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December 2008 SEWER LEAKS – A Los Angeles Basin Section of the C W E A Publication



WEFTEC 08 Chicago Skyline (lt) LA Wrecking Crew (Paul Johnson, Steve Johnson, Dale Dollins and Jeff Valdes) (ctr lt) St. Louis Missouri in the Shadow of the Gateway Arch (ctr rt) ACI Convention St. Louis (rt) LA Wrecking Crew during the Collections System Operations Challenge Event (below)



LA Wrecking Crew – WEF Ops Challenge 2008 2nd Place Division 1 Winner

Chicago, Ill. – The Trinity River Authority CREWSers won the first-place trophy during the 2008 Operations Challenge competition at WEFTEC®.08 at McCormick Place in Chicago, Ill. Coached by Raudel Juarez the team of Jacob Burwell, Dale Burrow, Steve Price, and David Brown placed first. The LA Wrecking Crew representing the California Water Environment Association won the second-place division 1 trophy. Led by Team Captain Paul Johnson the team of Jeff Valdes, Steve Johnson, and Dale Dollins placed second out of 43 teams from the United States, Canada, and Argentina that competed in the fast-paced, two-day event. Full competition results include:



John Hart - WEF Ops Challenge Chair, Dale Dollins, Steve Johnson, Paul Johnson, Jeff Valdez and Adam Zabinski WEF President

Division 1

First Place: **Trinity River Authority CREWSers** - Water Environment Association of Texas

Second Place: **LA Wrecking Crew** – California Water Environment Association

Third Place: **s.C.R.A.P.P.E.R.S** – Ohio Water Environment Association

Division 2

First Place: **Terminal Velocity** – Virginia Water Environment Association

Second Place: **Wasatch All-Stars** – Water Environment Association of Utah

Third Place: **Wasted Gas** - Water Environment Association of Utah

Celebrating its 21st year, Operations Challenge has grown from an original 22-team event to its current 43-team, two division format, each four-member team was judged on the best combination of precision, speed and safety. Winners are determined by a weighted point system for five events which include: collection systems, laboratory, process control, maintenance and safety. The events are designed to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems and laboratories - all vital to the protection of public health and the environment.

Operations Challenge is presented in conjunction with WEFTEC®.08 - the Water Environment Federation's 81st annual technical exhibition and conference. As the largest water quality event in North America and largest annual water quality exhibition in the world, WEFTEC.08 hosted more than 18,000 of the world's leading water quality experts and 1,000 companies featuring the latest in water quality technology. WEFTEC.08 was held at McCormick Place from October 18-22, 2008. For more information, visit www.weftec.org.

WEFTEC.08 is the Largest in Conference's 81-Year History

Record-setting numbers of 21,950 attendees and 1,111 companies using 290,000 net square feet of exhibit space have designated WEFTEC.08 – the Water Environment Federation's 81st Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference – as the largest event in its 81-year history. The previous records of 19,929 attendees, 1,017 companies and 268,405 net square feet of floor space were set just last year at WEFTEC.07 in San Diego. WEFTEC.08 offered educational and training to water quality professionals with 31 workshops, 115 technical sessions, and 10 facility tours that addressed the current status of water, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, energy, green initiatives, science, research, and legislative and political issues.



Chicago Skyline view from Lake Michigan (lt) Chicago Skyline River and Bridge view (rt)

Professor John Anthony Allan anchored a well-balanced opening general session program with a keynote address featuring the concept of “virtual water” which measures how water is embedded in the production and trade of food and consumer products. This concept has major impacts on global trade policy and research, especially in water-scarce regions, and has redefined discourse in water policy and management.

President Adam Zabinski officially launched Phase I of WEF's new website www.wef.org establishing the organization as the 'go-to' resource for the world's best science, engineering and technical practices in water quality. The new homepage includes WEF's first Water Blog which will alternate with Water Heroes' features and WEF news. A new gateway – “Access Water Knowledge” offers entry to WEF periodicals and e proceedings as well as 17 new Knowledge Centers.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago received a standing ovation from the 800 attendees for his speech, “Making Chicago a Global Leader in Water and Sustainability,” given in a session on water infrastructure and sustainable innovations. Mayor Daley shared the recently unveiled Chicago Climate Action Plan and also insisted that the Nation's cities must reinvest in infrastructure and will need help in financing. “The next President of the United States needs to address what has been an inadequate level of federal investment in our infrastructure, including water systems, roads, bridges, highways, public transportation and school construction,” he said.

ACI Convention in the Shadow of the Gateway Arch a Success!

