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CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY AND PICNIC



**WITH THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN SECTION
AND THE LOS ANGELES BASIN SECTION
OF THE CALIFORNIA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**



Date:

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Location:

Doheny State Beach
25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive
Dana Point, CA 92629-2923

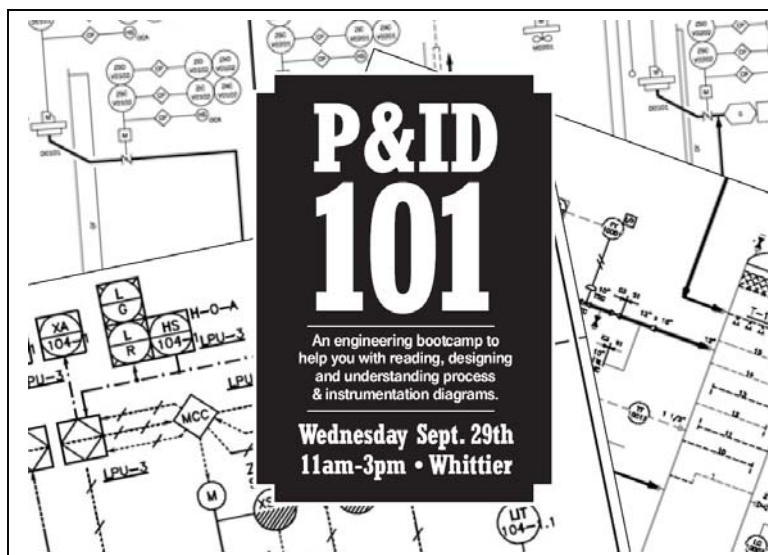
Time:

Clean-Up 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Picnic 1:00 PM to End

Come help clean up the coast, and stay for a fun Hawaiian themed picnic.
Food and door prizes will be provided.

*Note: There is no cost for the picnic, but the State Beach Parking Fee is \$15 per vehicle so be sure to carpool!

Questions? Volunteers? Contact Paul
Schmidtbauer at 949-234-5412



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Lunch: Deli Sandwich Buffet, Selection of Sandwiches, Chips, Cookies and Drinks.

Location: Conference Room E/F, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, 1955 Workman Mill Rd Whittier, CA

RSVP by 9/24

Questions: Basil Hewitt 562-908-4288x2311
www.LABSOFCWEA.com

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Contribute to Federal Investigation

On June 17, 2010, the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) presented a specialized case study at the Pomona Valley Mining Company in Pomona. The program began with an introduction by longtime friend and colleague Bill Garrett. Bill has been an influential CWEA contributor for several decades and has been particularly active on the state P3S committee where he worked closely with John Boyd. Bill welcomed John and eloquently complimented the thoughtful and professional conduct he has demonstrated not only during this rigorous 7 year investigation but throughout his esteemed career. Attendees were captivated by the conversational tone of the featured speaker, John Boyd and the dire consequences of the saga related.



Featured Speaker John Boyd (lt); Attendees Michael Garrett, Bill Garrett and Frances Garrett (ctr); Attendees Debra Bogdanoff, Dave Snyder, and Mary Lee (rt);

This investigation began on or about, April 26, 2003, following the unfortunate death of Mr. William Hiatt, who had purchased two steel drums from Los Angeles Drum and Barrel Company, Inc. (LA Drum) for the purpose of making barbeques for his grandson's Cub Scout troop. Unknown to Mr. Hiatt the purchased drums contained residual flammable materials. When he attempted to cut the drums in half with a grinding tool, this material exploded, killing Mr. Hiatt.

