



## CWEA Hosts Biosolids Specialty Conference in Whittier, California

*By Wendy Wert, LABS President*

On January 18, 2011, the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Biosolids Committee hosted a specialty conference “Biosolids: Putting Regulators and Researchers in Touch with YOU... the Practitioner” at the Los Angeles Sanitation Districts Joint Administration Office in Whittier. Another session was held on January 19, 2011 at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin. This one-day biosolids specialty conference, which trained 125 CWEA members and non-members, consisted of a series of technical presentations separated by interactive discussions between leading experts and attendees. The morning session consisted of opening remarks presented by the conference Chairs (Dave Bachtel and Todd Jordan), followed by six technical presentations. The innovative networking lunch also served as a venue for a discussion of CWEA’s Biosolids Land Application Management (BLAM) Certification. The afternoon session, consisted of five technical presentations, and closing remarks delivered by the conference Chairs.

A total of nine speakers gave presentations at both venues that covered a wide range of relevant topics, including:

- State issues update from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA).
- National scientific research review from the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF).
- An innovative look at biosolids and greenhouse gas accounting.
- A perspective discussion on biosolids constituents.
- An analysis of specific trace organics, an update on dioxin and radiation biosolids research results.
- An overview of microorganisms in biosolids.
- An update on chemical research results from biosolids land application.
- Case study discussion of urban gardening projects that use biosolids products.



LACSD Facilitators John Wilcox and Matt Bao (left), Speakers Marylynn Yates UC Riverside, Bob Brobst USEPA, and Greg Kester CASA (center), Attendees enjoying the training opportunity (right)

The conference began with CWEA Biosolids Committee and Conference Chair, Dave Bachtel’s opening remarks, which highlighted the overall goal of the training, to apply research and technology using practical standards to effectively manage and recover this resource.

Speaker Greg Kester then provided an update of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) work. CASA, which represents more than 90% of California’s population

that receives sewage collection and treatment, is led by a multi-disciplined board with the objective of contributing to the development of practical, science-based regulations that facilitate resource recovery. Greg summarized recent CASA activities related to the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Proposed Rule on Standards for Sewage Sludge Incinerators (EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0559). The proposed rule sets Maximum Available Control Technology (MACT) limits for 9 pollutants. CASA's evaluation of the rule identifies mathematical inconsistencies in emissions estimates and an underestimation of implementation costs. In addition, CASA believes that sewage sludge incinerators are integral components of publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) and thus should be governed through section 112(e)(5) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) under section 112(d) rather than section 129 of the CAA. The final rule was expected on January 23, 2011. However, EPA is seeking a 6-month extension from the court, which could possibly delay promulgation.



CWEA Board member Jon Hay, Chairman Dave Bachtel, WEF Past President Dick Kuchenrither (left) Speaker Rufus Chaney, LACSD Facilitator Philip Lo and Speaker Marylynn Yates (right)

CASA is also actively engaged in regulations related to the addition of Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) and Food Waste to Digesters. In August, the clean water summit partners (Bay Area Clean Water Agencies – BACWA, CASA, Central Valley Clean Water Association –CVCWA, California Water Environment Association – CWEA, and Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works – SCAP) sent a letter to Margo Reid Brown, Director Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery regarding unnecessary Transfer Station / Process Facility (TS/PF) permits at publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. It is the position of the summit partners that if allowed to stand, recent decisions will allow Local Enforcement Authorities (LEAs), at their discretion, to require POTWs to obtain TS/PF permits for an activity that is already regulated under regional board permits; this would likely discourage integration of these side-streams into the digestion process and in effect reduce rather than increase energy recovery. Greg is working closely with State Water Resources Control Board to develop language that could be inserted in wastewater discharge permits that would potentially dissuade Cal Recycle from regulating FOG that is received at wastewater treatment plants.

On another front, The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) issued proposed regulations for renderers, collection centers, dead animal haulers, and transporters of inedible kitchen grease. If passed POTWs could also be regulated by CDFA if they accept inedible FOG and food waste for digestion along with wastewater solids. CASA reported that the CDFA is cognizant that POTWs are interested in managing FOG and food waste as a means

to enhance biogas production. Greg reported that action on this rule has been suspended to avoid regulatory overlap.

Another issue that CASA is currently pursuing is the EPA Report on Anaerobic Digester and Gas. One concern is that the report uses Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) data that is under revision. Greg encouraged all POTW Representatives in attendance to respond to his e-mail that went out on January 15, 2011 requesting additional data on digester gas production. CASA is also partnering with UC Davis (Professor Peter Green, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering) on *Compost Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Ozone Formation* research. The goal of the project is to determine the reactivity and ozone precursor formation potential of VOCs emitted from biosolids composting operations. Sampling and analysis are complete. Preliminary survey results suggest that VOCs from biosolids composting are not reactive and do not produce significant ozone. The report is due in February 2011.