The American Concrete Institute (ACI) held its annual spring convention from November 2 – 6 in St. Louis, MO. A highlight of St. Louis is the Gateway Arch. The Arch is a structure known as a catenary curve, the shape a free-hanging chain takes when held at both ends, and considered the most structurally-sound arch shape. The span of the Arch legs at ground level is 630 feet, the same as its height. The Arch is the tallest national monument in the United States. Construction took approximately 2 years, from February 12, 1963 through October 28, 1965. The Arch weighs 17,246 tons. Nine hundred tons of stainless steel was used to build the Arch, more than any other project in history. The Arch was built at a cost of \$13 million. The transportation system was built at a cost of \$3,500,000. In order to ensure that the constructed legs would meet, the margin of error for failure was $1/64^{\text{th}}$ of an inch. All survey work was done at night to eliminate distortion caused by the sun's rays. Since the Arch was constructed before the advent of computer technology, relatively crude instruments were used for these measurements. The Arch sways a maximum of 18" (9" each way) in a 150 mph wind. The usual sway is $1/2$ ".



St. Louis skyline with Gateway Arch view (lt) ACI technical committee meeting at the spring convention (rt)

At the ACI annual spring convention, technical, educational, and administrative committees held open meetings, which welcomed attendees. These meetings provide opportunities to meet and talk individually with some of the most prominent individuals and experts in the field of concrete technology. In addition to committee meetings, the convention program included technical and educational sessions, seminars, and exhibits.

ACI is a nonprofit technical and educational society organized in 1904 and is one of the world's leading authorities on concrete technology. ACI is a forum for the discussion of all matters related to concrete and the development of solutions to problems. ACI conducts this forum through conventions and meetings; the *ACI Structural Journal*, the *ACI Materials Journal*, *Concrete International*, and technical publications; chapter activities; and technical committee work. As its chartered objective states, its purpose is "to provide a comradeship in finding the best ways to do concrete work of all kinds and in spreading that knowledge."

ACI publishes reliable information on concrete and its applications, conducts educational seminars, provides a standard certification program for the industry, provides local forums for discussion through the Chapter program, and encourages student involvement in the concrete field. Committee members involved with these activities meet at bi-annual conventions.





WEFTEC08 attendees at technical session (lt) Exhibitors trade show floor (rt)

On the international front, 2,378 international registrants attended WEFTEC.08. These international attendees included 245 trade delegation attendees from 71 countries, who utilized WEF's Global Center services to facilitate their meetings with exhibitors, organize site visits, and utilize translator services. WEF also facilitated meetings, between exhibitors and trade delegates representing water and wastewater buyer interests from such countries as China, the Philippines, Israel, Bulgaria, Iraq, and South Africa, to name a few.

Of particular interest were workshops on the "Challenges posed by Emerging Contaminants" by Dr. David L. Sedlak, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California at Berkeley and "Evolving Urban Water and Residuals Management Paradigms: Water Reclamation and Reuse, Decentralization, Energy Production, Resource Recovery" presented by Dr. Glen T. Daigger, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for CH2M HILL.

On Tuesday, as part of the "Presidential Celebration", President Adam Zabinski ceremoniously "passed the gavel" of Federation leadership to Rebecca West and inducted the remaining 2008-2009 WEF Officers and Board of Trustees. The ceremony culminated with awards presentations in recognition of the outstanding achievements of the most talented and dedicated professionals in the water quality community. In all, over 25 awards were presented at various events during the four-day conference.

A successful hands-on community service project, "Getting out of the Gutter", featured the construction of a Rain Garden at Pulaski Park in Chicago. The event was a project of the WEF Young Professionals Committee, the Illinois Water Environment Association, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology. The \$7,000 corporate-sponsored project left behind a green space that will provide native plants and effective stormwater mitigation drainage to a previously plain turf area.

Other conference highlights included WEFTEach, poster presentations, and student activities. The Student Design Competition was won by a team from the University of Florida.

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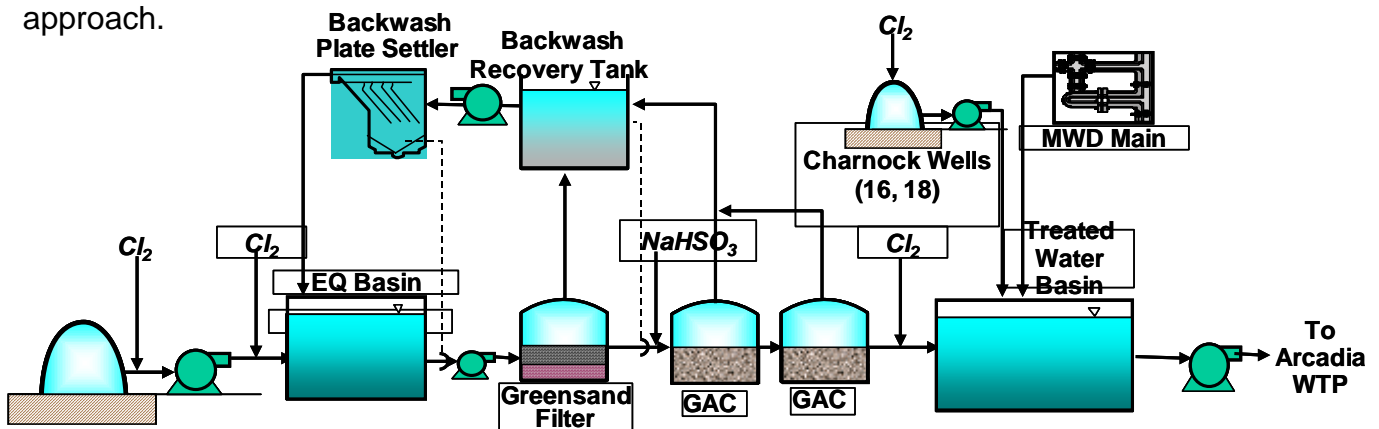
Tackling MTBE Contamination at Santa Monica Charnock Well Field



