

## Board Questions

### October '21 Director Rachel

Of all the items for review this month, the following jumped out at me as most salient.

Pages 46 - 50. The SSO at 3 NW 13th and Casanova due to grease and rags blockage. If time permits tomorrow, I would like to have an expanded discussion regarding this type of blockage and resulting SSO. For example, if Rachel, Daryl and Daryl's team could put together a Strategic Action Plan, what might come out of it to mitigate this issue? Perhaps it would be better to allow them time, if all agree, to brainstorm and put together a Perfect World plan. I feel it is time to bump up the priority of reducing the opportunity for SSO's due to grease and rags blockages.

Per Mr. Lauer: Great question. I have talked to Rachel and my crew regarding this SSO and we all agreed that there were two factors causing the SSO.

- 1) The 6" sewer line on Casanova discharges in the manhole at the same flow level as the 8" high volume/high flow sewer line causing the flow from the 6" line to be slightly restricted. Rachel and I are talking about a fix for that problem. Both 6" line on Casanova and the 8" line running down 13<sup>th</sup> will need a grade correction in the manhole and sewer lines to fix this problem. Rachel is working on a long-term plan to fix this. These sewer line have been in service for well over 80 plus years. Crews and I while relieving the SSO noticed large amounts of grease and rags which have not previously been seen while cleaning this line.
- 2) Grease and rags are the leading cause of this SSO. Staff cleans the high frequency line every three months, and this line is on the high frequency cleaning list. Staff had just cleaned this line on 8/6/2021 just prior to car week. All of the downtown wastewater flows down 13<sup>th</sup> and so does the grease from the restaurants. I can increase the frequency of cleaning to 1 ½ months in the downtown area but the grease will still exist. The board just last month passed the new Pre-treatment ordinance. Tackling the grease problem at the source (the restaurants) is the best solution for the collection system. More frequent inspections, 2-4 time per year and fines for violators will help decrease the grease being discharged. Most of the restaurants in Carmel have grease traps due to small kitchen or lack of space. These grease traps require lots of cleaning and maintenance to work correctly. Collections Staff will continue to work with Source Control to combat this problem. Staff will continue to reach out to users via flyers, newsletters, and public outreach to combat the rags problem.

Pages 111-117. As a percentage of total contract, \$15,215 is a significant add. Shouldn't MNS have an unanticipated overage cost baked into their original proposal? The dollar amount isn't what I am interested in, as compared to the percentage increase requested.

Unfortunately, Rachel is out because of a health issue with her mom. Bear with me, and if Rachel can make it in tomorrow she can comment further.

The Rancho Canada Pipeline Project has been a challenge in many ways. I tell Rachel that after the success of Rio Road and Hatton Canyon, it seems with this one we simply jinxed. Here are a couple of the items she has faced:

- On their best day, the Park District is not easy to deal with. They started out by telling us to just go ahead and construct without an easement and they would get to it later. That doesn't work for us. We utilized MNS Engineers to help come up with the new easement language.
- Additionally, we were initially unaware that we needed to deal not only with the Park District but also a separate easement with the Santa Lucia Preserve. All costing more money and engineering effort to establish.
- During construction it turns out that the utility mapping was not very well done. As indicated last month, Cal Am had a water line that crossed over our pipeline that even Cal Am was not aware of. Cal Am should have known, the construction was such that there was minimal separation between potable water line and sewer line. They should have known because the water line was installed after CAWD's line. How do we know that? They threw slurry over our line to ensure there was some separation.
- During construction The Park District had no notion of the irrigation lines underground – Granite Rock was asked to cap off all irrigation lines as they came upon them. This continued until the irrigation line for the wedding venue/gazebo area was cut off from the irrigation system by the new sewer line. The thing is, Park District staff established the protocol – they told us what lines are important. This one we refused to fix.
- There was a delay in bidding the project, MNS had to attend more construction meetings, and additional submittal reviews all required more attention than initially anticipated.

These items all conspired to make more work for MNS Engineers. This amendment is about extra work due to multiple challenges on this job (additional meetings, additional request for information, additional submittals, updating legal descriptions, etc.) Did staff not plan appropriately? This job should have been easy. But it has been anything but easy. We certainly did not plan on the number of "issues" that this project would come up with. If something could go wrong, it did. No denying that.