



SSLOCS D NEWS

Important information from South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District

Fall 2016

Settlement Brings Funds Back to Community

On July 29, 2016, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District (District) entered into a settlement agreement with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for its 2010 spill which resulted in a \$1,190,000 Administrative Civil Liability issued to the District.

Specific elements of the Settlement include a cash payment to the State of California Clean-up and Abatement Account in the amount of \$554,906.40 as well as three Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) or Enhanced Compliance Projects totaling \$554,906.40.

This allows the District to not only settle the civil liability, but also guarantee that 50% of the money will be spent locally to improve the plant.

During the July Regular meeting, the District Board stated "this settlement is a major accomplishment for the District and allows us to move forward on new initiatives including investing in the District's wastewater infrastructure and exploring ways to use our wastewater for beneficial purposes regionally."

More on page 2.



Community Projects Continued...

Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program Groundwater Assessment and Protection (CCAMP-GAP) in the amount of \$110,981.28

The Groundwater Assessment and Protection program (GAP or CCAMP-GAP) is a new and integral component of the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP), the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's regionally scaled water quality monitoring and assessment program. The purpose of the program is to provide scientific information to Regional Board staff, local water agencies and water purveyors, and the public to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the waters of central California. Funds will be sent to the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay who administers funds on behalf of CCAMP-GAP.

Groundwater Modeling Assistance for the Northern Cities Management Area in the amount of \$221,962.56

These funds will assist with the development of a groundwater flow model and modeling analysis for the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) and Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA) of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin (SMGB). Completion of the model will be a critical step toward improved groundwater resources management and long-term water supply reliability and will assist agencies to confidently plan and manage long term water supply operations and mitigate seawater intrusion. This model will also provide information for a future regional water recycling project involving groundwater injection or groundwater recharge.

District Enhanced Compliance Action (ECA) Project in the amount of \$221,962.56

This project was chosen voluntarily by the District to enhance the water quality of the District's effluent, provide more reliable and dependable service to plant operations, and prepare for future water recycling opportunities. Removing fine grit protects downstream equipment, infrastructure, and processes from abrasive wear, sedimentation and damage, increases plant reliability, and reduces maintenance costs. The proposed system will accomplish 95% grit removal, classification, washing, and dewatering.

Meet Your District Administrator

Gerhardt was born and raised in Southern California. He attended Cal Poly Pomona for Civil Engineering and graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences, emphasis in Engineering Geology. He is Professional Geologist licensed with the State of California.



Gerhardt began his career at the Los Angeles Regional Board where he was involved with Basin Planning and Standards development, and creation of the 1994 Basin Plan.

In 1995, he transferred to the Central Coast Region where he worked 10 years as Senior Engineering Geologist, supervising all surface and groundwater water quality permitting within coastal SLO County and all of Santa Barbara County. He was also involved with several high profile projects including cleanup of Avila Beach, the Buena Vista and Klau mines in northwest San Luis Obispo County, and the Los Osos Wastewater Project.

