

SAN FRANCISCO BAY SECTION  
California Water Environment Association

*Inkspot*



October 2006

**GREETINGS FROM THE  
PRESIDENT...**

Just got back from the Northern Regional Training Conference in Sparks, Nevada, and I'd like to start out this month's message with a sincere "Thank You" to Conference Chair Cassie Prudhel, Program Chairs Polly Villarreal and Linda Leong, the rest of the NRTC conference committee, and all the CWEA staff who helped out. Thanks to all their hard work, the NRTC was another huge success.

Last month, the SF Bay Section was the guest of the Redwood Empire Section at a joint dinner meeting at the California Maritime Academy. Thanks to the Redwood Empire Section for their hospitality, and for a great meeting in a wonderful location. This month, our dinner meeting will be at the Silver Dragon Restaurant in Oakland, where Matthew Tolcher and Heather Fleming of *Engineers without Borders* will speak about their work to help developing communities worldwide.

As you may have heard, CWEA is in the midst of a very important election on proposed amendments to the Association's constitution. It is critical that as many members as possible return their ballot—we need more than 2500 ballots returned for a valid election. The proposed

changes will bring CWEA into conformance with California law and allow us to continue do to business as we have been. I ask each of you to take a few minutes to review the excellent materials sent to you by CWEA, and return your ballot as soon as possible. You can find more information and a replacement ballot (if needed), at [www.cwea.org/vote](http://www.cwea.org/vote). Please remember to vote!

And finally, there is still time to get your 2006 Bay Section Awards nomination forms in. Awards Chair Paul Louis' goal is to get nominations for every award category this year, so please take the time to recognize your projects, programs, and people by nominating them for awards.

Thanks, and I'll see you in Oakland on the 5th.

Kevin Calderwood  
2006 SFBS President

**Important Stuff:**

**October 5** SFBS Dinner Meeting  
- Silver Dragon, Oakland, Ca

**October 11** Northern Safety  
Training, Woodland, Ca

**October 21-25** WEF Tec, Dallas,  
Texas

## Musings from the Editor...

*Previously on "As the Clarifier Turns"...*

The Rodeo Sanitary District began the 1970s with a new and modern secondary treatment plant. However, over the next few decades, to make a long story short; nothing was improved or maintained. As a result, by the end of the 1990s, the plant and collection system were literally falling apart and the District was under the watchful eye of the State and FBI.

The people of Rodeo cried out, "What are we going to do?" (Enter from stage left)...A dark figure with awe and prowess. "Who is this man?" one resident asks "Who can he be?" With a clearing of his throat, and in a low, stern voice the figure replies, "My name is Dave Sullivan, and I am here to help!" Cheers erupt and cries from the crowd are heard; "We are saved!!"

Well, maybe it wasn't quite like that, but what's a story without a little drama? Dave was hired late in 1999 and was responsible for getting things flowing smoothly again and keeping the plant in compliance, a monumental challenge.

Before we dive into this month's episode of "As the Clarifier Turns", first a word from one of our sponsors, Paul Louis our illustrious awards chair:

***San Francisco Bay Section members! It's time once again to acknowledge outstanding professional achievements within the wastewater field. This is one way to elevate the professional status of wastewater and related personnel, while stimulating public awareness about the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment. (Want to know more? See full advertisement in this edition of the Inkspot.)***

Back to our story...

So here we are at the end of 2002, Dave hired a young, wet-behind-the-ears engineer ready (or at least he thought) to take on the public sector. You guessed it, that young eager beaver engineer is me. WOW -- talk about trying to sip from a fire hose. I learned a great deal in a very short time.

A little about your editor: My beautiful wife, Dawn, of 11 years, is a stay-at-home mom, raising two wild animals, Kevin and Kyle, our 9-year-old twins. A neat fact: the boys were born in the same hospital I was, John Muir in Walnut Creek. Obviously, I am a local boy. I commuted to UC Berkeley where I completed a BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering (aka Sanitary Engineering). I have worked with a number of consultants in the area before settling in here and doing something that I really enjoy. My mama has worked for Carollo Engineers for 30 years so if you want crazy stories about some of the Carollo partners and engineers, let me know, I have many.

