

SAN FRANCISCO BAY SECTION

California Water Environment Association

INKSPOT

MARCH 2005

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Welcome to March, spring is just around the corner and hopefully the furious grip of Old Man Winter can let go and we can at least see the sun for more than one day each week. I don't know about you but if I wanted to have this kind of weather, I would live in Seattle. Sometimes after many days of not seeing the sun and I am just feeling that chipper, I have to get on my motorcycle and ride to where the sun is. This seems to help put some energy back into me and pushes that depressed feeling deep down. Try it sometime.

The board and committee chairs got together last week and discussed the coming year's work and job duties. As we do every year, we make sure that everyone knows the responsibilities and duties of their post and that they are able to be successful in adhering to these assignments.

We heard from your committee chairs where they are at presently and what they have planned for the coming year. I am pleased with all the planned events that each committee is working on. Training is the number 1 goal of our organization.

All committees are working hard to bring you relevant, practical and timely training. Input from you, the members, is what drives these committees. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please get them to the folks that are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

And speaking of ideas and suggestions... each month we have a dinner meeting with a topic of discussion, these are your meetings and your speakers.... please give any suggestions to any of the board members or Rick Chan, our Program Chair for the next year.

I think I have said enough for this month (don't want to compete with Teresa). I hope to see you all at meetings and training sessions in the coming months. Thank you in advance for your upcoming participation.

See Ya,

Your Pres.

Paul Louis



Musings from the Editor...

Hmmm. I think I was just dissed by our most esteemed President in his "greetings". Anyhow, here I go in my verbosity...

So, this month, I'm struck by the self-image that each of us carries. We each define ourselves in a particular way. Such as... I am a mother/father; I am an engineer. I am a mechanic. I am a republican/democrat. I am a Christian. I am an atheist. I am a traditionalist. I am progressive. On it goes ad infinitum.

It's so typical to create boxes of definition for, not only ourselves, but for others that we come into contact with. By creating these boxes of definition, we create a sense of security in ourselves for how we relate to the world and to each other. For example, if I know that you are politically conservative, I can create an idea in my mind about how we might relate; where we might agree and where we might disagree. In knowing this about you, I will create responses in myself accordingly. That is, if you are a conservative and I'm a liberal, automatic defense mechanisms would probably be triggered if I were to talk negatively about a particular political system. If, however, we are both conservatives, then, heck! we have a common link, probably agree on most political issues, and therefore I'd probably feel a sense of comfort and ease.

So, now, think about how disconcerting it is to hear a different perspective. To hear someone say to you... well, I see you in a different way. You might see yourself as conservative but, in some respects, you may be extremely liberal. For example, someone who defines himself or herself as conservative, may, in the face of crisis, take on a whole different set of values. Or, take a "conservative" who is forward thinking and progressive in terms of technology. A conservative viewpoint would be to refrain from going too far into technological advances. A progressive viewpoint would welcome exploration and pushing the boundaries of technology. So, all of a sudden someone says to you: "you're not conservative; you're liberal." I bet most of us would have a reaction to that. All of a sudden, our self-image is brought into question and we are exposed to something that shakes us up a bit... or a lot.

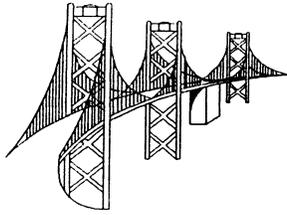
I write about this to have us think about the dangers of defining people in black and white terms. To have us think about the dangers of putting people into boxes just because of particular traits or belief systems. More importantly, is the danger of defining ourselves in only particular ways and holding certain beliefs as dogma and irrevocable truth. The world can't be defined in black and white terms. To try to do so is a futile effort. Life, itself, is full of inconsistencies and change; it is chaotic. Sure, we can try to make ourselves as comfortable and secure as possible by creating dogma and fast-held pictures of ourselves but, I posit that we owe ourselves more than that. I urge us to not limit ourselves in such a way. I urge us to remain with as open a mind and heart as possible and to welcome the wonders and mysteries of life as they unfold. To see with the eyes of a child, without preconceptions or judgments. And to live life with an attitude of appreciation for whatever it delivers to us.

Take care this month and be safe.

