



SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

Post Office Box 339 Oceano, California 93475-0339

1600 Aloha Oceano, California 93445-9735

Telephone (805) 489-6666 FAX (805) 489-2765

<http://sslocsd.org/>

Agenda

Board of Directors Meeting

1655 Front Street

Oceano, California 93445

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Board Members

Bill Nicolls, Chairman

Matthew Guerrero, Vice Chairman

Tony Ferrara, Director

Alternates

John Shoals, Director

Lori Angello, Director

Jim Guthrie, Director

Agencies

City of Grover Beach

Oceano Community Services District

City of Arroyo Grande

City of Grover Beach

Oceano Community Services District

City of Arroyo Grande

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON AGENDA

This public comment period is an invitation to members of the community to present comments, thoughts, or suggestions on matters not scheduled on this agenda. Comments should be limited to those matters that are within the jurisdiction of the District. The Brown Act restricts the Board from taking formal action on matters not published on the agenda. In response to your comments, the Chairman or presiding Board Member may:

- Direct staff to assist or coordinate with you.
- It may be the desire of the Board to place your issue or matter on a future Board agenda.

Please adhere to the following procedures when addressing the Board:

- Comments should be limited to 3 minutes or less.
- Your comments should be directed to the Board as a whole and not directed to individual Board members.
- Slanderous, profane or personal remarks against any Board Member, Staff or member of the audience shall not be permitted.

Any writing or document pertaining to an open session item on this agenda which is distributed to a majority of the Board after the posting of this agenda will be available for public inspection at the time the subject writing or document is distributed. The writing or document will be available for public review in the offices of the Oceano CSD a member agency. 1655 Front Street, Oceano, California. Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California Government Code §54954.2, requests for disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services may be made by a person with a disability who requires the modification or accommodation in order to participate at the above referenced public meeting by contacting the District Administrator or Administrative Assistant at 805-544-4011.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The following routine items listed below are scheduled for consideration as a group. Each item is recommended for approval unless noted. Any member of the public who wishes to comment on any Consent Agenda item may do so at this time. Any Board Member may request that any item be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda to permit discussion or change the recommended course of action. The Board may approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda on one motion.

3a. Review and Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2012 Special Meeting

3b. Review and Approval of Warrants

4. PLANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**5. BOARD ACTION ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS:****A. NPDES COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT**

Staff recommends the Board receive an update on all EPA compliance evaluation; performed March 3, 2012; received November 6, 2012.

B. ADOPTION OF LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution No. 2012-302 approving the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

C. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2012-13 STORM SEASON

Staff recommends the Board receive the report and provide any comments to staff.

D. ALTERNATIVES FOR DISTRICT SERVICE CHARGE BILLINGS

Staff recommends the Board receive and file this update.

6. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

a. Miscellaneous Oral Communications

b. Miscellaneous Written Communications

Letter to County DPW re: Winter storm preparations, flood protection

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION**8. CLOSED SESSION**

- 1) Conference with Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9;
Mascolo v SSLOCSD et.al. CV110676
Central Coast RWQCB vs SSLOCSD et. al. ACLC No. R3-2012-0030
- 2) Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation pursuant to Government Code section: § 54956.9 subdivision b; 1 case
- 3) Performance Evaluation of the District Administrator pursuant to Government Code section § 54957.

9. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION, REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**10. ADJOURNMENT**

SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

Oceano Community Services District
1655 Front Street
Oceano, CA 93445

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Tuesday, November 20, 2012
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (6:20 P.M.)

Present: Chairman Bill Nicolls, City of Grover Beach; Vice Chairman Matthew Guerrero, Oceano Community Services District; Director Tony Ferrara, City of Arroyo Grande.

Others in Attendance: John Wallace, District Administrator; Mike Seitz, District Counsel; Bob Barlogio, Plant Superintendent; Matthew Haber, District Bookkeeper/Secretary

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON AGENDA

Mr. Jeff Edwards of Los Osos spoke about the appeal of the ACL penalty. He also asked about the FEMA money related to the December 2010 flooding.

Mr. Brad Snook spoke about the Surfriders supporting building wastewater treatment plants out of flood zones and away from coastal zones.

Ms. Julie Tacker of Los Osos spoke to the Board's position on the ACL appeal.

Ms. Mary Lucey of Oceano said that OCSD Board had not voted to sign the letter of support for the appeal of the ACL penalty.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2012.

Director Ferrara was not present at the November 7, 2012 meeting so did not vote on Item 3A.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Guerrero, seconded by Chairman Nicolls, to approve Consent Agenda Item 3A, as presented. Motion carried 2-0. (Director Ferrara not voting.)

B. Review and Approval of Warrants.

C. Financial Report ending October 31, 2012

It was moved by Director Ferrara, seconded by Vice Chairman Guerrero, to approve Consent Agenda Items 3B and 3C, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PLANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Plant Superintendent Barlogio said that the Plant performed well the last two weeks. As mentioned at the November 7th meeting, there had been a high fecal result at the end of October. Plant Superintendent Barlogio explained how one of the temp workers had inadvertently bumped a pump switch which shut off the pumping of chlorine for a short time. Staff tested the surf zone with results within compliance and reported to the RWQCB. As an extra precaution, the chlorine system is being modified so when the chlorine residual is down, this will trigger an alarm and an auxiliary pump to start pumping more chlorine.

Plant Superintendent Barlogio said that Katie DiSimone of the RWQCB made a follow-up visit regarding coliform testing. Staff is working on the electrical mounts for the No. 1 influent pump. The new concrete swale in front of the emergency generator is draining nicely.

Vice Chairman Guerrero asked about the pump switch. Plant Superintendent Barlogio replied that there had been work being done on a valve. One of the temp workers apparently bumped into the pump switch, but he did not inform staff.

Director Ferrara asked how many temp workers are at the Plant. Plant Superintendent Barlogio said that there are two temp workers much of the time to help with such things as painting and construction work which relieves the Plant Operators to do operations jobs.

5. BOARD ACTION ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

A. FY 2010-11 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Administrator Wallace introduced Mr. Sven Samaan from Moss, Levy & Hartzheim who presented the completed audit report for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Mr. Samaan said that his auditing firm has given the District a clean, unqualified opinion on the District's financial statements. The only issues, which the auditors had come across, were noted in the management letter to the Board. Mr. Samaan said that all of those items have been resolved by District Staff.

Vice Chairman Guerrero asked about the issues which had been found. Mr. Samaan summarized each of the five issues. Administrator Wallace added that the corrections of these issues have been made. With regards to the interfund transfers, it was indicated that many agencies internally borrow between funds. Matthew Haber, District Bookkeeper, is in the process of reconciling due to/due amounts related to connection fees.

Director Ferrara thanked Mr. Samaan for doing a thorough job and said that he was happy that the auditors had found some issues to improve on.

Under public comment, Ms. Julie Tacker said that this audit report seems to be late.

Mr. Brad Snook commented on the ability to pay factor of the ACL penalty.

Administrator Wallace responded to the public comments. He said that the length of time to process the audit report was due to the thoroughness of the audit and the District's attention to the audit findings. The required filing with the State Controller's Office was made on time. He also gave an example of how State agencies borrow internally between

funds.

B. FY 2012-13 FIRST QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW AND RESOLUTION NO. 2012-301 AMENDING THE BUDGET

Administrator Wallace presented the Budget Amendment Request for the first quarter Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget which recommended budget amendments and adoption of Resolution No. 2012-301.

Vice Chairman Guerrero stated his wish to categorize litigation costs for the ACL process and suggested those litigation costs be separated. Administrator Wallace recommended that this be completed in January when there will be a full reconciliation of the legal fees and when more is known about the District's insurance coverage for those fees.

Administrator Wallace suggested amending this Resolution to add another "Whereas" statement. "Whereas the legal expenses attributable to the ACL/NOV and the anticipated reconciliation of those legal expenses are to be presented at mid-year budget review".

It was moved by Vice Chairman Guerrero, seconded by Director Ferrara to approve the staff recommendation that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2012-301 A Resolution Amending the FY 2012-2013 Budget at First Quarter, as amended, and on the following roll call vote to wit:

AYES: Vice Chairman Guerrero, Director Ferrara, Chairman Nicolls

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted the 20th day of November 2012.

C. ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR DISTRICT SERVICE CHARGE BILLING

Administrator Wallace presented four alternative methods for District service charge billing to make District billing services easier and less expensive. Discussions with the Member Agencies have led to a more comprehensive review of alternative billing methods. A field review of the business and residences within the District has been completed to make sure that the billings were capturing all of the correct charges. This then led to discussions of how the Member Agencies were providing the monies collected for all categories of uses. This in turn led to Staff working with the Member Agencies to look at programming changes to the billing systems so that those systems could provide monthly reports to the District. Administrator Wallace said that this is virtually impossible and has to do with the limitations of the member agencies accounting/billing software. This led to further discussions of what are better alternatives for billing. After receiving feedback on the four alternative methods, the next step would be to meet with all of the managers of the Member Agencies

Director Ferrara asked for clarification regarding the need for a Proposition 218 vote to place the District billings on the County property tax roll. Counsel Seitz said that it would

not be a Prop 218 vote unless the District were to increase the rates. There would however be the need for an annual public hearing though with the District billings on the County tax roll. Vice Chairman Guerrero asked about the charge to place the District billing on the tax roll. Administrator Wallace said that the property owners would absorb the \$2 charge per property under the Teeter Plan.

Under public comment, Ms. Julie Tacker said that she would lean towards placing the billings on the tax roll. Ms. Tacker voiced her disapproval of the handling of the billing negotiations by Mr. Tom Geaslen, General Manager of OCSD.

Ms. Mary Lucey said that she was the director from OCSD who had pushed Mr. Geaslen to have the Sanitation District start paying more.

D. SPILL PALLET PURCHASE

Plant Superintendent Barlogio said that the spill pallets provide spill containment for the 275-gallon totes to keep any leaks from discharging onto the ground. Staff would like to purchase another spill pallet for use as secondary containment on the chlorine tote. The 11 MBI 01 account is short \$375 to make this purchase so it is recommended that the difference be financed from account 19-8030 Equipment Maintenance – Regular and Minor Replacement.

It was moved by Director Ferrara, seconded by Vice Chairman Guerrero, to approve the staff recommendation that the Board approve the purchase of an IBC Spill Pallet from Chemsearch in the amount of \$1,589.19. Motion carried unanimously.

E. PURCHASE OF A PORTABLE GENERATOR

Plant Superintendent Barlogio said that there is only one generator at the Plant which is trailer mounted. He said that it would be good to have a portable generator which Staff could move around when needed to power the chlorine and bisulfite pumps during a power outage.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Guerrero, seconded by Director Ferrara, to approve the staff recommendation that the Board approve the purchase of a portable generator from Jack's Repair and Sales in the amount of \$1,652.35. Motion carried unanimously.

6. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

A. Miscellaneous Oral Communications

Administrator Wallace informed the Board that the next CASA conference will be in January.