This month, I will briefly touch on the accomplishments since the end of 2002, and in future episodes, go into detail on some of the projects that have had a significant impact for the District.

Between 2002 and today the following was accomplished:

- Digester refurbishment. Removed troublesome floating covers and replaced with fixed covers. Removed antiquated gas mixing system and replaced with Vaughn Chopper Pump mixed system. (Will be detailed in a future episode)
- New Effluent Pump Station. Removed old defunct eductor system and replaced with low/high flow pumped system with gravity bypass. (Will be detailed in a future episode)

- Removed old underground diesel storage tank and replaced with new modern above ground Convault tank.
- Installed never at the District before SCADA components to bring the District into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. (Yes I know it's the 21<sup>st</sup> but we are pacing our selves)
- Installed state-of-the-art Parkson Hi-Ox membrane panel aeration equipment. Great system and the source of a 30+ percent reduction in power usage for the District. Big \$\$ savings. (Will be detailed in a future episode)
- A completely new chemical storage and feed system for Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) and Sodium Bisulfite (NaHSO<sub>3</sub>). (Will be detailed in a future episode)
- Rehabilitated lights at the District, both inside and outside.
- Rebuilt and updated plant and main pump station engine-generators.
- Installed about 60 manholes in the collection system to ease maintenance.
- Installed several hydraulic bypasses in the collection system to alleviate, you guessed it, hydraulic bottlenecks.
- Many small items, too numerous to list.

The District had to secure a \$1.5 million loan to pay for the major work and has been relying upon our Ad Valorem tax to pay for the minor items. Let's hope the **Govenator** will stop dipping into our Ad Valorem tax so we can fund further improvements here at the District. The District has spent nearly \$4million in that past seven years to correct the deficiencies from the past.

Well that's it for this month; stay tuned for future episodes of "As the Clarifier Turns" that will provide greater detail for some the significant projects here at the District.

*Editors Note:* I need communication from committee chairs regarding upcoming events. A simple "nothing this month" or "here is our flyer" works great for me. My crystal ball was recalled last month due to constant malfunctions. Without your communication, I cannot include a seminar/workshop in the current issue of the Inkspot. Thank you. I appreciate the input!



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## **CWEA San Francisco Bay Section**

# **October 2006 Dinner Meeting**

**Topic:** *Engineers Without Borders - Building a Better World*

Matthew Tolcher, RMC Water & Environment - EWB-SFP Tanzania Project Lead  
Heather Fleming - EWB-SFP Appropriate Technology Design Team Lead

The Engineers Without Borders San Francisco Professionals Chapter (EWB-SFP) is a volunteer organization that helps developing communities worldwide by using a hands-on approach involving engineering professionals and students. EWB-SFP will present the highlights of two recent projects. The first is a multifaceted water and health improvement project in Ngelenge, a small community in Tanzania without running water, electricity, transportation, telephones and other basic services. The second project involves the Appropriate Technology Design Team's work in partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) to design a fuel-efficient cook stove for the Darfur region of Sudan. The locally manufactured and fabricated stove will slow the local deforestation and reduce the number of trips women take to obtain fuel wood, where they are exposed to violent attacks by local rebels.

**Where:** **Silver Dragon Restaurant**  
835 Webster Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 893-3748  
*See following page for directions*

**Dinner:** \$30.00 CWEA Members  
\$38.00 Non-CWEA Members  
\$15.00 Students

**When:** **Thursday, October 5, 2006**  
5:00 – Board Meeting  
6:00 – Social Hour  
7:00 – Dinner  
8:00 – Presentation

**Meal:** Family-Style Chinese Cuisine

**Contact:** Contact Kevin O'Toole of Whitley Burchett & Associates at 925-945-6850 or [sfbs@whitleyburchett.com](mailto:sfbs@whitleyburchett.com) for dinner reservations. Include your name and agency or company affiliation.

