

# **CWEA P3S Committee Meeting**

## **December 16, 2009**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Meeting Location**

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Joint Administration Office Building  
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier CA 90601  
Industrial Waste Conference Room

#### **Those in attendance onsite**

Michael Simpson – P3S Committee Chair/LA BOS, Bill Garrett – LACSD, Joe Petchuk – City of Santa Monica, Preeti Ghuman – LACSD, Philip Lo – LACSD, Oscar Iniguez – United Water Burbank, Chris Herbeck – LACSD, Paul Schmidtbauer – SOCWA, Ken Hanks – LACSD, Doug Rands – LACSD, John Boyd – LACSD, Paul Martyn – LACSD, Debbie Boadway – LACSD, Chuck Wolf – Malcolm Pirnie Inc

#### **Those attending using the teleconferencing line**

Alec Mackie – JWC Environmental, Jeff Carter – United Water Burbank, Catherine Allin – City of Millbrae, Simon Watson – CWEA/OCSD, Alice Chang – City of Bakersfield, Jonathan Crick – City of Gilroy

#### **Introduction (Simpson)**

Meeting called to order at 10:14 AM. All attendees present and on the conference call phone introduced themselves. Simpson introduced the technical session speakers, Mr. Paul Martyn and Ms. Debbie Boadway.

#### **Technical Session**

“No Drugs Down the Drain: Promoting Public Stewardship”. Paul Martyn, Industrial Waste Section Head of the LACSD Industrial Waste Section gave a short introduction noting the basic nature of the problems and history of human-use pharmaceutical drugs and their break-down products being found in various receiving waters, and even drinking water supplies in the U.S.

Debbie Boadway, Senior Engineer at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, gave a PowerPoint presentation that was available for viewing by offsite meeting attendees using the “gotomeeting” service. The presentation was on the LACSD’s efforts to discourage the general public’s flushing of unused waste pharmaceutical drugs down toilets as a disposal method. Conventional wastewater

Pharmaceuticals and their by-products get into water bodies from various sources including wastewater treatment plants operated by POTWs. They enter sewer not just by excretion with human waste, but also by the disposal of unused medication into toilets. Conventional wastewater treatment doesn’t completely remove the pharmaceuticals during the treatment

process. A 2002 U.S Geological Survey study found that 80% of U.S Waterways tested contained one or more pharmaceutical compounds. Compounds found and the percentage of waterways they were found in included:

Synthetic estrogen (causes fish feminization)-16%

Acetaminophen-24%

Steroids & hormones- 16%

Diltiazem (high blood pressure medication)-13%

Codeine-11%

Antibiotics and antimicrobials-10%

Ibuprofen-10%

To reduce pharmaceuticals in POTW discharges the LACSD jointly established a new public education campaign entitled “No Drugs Down the Drain” in 2005. The program aimed to reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals getting into sewers by educating residents and health care professionals not to use the drain as a disposal option. Instead, unused medications should be put into the trash or taken to household hazardous waste collection events. Program partners in this campaign included the Orange County Sanitation District, City of Los Angeles, City of San Diego, County of Los Angeles, City of Riverside, and the California Pharmacists Association. Other program participants include the USEPA, US DEA, CA DHS, CA DTSC, OC Integrated Waste Management Board, and Kaiser Permanente. Program kick-off occurred during National Poison Prevention Week on March 19, 2006. The program included the distribution and mailing of 4.4 million information cards to 1,940 pharmacies, as well as 22 cities, household hazardous waste events, and miscellaneous outreach events. Newspaper articles and advertisements were also taken out. Additionally, In May 2008 LACSD Source Control Inspectors conducted hundreds of onsite visits at all known pharmacies within the LACSD service area to discuss the program with pharmacists and distribute information cards and posters. In 2009 further follow-up was conducted by the LACSD that included mailing letters and more posters to pharmacists.

Problems encountered include contradictory messages still being sent out by other groups and agencies in how to properly dispose of unused medications. Some continue to advise users that unused medications be flushed down the drain. Also, household hazardous waste events can't legally collect any drugs identified as controlled substances, which includes many prescribed drugs. A pilot program to address this issue that involves the installation of ‘drop boxes’ outside 6 LA County Sheriff Stations for both legal and illegal drugs has recently been implemented. It is planned that if the pilot program is successful, all 23 LASD stations will be outfitted with these collection boxes. In appearance the boxes are very similar to mail drop boxes.

The LACSD is committed to the No Drugs Down the Drain Program. It is too early yet to tell if the program is impacting the amount of pharmaceutical materials being found in U.S. water bodies.

## BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 10:50 AM

### Old Business

#### Subcommittee Reports

➤ **CWEA- Update:** Simon Watson Reported:

- There will be a CWEA Workshop on Friday, 1-29-10 in San Diego for Strategic Planning and Goals. The quarterly CWEA Board Meeting will follow the next day on Saturday, 1-30-10.
- Ann Heil is chairing a CWEA task force on communications that may impact the P3S Committee website operations, maintenance and appearance.
- The Northern regional Conference was well attended allaying fears that the current ongoing economic recession would have a potentially heavy impact on attendance at CWEA training and conference events.