Life is a promise; fulfill it.

~Mother Theresa





SAN FRANCISCO BAY SECTION
California Water Environment Association

ANNUAL STUDENT NIGHT

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Silver Dragon Restaurant
835 Webster Street
Oakland, CA
(510) 893-3748

(within walking distance of Oakland City Center 12th St. BART Station)

Schedule of Events:

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Career Fair
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. No Host Social Hour
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Guest Speaker Presentation

Guest Speakers:

Lorien Fono, UC Berkeley. Ms. Fono will present her research on “Wastewater-derived chemical contaminants as tracers of raw sewage in surface waters.”

Gordon Williams, UC Berkeley. Mr. Williams will present his research on “The effect of loading rate on filtration of wastewater for reuse: Preliminary results from a pilot-scale filtration project in Marina, CA.”

Company representatives who would like to attend the dinner and guest speaker presentation from 7 to 9 p.m. should RSVP directly with Renee Kempe at Carollo Engineers by email at sfbs@carollo.com (PLEASE provide your name(s), company or organization, and the date of the dinner: March 3) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2005. This dinner is traditionally family-style Chinese cuisine. The cost of dinner is \$38/person for non-members or \$30/person for members.

Treatment Plant Operator Math Review Class

Need help in preparing for solving those pesky math problems on the next treatment plant operator certification exam? The Sacramento Section of CWEA is sponsoring a 4-hour math review class on March 4th, 2005 at the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District offices at Mather. The class will be taught by Kurt Ohlinger and Tim Sullivan, both of whom have Grade 5 certifications and several years experience in the wastewater treatment industry.

When: Friday March 4th, 2005 8:00 AM - Noon

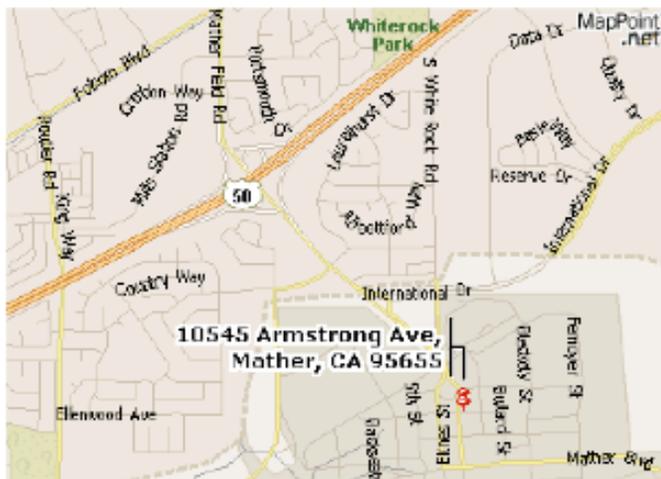
Where: Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District (McKuen One Center)
10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 101
Mather, CA 95655
Conference Room 170

What to Bring: pencil, paper, calculator
(please be familiar with the basic functions of your calculator)

Cost: \$10 for CWEA SAS members, \$20 for non-members
Payable the day of the class

RSVP: Tim Sullivan at tsullivan@eid.org or 530-642-4177

Space is limited to the first 30 reservations. Your reservation is a commitment to attend and pay the class fee. Instructors will be covering operational math skills necessary to pass the Grade I, II and III Wastewater Certification Exams.



Directions:

Take Highway 50,
Take Mather exit,
south on Mather Rd.,
bear right at fork,
left on Armstrong Ave.



SFBS CALENDAR

MARCH	
28 - 2	P3S Annual Conference, Monterey - Gayle Tupper 510-287-1608
1	SFBS Young Member Forum Event - Dolly Yu 510-302-2302
3	SFBS Dinner Meeting - see flyer
4	Operator Math Review Course - see flyer
27	Easter
APRIL 2005	
12-15	CWEA Annual Conference, Palm Springs
12 & 16	CWEA Board Meetings, Palm Springs - CWEA 510-382-7800
14	NRC Meeting at CWEA Conference, 1:30 p.m. - Phil Scott 650-558-7673
27-30	CASA Spring Conference, Napa
SEPTEMBER 2005	
14-16	Northern Regional Training Conference, Redding - Clay Yerby 707-441-4360

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