B. Miscellaneous Written Communications

Administrator Wallace said that Counsel Seitz had furnished a copy of the letter to the Board which was sent to SDRMA regarding the coverage of the District's litigation costs

Board which was sent to SDRMA regarding the coverage of the District's litigation costs related to the NOV/ACL. This letter was written by Mr. Schindler of the Schindler Law Group.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION: None**

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

- (1) Conference with Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9; 2 cases
Mascolo v. SSLOCSD et al. CV110676
Central Coast RWQCB vs. SSLOCSD et al. ACLC No. R3-2012-0030
- (2) Conference with Legal Counsel regarding significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 subdivision b; 1 case

9. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION; REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

District Counsel Seitz reported that the Board had discussed these items but there was no reportable action.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT AND NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING

SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
WARRANT REGISTER
12/5/2012

ISSUED TO	PURCHASE/SERVICE	INV. # / SERVICE PERIOD	WARRANT NO.	ACCT	ACCT BRKDN	TOTAL
ABBA EMPLOYER SERVICES	CONTRACT LABOR	18242 18266	120512-7113	6085	2,115.88	2,115.88
ABBA PARTS	PUMP PARTS	1130100 06 MBI 13	14	26/8065	4,242.00	4,242.00
ARAMARK UNIFORMS	EMPLOYEE UNIFORMS	7438231	15	7025	220.00	220.00
BILL NICOLLS	BOARD SERVICE	NOVEMBER	16	7075	200.00	200.00
BRENTAG PACIFIC, INC	PLANT CHEMICALS	252521 252922 252923 253340 254421	17	8050	18,104.23	18,104.23
BURKE AND PACE OF A.G., INC.	MISC SUPPLIES	2442102	18	8030	158.93	416.11
	SUPPLIES FOR PRI CLARIFIER NO. 1	2442103 06 MBI 04		26/8061	257.18	
CA ELECTRIC SUPPLY	MISC SUPPLIES	7826-506567	19	8030	128.59	1,232.63
	MISC SUPPLIES	7826-506724		8060	60.38	
	ELEC SYS UPGRD 04 MBI 16	7826-506723 7826-507538 7826-507606		26/8065	1,043.66	
CAL COAST MACHINERY	MOWER PARTS	71364	20	8030	81.74	81.74
CARR'S BOOTS & WESTERN WEAR	EMPLOYEE WORK BOOTS	82049	21	7025	125.00	125.00
CHARTER	INTERNET SERVICE	DECEMBER	22	7011	59.99	59.99
CONSOLIDATED ELECTRIC	LIGHT FIXTURES FOR ELEC SYS UPGR	7605-549537 04 MBI 16	23	26/8065	1,608.75	1,608.75
DOWNEY BRAND LLP	LEGAL SERVICES	441697	24	7070	535.16	535.16
FEDEX	SHIPPING	2-091-89813	25	8045	26.17	26.17
FGL ENVIRONMENTAL	CHEMICAL ANALYSIS	283462A 283463A 283576A	26	7078	510.00	510.00
		283577A 283596A 283630A 283647A				
FLUID RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	STORM DRAIN CLEANING	W7193	27	8060	1,709.00	1,709.00
GAS COMPANY	GAS SERVICE	10/22/12 TO 11/21/12	28	7092	2,311.26	2,311.26
HARRINGTON INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS	MISC SUPPLIES	1375691	29	8060	361.86	361.86
HILTI	SMALL TOOLS	4601887019	30	8055	287.49	287.49
I.I. SUPPLY	MISC SUPPLIES	16512	31	8060	32.21	32.21
JB DEWAR INC	VEHICLE FUEL	12140	32	8020	234.16	234.16
JIM GUTHRIE	BOARD SERVICE	NOVEMBER	33	7075	100.00	100.00
LIBERTY COMPOSTING	BIOSOLIDS HANDLING	4902	34	7085	9,506.35	9,506.35
LINC DELIVERY	DELIVERY SERVICE	OCTOBER	35	8040	402.50	402.50
MATTHEW GUERRERO	BOARD SERVICE	NOVEMBER	36	7075	200.00	200.00
MC MASTER CARR	MISC SUPPLIES	40698387 40795492 40960962	37	8060	606.92	606.92
		40975924 41245155				
OFFICE DEPOT	OFFICE SUPPLIES	NOVEMBER	38	8045	44.14	44.14
PERRY'S ELECT MOTORS	40 HP ELECTRIC MOTOR	14706 09 MBI 01	39	26/8061	6,566.70	6,566.70
PERS MEDICAL	EMPLOYEE MEDICAL	DECEMBER	40	6010	12,812.48	12,812.48
PRAXAIR	MISC SUPPLIES	44606056	41	8060	43.63	43.63
SMITH ELECTRIC SERVICE	ELECTRICAL REPAIR WORK	SAN121101	42	8030	297.50	297.50
STANLEY SECURITY	SECURITY - DECEMBER	9710238	43	7011	62.20	62.20
STATE FUND COMPENSATION	WORKERS' COMP	DECEMBER	44	6080	10,391.75	10,391.75
STATEWIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY & SIGNS	SAFETY SUPPLIES	4382 /3	45	8056	65.26	65.26
SUPERIOR QUALITY COPIERS	COPIER SERVICE	38143 38144	46	7015	1,360.56	1,360.56
TEKTEGRITY	MANAGED IT SERVICE - DECEMBER	24137-112	47	7015	346.50	346.50
TIMOTHY M. SMITH (SNAP-ON TOOLS)	SMALL TOOLS	224407	48	8055	132.99	132.99
TITAN INDUSTRIAL	SAFETY SUPPLIES	1052202	49	8056	270.44	270.44
TONY FERRARA	BOARD SERVICE	NOVEMBER	50	7075	100.00	100.00
UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT	DIG ALERT SERVICE	12110049	51	7011	120.00	120.00
WESCORP	WORK ON ELEC SYS UPGRADE	201 04 MBI 16	52	26/8065	3,156.22	3,156.22
WEST COAST INDUSTRIAL	MISC SUPPLIES	28043	53	8060	79.38	79.38
WW GRAINGER	MISC SUPPLIES	9978012541 9978469642	54	8030	302.92	1,493.94
	SAFETY SUPPLIES	9973863880 9978469659		8056	574.33	
	MISC SUPPLIES	9002882505 9978469667		8060	616.69	
SUB TOTAL					82,573.10	82,573.10
PAYROLL	PPE 11/16/2012				22,497.84	22,497.84
GRAND TOTAL					105,070.94	105,070.94

We hereby certify that the demands numbered serially from 120512-7113 to 120512-7154 together with the supporting evidence have been examined, and that they comply with the requirements of the SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT. The demands are hereby approved by motion of the SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT, together with warrants authorizing and ordering the issuance of checks numbered identically with the particular demands and warrants.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

DATE: _____

Chairman

Board Member

Board Member

Secretary



SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

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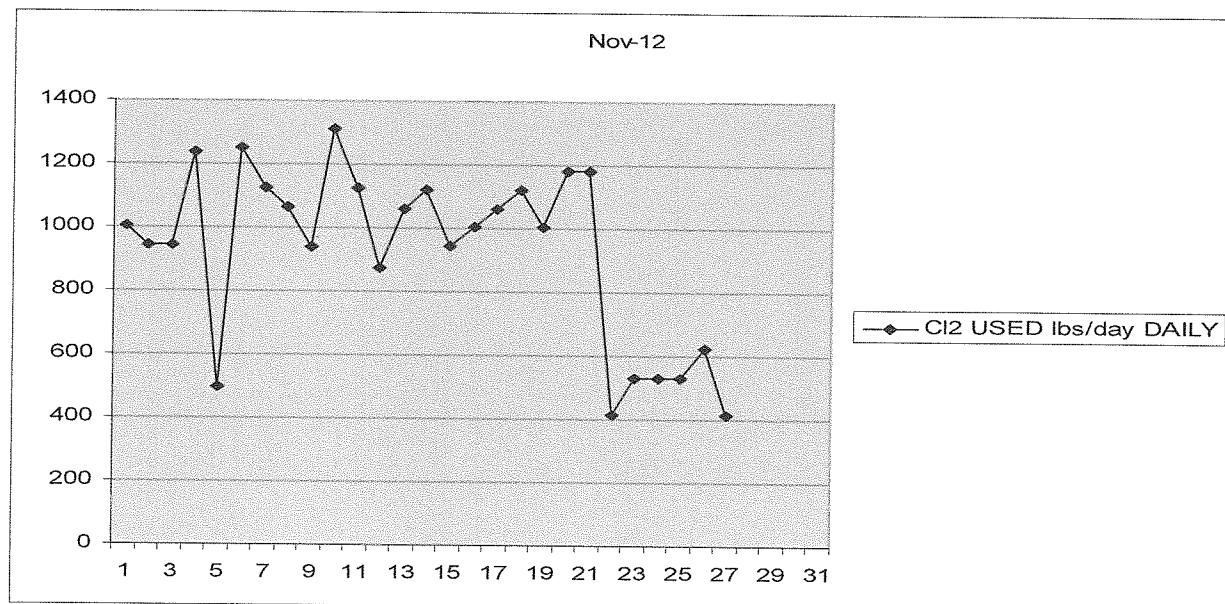
Staff Report