➤ **Treasurer' Report:** Although absent from the meeting, Treasurer Joe Lucia reports via 12-15-09 email communication to John Boyd that 2010 P3S conference revenue of \$11,299.00 has been received to date, primarily from exhibitors and sponsors. The amount includes \$577.00 credited from the 2009 conference. The current P3S Committee balance stands at \$32, 616.46 as of 12-15-09. A deposit of \$690.00 to the Children's Maritime Foundation has been paid: this covers the deposit required for the tall ship "American Pride" which is contracted to be one of two ships participating in the "Dueling Tall Ships" conference event scheduled on 3-2-2010.

➤ **Awards Subcommittee:** Paul Schmidtbauer was in attendance, along with John Boyd. Schmidtbauer has received four award nominations for the South, all in the large category. LACSD's Martyn expressed his disappointment that no nominations in the small category were received and said he'd try to solicit nominations from his people that could be submitted within the next week. Schmidtbauer said he'd accept and review any such nominations should they be submitted. It was agreed by committee members that the criteria for defining "large" versus "small" dischargers might need to be changed for the next awards cycle to facilitate more nomination submittals in the small category.

➤ **Technical Certification Update:** Bill Garrett reports he will be conducting a exam preparation session for the Environmental Compliance Inspector (ECI) TCP Grade 1-4 exams on 1-20-10 at the LACSD Los Coyotes WRP from 4pm –10pm. A spot in the session can be reserved by contacting him at (562) 908-4288 ext 2907 or [bgarrett@lacsds.org](mailto:bgarrett@lacsds.org). Simpson requested Garrett's ECI prep session be posted on the CWEA master events calendar. Jeff Carter stated that he and CWEA's Chris Lundeen have been discussing posting TCP training information at a special CWEA website location, as yet undetermined.

➤ **Webinars:** The first very successful implementation of using the “gotomeeting” webinars service for P3S committee meeting powerpoint presentations occurred today under the leadership of Philip Lo and Alec Mackie. Audio for the presentation was not provided by the gotomeeting service, due to problems encountered with this last meeting. Instead, offsite attendees using the gotomeeting service to view the presentation used the conference call audio to follow along with the slides.

## **New Business**

➤ **Sewer Science training:** Simpson proposed that the P3S Committee approve \$4000-\$5000 from the Committee’s activity fund to help cover the annual funding required for the training of 20-30 LAUSD teachers who present this program to LAUSD students. A vote on the proposed funding was delayed until the next P3S meeting. This will allow Simpson to give the Committee a more thorough review and presentation on the status of the program prior to vote being taken.

## **Conference Planning:**

Simpson directed a session planning the 2010 Conference in Long Beach.

➤ **Final Committee Meeting prior to Conference:** Bill Garrett strongly encouraged Chair Simpson to have set the final Committee meeting in February in Southern California to facilitate the attendance of critical conference organizers.

➤ **Conference Brochure:** Joe Petchuk presented the committee with a near complete draft of the brochure. Comments and corrections on the brochure are due to Petchuk by tomorrow so that he can submit changes to the graphic designer by Friday, 12-19-09; show the final draft to Garrett, Simpson and Ghuman by 12-22; and then forward it to CWEA for review by Wednesday, 12-23-09. The target date for sending out the electronic version of the brochure to potential conference attendees is 1-4-2010. Committee members reviewed the brochure draft and made the following change requests:

- Remove “Doing Business with the EPA” special session from the conference highlights.
- Include break times in the session schedule spreadsheet.
- List all speakers with a PhD as “Dr.”
- Remove all job title listings for session chairs and moderators. List only their agency affiliation.
- Alter Dueling Ships event information to include bus shuttle times in the conference highlights.

➤ **Conference Reminder Emails:** Email reminders will be sent out by the CWEA every 2 weeks instead of every 3 weeks as originally planned. Reminders will go out on 1-4-10, 1-18-10, and 2-1-10.

➤ **Speaker Gifts:** Powerpoint presentation remote control devices that plug into computer USB ports will be provided to speakers and session chairs only.

➤ **Session Chair Report:** Preeti Ghuman reports she continues to work on the final draft of the conference brochure, otherwise the session program is complete.

➤ **Vendor Chair Report:** Alec Mackie reports that he has 8 exhibitors currently signed up with 30 total spaces available. He anticipates having a total of 20 exhibitors signed up for the conference.

➤ **Conference Chair Report:** Michael Simpson Reports:

- The Dueling Ships event is set.
- P. Lo will prepare an example of conference packet papers (folders). The City of LA will print the packets when complete for distribution at the conference to attendees.
- T-shirts will be provided by the Chair for conference volunteer organizers
- Garrett states full time students who attend the conference can attend for free. However, they must register and pay for any meals they take.
- Lo announces the slate of speakers for the “Doing Business with the EPA” special session. Speakers include:
  - EPA Office of Small Business Assistance
  - A Commissioner from the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works

A 15-minute presentation and 15-minute question and answer period is scheduled for each speaker.

### **Next Meeting (Simpson)**

The next P3S Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 10:00am at the City of San Jose’s Environmental Services Department. P3S Committee Vice Chair John Mukhar will host the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 1300 hours**

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Boyd  
Secretary, CWEA P<sub>3</sub>S Committee