

**Operations and Maintenance  
Infoshare Group - Report to BACWA Board**

Committee Meeting on: 02/21/2024  
Executive Board Meeting Date:03/15/2024  
Committee Chairs: Yanming Zhang (City of  
Livermore) and Ben Carver (Fairfield-Suisun Sewer  
District)

Committee Request for Board Action: None

In-person meeting at Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, with 9 attendees representing 5 member agencies.

**Discussion Topic – Wet Weather Operations and Emergency Reliability**

The group discussed several topics related to operational reliability, including:

- **Electrical System Reliability.** Many plants lose line power (e.g., from PG&E) during storms. Some electrical equipment is also sensitive to automatically shutting down due to variability in line power. Attendees discussing staffing and maintenance planning approaches to ensure that there are spare parts and qualified staff available to respond to these and other kinds of emergencies. Having a qualified person available to operate high-voltage circuit breakers is a major operational and workplace safety concern. Remote-operated breaker switches are an option in some circumstances.
- Attendees discussed ideas for improving emergency response capabilities, such as:
  - Have a debrief after every major storm event to generate action items such as new CIP projects or new operational practices (e.g., equipment staging).
  - Involve O&M staff during the design phase of new equipment so that they can provide input on equipment settings, operability, and reasonable emergency response times.
  - Have staff participate in surprise simulations of operational emergencies.
  - Seeking NPDES permit changes to increase operational flexibility.
- [Doug Hollowell](#), FSSD’s Maintenance Manager, shared details of his agency’s electrical safety policy and a recent electrical coordination study. Members can contact Doug directly for additional details.

The group also discussed the status of recent supply chain disruptions. One facility is stocking spare PLC parts due to the long lead times for obtaining replacements (~6 months).

A resource mentioned during discussion was CASA’s [November 2023 Innovative Technology Seminar](#), which included a presentation on [supercritical water oxidation](#).

**Plant Tour** of Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District’s Wastewater Treatment Plant



**Next Meeting:** Tentatively in Q2 2024, Location TBD

Potential future meeting locations include SVCW (to tour the Bioforcetech biosolids drying facility) or DSRSD.