John explained the role of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Districts). The Districts' industrial waste inspectors primarily perform field inspections and help prepare and issue in-house enforcement actions which ensure industries comply with Federal, State, and Local wastewater laws and regulations. Although not a law enforcement agency, the Districts also periodically provide valuable technical assistance to law enforcement agencies and other regulatory bodies. In this role the Districts have been represented for several decades on both the LA County District Attorney's Environmental Crimes Strike Force and the US Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Task Force. John related some relevant historical information. Initially, LA Drum applied for a discharge permit that would allow them to wash a variety of drums including steel, plastic, and paperboard drums. However, when the associated treatment and discharge requirements were presented to LA Drum for their proposed operation, they were deemed too onerous by the owner, so he made the decision to voluntarily limit the drum cleaning to only paperboard drums which contain food-grade residual materials so that the discharge requirements would be lessened. John explained that although some of the behaviors noted during subsequent inspections indicated plastic and steel drums were being illicitly washed, no proof of this was developed.

During the initial police and fire investigation, it became apparent that potentially hazardous materials, outside of the boundaries of food grade discharge permit were likely involved. The services of agencies equipped for these types of investigations such as LA County Fire/Hazmat, Cal EPA/DTSC, and the FBI were engaged. Fortunately, for the investigators, the second barrel remained in tact and the FBI was able to trace this barrel to LA Drum. Once LA Drum was identified as a suspect, the Sanitation Districts were approached to assist in the investigation. This assistance consisted of surveillance monitoring, providing permitting and inspection records, providing laboratory assistance, and providing personnel (Industrial Wastewater Inspectors) to assist in the multiple criminal search warrants served. Also participating was an investigator with the US Department of Transportation who went undercover on May 14, 2003, and purchased two steel drums from LA Drum, each of these was found to contain explosive concentrations of ethanol. LA Drum quickly became the primary target of this investigation, although other companies (Advanced Cosmetic Research Labs, LLC; Levlad, LLC; Albero-Culver USA, Inc.; and PJ Drum) were ultimately found to have violated federal law and were also charged by the US Attorney's Office.

This investigation expanded following the interview of an employee of LA Drum who, when asked if there was anything else he'd like to say, said, "I thought you asked me here to talk about the drums buried behind the company." This simple comment ultimately resulted in the excavation of LA Drum's recently paved rear yard and the discovery of more than 100 illegally buried drums.

Although charged with multiple federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) violations, LA Drum and Mr. Kaplan pled to one felony count of RCRA in May 2009. LA Drum was fined \$550,000.00 and Mr. Kaplan was sentenced to 10 months in federal prison. In addition, the Districts received full cost recovery for participation in the investigation and an additional \$50,000.00 to be directed to the Districts' "Strike Force Laboratory Fund," which is used to cover the Districts costs in analyzing samples from a wide variety of investigations coming out of the LA County District Attorney's Environmental Crimes Strike Force.



Featured Speaker John Boyd (lt); Attendees enjoy the program (rt)

On February 26, 2010 Districts' Supervising Inspector John Boyd, Supervising Engineer Robert Wienke, and Laboratory Supervisor Dr. Steve Carr received awards from the United States Attorney's Office, Department of Justice for distinguished service in the investigation and conviction of LA Drum, and its owner, Mr. Lawrence Bradley Kaplan. Many dedicated professionals contributed their time and talents to lead to the successful conclusion of this complex investigation. John wrapped up the seminar by thanking practitioners for their on-going contributions to protecting the public health and environment.

Los Angeles County's Stormwater Monitoring Program Overview

On July 22, 2010, the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) presented an overview of Los Angeles County's Stormwater Monitoring programs. The featured speaker was Oliver D. Galang, P.E., Section Manager with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' Watershed Management Division, who oversees the Stormwater Monitoring Programs on behalf of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. Oliver described the Los Angeles County's existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program and provided an update of efforts to modernize and expand these into a systemwide water quality monitoring system.



Oliver initiated the presentation with a brief overview of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District). The District was established in 1915 to provide flood protection infrastructure with the primary objectives of flood risk management and water conservation. The District serves an area greater than 3,000 square miles. Major components of the flood control system include 15 major dams, 500 miles of open channel, 2,800 miles of underground storm drains and over 120,000 catch basins.

One of the requirements of the current NPDES permit for urban stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4), issued in 2001, is to establish a Stormwater Quality Management Program, which has associated monitoring and reporting requirements.