Attendees at CWEA Biosolids Land Application Management Certification discussion (left)  
Proctored by CWEA Chair Dave Bachtel (right)

Speaker Greg Kester wrapped up the discussion with a look at the apparent dichotomy that exists between regional issues and global solutions. In California, several counties are in the process of restricting biosolids land application practices, yet global forums have shown that this is a viable resource recovery practice for this material. Greg closed by challenging POTWs to continue to collaborate with local, regional, and national partners, through opportunities such as the annual Pacific Southwest Organic Residuals Symposium consisting of a consortium of experts on the planning committee including: EPA Region IX, CVWCB, SJVAPCD, CASA, WUD, UC Davis, Sustainable Conservation, NRCS, and CalRecycle. This group is now known as the CA Bioresources Alliance (CBA). The National Biosolids Partnership also provides opportunities for collaboration. An excellent venue for continuing the pursuit of these issues is the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Annual Biosolids Specialty Conference (May 22-25, 2011 in Sacramento).

**To Be Continued...**

**Want to find out about the other exciting speakers? To read more summary of the workshop or to view the expert speakers' presentations and findings visit [www.cwea.org/et\\_biosolids.shtml](http://www.cwea.org/et_biosolids.shtml).**

# WEF Past President Jim Clark Presents "Addressing the Water Challenges Facing Us" at the CWEA LABS 2011 Officer Installation Banquet

CWEA Los Angeles  
Basin Section Officer  
Installation Banquet



WEF Past President Jim Clark will present "Addressing the Water Challenges Facing Us" at the 2011 CWEA LABS Officers Installation Banquet

Join WEF Past President Jim Clark in welcoming the 2011 CWEA LABS Officers with a thoughtful and compelling message to the Water Environment Profession titled "Addressing the Water Challenges Facing Us".

**James H. Clark** is a senior vice president of the engineering/construction firm Black & Veatch Corporation, and serves as Managing Director of Major Municipal Clients in the Western Region of North America. Located at the firm's Los Angeles office, he has managed numerous environmental and water quality improvement projects, including serving as the Senior Process Engineer and a Project Manager for the design of the City of Los Angeles Hyperion Treatment Plant, a 15-year, \$1.1 billion wastewater treatment and reclamation project which was named one of the ten most outstanding public works projects of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the American Public Works Association (along with the Golden Gate Bridge, Hoover Dam, and the Panama Canal).

Clark served as president of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), a global technical, scientific, and educational water quality organization, during 2001-2002. In 2004 he received WEF's prestigious Charles Alvin Emerson Medal for outstanding service to the wastewater collection and treatment industry, and in 2009 was awarded the Englebrecht International Achievement Award for sustained and significant contributions in the international field. In November 2004 he was named one of the 50 most influential people in the public works industry by *Public Works* magazine, and was named the 2005 "Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Private Sector" by the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

## Taix French Restaurant Thursday, April 21, 2011

1911 West Sunset Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
(213) 484-1265  
Registration 6:00PM  
Networking 6:30PM  
Dinner 7:00PM  
Presentation 7:30PM

## RSVP with meal choice by April 14, 2011

To Wendy Wert email preferred [wwert@lacsdsd.org](mailto:wwert@lacsdsd.org) or via phone 562.908.4288 x 2128

**Diabre Boneless Breast of Chicken: Grilled, with lemon, butter, white wine, mustard, garlic, shallots, and capers.**

**Normandie Filet of Sole: Braised, in Chablis, mushrooms and cream.**

**Pasta Monégasque: Penne pasta with tomatoes, garlic, basil and olive oil**

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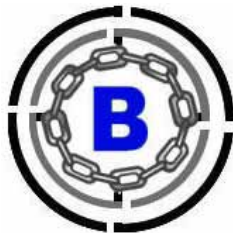
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### SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

April 12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	CWEA Annual Conference; Ontario, <a href="http://www.cwea.org/">http://www.cwea.org/</a>
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	LABS Dinner/ Officer Inauguration; Whittier, <a href="http://www.labsocfwea.com/">http://www.labsocfwea.com/</a>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Agency and Engineering Volunteers for LA Student Outreach; Los Angeles; <a href="mailto:michael.simpson@lacity.org">michael.simpson@lacity.org</a>

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

April 12-15 <sup>th</sup>	CWEA Annual Conference, Ontario, <a href="mailto:dbogdanoff@lacsdsd.org">dbogdanoff@lacsdsd.org</a>
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