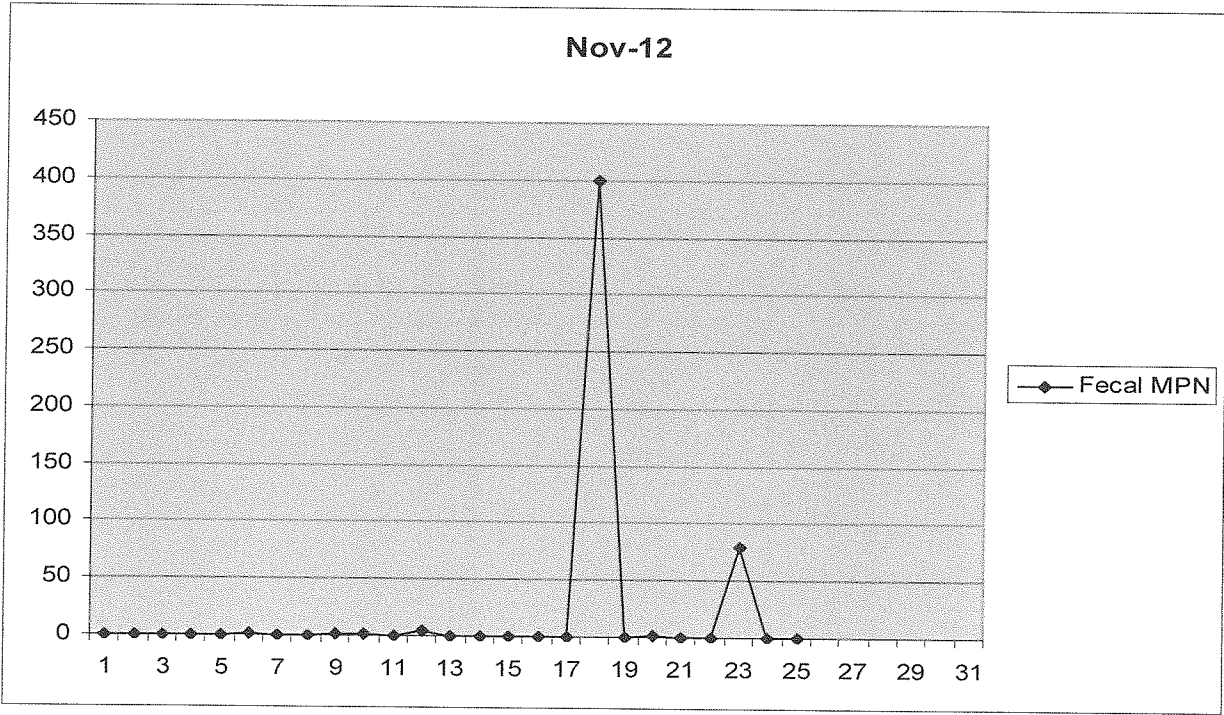
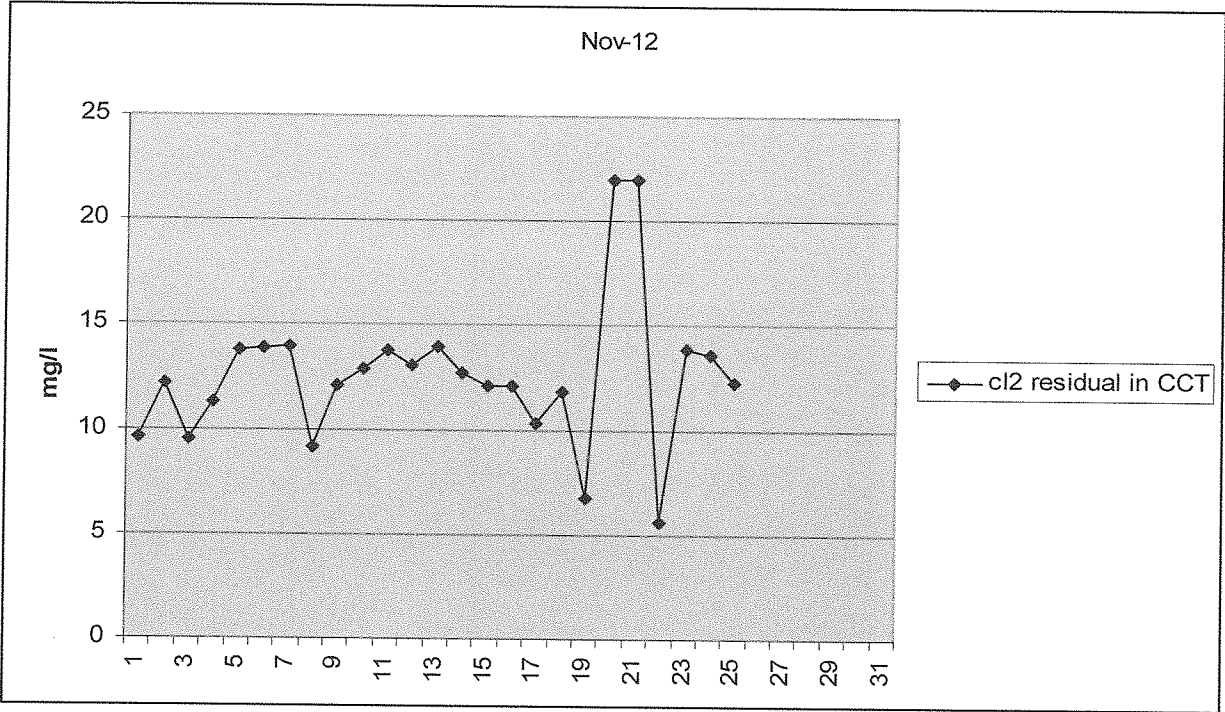
To: Board of Directors
From: Bob Barlogio, Plant Superintendent
Via: John Wallace, District Administrator *W*
Date: December 5, 2012
Subject: Superintendent's Report

The daily flows were up due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We had flows around 2.7 and 2.8 million gallons per day. The BODs and TSS for the first three results are good, averaging 14 and 26 mg/l respectfully with limits of 40 and 40. As to the date I write this, we had one bacteria sample of 400 mpn, one that was 80 mpn, the rest were at 4 mpn or below, with limits of a seven sample median of 200 and a single sample maximum of 2,000. Therefore all samples are in compliance.

The rebuilt flash mixer was received and installed just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Since we installed the unit, we have reduced our chlorine usage by half. We are slowly reducing the chlorine usage to what it was before the unit failed, which was around 300 gallons per day.

As you can see from the charts, the fecal coliform of 400 mpn was on the 18th, to which we had a total chlorine residual of 11.8 mg/l. The fecal coliform on the 23rd was 80 mpn, with a residual of 13.9 mg/l. But on the 22nd of November our residual was 5.6 mg/l and the fecal was <2 mpn. My goal is to keep the chlorine residual above 12 mg/l, chlorine usage around 300 gallons per day.





The primary drive and catwalk replacement project for Primary Clarifier No. 1 is moving forward. I'll give a verbal report at the board meeting since it starts back up on Dec 3rd. Staff are responsible for isolating the unit. This involves doing a midnight shut down and installing an air plug on the discharge side of the primary clarifier.

The vendor that hauls our bio-solids away has agreed to come weekly and remove the bio-solids we have processed. Thus we will have a minimum amount of bio-solids in the storage area. We would like to build a concrete pad under the centrifuge auger this summer, to park a truck trailer. When we operate the centrifuge, the bio-solids would fall directly into the trailer. We would have the trailer replaced with an empty trailer, when it is filled. This pad envisioned by staff, would have a curb around the pad to direct any run off to a drain that returns the water back to the front of the plant.

We have been making preparations for the winter storms all along. For the storm predicted on Dec 1 & 2, we did the following:

The diesel fuel tank is full; we run the emergency diesel pump and generator as often as possible. Our permit with APCD allows 30 hours of operation for testing and maintenance per year. We went over some possible emergency scenarios. We posted emergency phone numbers by each phone. PG&E phone number is posted on the white board. We have all operators on stand-by. We have the diesel pumps full of fuel and the valve open. We are going to set the portable electric valve operator on the slide gate at the front of the plant. In the event that the diesel pump is needed, a staff member can close the valve, single handed, in about 3 minutes. By hand it takes over 10 minutes with two staff members.

We are still moving forward with adding an alarm to notify the operators of a chlorination problem. We are having a problem with the new chlorine analyzer. The digital display is not displaying the numbers. It's under warranty. We have a call into the company about it. We are also looking at the ORP controller. We think we can put a set of contacts in to trigger our main alarm panel. We could establish a set point to which it would set the alarm off, notifying the alarm company, which would notify the on call operator.



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Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: John Wallace, *District Administrator*

Date: December 5, 2012

Subject: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) Report; March 14, 2012

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board review the attached report, dated May 21, 2012, from PG Environmental, LLC a private consultant for the EPA. The report is a draft directed to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and contains preliminary findings from a joint EPA/RWQCB, NPDES CEI conducted on March 14, 2012.

Funding:

The FY 2012-13 Budget includes item No. 19-7087, WDR and SSMP support expense in the amount of **\$55,000**. To date **\$5,241** has been spent.

Discussion:

On March 14, 2012, the EPA (represented by a private consulting firm under contract to the EPA) and RWQCB staff conducted a NPDES Permit Compliance Evaluation Inspection of the plant. On May 21, 2012, the EPA consultant submitted the District's draft report to the RWQCB (in addition to reports for Conoco Phillips and the City of Paso Robles which also received NPDES CEIs on March 13, 2012 and March 15, 2012 respectively).

Subsequently on November 6, 2012, RWQCB staff engineer, Katie DiSimone, who conducted the NPDES CEI inspection along with the EPA contract inspector, electronically mailed the CEI Report to the Plant Superintendent after his written request and stated that the RWQCB considers the District's CEI Report to be the final report.

CEI Report Summary

The report states that the primary purpose of the inspection was to determine the accuracy and reliability of the Discharger's self-monitoring and reporting program. The report begins with a narrative description of the facility and inspection process which included:

1. Opening Conference;
2. WWTP physical site and laboratory review;
3. NPDES Permit records review; and
4. Closing Conference

As specified in the May 21, 2012 inspection report sent to the Regional Water Board, the main purpose of the inspection was “to determine the accuracy and reliability of the Discharger’s self-monitoring and reporting program.” However, the inspector apparently did a more comprehensive inspection, reviewing all aspects of the treatment plant. As a result, the main conclusions in the inspection report were very favorable, namely that:

- “[A]ll mechanical treatment units were in good condition and functioning properly”;
- “Sample collection locations and methods appeared to provide representative sampling”;
- “No permit limit exceedances were identified” (However, their review was for a limited period of time between November 2011 and January 2012); and
- “No discrepancies were identified” when comparing laboratory bench sheets and contract laboratory reports documenting the actual analytical results.

The report breaks out each of nine items inspected into the summary table below and assigned a rating of Satisfactory (S), Marginal (M), Unsatisfactory (U), and Not Evaluated (N) to each item evaluated. The inspection results are summarized in the table below:

Table 1: Overview of Areas Evaluated During Inspection and Findings

Inspection Topic	Overall Rating	Finding(s)
1. NPDES Permit	S - Satisfactory	
2. Records/Reports	S - Satisfactory	
3. Facility Site Review	S - Satisfactory	
4. Effluent and Receiving Waters	S - Satisfactory	
5. Flow Measurement	S - Satisfactory	
6. Self-Monitoring Program	U - Unsatisfactory	Oil and Grease samples were collected in a plastic container and not collected directly in a glass container as required.
7. Laboratory	S - Satisfactory	
8. Operations and Maintenance	S - Satisfactory	
9. Biosolids/Solid Waste Handling and Disposal	U - Unsatisfactory	In the Spring and Summer, biosolids are stored on what appears to be a porous soil surface.

It is important to note that the issue of the plastic vs. glass sampling bottle (topic No. 6) was a single occurrence and was corrected immediately. Training of all staff was completed to reinforce this requirement.

With respect to the sludge storage area, a “redrock lining” was installed years ago when the District regraded the area. A Major Budget item for a new lagoon lining is currently included in the current FY 2012-13 budget but was delayed because of the construction of a retaining wall in the lagoon area and the overall area was graded to complete the new centrifuge building.

With the completion of the centrifuge building, a new concept for the lining project has been suggested by operations staff; namely, to install a concrete loading area for the centrifuge to dump directly into standby trailers that will be hauled out when filled. This project’s concept is being reviewed by Staff and will be brought to the Board for authorization to proceed after the first of the year.

The EPA CEI Report in the cover letter encourages the RWQCB to review the draft findings and determine any appropriate follow-up actions. The follow-up action recommended by the EPA is to rate SSLOCSD as a “Two (2)” or Medium priority (“paperwork and minor deficiencies”) for follow-up.

To date the District has not received written direction from the RWQCB with respect to the above findings.

May 21, 2012

Sheila Soderberg
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401-7906

Re: NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) reports

Dear Ms. Soderberg,

PG Environmental, LLC (PG) is pleased to deliver draft NPDES inspection reports for the facilities shown on the table at the end of this letter. The enclosed inspection reports are drafts and subject to revision at the Water Board's request.

Please note that the inspection reports use descriptors of S - satisfactory, M - marginal, U - unsatisfactory and N - not evaluated/not applicable for each program area and sub-element of the checklist. The application of a U generally denotes a potential permit violation and is accompanied by a corresponding permit citation.

