

May 2009 SEWER LEAKS – A Los Angeles Basin Section of the CWEA Publication In This Issue:

----- New LABS 2009 Board of Directors --------- LABS April Meeting on the TIRE program --------- LABS March Meeting on WQCMPUR --------- LABS 2009 Southern Regional Safety Conference Announcement -----

Editor's Note:

This issue is the last issue we are distributing the Sewer Leaks via mail. Starting next month and all future editions will be sent to you via email if you have previously agreed to get publications via email from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). If you have not agreed to get email from CWEA, you will continue to receive a paper copy. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the Sewer Leaks, please email Erika DeHollan at edehollan@lacsd.org.



Top: LABS 2009 Board of Directors: Wendy Wert, Patrick Griffith, Hala Titus, Alec Mackie, Pat McDaniel, Ian MacKenzie.

Below Left: Outgoing LABS President Patrick Griffith honored by past LABS president Pei-Chin Low.

Below Right: Outgoing LABS President Patrick Griffith passing gavel to Incoming LABS President, Hala Titus.



LABS April Dinner Meeting By Wendy Wert

On April 23, 2009, the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) held their annual installation ceremony at the Monterey Hill Restaurant in Monterey Park. CWEA President Dave Greenwood led the event with a brief statement of CWEA's vision to advance knowledge and technology and in doing so enhance the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry. Then, the incoming LABS Board of Directors were sworn in by the CWEA President Dave Greenwood in a pledge of service to the organization. The ceremony concluded with the Outgoing LABS President, Patrick Griffith announcing the new LABS president, Hala Titus. Patrick was also honored by past LABS president and current CWEA VP, Pei-Chin Low, for the services he's done as the president of LABS.

After the ceremony, LABS President Hala Titus introduced the keynote Speaker, Enrique C. Zaldivar, P.E, Director, Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) City of Los Angeles Department (City) of Public Works. Mr. Zaldivar's presentation provided an update on the TIRE program. A significant development since the previous presentation is the listing of the program as a semifinalist for a national award. The TIRE demonstration project has been operational since August 2008, and is currently demonstrating and innovative technology that shows promise in the conversion of biosolids into clean energy by deep well injection and geothermal biodegradation. The City has received a 5-year permit from the U.S. EPA to evaluate the viability of injecting biosolids deep underground. This is the first project of its kind in the United States.



The demonstration project is investigating the adaptation of existing petroleum industry technology to convert biosolids into a new source of alternative energy that helps to reduce the greenhouse gases and in doing so potentially reduce the regions contributions to climate change. The technology is injecting slurry mixtures of treated, non-hazardous, municipal biosolids and water into a highly permeable unconsolidated sandstone formation at the Terminal Island Treatment Plant. Multiple injection and monitoring wells have been drilled into weakly consolidated, highly permeable sand formations at depths ranging from 3,800 to 5,300 ft. Up to 400 tons per day of biosolids are injected, using technology optimized for solid waste slurry injection. Deep well injection is scheduled to continue for a period of 5 years. The demonstration project includes extensive field monitoring and sampling form the offset monitoring wells to quantify slurry placement, biodegradation rates, carbon dioxide and methane separation, carbon dioxide sequestration and saturation in formation brine, and free gas migration and production.

Mr. Zaldivar concluded by stating that preliminary results appear promising and summarizing the next steps in this on-going research as follows:

- Document Phase I Results. This includes the EPA Quarterly Report, City Quarterly Report, City and EPA Phase I Summary Report (9-mos).
- Replace pump system early May (higher quality, more reliable, and higher rate eventually).
- Perforate monitoring well and collect samples.
- Drill 3rd well during summer
- Execute partnership agreement for remainder of EPA demonstration phase (48 months).

LABS March Dinner Meeting By Dan Gary

At the March LABS meeting, Reza Iranpour, Hubertus Cox and Ryan Thiha of the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, Watershed Protection Division spoke about the City of Los Angeles Water Quality Compliance Master Plan for Urban Runoff (WQCMPUR). Prior to the presentation David Greenwood, CWEA president, spoke about one of the primary objectives of CWEA: to enhance the education and effectiveness of industry professionals through training and certification; and the importance of local sections.



Attendees watch the presentation, CWEA President Dave Greenwood, Speaker Reza Iranpour, Speaker Hubertus Cox, Speaker Ryan Thiha (left to right)

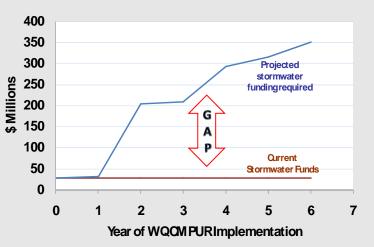
The WQCMPUR outlines the City's strategy in achieving Clean Water Act standards as well as compliance with all urban runoff regulations and mandates over the next 20 to 30 years. The WQCMPUR was completed in early 2009 and discusses: pollutants of concern in the City by type and location; water quality data and data gaps; present efforts to reduce urban runoff pollution; future strategies to meet current and emerging water quality regulations as specified in the NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Permit and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); and estimated costs for implementation of the WQCMPUR and potential sources of financial support. Reza explained that the WQCMPUR was developed in partnership with stakeholders from the public, environmental organizations, local municipalities and regulators including the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LA-RWQCB). The stakeholders expressed a strong preference for urban runoff management using a multi-benefit approach focusing on green and natural solutions, Low Impact Development, and stormwater use for infiltration, irrigation and groundwater recharge.

Now that the plan has been developed the next step is implementation. Major challenges to implementation fall into three categories (1) geographical, (2) jurisdictional, and (3) regulatory. The City of Los Angeles is located in four watersheds with different features with respect to land-use. The topography and climate of the area cause extreme variations in flow between the dry summer months and wet winter months. Water quality regulations cross jurisdictional boundaries, therefore, a watershedwide approach to compliance requires all cities and agencies in a watershed working together.

The LA-RWQCB has currently adopted 14 TMDLs for receiving waters with impairments. The City expects over 60 TMDLs in the four watersheds by 2012. Sources of the impairments include: trash and debris, pathogens and indicator bacteria, metals, nutrients, organics, toxic chemicals, algae, odors, pH, oil and grease, and sediments. The speakers presented highlights of the City's three-pronged approach, focusing on the strategic guidelines and action plans for water quality management, citywide collaboration, and outreach. The speakers demonstrated the strategies through several case studies such as catch basin inserts and screens, Bimini Slough, Oros Street, and Vista Hermosa Park, featuring sustainability designs with source control, infiltration, stormwater use, water reuse, drought tolerant landscaping, and green roofs.

Currently, the City allocates about \$28 Million for its Watershed Protection Program, however, implementation of the WOCMPUR is expected to cost about \$7-9 Billion over the next 20 years. The implementation of many activities in the WQCMPUR depends on additional resources to cover the funding "GAP" shown. The WQCMPUR has indentified a prioritized listing of current and future programs and projects, scheduled for the next ten years. The City of Los Angeles is currently evaluating several options for additional funding.





Vista Hermosa Park (It) Graph showing the gap in funds needed to implement the program (rt)



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