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Process and Instrumentation Diagram (P&ID) Training Bootcamp

By Wendy Wert

On September 29, 2010 the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) held a Process and Instrumentation Diagram (P&ID) training seminar at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts in Whittier. LABS Director, Basil Hewitt initiated the proceedings by introducing an eminent water quality professional in attendance, Tim Haug. Dr. Haug retired Deputy City Engineer and Wastewater Program Manager for the City of Los Angeles, currently holds the office of Trustee-At-Large for the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE). Dr. Haug has both an M.S. and Ph.D. from Stanford and a B.S. from LMU, where he maintains a position as Professor Emeritus. Tim Haug introduced the distinguished course instructor, Bill Hartnett. Bill is a Principal Engineer with Montgomery Watson Harza, and acting Chief Process Engineer for City of Los Angeles. Bill started the seminar with a bang. He stated the “P” stands for “piping” rather than “process”. Tim immediately interrupted with a contrary position, and as it turns out both experts are correct, the wastewater industry tends to prefer “process” whereas the petrochemical industry uses the term “piping”. Regardless of the name used, the profession universally agrees these diagrams are essential to effective practice.



Professor Emeritus Dr. Tim Haug (lt) Record number of attendees (ctr) Instructor Bill Hartnett (rt)

P&IDs are a pictorial representation of the plant showing: equipment and specifications, installed spares, associated piping, valves, insulation, instruments and controls. These diagrams are powerful tools that can clearly communicate key process information to those who know how to read and interpret them. In the wastewater industry they are used by all discipline Design Engineers (civil, mechanical, structural, electrical, instrumentation), Treatment Plant Operators, and Environmental Compliance Inspectors.

P&IDs are essential to wastewater practice because they form a basis for project scope control, serve a key function during quality assurance/quality control review, serve as a guide for detailed discipline design, and are the principle form of communication between designers, operators, owners, and maintenance personnel. His statement “the process of developing a process is a process” alludes to the iterative nature of maintaining viable treatment plant P&IDs. P&ID construction is initiated by process engineers through the generation of simplified block diagrams that show only the major processes and the order of operations. Detail is added to basic block flow diagrams to construct process flow diagrams. Bill considers the construction of process flow diagrams to be part of the project definition or pre-design phase. Process flow diagrams contain tank and pump sizes, major equipment components, and the overall control strategy (level, flow, ratio). Bill recommended the development of complete process flow diagrams with materials and flow balances for each system. Complete process flow diagrams are a milestone that marks the transition from project definition to detailed schematic design.

The first step in schematic design (construction document preparation) is to take the 100 percent complete process flow diagrams and build these into P&IDs. This is where engineering discipline (civil, mechanical, structural, electrical, instrumentation) coordination is key to effective project execution. The process engineer works with all disciplines to detail the process flow diagrams. Pipeline sizes are added, specific monitoring and control devices are selected, etc. Process engineers will show control valves, however, instrumentation will interact with mechanical to determine the type of control valve. The process engineer will develop loop descriptions and work with the instrumentation engineer/designer to symbolize properly.



Instructor Bill Hartnett (lt) Attendees at P&ID Training (ctr) LABS Director Basil Hewitt (rt)

Bill recommended maintaining the relative plant orientation when developing P&IDs. For example drains should always be placed at low elevations and vents at high elevations. This can help reviewers identify and resolve conflicts during the design phase. Bill suggested that it could be worthwhile to consider three-dimensional design (3D) tools to assist with this visualization. There is an associated learning curve for effectively applying these tools, but once the models are built they are minimize associated change orders. Design hours are always lower cost than construction hours.

There must be a series of reviews during detailed design. Bill recommends going over the system line by line with those who will own and operate the system. Specifically there should be quality assurance / control reviews, constructability reviews and operability reviews. Although it can be a somewhat tedious process to identify errors, omissions, conflicts, and compatibility concerns during design; this is the place for it. Bill and Tim also shared several “lessons learned” where a \$5,000 equipment change can quickly escalate to \$40,000 for retrofit during construction or start-up.

Bill summarized the afternoon’s discussion by emphasizing that P&IDs are the central form of communication during the design and operation of wastewater treatment facilities. The process engineer initiates P&IDs with the complete flow diagrams and materials balances for major system components. Engineering disciplines work together to detail during schematic design. Complete P&IDs function to control change. Project design changes (modifications to the P&ID) are evaluated for impacts to scope, schedule, and budget prior to making the adjustment. Up-to-date P&IDs are used by Field Engineers/Inspectors, Operators, and Environmental Compliance Inspectors to monitor and adjust plant operations.

Are You Smarter than a Sports Bar Patron?

Water For People Los Angeles – Year in Review

Patrick Griffith and Basil Hewitt

On October 19th, nearly everyone was “smarter” than the M-squared team at the Water for People LA (WFP-LA) Trivia Night at Busby’s East. About 30 WFP-LA supporters formed trivia teams to compete in Busby’s regular trivia night festivities. Teams crafted creative names such as the Watermarks, the Babbling Brooks, Ninjas, Team T.A.A.S., and (perennial trivia doormat) M-squared.¹

The event raised money for Water for People’s efforts in developing countries. Water for People strives to build a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation – a world where no one suffers or dies from a water or sanitation related disease.