The Regional Water Board is encouraged to review the findings and determine the appropriate follow-up action. However, in an effort to assist the Water Board with processing these reports, the facilities have been prioritized with regard to appropriate follow-up for each report (as depicted in the attached table). The ratings of 1 - High, 2 - Medium, and 3 - Low are based on the severity of identified deficiencies and type of follow-up that may be required.

Rating 1-High - Identified deficiencies threaten human health and environment, high priority for a follow-up inspection by Regional Board inspectors.

Rating 2-Medium - Paperwork and minor deficiencies, identified deficiencies could be dealt with by issuing an NOV letter requesting updated paperwork and/or photo documentation of changed conditions be submitted to the Regional Board within a specified period of time.

Rating 3-Low - Facility is generally in compliance, minor paperwork deficiencies or no observed deficiencies, no follow-up contact believed to be needed at this time.

PG is providing two sets of the hardcopy report with color photos for each facility and a

CD with an electronic version of each report. Additionally, PG will e-mail the electronic version for each report. Please contact me directly at 703-707-8258 Ext. 101 with questions and comments regarding these inspection reports or photo logs.

Sincerely,



Maxwell Kuker
PG Environmental, LLC
570 Herndon Parkway
Suite 500
Herndon, VA 20170
703-707-8258 Ext. 101 (office)
703-707-8259 (fax)

cc: Ken Greenberg, EPA Region IX (electronic copy)
Fatima Ty, EPA Region IX (electronic copy)
Philip S. Isorena, SWRCB (electronic copy)
Wes Ganter, PG Environmental, LLC (electronic copy)

**Table 1. NPDES Wastewater Compliance Evaluations Conducted by PG Environmental, LLC for
the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Place ID	Agency Name	Facility Name	Permit #	Order #	Inspection Date	Rating	Inspection ID #	Lead Inspector Name	Uploaded Report to CIWQS?	Violation ID #’s, if applicable
	CONOCOPHILLIPS CO.	CONOCOPHILLIPS CO	CA0000051	R3-2007-0002	3/13/2012	Rating 2 - Medium Priority Follow-up		Kirkeby, Kortney		
	SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO CO SANITATION DISTRICT	SOUTH SLO WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY	CA0048003	R3-2009-0046	3/14/2012	Rating 2 - Medium Priority Follow-up		Kirkeby, Kortney		
	CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES	PASO ROBLES WWTP	CA0047953	R3-2011-0002	3/15/2012	Rating 1 - High Priority Follow-up		Kirkeby, Kortney		

EPA Region IX and California Water Resources Control Board

NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) Report

Name and Location of Facility Inspected South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Facility 1600 Aloha Place Oceano, CA 93445		Entry Date 3/14/2012 Entry Time 8:00 AM	Permit Effective Date 10/23/2009												
NPDES Permit Number CA0048003	Order Number R3-2009-0046	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor	Permit Expiration Date 10/23/2014												
Name(s) & Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s) Robert Barlogio (Superintendent - Chief Plant Operator) Heather Billings (Contract Compliance)	Contact Information Phone: (805) 489-6666 Fax: (805) 489-2765 E-mail: bob@sslscsd.us	Notified of Inspection? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No													
Name, Title & Address of Responsible Official John L. Wallace (President - District Administrator) 612 Clarion Court San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	Contact Information Phone: (805) 544-4011 Fax: (805) 544-4294 E-mail: johnw@wallacegroup.us	Official Contacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No													
Inspector(s) Primary: Kort Kirkeby (PG Environmental, LLC) Other(s): Katie DiSimone & John Biegel (Central Coast Water Board)			Presented Credentials? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No												
Weather Conditions at the Time of the Inspection: Sunny; no recent precipitation	Facility Receiving Water Name: Pacific Ocean														
Overview of Areas Evaluated During Inspection <i>S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated</i>															
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Permit: S</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Flow Measurement: S</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Biosolids/Solid Waste Handling & Disposal: U</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Records/Reports: S</td> <td>Self-Monitoring Program: U</td> <td>Compliance Schedules: N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facility Site Review: S</td> <td>Laboratory: S</td> <td>Pretreatment (POTWs Only): N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Effluent and Receiving Waters: S</td> <td>Operations & Maintenance: S</td> <td>Storm Water: N</td> </tr> </table>				Permit: S	Flow Measurement: S	Biosolids/Solid Waste Handling & Disposal: U	Records/Reports: S	Self-Monitoring Program: U	Compliance Schedules: N	Facility Site Review: S	Laboratory: S	Pretreatment (POTWs Only): N	Effluent and Receiving Waters: S	Operations & Maintenance: S	Storm Water: N
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Facility Site Review: S	Laboratory: S	Pretreatment (POTWs Only): N													
Effluent and Receiving Waters: S	Operations & Maintenance: S	Storm Water: N													
Prepared By: Kort Kirkeby (PG Environmental, LLC) on 4/12/2012 Reviewed By: Max Kuker (PG Environmental, LLC) on 5/15/2012															

Facility Narrative

On March 14, 2012 a USEPA contractor inspected the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District – Wastewater Treatment Facility in Oceano, CA. Discharges from the Facility are regulated by Central Coast Water Board Order No. R3-2009-0046 (NPDES Permit No. CA0048003). The primary purpose of the inspection was to determine the accuracy and reliability of the Discharger's self-monitoring and reporting program. The primary on-site Facility representative was Robert Barlogio (Superintendent – Chief Plant Operator).

The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District (Discharger) owns and operates the South San Luis Obispo Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The Discharger provides sewerage service for the Cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach. These cities retain ownership and direct responsibility for the wastewater collection and transport systems up to the point of discharge into interceptors owned and operated by the Discharger. The Facility serves a population of approximately 40,000 residents.

The Facility provides secondary level treatment of wastewater. Treatment consists of preliminary influent screening and grinding, primary clarification, fixed film reactor (biological treatment), secondary clarification, chlorination, and dechlorination. The treated effluent is then directed to an on-site junction box, where it is combined with treated effluent from the City of Pismo Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Facility also accepts brine wastes in the junction box from water softener regeneration companies, which is then mixed with the final treated wastewater prior to discharge. The combined treated wastewater and brine is discharged to the Pacific Ocean at a depth of approximately 55 feet through a 4,400-foot outfall/diffuser system, jointly owned by the Discharger and the City of Pismo Beach. Up to 5.0 million gallons per day (mgd) of secondary treated wastewater is discharged from the Facility, which is combined with up to 1.9 mgd of effluent from the City of Pismo Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility. Sludge processing consists of a primary and secondary sludge digester, sludge drying beds, and centrifuge. The centrifuge was installed in September 2011.

The inspector visually evaluated the treatment train (in order from headworks to discharge) and site conditions in the presence of the primary on-site Facility representative and determined that all mechanical treatment units were in good condition and functioning properly.

The Facility's design capacity (design dry weather flow/dry weather monthly average) is 5.0 mgd. The primary on-site Facility representative stated that the average flow for 2011 was 2.5 mgd. The instantaneous effluent flow, taken from the Magmeter readout prior to the junction box, was 3.6 mgd at 10:06 AM. It should be noted that the primary on-site Facility representative stated that effluent flow is not required to be recorded or reported as per the permit, and the Discharger does not maintain a record of the effluent flow from the Magmeter.

The Facility's operations personnel conduct self-monitoring activities. Influent samples are collected at a grinder box in the headworks and effluent samples for Discharge Point 001 are collected immediately after dechlorination and prior to discharge into the junction box. Sample collection locations and methods appeared to provide representative samples. All samples are analyzed at an on-site laboratory and at a contract laboratory.

Discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and self monitoring reports (SMRs) for the period of November 2011 through January 2012 were reviewed as a component of this inspection. The review included a comparison of reported monitoring results versus requirements and limitations contained within the permit. No permit limit exceedances were identified. The evaluation also

included a comparison of data points reported in the DMRs and SMRs submitted to the Central Coast Water Board against the laboratory bench sheets and contract laboratory reports documenting the actual analytical results. No discrepancies were identified.

The primary on-site Facility representative was not aware if the Discharger had received written reports regarding previous inspections conducted at the Facility. Previous inspection reports for this Facility were not reviewed.

Major Findings

Self-Monitoring Program

1. Central Coast Water Board Order No. R3-2009-0046, Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program, Provision I.F requires that all monitoring shall be conducted according to test procedures established at 40 CFR 136. Oil and grease samples were found to not be collected directly into glass containers as required by 40 CFR 136.3. As per the primary on-site Facility representative, a plastic container is used to collect all samples for analysis, including oil and grease (O&G). The operator then transfers the O&G sample to a glass container (Refer to Photo 2). The primary on-site Facility representative stated that he was not aware of the requirement, but now that they understood it, Facility staff would begin using a glass container for collection of the O&G sample.

Biosolids / Solid Waste Handling & Disposal

1. Central Coast Water Board Order No. R3-2009-0046, Section VI.C.5.a requires that solids and sludge treatment, storage, and disposal or reuse shall not create a nuisance, and shall not result in groundwater contamination. Biosolids did not appear to be adequately stored and contained, and resulted in a possible threat for groundwater contamination. The Discharger was not storing the biosolids processed by the centrifuge on the engineered drying beds, as stated in the permit. Rather, piles of biosolids from the centrifuge system were stored on a porous surface; located adjacent to the Arroyo Grande Creek levee, and approximately 45 yards north of Arroyo Grande Creek (refer to Photos 3 through 5). The primary on-site Facility representative stated that since the installation of the centrifuge, the drying beds are no longer necessary and are maintained as backup to the centrifuge. He also stated there are plans to pave the biosolids storage area, but no timeline has been set.

Attachments:
CEI Photo Log

PERMIT:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
1. Current copy of Facility's NPDES permit available on site.	S
2. Correct name and mailing address of permittee identified on NPDES permit.	S
3. Facility is as described in permit. <i>The permit does not include a reference to the newly installed centrifuge process for biosolids.</i>	S
4. a. Notification given to Regional Water Board of process/production modifications, collection system expansions, etc. that impacted quality/quantity of discharge or changes to the Facility or increased discharge. b. Permit modification received, if required, prior to changes.	N N
5. Recent permit modifications, amendments or compliance orders on file.	N
6. Number of discharge outfalls the same as listed in the permit.	S
7. Name of receiving waters listed correctly in the permit.	S
8. Permit status (i.e., Current, Expired, or Extended)	Current
9. Permit renewal application submitted to the Regional Water Board at least 180 days prior to the expiration date.	N
10. Other:	N
Notes: <i>This section was rated "satisfactory" because all checklist items reviewed were rated satisfactory.</i>	

