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Introducing the 2010 LABS Board of Directors



2010 LABS Board of Directors (left to right): Ian Mackenzie, Alec Mackie, Pat McDaniel, Hala Titus, Basil Hewitt, Amanda Schmidt. Not pictured: Wendy Wert.



Past President, Hala Titus, passing gavel and Presidents Plaque to Incoming President, Pat McDaniel

April LABS Dinner and Training Meeting – Wastewater Collection Systems Operations and Maintenance *By Patrizia Hall, Long Beach Water Department*

On April 27, 2010, the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) hosted a dinner and training meeting at Taix Restaurant in Echo Park. Mr. Sam Espinoza, Wastewater Collection System Manager for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) gave a presentation titled “Wastewater Collection Systems Operations and Maintenance.” Mr. Espinoza is responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of over 1,300 miles of trunk sewers, 52 pumping plants and 11 wastewater treatment plants with an annual operating budget of approximately \$40 million. During the presentation, he discussed the unique O&M challenges faced by LACSD as demand for services continues to grow, existing wastewater infrastructure ages, and O&M budgets face increased scrutiny in the current economic climate.



In 2004, LACSD was issued an Administrative Order by the United States Environmental Protection Agency which required the Districts to upgrade and improve its sewer system to ultimately eliminate all instances of Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) violations. In the six years since the Administrative Order was issued, LACSD has implemented a proactive O&M program to assess and track all of their facilities.

Some of the highlights of LACSD’s O&M program that were discussed by Mr. Espinoza include:

- Closed-circuit television (CCTV) Inspections:** LACSD has an extensive internal CCTV program where the Operations group documents the condition of all sewer lines in the system on a regularly scheduled basis in order to identify problems as soon as possible. The CCTV equipments are shown on the right (courtesy of Mr. Espinoza’s presentation).
- Physical Inspections:** LACSD operators are sometimes required to perform manual inspections in areas where CCTV or another remote means of access cannot be used. This ensures that the entire system is documented and assessed.



- Line Cleaning:** A schedule has been developed for cleaning all sewer lines within LACSD’s service area. Cleaning the sewer lines can be accomplished using high-pressure jettors, shown on bottom left, which are most effective for small lines, or bags, shown on bottom right, for lines larger than 18-inch.



Courtesy of Mr. Espinoza’s presentation

- Root Control:** Intrusion of tree roots is a common problem in older systems and is removed via mechanical root cutting tools (bottom left) or chemical control methods (bottom right).



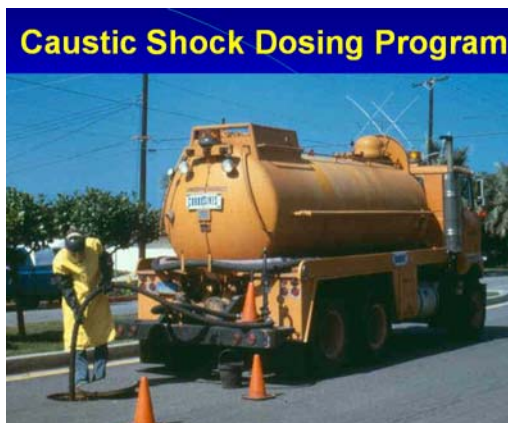
Courtesy of Mr. Espinoza’s presentation

- **Corrosion Control:** The build-up of hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) leads to corrosion in concrete pipes and can have dangerous consequences, such as sinkholes. LACSD has a magnesium hydroxide crown spraying program that targets the rehabilitation of approximately 300 miles of pipeline per year.



Courtesy of Mr. Espinoza's presentation

- **Odor Control:** The addition of chemicals for odor control represents the largest portion of the Districts' wastewater collection systems' annual operating budget. LACSD is currently looking at several ways to optimize this process, without compromising the end result. Significant improvements have already been made in the caustic shock dosing program by auditing and removing 50 locations that were determined to be unnecessary. LACSD is currently looking at ways to optimize the continuous ferrous chloride ($FeCl_2$) dosing program.



Courtesy of Mr. Espinoza's presentation

Mr. Espinoza indicated that one of the key features of managing a successful O&M program has been the adherence to strict documentation procedures. It is essential that data is collected, analyzed and prioritized in an effective manner that is easy to access at any given time. To accomplish this, LACSD has implemented a computerized maintenance management plan emphasizing preventive and corrective maintenance. An annual Repair and Rehabilitation report is generated that prioritizes inspection, cleaning, and rehabilitation projects based on a scoring system that uses the age, size, construction material of the pipe, as well as any prior maintenance activities.

By adhering to the above O&M program, LACSD has significantly reduced the number of SSO events since 2004 to less than 0.01 instances per 100 miles of sewer line (5-year average). Mr. Espinoza concluded the presentation by stating that although LACSD has made substantial gains in operational efficiency, the Districts is continually looking for ways to optimize costs of the O&M program while providing the highest level of service to its users.

