

November Board Questions – Siegfried

- p. 13: I am thinking here of newsletter topics and the recent letter to the Pine Cone. Have we the ability to pull together the staff hours and costs for work related to grease and rags?

Maybe. I am hesitant to answer affirmatively because I don't believe the Collections crew catalogs their time specifically for grease and rags. Let me talk to Mr. Lauer and see if we can come up with best guesstimate and get back to you on this item.

Here is a quote from a recent email I received:

“

As for grease traps (interceptors, same thing), I have decades of experience and if there is one thing I know is that they fail often. At least once a month my kitchen guys tell me there is a problem at one of my locations. And that's with pre-scheduled maintenance. Basically, a grease trap is a plumbing item, and pipes fail in many ways.

Now, to be sure an overflowing grease trap is about the nastiest thing about a restaurant. Imagine a problem on a sidewalk? Now as for . . . , . . . [elision mine] and have major issues with the very large grease trap there. Cost us thousands of dollars to fix it.

“

I take from this that the grease issue is likely to be as constant in our future as it has been, and hope that publishing cost information may help concentrate minds among our commercial ratepayers.

Yes, it will be a constant. However, as indicated previously we have revamped the delivery of Source Control services so that the inspectors will have more time available out in the field. I recognize there is considerable aversion to grease interceptors in the public right of way, but I think it is something we should speak to the City about. We might get the door slammed in our face, but it is a start.

- p. 21: What is the reason for the change in phone number and vendor name?

How is it that this service is “no-cost”?

The change in phone number and vendor name is very likely related to cost. CSRMA found a vendor that would supply the same service for a lower cost.

I think we all know, nothing in this world is free. The cost is actually wrapped into our insurance rates. It is an excellent service (whether talking about the old vendor or the new one) as it mitigates the need for a doctor's visit. Many of our small cuts, scrapes, and strains can be handled through the nurse triage program. Saves money and gives referrals when necessary – something that the District cannot do on its own.

p. 24: Have we a new Biobot report since 11/3?

11-09-21 is the most current report.

“Optimize phosphorous level” There have been recent articles on phosphorous capture by wastewater treatment systems. The articles suggest that treatment plants will become a source of phosphorous for fertilizer in the not-distant future.

Perhaps, but I thought we were trying to minimize phosphorus for Reclamation purposes.

Proficiency Testing results were graded “acceptable”. What are the rating categories, and what amount of deviation from perfectly accurate results is typical of each category, giving consideration to testing accuracy limits?

CAWD’s lab is Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certified. All accredited laboratories must implement a nationally accepted standard called the NELAC Institute (TNI) Standard for managing all factors that potentially can affect the quality of lab results. The listing of the approved wastewater or non-potable water fields of proficiency testing analytes and acceptance limits can be found on the NELAC website: <https://nelac-institute.org/content/NEPTP/fopt.php#>

The rating categories are either “acceptable” or “not acceptable” if the testing falls outside the stated limits.

This is a fairly complex discussion and not well suited to a short answer. If the Board desires, the Lab staff can give a presentation on accreditation and proficiency testing in detail.

p. 43: “Staff started working on the 2022-2023 budget . . .” Gratifying. Thanks.

I hope it turns out to be gratifying!

p. 48: My understanding is that “Emergency” as used here actually means something along the lines of “not planned for”, but a proportion of not_planned_for incidents approaching fifty per cent is concerning. What’s up?

Good catch. See the response given by Mr. Foley to Mr. White’s question.

p. 49: Satellite agency: This topic has come up before in connection with developments south of the river. I am not aware that CAWD has a policy for accepting projects as satellite agencies, and, if that is actually the case, we should have one. Satellite agencies cannot be counted upon to maintain their systems to CAWD standards, and it is difficult to enforce standards. Do we even want satellite agencies? If so, under what conditions? What benefit is it to CAWD to accept a collection system as a satellite agency? What is the downside? How does a satellite agency leave the District?

These are all questions that need to be answered yet. We do not have a policy on accepting satellite projects/agencies and would need to develop or accept on a case-by-case basis. Staff is thinking of a satellite agency arrangement similar to what we currently have in place with PBCSD. It is unlikely that we would agree to accept a collection system unless it met our standard plans and specifications. However, I believe we should consider accepting discharge from another system were it to be on a contractual basis that met our requirements, again, much like PBCSD discharges to CAWD.