

## Siegfried Questions – July 2025

Opener: I recall requesting that discussion be agendized about forming an *ad hoc* committee to investigate why collections' spills per some length of pipeline are higher than the average of all wastewater districts in Region 3 and why the trend is worsening. This request neither was reported in the minutes nor placed on the agenda.

There was a discussion at the June 2025 meeting (I re-listened to the tape to confirm). However, there was not a consensus from the board to add the request to a future agenda nor to create an ad hoc committee to investigate spills. There was minimal discussion attached to this item.

It was not reported or placed on the agenda because: (1) we do not supply verbatim transcripts, and (2) there was no roll call vote taken to agendize or to create an ad hoc committee.

The solution is to bring the item back to the full board for a vote.

p. 108: What was Cal Am's emergency?

Foley: Cal Am had to clean their backwash ponds. They were reaching capacity of the ponds so they needed to dispose of backwash water.

Are they paying for processing the water?

Yes, they are paying the District approved rate of \$.05/gallon plus any overtime utilized

How is pH being "analyzed"?

Foley/Green: For regulatory purposes pH is currently monitored 5 days per week by a grab sample at the Effluent 001 (outfall to the ocean) and analyzed in house by our lab, which falls under our NPDES permit. The second regulatory spot is Tertiary FE (Final Effluent right before it is pumped to Pebble Beach) this was sampled daily and analyzed in house. As of the July 1<sup>st</sup> we are only required to sample once per week. This is required under our reclamation permit.

For monitoring purposes, there are several pH probes at the plant. There is one at the headworks, three at the MF/RO (the Pad) and three at the Tertiary FE, two right at the pumps that discharge to Pebble Beach and one in the chlorine contact channel before the pumps. All the probes are connected to SCADA with alarms and trending abilities.

Do the monthly calibration results indicate anything about adequacy of the manufacturer's replacement schedule recommendation?

Foley/Green: If referring to pH, the calibrations can help show the need to replace a probe. For example, when probes like pH or dissolved oxygen start to take longer and longer for them to settle to a stable reading this can usually point to the need to change out probes.

p. 109: What about the UV lamps in the heating and AC ducting?

Foley: This is an electrical item to change the lamps every 2 years. Bryan Mailey Electric has a PM to change when he is back onsite.

“serum chloride” ??

Foley: – s/b cerium chloride. This is the RE5000 coagulant for the tertiary sand filters.

p. 110: What was the malfunction of the influent sampler, and what caused it? I am surprised adequate explanations continue to be omitted from reports. Who is proof reading?

Are there reasons why the influent sampler is not exercised a day or two preceding each sampling day? There’s maybe \$3k riding on its performance.

Foley: The power supply failed, which is an uncommon failure. We stock spares of the refrigeration unit and controller. The sampler is tested on a daily basis when process samples are taken and the permit sample is on Fridays. The SOP has been updated with training provided to lab staff on how to swap samplers if the in-service unit fails.

p. 136: How were the hourly rates determined to be competitive? I found variations in the range of rates when I compared rates in the packet. The variation makes comparison difficult. Further, utilization of different rate categories varied between projects. Variations in rates, rate structures, and category utilization are a lot of variables. Is there a meaningful way to determine whether rates are competitive?

Treanor: CAWD engineering staff evaluate the hourly rates of competing consulting firms by reviewing publicly available public works contracts being issued by other local agencies. This market research shows that the rates are within a close range with the other major competitor firms who perform similar services in the public works sector. See attached recent hourly rate schedules from eight of the major firms in this sector. The rates are bounded between about **\$330/hr** for Senior Managing Engineers and about **\$150/hr** for entry level engineers.

The level of effort of each specific project varies. CAWD engineering staff make sure each project is tightly scoped and staffed with engineers at different levels and specialties that are suited for the specific requirements of the project.

It is important to note that California public sector professional service contracts are required to be awarded based on technical competency and experience, not hourly rates. CAWD engineering staff negotiate level of effort and billing rates to deliver high quality projects to the constituents.

Engineering Firms	Professional	Technicians
Carollo	330	171
Brown & Cadwell	330	135
Hazen	355	150
CDMSmith	318	145
Jacobs	340	135
Kennedy Jenks	335	155
MNS	320	185
Water Systems	380	165

- p. 191: It makes more sense to think in terms of the number of truck loads required annually to deliver liquid and solid ammonium sulfate. More than double the number of loads would be required annually for liquid as for solid ammonium sulfate. We are at a low point now in terms of freight rates. There are manifold cost drivers for trucking in play: CARB regulations, insurance premiums, driver demographics, additional tech. All will drive costs up. Consider also that loads pay for the trailers. Tank trailers are significantly more expensive to build than belly dump trailers, and they are more expensive to operate because they require washouts between loads.

Foley: The suppliers charge by the pound not by the number of deliveries. In order to transfer via bulk in a trailer the supplier must take supersacks and manually transfer to a trailer. This further increases the cost.

Neither would engineering be required for handling bulk, not sacked, solid product, which can be transported and stored in a set of belly dump double semi-trailers and fed directly from the trailers into solution.

Foley: When researching mixing systems there is not one readily available that would deliver the quantity required so a custom system would need to be designed and then built. The mixing system requires engineering to design a mixing system to heat and mix the product and ensure the correct dosage rate. This would have to be built custom.

A final consideration is whether purchase of liquid ammonium sulfate amounts to contracting out work that is within the capabilities of CAWD's employees. Someone at a fertilizer dealer is diluting solid ammonium sulfate to make the liquid formulation, and that easily is done by staff.

Foley: Yes, staff can mix and maintain the mixing system but at a significant cost of staff time to operate the system. This additional staff time would be billed directly to reclamation and would require diverting staff from the secondary treatment plant to mix solution.

p. 200: What need is there for staff to take a policy position without board approval? Laws and regulations are always flagged up well in advance.

1. The California Special District Association recommends maintaining policies as a “best practice.” They provide insight into laws that are being discussed and could have an impact on special districts.
2. If the Board has included a topic in its current approved “Advocacy Priorities” that will provide sufficient authorization for the General Manager (or designee) to supply a response to the appropriate legislative body. It would expedite responses and provide a rationale and brought to the board for further discussion.

p. 219: The text of the bill, variously described as AB 339 and SB 339, should have been provided.

We always have an internal question here on what attachments to include or exclude in the packet. -The links below should have been supplied in the packet.

[AB 339: Local public employee organizations: notice requirements. | Digital Democracy](#)  
Or

[Bill Text - AB-339 Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.](#)

It should be referred to as AB 339

p. 229: Lower right quadrant. Is that a joint in the 45° ell?

Treanor: Yes, the elbow image on page 228 is fabricated as opposed to molded. The couplings are rigid gasketed, steel shear banded, double clamped (with all 300 series stainless steel components for corrosion prevention).