RECORDS/REPORTS:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
<p>1. NPDES records maintained for the time period required (5 years):</p> <p>The following records and reports were requested and observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current permit, monitoring and reporting program, and standard provisions - Latest three months of DMRs and SMRs (November 2011 through January 2012) - 2011 Annual Report (dated January 31, 2012) - 2011 Annual Biosolids Report (dated February 8, 2012) - Flow meter calibration records - Maintenance records - Operation and maintenance (O&M) manual (last updated November 2010) - Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan (dated January 2008) - Operation log books - Auxiliary power check log records - On-site laboratory certification - Contract laboratory records and chain-of-custodies (COCs) 	<p>Yes</p>
<p>2. a. Did the Facility document any spills or bypasses during the period reviewed?</p> <p>b. Spills and bypasses reported and documented as required by the permit (i.e., as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours from the time the permittee first became aware of the circumstances).</p> <p>c. Follow-up written documentation given as required by the permit (within 5 days in most cases).</p> <p>Central Coast Water Board Order No. R3-2009-0046 regulates the Facility and the associated collection system. No spills were documented to have occurred at the Facility or in the collection system during the period of review (October 2011 through January 2012).</p> <p>The primary on-site Facility representative stated that a flooding problem in December 2010 created an illicit discharge from the Facility and collection system. Approximately six inches of rain fell on the area, and Arroyo Grande Creek backed up into the Facility. The analysis of the spill estimated that 418,000 gallons of raw wastewater were discharged. The Discharger is in discussion with the Central Coast Water Board regarding a penalty for the illicit discharge.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>
<p>3. Discharge monitoring report (DMR) and/or self monitoring report (SMR) evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The responsible person or designee signs and certifies the DMRs and/or SMRs. b. The Facility monitors more frequently than required by the permit. c. All data collected are summarized on the DMRs and/or SMRs. d. Data reported on DMRs and/or SMRs is consistent w/ analytical results. e. Coliform concentrations calculated as required by the permit (e.g., median, geometric mean). f. Numerical values for minimum detection limits are reported on DMRs and/or SMRs when laboratory reports "Not Detected" or "0" (for example, MDL= 3, Report: "<3" on DMR). g. "Less than values" properly carried through loading calculations. h. Flow measurement period used for loading calculations brackets the sampling period. i. Influent and/or effluent loading rates properly calculated; if required. j. Number Exceeding (N.E.) properly reported on all DMRs and annual reports. 	<p>S</p> <p>No</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>

RECORDS/REPORTS:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
<p>4. Reports completed in the time frame and frequency as required by the permit (not all reports required for all facilities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DMRs and/or SMRs b. Biosolids Monitoring Reports c. Biosolids Management Reports d. CSO/ I&I Reports e. Compliance Schedule Reports f. Pretreatment Reports g. Other: <p>4a. The Discharger did not sample the final effluent for turbidity in November 2011. The primary on-site Facility representative stated the Discharger forgot to collect the grab sample. As a corrective action, two grab samples for turbidity were collected the following week. All samples were below the limit of 75 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU's).</p> <p>4d. The collection system and associated records were not reviewed during the inspection.</p>	<p>M S N N N N N</p>
<p>5. Sampling and analytical records (for water and biosolids) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dates, times, and location of sampling b. Names of individuals performing sampling c. Analytical methods d. Results of analyses e. Dates of analyses f. Time of analyses, as necessary to verify holding times g. Analysts' names or initials h. Instantaneous flow at grab sample stations, if required 	<p>S S S S S S S S</p>
<p>6. Plant records include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daily plant operational records or log book b. Equipment maintenance records and schedules c. CSO/lift station check records or log book d. Records of auxiliary power checks e. Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan f. Pollution Prevention Plan (P3) g. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) h. Influent and/or effluent flow measurement records maintained for the past three years i. Other: <p>6h. Discharger does not maintain records of effluent flow measurement. It should be noted that effluent flow monitoring is not required by the permit.</p>	<p>S S N S S S N M N</p> <p><i>now w/ new meter</i></p>
<p>7. All records and reports required by the permit appear to be organized and available for inspection.</p>	<p>S</p>
<p>8. Other:</p>	<p>N</p>

RECORDS/REPORTS:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
<p>Notes:</p> <p><i>This section was rated "satisfactory" because the inspector did not believe that checklist items 4a. and 6h. were significant enough to down grade the overall rating to marginal.</i></p>	

FACILITY SITE REVIEW:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
<p>1. All treatment units and supporting equipment are in service and mechanically functioning properly.</p> <p>The Facility's treatment train consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two Auger Monster mechanically cleaned bar screens, grinder/compactor (both in use) - Two primary clarifiers (one in use; one awaiting repair of catwalk and drive) - One trickling filter with plastic growth media - One secondary clarifier - One chlorine contact chamber <p>The Facility's solids handling process consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One primary anaerobic digester - One secondary anaerobic digester - Centrifuge system for biosolids - Sludge drying beds 	
<p>2. Hydraulic and organic loadings are consistent with the fact sheet and plant design criteria.</p> <p>a. Are there signs of overloading to the Facility and collection system, including I&I and septage loading?</p>	<p>S</p> <p>S</p>
<p>3. Peak flows remain within the established plant capacity.</p> <p>a. If flows have exceeded capacity, has the Regional Water Board been notified?</p> <p>The primary on-site Facility representative stated that effluent flow is not required to be recorded or reported by the permit, and the Discharger did not have a record of the effluent flow.</p>	<p>M</p> <p>N</p>
<p>4. Lift stations are properly monitored, maintained, have a back-up power source and are not subject to chronic spills and/or overflows.</p> <p>Lift stations in the collection system were not reviewed as a component of this inspection. The primary on-site Facility representative stated that the Discharger maintains nine miles of trunk line varying between 18 inches and 32 inches, and is all gravity fed to the Facility. Each city served by the Facility maintains their own individual collection systems.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>5. Odors are adequately controlled, resulting in limited complaints.</p>	<p>S</p>
<p>6. Residual chlorine monitoring is well documented and sampling/monitoring is representative of the discharge.</p> <p>a. If a UV system is used, the dosage intensity, tubes, and alarms are adequate, maintained and documented.</p> <p>As per the primary on-site Facility representative, the effluent flow meter is solely used for adjusting the chlorine levels.</p>	<p>S</p> <p>N</p>

FACILITY SITE REVIEW:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
<p>7. Housekeeping procedures are adequate to prevent release of pollutants to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adequate dikes and secondary containment b. Spill containment and clean-up c. Signs of spillage to soil, groundwater, or surface water d. Storm water and leachate management from storage piles e. Leaking pipes, pumps, etc. f. Drum and chemical storage areas g. Minimization of pollutants entering storm water outfalls h. Other open dumps or debris piles i. Other: <p>7d. Discharger stores biosolids on a porous soil surface. This checklist item was accounted for in the 'Biosolids / Solid Waste Handling & Disposal' section of this report.</p>	<p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>U</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>N</p>
<p>8. Signs of tank deterioration and/or settlement.</p> <p>Primary Clarifier No. 1 is currently out to bid for repairs to the catwalk and drive.</p>	S
<p>9. Safety concerns are present that may interfere with proper operation, maintenance, and/or monitoring.</p>	S
<p>10. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available for stored chemicals.</p>	N
<p>11. Equipment available for spill clean-up and containment.</p>	N
<p>12. Other:</p>	N
<p>Notes:</p> <p><i>This section was rated "satisfactory" because the inspector did not believe that checklist item 3. was significant enough to down grade the overall rating to marginal.</i></p>	

EFFLUENT AND RECEIVING WATERS:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
1. Recent DMR and/or SMR history (last <u>3</u> months) (outfall number(s) <u>001</u>): a. Violations of discharge limits b. Spills/bypasses c. Fish kills or other receiving water impacts d. WET testing results are in accordance with the permit e. If effluent limit violations have been identified, what actions has the Facility taken to eliminate or reduce their recurrence?	S S S S N
2. DMR and/or SMR spot check November 2011, December 2011, and January 2012 conducted for the Months of: a. Internal lab sheets and contract lab results properly transferred to DMRs b. Monthly average, weekly, maximum, etc., values correctly calculated per the permit c. Influent and effluent loadings reported d. DMR and/or SMR is accurate and complete for each outfall	S S N S
3. Appearance of effluent during inspection: a. The effluent(s) was viewed during the inspection b. Excessive foam, scum, or sheens present c. Cloudy and/or color d. Excessive solids e. Other: The secondary effluent was viewed at the terminus of the chlorine contact chamber, prior to discharge into the junction box (refer to Photo 6).	Yes S S S N
4. Appearance of receiving water(s) during inspection: a. The receiving water(s) was viewed during the inspection b. Distinctly visible foam or sheens on receiving water c. Biosolids accumulation or deposits of solids below discharge point(s) d. Distinctly visible plume from discharge(s) to receiving water e. Discharge creates objectionable odor at or near receiving water(s) f. Other: The Facility discharges 4,400 feet offshore; therefore, the receiving water in the vicinity of the discharge point was not viewed.	No N N N N N
5. Other:	N
Notes: This section was rated "satisfactory" because all checklist items reviewed were rated satisfactory.	

FLOW MEASUREMENT:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
<p>1. Flow Measurement devices and methods:</p> <p>Influent Measurement:</p> <p>Primary Device: <u>Parshall flume</u></p> <p>Secondary Device: <u>Ultrasonic transducer</u></p> <p>Effluent Measurement:</p> <p>Primary Device: <u>Magmeter</u></p> <p>Secondary Device: <u>N/A</u></p> <p>Other method of estimating flow: <u>N/A</u></p> <p><i>It should be noted that the permit does not require effluent flow measurement.</i></p>	<p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>
<p>2. Flow measurement devices designed to meet permit requirements ("continuous measured," "continuous record," etc.).</p>	<p>S</p>
<p>3. Flow measurement location is representative of the actual discharge (considering return and bypass lines, etc.).</p>	<p>S</p>
<p>4. Flumes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approach channel straight for at least 10 times the maximum head height in flume b. Flow enters flume evenly distributed across the channel and free of turbulence, boils, or other disturbances c. The flume is clean and free of debris or deposits d. All flume dimensions appear accurate, level, and plumb e. Flume head is being measured properly f. Flume is appropriately sized to measure the existing range of flows g. No obstructions downstream causing inaccurate flow measurement due to excessive "submergence" in flume h. Proper flow tables being used 	<p>N</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>N</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>N</p>
<p>5. Weirs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approach channel straight for at least 10 times the maximum head height b. Flow in the approach channel is evenly distributed and free of turbulence, boils, or other disturbances c. No solids accumulation in the bottom of the approach channel d. Weir crest is located at least two times the maximum head height off the floor of the flow channel e. The weir plate is level, plumb and without distortions f. Weir is beveled on downstream side if plate is >1/8 inch thick g. No leakage around the weir plate h. Measuring point located at least 3 times the maximum head height behind (upstream of) the weir i. There is free-fall and access for air below the nappe of the weir (i.e., water doesn't cling to the weir plate) j. Weir sized properly to measure the existing range of flows k. Proper flow tables being used for weir type and size 	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>

FLOW MEASUREMENT:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
6. Secondary flow device properly installed and maintained, and operating without interference from foam, turbulence, webs, etc.	N
7. Date of last flow meter calibrations: Influent: 2/2012 Performed by: <u>Temp Probe Inc.</u> Effluent: 11/10/2011 Performed by: <u>FM Controls</u> <i>Influent flow calibrations on the Parshall flume are conducted on a monthly basis.</i>	S S
8. Calibration checks by plant personnel routinely performed.	S
9. Calibration records (external and internal checks) maintained.	S
10. Other:	N
Notes: <i>This section was rated "satisfactory" because all checklist items reviewed were rated satisfactory.</i>	

SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM:

OVERALL RATING: U

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
1. Sampling locations, type, methods, and frequencies conform to the NPDES permit for all required samples (including influent, effluent, biosolids, receiving stream, etc.). Details concerning the Discharger's self-monitoring activities can be found in the 'Facility Narrative' section of this report.	S
2. Sampling locations and methods provide representative samples. a. Grab samples are collected during peak flow conditions rather than low-stress conditions b. Composite sampling procedures comply with the permit (time vs. flow weighted) c. Other:	S S N
3. Automatic samplers and other sampling equipment are properly cleaned. The automatic effluent composite sampler tube had discoloration on the outside of the tube. Because the sampler tube was not clear, the inspector could not observe the condition of the inside of the tube. The primary on-site Facility representative stated the inside of the tube is sometimes cleaned with bleach, but will put in a work order to replace the effluent sampler tube.	M done
4. Samples are preserved using methods listed in 40 CFR, Part 136 (e.g., chilled, acidified).	S
5. Sample containers are as listed in 40 CFR, Part 136. O&G samples were not collected in glass containers, as required in 40 CFR Part 136.3. Refer to the 'Major Findings - Self-Monitoring Program' section of this report for details.	U
6. Chain-of-custody is maintained and documented.	S
7. Samples are collected using approved protocols: a. Coliform samples are collected directly into sterilized containers b. BOD samples are collected prior to disinfection or reseeded c. Oil and grease samples are collected directly into glass containers d. Other: 7c. This checklist item is accounted for in checklist item 5. of this section.	S S U N
8. Other:	N
Notes: This section was rated "unsatisfactory" due to checklist item 5.	

