hour averaging period for its highest limit. Committee members agreed that if they were given a one-hour averaging period and a concentration above zero, they would be able to reduce SBS dosing. In the meantime, Regional Water Board staff has told the permits committee that any reading below 0.04 mg/L could be rounded down to 0.0 mg/L. Additionally, since permits don't specify a reporting limit for chlorine, agencies may specify their own reporting limit as long as it is below 0.1 mg/L which is the reporting limit of field chlorine monitors.

The committee held a roundtable discussion on preferred manufacturers for chlorine sensors, backwashing protocols, and descriptions of chlorination/dechlorination facilities configuration and disinfection operations.

SCADA Upgrades – Roundtable discussion

There was a discussion about different SCADA systems in use. Some agencies are currently doing view-only data and others are in the process of developing systems to allow them to be able to do process changes remotely. Different providers have different cost models. Ongoing vendor support can be expensive enough that some agencies are doing their IT development in-house using tools that can be purchased. A common concern is the potential for hacking wifi-based systems, leading to reluctance to have mobile devices that can make process changes.

Alarm testing and management will be agendaized for a future meeting.

Next Meeting: August 30, Oro Loma Sanitary District (tentative)

EBDA with the support of its member agencies will be running a full-scale peracetic acid test in August and invites the Group to tour the facility.

Committee Succession

David Stoops (EBDA) will be retiring in the fall. Joaquin Gonzales (Delta Diablo) will be taking over as chair. The committee is seeking a new vice-chair.