Attendees socialize at TAIX prior to Gil Borboa's November 20th LABS presentation.

On November 20, 2008 The Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of CWEA hosted a dinner and training presentation at TAIX French Restaurant in Los Angeles. The featured speaker at the event, Gilbert Borboa P.E. Water Resources Manager for the City of Santa Monica, discussed MTBE and the Restoration of the City of Santa Monica's Public Water System. Mr. Borboa began with an amusing anecdote on the top 7 reasons why women live longer than men. After drawing in attendees, Mr. Borboa paralleled these survival strategies to the City of Santa Monica's (City) complex water supply system in light of concerns regarding Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE). MTBE is a fuel oxygenate, octane booster, replacement for lead pursuant to the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990. MTBE was not required but was the oxygenate of choice in California (11% of gasoline in CA). MTBE is highly soluble in groundwater, has a low odor (5 to 50 ppb) and taste (10 to 100 ppb) threshold, and is a possible human carcinogen.

The City, founded in 1875, occupies an are of approximately 8 square miles with a residential population of 85,000 and a daytime population of 250,000. The City owned and operated water system includes approximately 17,000 water connections. MTBE was detected in late 1995. To alleviate the concern all City Charnock wells were closed by June 1996. The maximum well concentration reached 610 ppb. Prior to closure, the Charnock wells supplied 45% of all City water. In 1995 the City's water demand was 14,415 acre-feet (AF), and 70% was provided by City wells. In 2008 the City's water demand was 14,557 AF, and only 14% of water demand was provided by City wells. Within a political climate of investigations, litigation, and settlements, the City of Santa Monica is moving forward in a effort to reduce their reliance on imported sources by designing and building a treatment facility to address MTBE. The City's proposed remediation process is currently in preliminary design with a target completion date of December 2010. The City's remediation program includes: granulated activated carbon (GAC) removal of MTBE at Charnock (schematic below), and a combination of softening and fluoridation at Arcadia. The treatment goal is to reduce MTBE to less than 0.5 ppb. To accommodate the fast track schedule, the City is progressing with a Design/Build approach.



Join LABS for Our Annual Awards Banquet on the Queen Mary

When: Saturday January 10
Reception - 6:30 PM
Dinner – 7:00 PM
Awards – 7:30 PM

Where: Long Beach Queen Mary – Royal Salon
1126 Queen's Highway,
Long Beach, CA 90802

RSVP: Please RSVP to Patrick Griffith at:
pgriffith@lacs.org or call (562) 908-4288,
ext. 2117 by Monday, January 5th

Cost: \$50 for LABS/CWEA members and guests
\$12 Parking

Please Include Your Entrée Choice with Your RSVP:

- Prime Rib
- Grilled Chicken Breast
- Vegetarian Option

Directions:

- From the 710 Freeway South, take the S. Harbor Scenic Dr. exit
- Turn left towards Windsor Way
- Turn right at Queens Hwy.
- Just mention Los Angeles Basin Section Party and head upstairs to the Royal Salon!





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Southern CA Rep:	Constance Leonard	(213) 457-2162

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 9 th & Mar 11 th	CWEA Crisis Communication Workshop, Oakland and Whittier http://www.cwea.org/
Dec 10 th	WEF webcast Collection System Evaluation http://www.wef.org
Dec 11 th	AB32 California's Greenhouse Gas Legislation, Downey www.socalgas.com/erc/
Jan 10 th	LABS Awards Banquet, Queen Mary www.labsofcwea.com
Jan 27 th & 28 th	CWEA Dewatering Specialty Conference, Carson and Oakland http://www.cwea.org/
Jan 27 th – 30 th	WEF Association of Boards of Certification Annual Conference La Quinta, CA http://www.abccert.org/annual.html

www.projectpartners.com/ps/index.htm

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