As the lead agency, the District is required to implement a Monitoring Program to monitor mass emissions from the seven (7) major watersheds. The objectives of the monitoring program are to assess the impacts of urban stormwater runoff to receiving waters, identify sources of pollutants, and evaluate the effectiveness of the Stormwater Quality Management Program. In addition, The Department of Public Works also participates with several other jurisdictional agencies with on-going regional monitoring programs that are mandated by current Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) requirements.

In light of basin activity and complexity, Oliver explained the importance of a regional agency, such as the District, to supplement NPDES/TMDL monitoring programs through more spatial monitoring within the major watersheds. The goal of the District system wide monitoring program is to develop a State-of-the-Art, Countywide water quality monitoring system using electronic sensors and remote monitoring capabilities.



Oliver concluded with an overview of the programs implementation schedule. System design documents were completed in December 2009; conceptual design documents were completed in April 2010. The project is currently in the pilot program phase. Design plans and specifications will be complete in August 2010. Construction, contracting and installation of the pilot program are scheduled to begin in December 2010. Pilot program testing will begin in April 2011. The System-wide Expansion is projected to occur through July 2013.

LA County Stormwater

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE TO
Friday, September 24, 2010**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

11:30 mixer

12:00 lunch

12:30 presentation



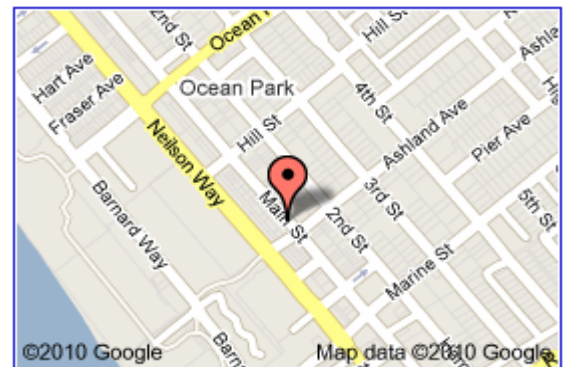
Speaker: **David Beckman**, Senior Attorney and Director of the Water Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).



David joined NRDC in 1995 and has worked on a variety of water-related issues, including urban stormwater, Clean Water Act implementation and enforcement, and environmental justice matters. David has received numerous awards for his work, including an "Attorney of the Year" commendation for environmental law in 2004 from *California Lawyer Magazine*.

Join **Senior Attorney David Beckman** for a discussion of triple bottom line solutions that address regional stormwater from an inclusive perspective. Attendees will be challenged to consider rainfall as a potential local resource in Los Angeles' arid, urban environment. David will highlight a report on which NRDC and the Bren School at UC Santa Barbara collaborated that may contribute local water supply benefits through specific control of runoff with tie-in's to green infrastructure.

Pay at the door: CWEA members \$35
non-members \$40 / students or retirees \$15



LUNCH

Buffet Lunch includes:
caesar salad, spicy chicken pasta, turkey club sandwich, blackened ahi tuna, and assorted fresh fruit.

RSVP

*Respond by
September 17th*
wwert@lacs.org
email preferred
or phone Wendy Wert
562.908.4288 ext. 2128

LOCATION

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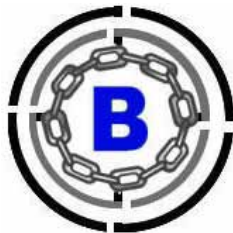
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Southern CA Rep:	Debra Bogdanoff	(562) 908-4288 x-2734

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Sept 23 rd	AAEE Environmental Engineering Excellence Award Winners Dinner at MWD; http://www.aaee.net/
Sept 24 th	LA County Stormwater Luncheon; Santa Monica; http://www.labsocfwea.com/
Sept 28 th ~ 30 th	CWEA Tri-State Seminar; Primm, NV; http://www.tristateseminar.com/information/program/
Sept 29 th	LABS P&ID Training at LACSD; http://www.labsocfwea.com/
Oct 2 nd ~ 5 th	WEFTEC 2010; New Orleans, LA; www.weftec.org/
Nov 4 th	LA's Collection Systems Training Day; Glendale; http://www.labsocfwea.com/

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