

Committee Request for Board Action: None

35 attendees, including representatives from 24 member agencies

Increasing the Safety and Efficiency of Sanitary Sewer Repairs

Jennifer Seguin and Matt Norris (City of San José) presented on the City's recent efforts to increase the efficiency of sanitary sewer repairs. The presentation and discussion included these key points:

- Requests for lower lateral repairs increased dramatically during the pandemic. The City repairs lower laterals as needed, but upper laterals must be maintained by property owners. The City has a [sewer grant program](#) that provides up to \$3,500 to assist with upper lateral maintenance. Property owners must submit 3 quotes and CCTV evidence of sewer damage to qualify for the grant.
- Modifying crew shifts from 5/8s to 4/10s allowed longer jobs to be completed in just one day, which reduced re-mobilization costs and is proving to be more efficient.
- The City purchased a hydro-excavator, which is especially useful in emergency situations because there is no need to wait for USA markings to begin excavation. The hydro-excavator allows digging around sensitive utilities and tree roots. The hydro-excavator uses high-pressure water, and air versions are also available. With a variety of nozzles available, it can be used in all soil types.
- The City invested in larger extended cab utility trucks with all major equipment built in, which reduces the need to tow additional equipment or bring an extra truck for maintenance crews. This approach enhances crew safety.
- The City has successfully reduced response time by assigning crews to specific geographic areas.

Roundtable Discussion on Crime Prevention and/or Response

Attendees discussed a recent uptick in criminal activity that has negatively affected staff, contractors, and equipment. Incidents discussed included burglary and armed robbery (including manhole covers, vehicles, cameras used for inspection of sanitary sewers, generators, and the lunches/wallets/cell phones of maintenance crews), equipment held for ransom, vandalism, and illegal dumping. Typical contract language is that contractors are in charge of their own security. It is not feasible for collection system crews to be armed, but attendees shared other suggested security enhancements, such as:

- Providing training to crews on how to respond to crime, including active shooter drills.
- Having crews keep vehicles locked at all times, even if they are close by.
- Providing a separate lockbox for valuables and expensive equipment (like cameras).
- Patrolling corp yards to look for cut fences.
- Strengthening relationships with local police and fire departments, including having police participate in training and providing input on site design choices that can deter crime.
- Install an alarm system, particularly one with video surveillance that allows you to communicate directly with an intruder.
- Coordinate with local metal recyclers so that they know not to accept manhole covers.

SSS WDR Update

In July, Afrooz Farsimadan of the State Water Board staff provided an [update on the SSS-WDR](#) at a CWEA meeting. The presentation summarizes the major comments received from stakeholders, including BACWA and member agencies. The State Water Board plans to release a revised version of the SSS-WDR in early November (at the latest) and hold a workshop on November 16th. The SSS-WDR will be considered for adoption at the December 6/7 State Water Board meeting. BACWA members who would like to participate in (1) developing training materials to be used by CWEA or (2) participating in a committee recommending changes to CIWQS should contact [Mary Cousins](#).

Announcements and Events

- [CWEA TCP Preparation Seminar for Collection System Grades I to IV](#) – Wed., Aug. 10th
- Rising Groundwater Adaptation Workshop, 1 PM, Thur., August 11th – [Register here](#)
- [Sea Level Rise Planning Roundtable](#), 10 AM Tuesday, August 23rd – [Register here](#)
- Asset Management Committee (Condition assessment) - 1:30 PM, Wed., Aug. 24th

Monkeypox information sources shared during the meeting: [CDC](#) [MIT Technology Review](#) ("There is no evidence that you can contract monkeypox from wastewater itself.") [Video on Monkeypox safety from Alameda County](#) [Bay Area wastewater data](#)

Next Collection System Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022, 10 AM on Zoom