



----- Operators Challenge -----
----- Joint SARBS and LABS 2006 Annual Industrial Waste Tour -----
----- 2006 LABS Annual Awards Banquet -----
----- February 2007 LABS Dinner and Training Meeting -----

C W E A

March 2007: SEWER LEAKS – A Los Angeles Basin Section of the CWEA Publication



LABS Hosts Operations Challenge Demonstration at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson

On November 8, 2006 the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of CWEA hosted an Operations Challenge training meeting. The event began with an Operations Challenge demonstration executed by the award winning team composed of Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) operators Dale Dollins, Mark McKnight, Jeff Valdes, and Paul Johnson. This was followed by a video presentation and discussion lead by Joe Haworth, a retire civil engineer with 38 years experience.

The Operations Challenge is a friendly competition among wastewater treatment plant operators sponsored by CWEA and WEF each year at state and regional conferences. Over the last several decades, the LACSD team has won a number of CWEA State and WEF international competitions. Current members of the L.A. Wrecking Crew, Dale Dollins, Mark McKnight, Jeff Valdes, and Paul Johnson, provided an instructional and entertaining demonstration of competitive tasks at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson.

Following the demonstration, Mr. Joe Haworth gave a dinner presentation at Alpine Village in the City of Los Angeles. Joe is employed part-time by the LACSD where he served as the Public Relations Officer prior to his retirement in 2006. Joe's commitment to environmental education is evidenced by his role in the development of primary and secondary school collaborative programs geared at teaching children the importance of environmental science, as it applies to pollution prevention and resource conservation.

In addition, Joe has acted as Master of Ceremonies on numerous occasions for the CWEA Operations Challenge Championship at annual WEFTEC conferences. Joe showed a video that showcased the L.A. Wrecking Crew's participation in the 19th annual Operations Challenge held at WEFTEC®.06 in Dallas. The competition is divided into four events (1) Process Control Event, (2) Collection Systems Event, (3) Safety Event, and (4) Godwin Pump Maintenance Event.



The L.A. Wrecking Crew, Dale Dollins, Mark McKnight, Jeff Valdes, and Paul Johnson, wait for the whistle to begin the Safety Event at the 19th annual Operations Challenge.



Joe Haworth Demonstrating "showmanship" in his Operator Challenge officiating gear.

Participants are also organized into two divisions and there are winners from each division for each event. In addition, a cumulative score for each team is assessed based on overall performance and the conference title is presented to the team with the highest score. The L.A. Wrecking Crew was the Division I winner in the Collection System Event and placed 5th overall at the international conference.

Participants found the event engaging and were pleased by the overall success of the Operator Challenge program. The program was established as a way to bring industry professionals from varying applications and disciplines together in an interactive forum and judging by the lively discussions observed during this training meeting, the Operator Challenge program continues to achieve its goal.



Joint Annual SARBS and LABS Industrial Waste Tour

On October 19, 2006 the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of CWEA hosted its Annual Industrial Waste Tour and Dinner. The event began with a tour of the Tuftex Carpet Mill and Dye House, a division of the world's largest carpet manufacturer, Shaw Industries. Shaw Industries has approximately 30,000 employees worldwide and manufactures approximately 50% of the world's carpet (see www.shawfloors.com). Division headquarters are in Dalton, Georgia.

Bill Woyshner (Environmental Manager), Erik Johnson (Plant Manager), and Jim Cusick (Director of Manufacturing) walked participants through the carpet dyeing and finishing processes. Highlights included innovative color removal and pretreatment operations that incorporate the use of approximately 200,000 gallons per day of reclaimed water from the Sanitation Districts' San Jose Creek WRP. In addition, the plant is investigating the possibility of reclaiming colored water for application to darker shades and evaluating stormwater capture and recovery for process applications.



Shaw Industries, Waste to Energy facility. This state-of-the-art process is fuelled with carpet waste and laminate.

Environmental Stewardship

This commitment to environmental responsibility led the presentation of a Visionary Stewardship Award by the Sanitation Districts. Currently, approximately 650,000 gallons per day of pretreated wastewater from the plant is discharged to the Los Coyotes WRP.



Carpet fibers diverted from landfills and bailed for recycling applications.

Following the tour, Mr. Erik Johnson gave a dinner presentation at the Clearman's North Woods Inn in the City of La Mirada. Erik explained the color removal process that generates wastewater, in concert with their award winning pretreatment and waste reduction programs. For example, the State of California's Integrated Waste Management Board has recognized these plants through the Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) for outstanding efforts to reduce non-hazardous wastes and diversion of the landfill materials stream. In 2004, approximately 7.4 million pounds of recyclable materials were diverted from landfills. Environmental guidelines for operations have been summarized in the waste minimization plan.