LABORATORY:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM		EVAL
1. On-site laboratory is ELAP-certified? a. List parameters analyzed at the on-site laboratory that are used for DMR reporting: <u>pH, residual chlorine, and temperature</u> b. List additional parameters analyzed for internal monitoring and process control: <u>N/A</u> <i>ELAP Certification No. 1413, certification expires on December 31, 2012.</i>		Yes
2. EPA-approved analytical methods are used by the on-site laboratory?		S
3. Adequate equipment and procedures used for on-site analyses: a. BOD and CBOD b. TSS c. pH d. Dissolved Oxygen e. Residual Chlorine f. Temperature g. Other:		N N S N S S N
4. On-site laboratory records include: a. Laboratory SOPs b. Calibration and maintenance of equipment c. Equipment operating instructions and manuals		S S S
5. Adequate spare parts and supplies for on-site analyses.		S
6. Results of latest external DMR QA study are available and are acceptable. Date of last report: <i>The Facility does not participate in the DMR QA program.</i>		N
7. Satisfactory refrigeration in use.		S
8. Certified contract laboratory(s) being used:		S
Laboratory Name: <i>Abalone Coast Bacteriology</i> Visited? <i>No</i> Address: <i>141 Suburban Road, Suite C1-C3</i> <i>San Luis Obispo, CA 93401</i> Phone: <i>(805) 595-1080</i> Certification: <i>ELAP Certification No. 2661</i>	Laboratory Name: <i>FGL Environmental, Inc.</i> Visited? <i>No</i> Address: <i>3442 Emperesa Dr. Suite D</i> <i>San Luis Obispo, CA 93401</i> Phone: <i>(805) 738-2940</i> Certification: <i>ELAP Certification No. 2775</i>	

LABORATORY:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
9. EPA-approved analytical procedures are identified on contract lab report.	S
10. Holding times being met by on-site and/or contract laboratory. a. pH measured in situ or within 15 minutes of sample collection. b. Residual chlorine measured in situ or within 15 minutes of sample collection.	S S
11. Other: Laboratory Staff <i>The Discharger does not have a dedicated laboratory technician. The primary on-site Facility representative recognizes that the Facility could use a dedicated laboratory technician, and stated that due to money issues, the Discharger is not able to bring on a full-time laboratory technician. The Discharger laid off the previous laboratory technician in September 2010 due to funding cuts. The Discharger is in the process of a rate study and rate survey (commercial and industrial) to generate funds for the Facility. The only staff member CWEA Lab Analyst 1 certified is Bob Barlogio - Chief Plant Operator, who oversees the Facility and does not typically perform analysis of the permit required parameters. Rather, the permit required parameters are analyzed by operations staff.</i>	M
Notes: <i>This section was rated "satisfactory" because the inspector did not believe that checklist item 11. was significant enough to down grade the overall rating to marginal.</i>	

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
1. Preliminary treatment units (bar screens, comminuters, grit channels, etc.) properly maintained with wastes properly disposed.	S
2. Adequate oxygen maintained in aerated treatment systems.	N
3. No operational problems caused by hydraulic "short-circuiting" in treatment units.	S
4. Biosolids wasting/return rates adequate to maintain system equilibrium.	S
5. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manuals and supporting information organized and maintained for use: a. Plant O&M Manual b. Equipment manuals c. Plant engineering drawings d. Collection system drawings available or in development e. Maintenance records/costs 5a. The Facility O&M Manual (November 2010) was observed, and several sections of the manual were in the process of being updated.	S S S N S
6. Routine and preventative maintenance items are scheduled and performed on time.	S
7. The amount of maintenance activities and parts in back-log is acceptable. The backlog of preventative and routine maintenance activities appeared reasonable.	S
8. Operational problems contributing to plant upset, excessive odors, effluent violations, etc.	S
9. Level of operator certification as required by the permit and staffing level as specified in O&M Manual. The Facility is rated as a Class III facility. The Facility is typically staffed 8.5 hours per day (7:30 AM to 4 PM), seven days per week. The Facility has an alarm board and a call-out system to notify operators of possible Facility issues during unmanned hours. The operations team consists of the following: - One Grade IV - One Grade III - Three Grade II	S
10. Auxiliary power available as required by the permit and operates the necessary treatment units. In the event that power cannot be supplied by the local utility, a 600 kW diesel emergency generator is available and has the capability to run all essential processes.	S
11. Alarm systems for power and equipment failure.	S
12. Treatment control procedures are established for emergencies.	S

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:

OVERALL RATING: S

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
13. Hydraulic surges are handled without excessive solids wash-out or bypasses.	S
14. Spare pumps and parts readily available.	S
15. Facility appears to be well operated and maintained.	S
16. Other:	N
Notes: <i>This section was rated "satisfactory" because all checklist items reviewed were rated satisfactory.</i>	

BIOSOLIDS/SOLID WASTE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL:

OVERALL RATING: U

INSPECTED ITEM	EVAL
1. Biosolids/solid waste disposal/reuse method(s) (e.g., land application, landfill, etc.): <i>Grit and screenings are hauled to a local landfill and biosolids are processed on site and hauled to Liberty Composting, Inc. for reuse.</i>	S
2. Biosolids/solid waste disposal/reuse location(s): <i>Liberty Composting, Inc. 12421 Holloway Road Lost Hills, CA 93249</i>	S
3. The above processes are in accordance with the permit.	S
4. Storage at Facility: a. Adequately sized for periods of inclement weather b. Controls leachate, runoff, and public access <i>4b. Biosolids are stored on a porous soil surface, and have the potential to contaminate groundwater (refer to Photos 3 through 5). Refer to the 'Major Findings - Biosolids/Solid Waste Handling and Disposal' section of this report for details.</i>	S U
5. Recent analytical results for metals (biosolids) are within permit limits.	S
6. Biosolids land application records include: a. Farm maps and land owner agreements b. Soil nutrient analyses done within the last year for active sites c. Records showing loading rate to each site d. Pathogen/Vector reduction records (pH or temperature logs, etc.)	N N N N
7. Other:	N
Notes: <i>This section was rated "unsatisfactory" due to checklist item 4b.</i>	

South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Facility
(NPDES No. CA0048003) Photo Log
Inspected by: Kortney Kirkeby (PG Environmental, LLC)

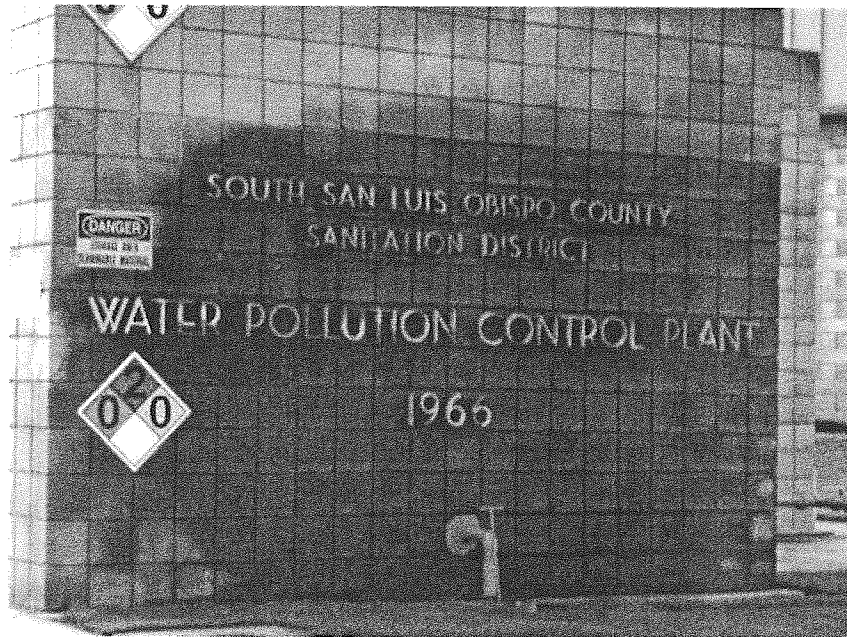


Photo 1: Facility entrance sign.

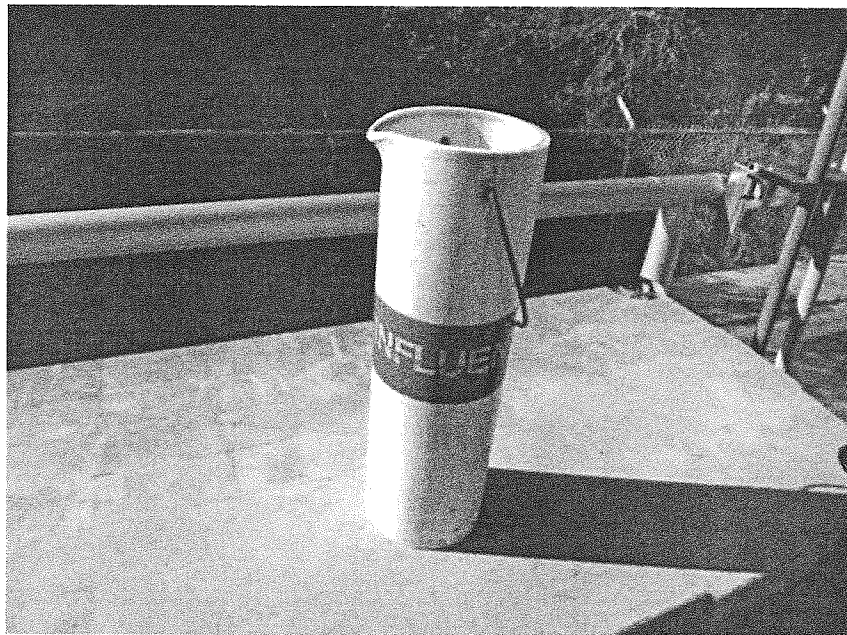


Photo 2: Plastic effluent sample collection device for NPDES permit parameters, including O&G.