Teams answered questions ranging from general trivia to issues related to the world water crises. Team T.A.A.S. won the grand prize, an autographed copy of former LA District Attorney Gil Garcetti’s book “Water is Key.” Second place (and a cabernet from Malibu Wines) went to the Ninja’s. Other teams were not as fortunate. “We would have chewed up the competition if they had asked about Chesapeake Bay TMDLs. Instead, they zinged us with ‘What does the H stand for in H₂O?’!” cried M-squared team co-captions Hewitt and Mackie. Better luck next year guys!



WFP LA Chair, Patrick Griffith (left) congratulates Team T.A.A.S. (Terry, Stephanie and Ariel Larro with Adam Popkin), who terminated the competition at the WFP LA Trivia Night

This light-hearted event completes a very active social calendar for Water for People that featured a fun “bowl-a-thon” event at Hollywood’s Lucky Strike Lanes and a visit to the Annenberg Space for Photography to view their exhibit on the world water crises.

The highlight of the year, as always, was the Spring Hike-a-Thon in Malibu. Hikers participating this year teamed up for a morning of exercise, education, and goodwill at the enchanting Charmlee Park this May. Nearly 80 hikers, friends and supporters of Water for People LA came on a brisk Saturday morning to walk the 2.8 mile trail. This year’s event set local records for participation and raised \$1000 more than last year!

2011 promises to be just as eventful with a Spring Gala and Hike-a-Thon, as well as another Trivia Night. If you are interested in participating in a fun group that does something worthwhile, feel free to contact Patrick Griffith at pgriffith@lacs.org, or Brook Yared at byared@cvwd.com.



WFP supporters enjoy their exhilarating hike in Malibu.



¹ Some team names were changed for “editorial” reasons :)

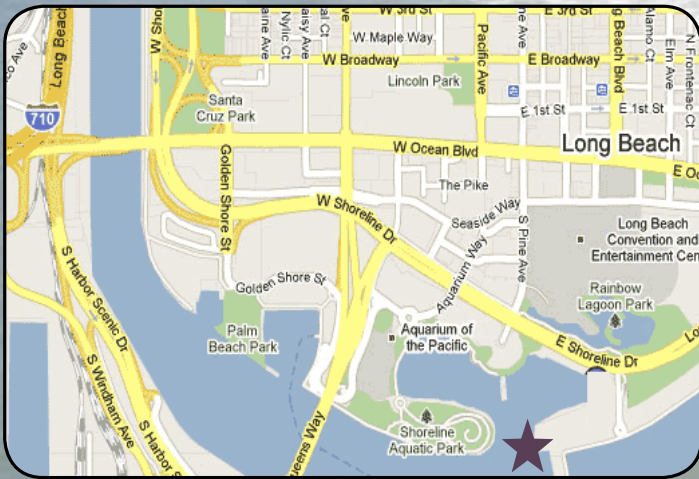


Tracy Egoscue, Former Exec. Officer LA RWQCB

On Nov. 18th join LABS for a discussion with Distinguished Speaker Tracy Egoscue, of counsel in the Environmental Practice of Paul Hastings, about her unique experience as the former Executive Officer of the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region. She'll share her vision for sustainable water quality initiatives and discuss the intersection of water quality with water supply and how the two are becoming more and more linked in the complex Southern California environment.

Tracy J. Egoscue, JD
Of Counsel in the
Environmental Practice of
Paul Hastings, Los Angeles

Paul Hastings



Thursday, November 18th

Dinner:

1. Grilled Miso Glazed Salmon
 2. Shrimp Arrabbiata
 3. 6 Oz. Sirloin
 4. Pasta marinara w/grilled veggies
- Cheesecake

RSVP:

With meal choice by 11/12:
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email preferred
or call Wendy Wert
(562) 908.4288 ext. 2128

Pay at the door: \$30 CWEA members, \$40 non-members,
\$15 students. Cash or checks sorry no credit cards.

6p drinks | 6:30p dinner | 7p presentation

Directions:

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Exit 1C Downtown Long Beach
Merge onto Shoreline Drive
Follow signs to Shoreline Village
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Location:

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The 2011 LABS Awards Banquet – the Best of the Best in Operations, Maintenance, Safety, Research, Engineering, Collection Systems, P3S, Public Outreach and more!



Saturday, Jan. 8th • 6:00pm • Queen Mary, Board Room

710 fwy south, exit 1A to Piers F-J/Queen Mary. Hotel/restaurant parking. Elevators to 4th floor, shore side, aft.

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*Meal
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1. Grilled Chicken
 2. Prime Rib
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- Cash bar
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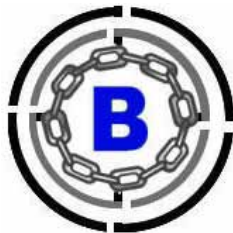
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Nov 18 th	CWEA Specialty Workshop; QA/QC for Wastewater Laboratories: Fundamentals and Guidance; Van Nuys; www.cwea.org/conferences
Nov 18 th	LABS Distiguated Speakers Series – Tracy Egoscue, Long Beach, http://www.labsocfwea.com/
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