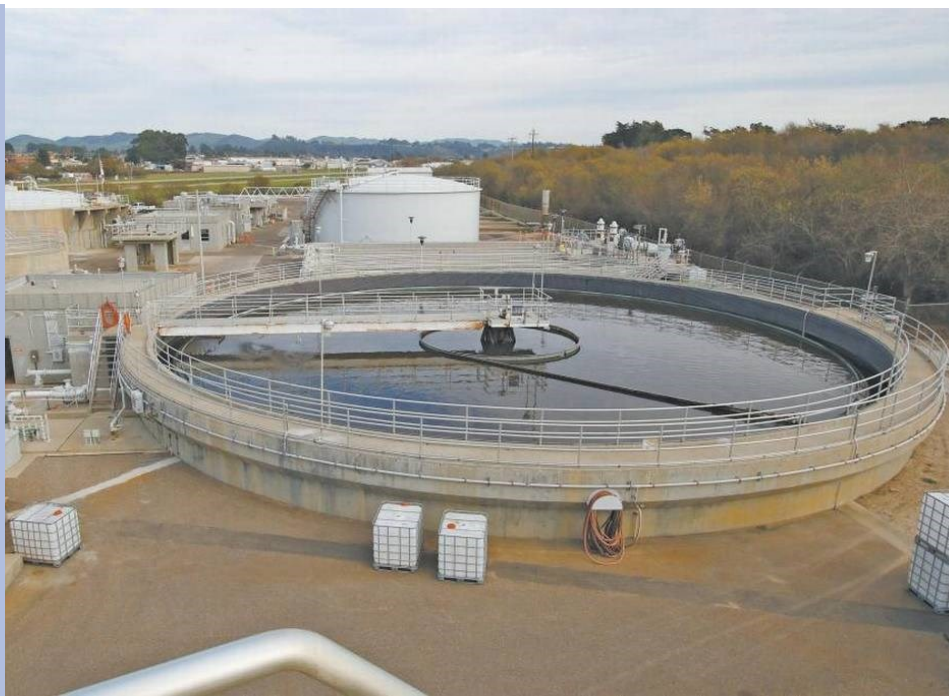
Until accepting the position with the District, Gerhardt worked for the County of Ventura, Watershed Protection District as Deputy Director of Public Works overseeing the Water and Environmental Resources Division.

District History

In 1958 the Grover City County Water District commissioned engineering studies to investigate the rising nitrate levels observed in local ground water resources. At the time, Grover City (now Grover Beach) and nearby Oceano were entirely un-sewered and dependent on the use of individual septic tanks. Much of nearby Arroyo Grande was sewerred with a system leading to a treatment plant ("sewer farm") disposing of partially treated wastewater onto adjacent land.

Results of the studies confirmed the need to adequately address septic tank and "sewer farm" impact on local ground water. As a result, the County Board of Supervisors formed the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District on September 3, 1963. Federal grant funding was awarded and by 1966 construction was completed, allowing for nearly 9 miles of incoming trunk sewer lines, a new wastewater treatment plant, and an ocean outfall line for discharge of the treated wastewater.

The District has completed several modifications, improvements and expansions to the wastewater treatment plant since the original date of construction in order to better serve South County residents.



Clarifier at the SSLOCSD Wastewater Treatment Plant

Providing Quality Services

The SSLOCSD continually strives to provide quality services to the public. During the 2015/2016 calendar years, the District succeeded in either initiating or completing projects including:

Pipeline Repair at Plant Headworks

This project replaced the pipeline at the plant headworks (beginning stage for wastewater treatment) due to normal wear and tear. It was initiated in July 2015 and completed September 2015. Other related work was also completed to promote overall operational efficiency.

Information Technology Integration

In June 2016, the District completed an information technology integration project into wastewater operations to promote efficiency.

Wastewater Redundancy Project

Since 2005, the District Board has discussed and evaluated the need for additional secondary treatment processes at the plant. Over the past year the District has secured funding for the first phase of the project and, at its September 7th Board meeting, the Board adopted a Resolution allowing staff to take the next steps towards the project. The project is currently in the design stage. Watch for more information on this project in the coming months.

More on back.

Quality Services Continued...

Additionally, the District has a team of dedicated staff and Board of Directors who work hard to maintain the quality of service provided to the Five Cities area. Over the past year the District was able to accomplish the following:

Administrative

- Established a Budget Reserve Policy
- Adopted a Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
- Moved forward with placing District's wastewater fees on County Tax Roll for the Oceano community
- Completed and filed an annual Compliance Report
- Adopted a Wastewater Fee Increase to support future projects

Operations

- Achieved 100% acceptable data for prior year Annual Proficiency Testing
- District Laboratory Analyst received Grade 2 certification
- Installed a grinder to help break down items that get caught and cause operational inefficiency
- Installed a back-up Bisulfite system to ensure discharge requirements are met, and a skimmer arm to improve operations.

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
www.sslocsd.org

COMING SOON!



South San Luis Obispo County
SANITATION DISTRICT

Later this fall the District
will be launching a new,
user friendly website.
Watch for more
information.



**So SLO County
Sanitation District**
1600 Aloha Place
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POSTAGE

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