South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Facility
(NPDES No. CA0048003) Photo Log
Inspected by: Kortney Kirkeby (PG Environmental, LLC)

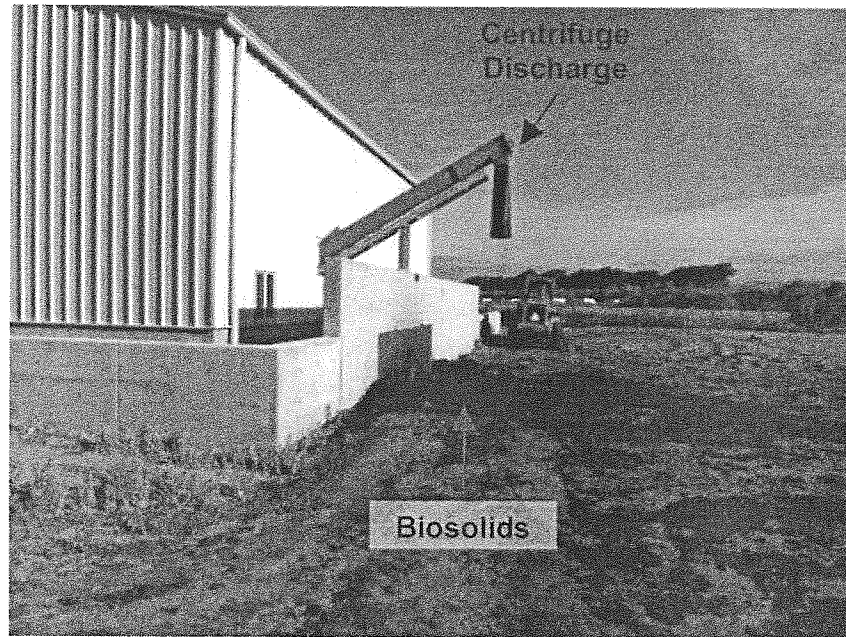


Photo 3: View of biosolids conveyor from centrifuge which discharges onto a porous soil surface.

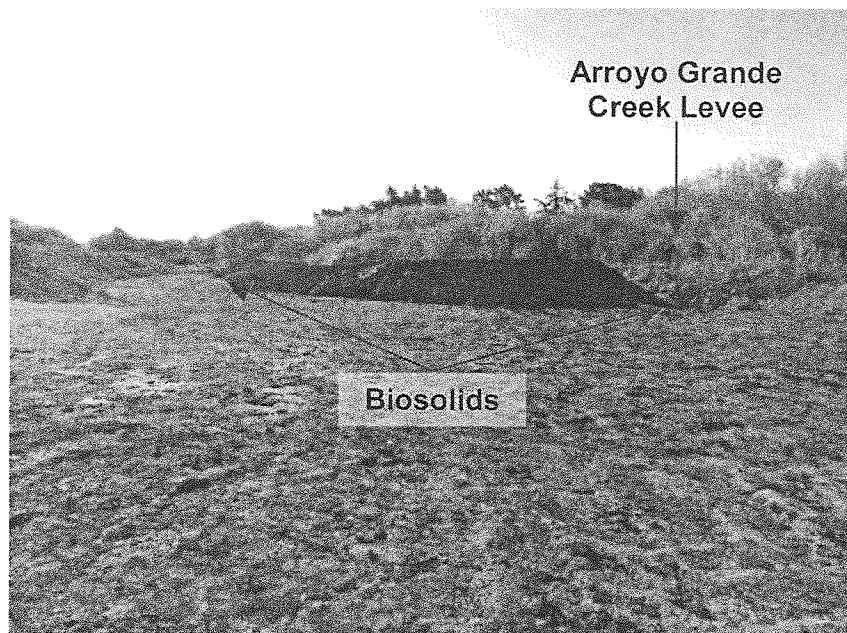


Photo 4: Biosolids storage location, located east of the centrifuge shown in Photo 2. Biosolids are stored on a porous surface, and have the potential to contaminate groundwater.

South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Facility
(NPDES No. CA0048003) Photo Log
Inspected by: Kortney Kirkeby (PG Environmental, LLC)

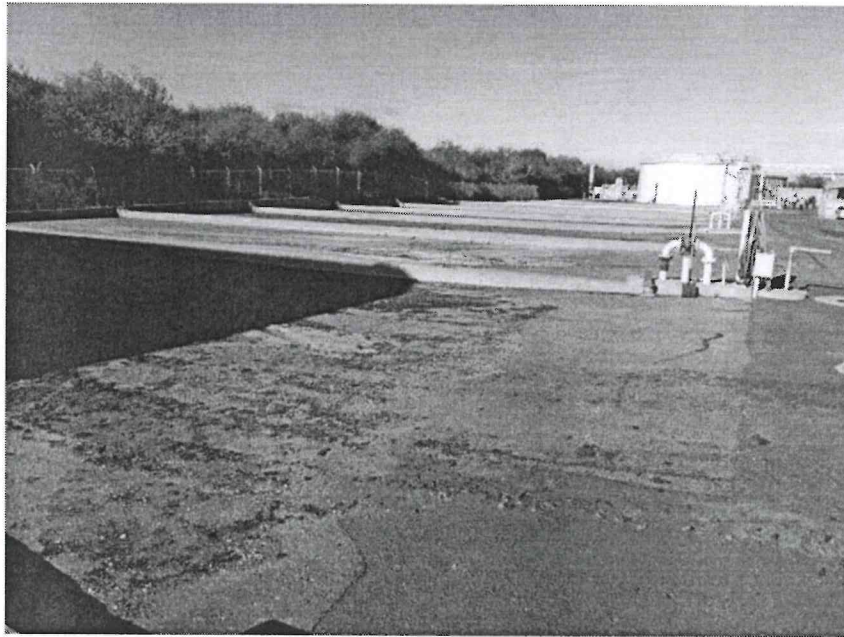
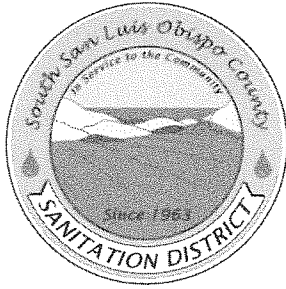


Photo 5: Sludge drying beds located west of the centrifuge and biosolids storage location. Biosolids are not stored in the drying beds as stated in the permit.



Photo 6: View of effluent at the terminus of the chlorine contact chamber leading to junction box.



SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT


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Staff Report

To: Board of Directors
From: Bob Barlogio, Plant Superintendent
Via: John Wallace, District Administrator 
Date: December 5, 2012
Subject: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution No. 2012-302 approving the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, as presented by David Mathe at a previous Board meeting.

Funding:

There are potential future costs to reduce the District's vulnerability and mitigate hazards as may be identified in this plan. The District will look into grants associated with hazard mitigation and use budget planning to identify funding sources.

Discussion:

As discussed at the Nov 7, 2012 board meeting, the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is a plan that addresses local specific hazard mitigation issues. The goal of this multi-jurisdictional plan is to have practical, cost-effective solutions to minimize the District's and the community's vulnerability to the hazards identified in the plan and ultimately reduces human, environmental, and financial losses. The plan will go before CalEMA to conduct a courtesy review, then to FEMA Region 9 for final approval. The final approval can take up to six months.

This plan covers risk and vulnerability assessments of earthquakes, flooding, fire, and tsunamis. The proposed mitigation actions, special environmental concerns, time lines, and potential funding sources.

The City of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Lucia Mar Unified School District, and South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District have worked together with David Mathe to develop this detailed plan.

**SOUTH SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 302**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING
THE 2013 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LOCAL HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the cost of disaster recovering the United States has dramatically increased over the past decade, prolonging interest in providing effective ways to minimize our country's hazard vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all cities, counties, and special districts to have adopted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to receive disaster mitigation funding from FEMA; and

WHEREAS, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District seeks to maintain and enhance both a disaster-resistant District and region by reducing the potential loss of life, property damage, and environment degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters; and

WHEREAS, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District has gone through the planning process with community participation and developed a Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the needs established by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District adopts the 2013 update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach, The South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District, and the Lucia Mar Unified School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution and a copy of the 2013 update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan be forwarded to CalEMA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-302

On motion by Board Member _____,

seconded by Board Member _____, and on
the following call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

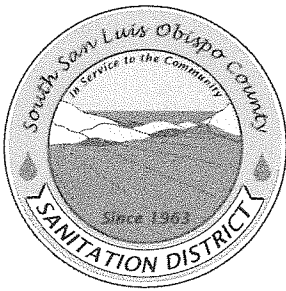
the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this _____

day of _____, 2012.

Bill Nicolls
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:


John L. Wallace
District Administrator



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<http://sslocsd.org/>

Staff Report

To: Board of Directors
From: John Wallace, District Administrator 
Date: December 5, 2012
Subject: Preparations for the 2012-13 Storm Season

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board receive this report and provide any further direction to Staff.

Funding:

Costs of preparations are either provided for in the on-going operations and maintenance activities in the current budget or, identified as a major budget item.

Discussion:

Since the major storms of December 2010, many improvements have been made to the District's facilities as well as coordination with other agencies to share resources in times of emergency.

In addition, additional standard operating procedures have been finalized and included in the District's Operators Manual together with staff training on these procedures.

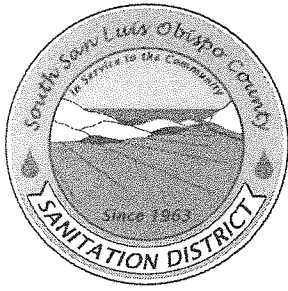
Plant Superintendent Barlogio has prepared a memo (attached) describing items completed for "wet weather preparation".

We believe we are now much better prepared to deal with flooding or other emergency in the magnitude of the 2010 storms.

In addition, staff has continued to coordinate progress for collection system response and repairs through the monthly coordination meetings attended by all Member Agencies representatives. Those meetings have been very helpful to establish recognized channels of communication and assistance in times of emergency and for normal maintenance activities. In addition, staff attendance at the Zone1-1A County meetings has enabled the District to provide input and receive information on the County's Storm/Emergency Preparedness.

With respect to a wider coordinated response for resources, the Cal WARN and Public Works mutual aid agreements will provide participatory agencies the use of outside resources.

Finally, in order to better acquaint our neighbors who reside or own property in the Oceano Lagoon area, it is recommended that the District sponsor a public meeting for a tour of the plant to show what we have done to insure against a repeat of the December 2012 sewage spill. Contact has been made with several residents who have offered to assist in "spreading the word" and will help to coordinate this meeting to be held in December.



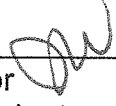
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<http://www.sslocsd.org/>

To: John Wallace, District Administrator 
From: Robert Barlogio, Plant Superintendent
Date: Nov 26, 2012

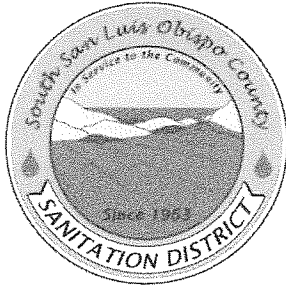
Subject: wet weather preparation

Quick note to inform you of the wet weather preparations we have completed in the last two seasons.