CWEA's Tribute to Dr. Wes Eckenfelder *By Wendy Wert*



Dr. Wes Eckenfelder - friend, colleague, and pioneer in the Environmental Engineering Profession – passed away Saturday evening, March 27, 2010. A few days before, on March 22, 2010 the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) hosted a tribute and technical seminar honoring Wes Eckenfelder's contributions to the field. The seminar was held at the Hyperion Treatment Plant in Los Angeles. The program began with an outline of the program presented by moderator David Greenwood. Mr. Greenwood introduced the first speaker David Jenkins, professor emeritus of UC Berkeley.

Dr. Jenkins initiated proceedings by showing attendees a photograph of Wes Eckenfelder and presenting a brief biography of Eckenfelder. Wes has been deemed the "godfather" of wastewater treatment by many of his colleagues, former students and peers, Wes played a significant role in the development of wastewater treatment. Through research, numerous technical publications and multiple courses and seminars, his name has become well known in the industry. Wes' sense of humor has enlightened many presentations. It has been noted that he has a way of presenting highly technical information such that it can be easily understood. He encouraged his students to expand think for themselves, and never hesitated to share his knowledge with others in his field, which as Dr. Jenkins noted, was the purpose of the CWEA seminar.



In the spirit technical information, Dr. Jenkins then launched into his presentation on *Industrial Wastewaters, How Does Their Treatment Differ from Municipal Wastewaters?* Additional speakers at the symposium included: Dr. Davis Ford who presented *Water Reuse and Waste Minimization Environmental Economics and Management*. Jason Rushing who presented *Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment: Challenges and Trends*. Michael Kavanaugh who presented *Treatment Options for Contaminated Groundwater*. Lou Bautista who presented *Treatment and Reuse of Industrial Wastewater at MEI, a Manufacturer of Printed Circuit Boards*. Lastly, Graham Brown who presented *Advanced Anaerobic Digestion Technology – Anaerobic Membrane Bioreactor*.

Conference speakers and attendees offer sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Wes Eckenfelder and would like this seminar to serve as a tribute to his outstanding contributions to the field. On both a professional and personal level, Dr. Wes Eckenfelder will be truly missed.



Attendees share lunch and stories of Wes Eckenfelder's legacy

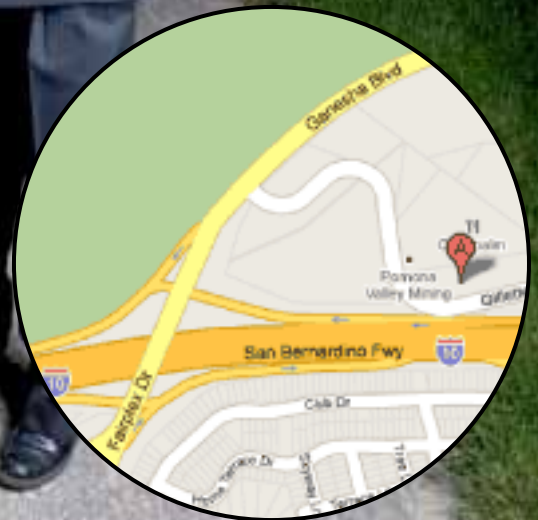
CSI: Industrial Waste



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**THURSDAY
JUNE 17**
6 mixer • 6:30 dinner
7 presentation

A tragic accident involving a steel drum leads to an investigation. Come hear LACSD Industrial Waste Inspector **John Boyd** relive the highs and lows of a multi-year, multi-agency investigation into what exactly was happening behind that industrial drum facility. You won't believe the big break in the case. **Pay at the door.**
CWEA members \$30
non-members \$35
students/retirees \$15



Menu :

Choose One Entree:

1. Roast Prime Rib
2. Chicken Marsala
3. Five Fresh Vegetable Medley (includes steamed artichoke)

Dessert: Mango Mousse Cake

RSVP :

*RSVP by June 11th
with entree choice:*

wwert@lacsdc.org

email preferred
or phone Wendy Wert
562.908.4288 ext. 2128

Location :

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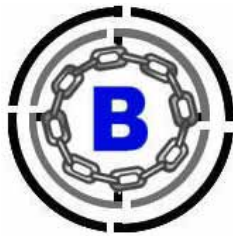
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Southern CA Rep:	Debra Bogdanoff	(562) 908-4288 x-2734

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

June 6 th ~ 9 th	CWEA/WEF Membrane Applications Specialty Conference; Anaheim; http://www.wef.org/Membrane/
June 8 th	WEF Webcast: Summer Boot Camp – for Public Communication; http://www.wef.org/BootCamp/
June 16 th	CWEA Collection Systems Workshop; Fresno; www.cwea.org/conferences/
June 17 th	LABS June Dinner Meeting; Pomona; wwert@lacs.org
Sept 28 th ~ 30 th	CWEA Tri-State Seminar; Primm, NV; http://www.tristateseminar.com/information/program/
Oct 2 nd ~ 5 th	WEFTEC 2010; New Orleans, LA; www.weftec.org/

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