Of particular interest are the ongoing resource conservation programs that target both water and energy efficiency. Erik emphasized some of the effective efforts, which include: innovative dyeing procedures that support the use of over 100 million gallons per year of reclaimed water from the Sanitation Districts, and the installation of underground tanks for the pretreatment of effluent. Conversion of the forklift fleet from propane to electric resulted in air quality improvements (reduced emissions by approximately 8 tons/year). Additional air quality improvements were realized when low toxicity production chemicals and water based cleaning solvents were used in the manufacturing process. Baghouses are placed on all production sources to control dust and carpet lint emissions.



Americans throw away 183 million plastic bottles every day. Many of these bottles are routed to landfills after their initial use. Plastic bottles can be recycled into a carpet cushioning system shown above

The effective stewardship demonstrated by this industrial discharger is encouraging. It was motivating to discover a correlation between fiscal and environmental responsibility as demonstrated by a savings of approximately \$400K/year realized through the implementation of the recycling and reuse programs.

And the Winner is ...

On Saturday, January 20, 2007 LABS held the Annual Awards Banquet in Sherman Oaks.

Engineering Achievement Award: City of Los Angeles Nitrogen Removal Program Contact Person: Ali Poosti

P3S Person of the Year Award: Gary Welling, City of Santa Monica

Plant of the Year Award (5 to 20 MGD): Terminal Island Treatment Plant, City of Los Angeles Contact Person: Adonis Ogbeni

Safety Award (1-25 employees): LA-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant, City of Los Angeles Contact Person: Roger Ramsay

Safety Award (26-75 employees): DC Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, City of Los Angeles Contact Person: Roger Ramsay

Research Achievement Award: Sewer Lining Defect / Deficiency Assessment Guidelines & Matrix, Tetra Tech Inc. & City of LA Bureau of Engineering. Contact Person: Scott Dellinger



LABS Seeks Webmaster Committee Chair

LABS has an opening for a Webmaster Committee Chair. If you are interested in this position please contact John Mays at John.Mays@lacity.org

Electronic Sewer Leaks Version Available

Receive your LABS Sewer Leaks earlier than by mail with the option of receiving an electronic edition. Please contact dgary@lacs.org if you wish to receive an e-mail edition of Sewer Leaks.

LABS Con-Shield Dinner and Training Meeting

On February 22, 2007 LABS held a Con-Shield Dinner and Training Meeting at the Ports O' Call Restaurant in San Pedro. The featured speaker, Mr. Gary Lienberger (Lienberger & Associates), discussed the Con-Shield concrete additive.

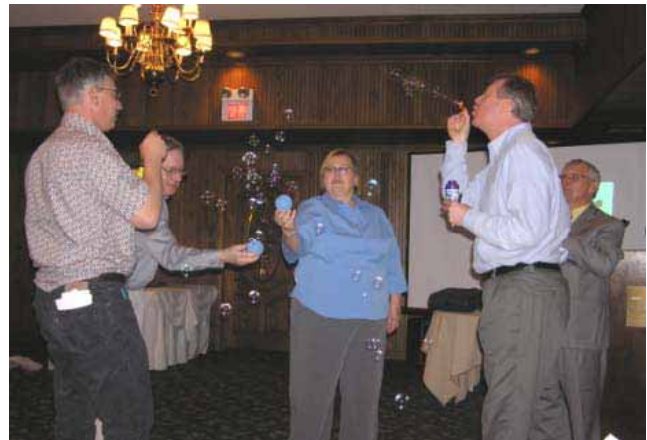
Concrete is the most commonly used construction material in wastewater collection and treatment systems. Corrosion can occur to unprotected concrete when sulfide generation in wastewater is not controlled. Sources of sulfide in wastewater include degradation of sulfur containing organic matter, the microbiological reduction of sulfate or of the oxidized forms of sulfur, and unregulated and/or uncontrolled industrial discharges.



Mr. Gary Lienberger presenting at the LABS dinner meeting in San Pedro

The construction of regional collection systems has increased wastewater travel time, leading to anaerobic conditions and thus increased sulfide generation. Hydrogen sulfide is known for its ability to corrode a number of materials used in the construction of sewers and treatment plants, including concrete. Concrete corrosion is caused by the microbial oxidation of hydrogen sulfide to sulfuric acid and the subsequent chemical reaction of the acid with the cement binder in the concrete.

This is not a new concern for sanitation agencies and a number of comprehensive studies have evaluated the performance of concrete corrosion inhibitors. The Con-Shield concrete additive is a relatively new (8 years field experience) positively charged polymer additive recommended to protect concrete surfaces from bacteria and fungi, which cause deterioration and corrosion of concrete.