1. Contacted Santa Maria Diesel to completely service the emergency diesel pump. Replace fuel and oil filters. Change oil in engine, on board air compressor, and any other associated equipment. We are also replacing the two starting batteries.
2. We had Santa Maria Diesel also service our 6 inch trash pump, and replace the battery.
3. We have 120 feet of 6 inch suction hose. 500 feet of 6 inch discharge hose. This would allow us to bypass a manhole if necessary.
4. We are checking all the sump pumps inside the plant. Replacing units that have or are failing. We have two spare sump pumps, to cover in the event of another sump pump failure, we will have one on the shelf, ready to go.
5. We have been working together for the last year with Oceano CSD, Grover Beach, and Arroyo Grande, our member agencies, to pool our equipment resources in the event of an emergency. We have monthly meeting, discussing problems that we could resolve by cooperating with together.
6. The storm drains inside the plant have been cleaned and the sump pump pits have been cleaned out every fall.
7. We have a quantity of sand bags and sand on site if need to divert water from the plant in the event of flooding. These bags are filled and are on pallets, ready to be used.
8. The wiring to the influent pump station has been replaced. As part of the project, the wiring was run over the flood wall and installed seal offs in the electric conduit.
9. Rebuilt valves on storm drain sump pump station out in the field. Also made repairs to piping.
10. Installed shunt trip by-pass switch. In the event that the shunt trip shorts out, we can use the by-pass switch to continue operation.
11. Ran the emergency generator under a 96% load for four hours by an outside service provider, to ensure operation during a power outage.
12. Cleaned the underground electric vaults, to ensure that they drain the water that accumulates to the sump pump pits.
13. Checking the amp draw on the sump pumps. If a pump has excessive amp draw, the pump is replaced.
14. Silt gates made for office and the "soft" spots have been reinforced with

aluminum plates.

15. Replaced the rotating assembly on # 4 influent pump. It had a broken shaft at the impeller. We are expecting to receive the fronthead for # 1 influent pump this week or next. After the fronthead, motor and mechanical seal are installed; we will have two rebuilt pumps and one good pump in service.
16. All the 12 inch valves associated with the emergency diesel pump are chained open. The pump was left connected even during the dry season.
17. Installed a raised lid on an electric vault, near the head works.
18. Staff has written Standard Operating Procedures and Emergency Operating Procedures. Giving staff guidelines to which to operate during unusual situations.



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Staff Report

To: Board of Directors
From: John Wallace, District Administrator 
Date: December 5, 2012
Subject: Alternatives for District Service Charge Billing

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board receive and file this update

Funding:

N/A for this update. Total costs will be presented once known from the results of the coordination meeting with the Member Agencies.

Discussion:

On November 20, 2012 the Board directed staff to meet with managers from the Member Agencies to discuss alternative methods of reimbursing the Member Agencies for the District's billing services.

At this time, it is anticipated that a meeting(s) will be held in December in order to return to your Board in January 2013. This should allow for any budget adjustment necessary in the FY 2012-13 Budget and in time to reflect these changes for the development of the FY 2013-14 Budget.

11/28/12

Letter to the Editor of the LA Times

In response to "Central Valley residents tire of receiving L.A.'s urban waste" story 11/25/12

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-central-valley-20121126,0,69011.story>

Dear Editor:

The LA Times is grossly mislabeling wastewater biosolids as a "waste." There's no waste in wastewater and the faster we look at reusing every aspect of this resource the better. Why are biosolids a resource? At the Hyperion Treatment Plant, a facility certified by the National Biosolids Partnership, biosolids are carefully cleaned to Class A (the highest) standards. Gas produced during this process is recovered and utilized to generate electricity.

To ensure environmental protection – dozens of City of Los Angeles Industrial Waste Inspectors work with manufacturers to keep hazardous waste out of the sewer system. They work with dentists and pharmacies to keep unwanted items and drugs out of the sewers. As wastewater professionals we do outreach and want every Californian to know they should never flush pills down the drain.

Biosolids are some of the richest fertilizer available - rich in phosphorous and nitrogen worth millions of dollars to farmers. These nutrients are returning to the farmland – returning right back to where they started. The whole natural food cycle starts again. That's recycling. Yes it's yucky. Yes, we know no one wants to think about poop - but someone has to. As wastewater professionals we think about turning wastewater into a resource every single day. Millions of pounds of biosolids are safely recycled and nearly 1 billion gallons of water are saved. The City of Los Angeles biosolids program is a national model for the reuse of natural resources.

Carrie Mattingly
President
California Water Environment Association

MBC

Correspondence

latimes.com

Central Valley residents tire of receiving L.A.'s urban waste

L.A. officials say the daily truck caravan of unpleasant cargo is an essential step toward recycling tons of waste and turning it into compost and fertilizer in California's vast agrarian middle.

By Jessica Garrison, Los Angeles Times

5:49 PM PST, November 25, 2012

ARVIN, Calif. — Every day, the trucks rumble into the Central Valley by the dozens, chugging over the Grapevine loaded with lawn clippings from Beverly Hills, sewage sludge from Los Angeles and rotting yogurt and vegetables from around Southern California.

advertisement

Los Angeles officials and others say the daily caravan is an essential step toward recycling thousands of tons of urban waste and turning it into compost and fertilizer in California's vast agrarian middle. But increasingly, residents of the Central Valley and other rural areas object to the stream of semis and their unpleasant cargo.

"You guys in Los Angeles are dumping all your waste on us," said Sarah Sharpe, the environmental health program director at Fresno Metro Ministry, a nonprofit group that advocates for environmental justice. "We just don't think it's fair."

Simmering for more than a decade, the issue has flared up in the last year after two young workers died from exposure to toxic fumes at one of the state's largest composting operations in Kern County. Community Recycling & Resource Recovery's facility outside Arvin was full of yard waste from Los Angeles, and had also been under fire for allegedly putting plastic on fields in violation of local land use rules.

Kern County's supervisors ordered the operation shut, setting off a legal battle between the county and the operator.

Thirty-nine of California's 58 counties shipped more than 5% of their trash and recycling across county lines last year. Much of it goes to the Central Valley, which has the vast acreage to handle it. A Times analysis of state recycling data shows that more than 60% of all non-agricultural compost in the state winds up in the region, which is home to just 14% of the population.

Processing waste regionally is the only way cities can meet state goals that call for diverting half their waste away from landfills, state and metropolitan officials say. There is not enough space in urban centers like San Francisco and Los Angeles, nor is there a large market there for compost.

But some officials said that when the waste gets to rural areas, recycling facilities don't always sufficiently protect the environment and neighbors' quality of life.

"A lot of these disposal facilities don't want to use the most modern technology because it costs more," said Kern County's planning director, Lorelei Oviatt. "Our residents want to know why they have to endure the impacts merely to save money for some people in Los Angeles."

The debate is only expected to escalate: A law approved last year calls for the state to aim to recycle or otherwise reduce 75% of its waste by 2020. Los Angeles has vowed to go even further, expanding recycling so much that the city will be "zero waste" by 2025.

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One of the most bitter battles in California is over sludge, the batter-like material left over after treatment plants finish cleaning and draining what is flushed down the toilet or washed down the sink.

Sludge used to get dumped in the ocean — but that was banned in the 1980s because of concerns about pollution.

In 2000, the city of Los Angeles bought 4,600 acres in Kern County, just off Interstate 5 near Taft, and has been sending up more than 20 truckloads a day of "wet cake" from the Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant near LAX.

Private companies in Kern County are also in the business, including the South Kern Industrial Center, operated by Synagro and Liberty Composting, both permitted to take hundreds of thousands of tons a year, according to officials at the regional waterboard.

Los Angeles officials and those at major wastewater treatment plants in the state say that spreading such "biosolids" on land or composting it as fertilizer is good for the city and good for the farm. They note that sludge is heated to 131 degrees for several days until harmful bacteria and pathogens are destroyed or removed.

Los Angeles' land in Kern County features a red barn and a sign: "Green Acres Farm." The city's website proudly describes the corn, alfalfa and oats that are grown there.

"To me, it's completing a circle, putting back to the earth what came from it, and doing it very protectively and beneficially," said Greg Kester, biosolids program manager for the California Assn. of Sanitation Agencies. "Biosolids do enrich the soil in Kern County."

Kern County officials don't see it that way. They fear groundwater will be contaminated and that metals and pharmaceuticals will leach into the soil.

Most experts say recycled products such as sludge and compost are safe if handled properly. But Kern County officials filed court declarations from scientists who are skeptical. Portland State University engineer Gwynn Johnson, for instance, said research shows that biosolids contain metals, antibiotics and flame retardants, and that

central valley residents are not receiving L.A.'s urban waste - latimes.com
more study is needed to determine the implications for "human health and the environment."

Residents tend to focus on the "ick" factor.

Ronald Hurlbert, who owned property near one sludge operation that at one point received waste from Orange County, said the odor was "virtually unbearable (like a well-used bathroom at LAX)," according to a sworn declaration filed in court by Kern County officials.

In 2006, more than 80% of Kern County voters approved Measure E, banning the importation of sludge from outside the county. Los Angeles sued, arguing that the initiative ran afoul of California's waste management laws.

The suit was dismissed from federal court in 2010 on technical grounds, but Los Angeles re-filed it in state court, where it is pending. In the meantime, a judge allowed the city's operations to continue.

The case has become one of the nation's most closely watched battles over waste, in part because a sludge ban could prompt other jurisdictions to follow suit.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles County announced that it had purchased 14,500 acres in Kings County — also in the Central Valley — where it would be allowed to send hundreds of thousands of tons of sludge and yard waste.

Some material could start arriving at the end of next year.

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At a 190-acre recycling facility at the southern end of Kern County, near the town of Arvin, Community Recycling takes in as much as a quarter of all the compostable materials in the state.

"The material coming from L.A. is being beneficially reused by the farmers, and it's providing jobs for the people in the community," said Alex Helou, assistant director of Los Angeles' Sanitation Department.

Neighbors are less sanguine. "You get up and the smell is horrible, and you have no idea why," said Sal Partida, an Arvin tax preparer.

Others complain that Community Recycling has repeatedly allowed plastic and other trash to blow off its property and spread for miles. In 2007, Kern County regulators accused the company of putting compost that contained "excessive plastics, glasses and other materials" on land company officials own near its facility.

One morning last fall, two brothers from Mexico went to clean a drainpipe at the facility. Within minutes, Armando Ramirez, 16, was dead. Eladio, 22, died two days later. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health later found they had died from exposure to hydrogen sulfide, a byproduct of composting.

Cal-OSHA chief Ellen Widness called the deaths "completely preventable" and fined the company more than \$160,000. The company appealed. Kern County officials issued \$2.3 million in fines for land use and other violations and revoked the company's operating permit.

Community Recycling sued, and a judge allowed it to keep operating the facility until a hearing set for early next year. Company officials did not return phone calls seeking comment. Earlier this year, a spokeswoman called the brothers' deaths "a tragic accident" but said the company believed state officials "rushed to judgment" and issued

citations based on incomplete information.

Shortly after the brothers' deaths, Los Angeles officials decided to stop sending their trucks of yard waste up to the facility. But in August, the city started dispatching them again.

Helou, of the Los Angeles Sanitation Department, said the city had nowhere else to recycle it.

jessica.garrison@latimes.com

Times staff writer Doug Smith contributed to this report.

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