Dan Gary, John Mays, Jamie Lienberger, and Patrick Griffith demonstrating Con-Shield

Con-Shield is presently used by several agencies for this application including: Fresno, CA; Hampton, VA; Miami Dade, FL; and Hilo, HI. Con-Shield is blended into the concrete mix during the manufacturing phase to protect the finished concrete from microbiologically induced corrosion (MIC). Con-Shield would replace the percent of water in the mix. Mr. Lienberger estimates that use of Con-Shield would add approximately \$3 - \$4 per cubic yard of concrete to the cost of a project.



THE **LOS ANGELES BASIN SECTION** OF THE **CWEA**
HOSTS A **DINNER AND TRAINING MEETING**

INDOOR COMPOSTING FACILITY

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Taix French Restaurant

----- On Sunset Blvd in the City of Los Angeles (see map below) -----

5:00 p.m.	LABS Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00 p.m.	Cocktails & Networking	8:00 p.m.	Presentation

--Guest Speaker--

John Robinson
MWH Americas, Inc

With limited location in California to apply Class A biosolids, Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Los Angeles County Sanitation District formed a Joint Powers Authority in order to create the largest fully enclosed indoor composting facility in the world. MWH and a team of consultants worked with IEUA and LACSD to prepare the preliminary design, permitting, final design and construction assistance to create a 150,000 ton per year composting facility in San Bernardino. Mr. Robinson will discuss some of the key design, permitting and construction features of the project.

Dinner Menu:

Meals include one of the following entrees:

- 1. Chicken Tarragon**
Grilled breast chicken with tarragon cream sauce
- 2. Fresh Grilled Filet of Salmon**
With Champagne sauce
- 3. Pasta Monegasque**
Penne pasta with tomatoes, garlic, basil & olive oil.

Reservations:

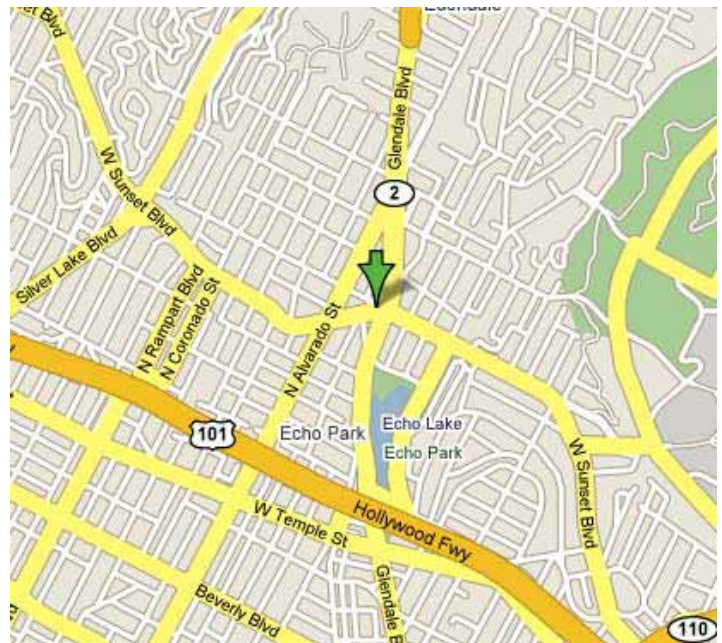
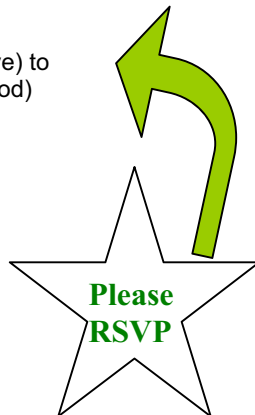
RSVP By MONDAY, March 19

RSVP (with one menu choice from above) to Pei-Chin Low by E-mail (preferred method) at Pei-Chin.Low@mwhglobal.com
-or-
by phone at 626-568-6999

Event Cost: Member \$30
Non-member \$40

Address & Phone:

Taix French Restaurant
1911 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles
(213) 484-1265
Valet Parking \$1.25



From the 101: Exit Alvarado St. and proceed north to Sunset Blvd., then east to the Taix Restaurant at 1911 Sunset.

Note- Valet Parking \$1.25



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Address Changes

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Public Education	Michael Simpson	(323) 342-6047
Operator Certification:	Francisco Ramirez	(310) 648-5857

Open Chairs: Webmaster and Safety

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- Mar. 22nd LABS Dinner and Training Meeting at Taix downtown LA contact [Pei-Chin Low](#)
- Mar. 27th Engineers without Borders Chapter Meeting at LADWP <http://www.ewb-la.org/meetings.htm>
- Mar. 31st State Operator Examination <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwp/home/opcert/cert.html>
- April 15-18 WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference, Denver
- April 16-20 CA-NV AWWA Spring Conference Las Vegas <http://ca-nv-awwa.org/CA-NV/conferences/spring/>
- April 17-20 CWEA Conference, 2007 Ontario <http://www.cwea.org/>

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