**Reservation deadline is Friday, September 29, 2006**

**REMEMBER – A reservation is a commitment to pay.**

★ **Silver Dragon Restaurant, 835 Webster St., Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 893-3748**

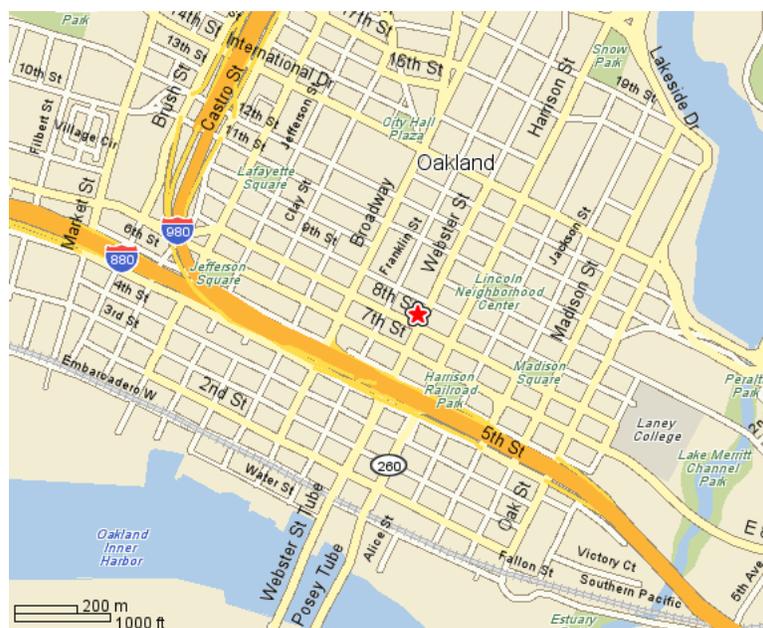
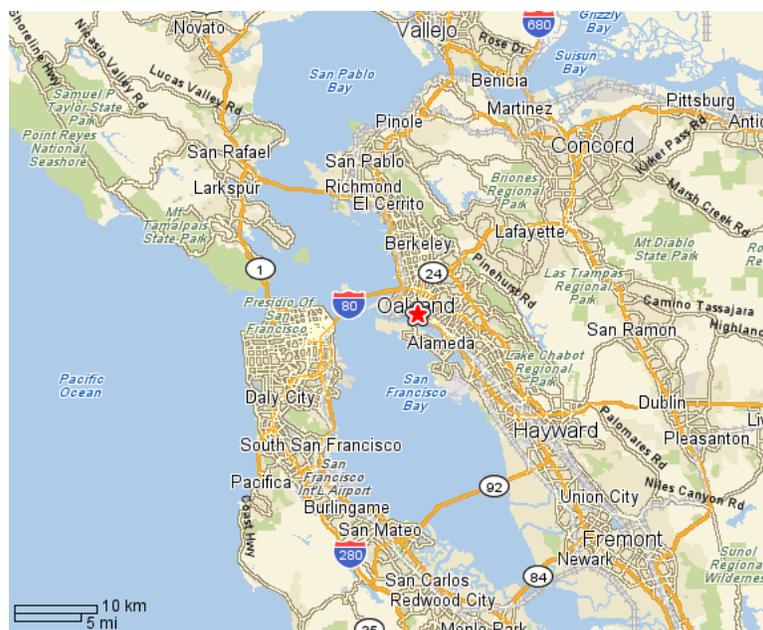
**From BART:** From the Oakland City Center 12th St. Station, proceed south on Broadway, turn left on 9th Street and right on Webster.

**From Contra Costa:** Take Hwy 24 to I-980/Downtown Oakland. Take the 18th Street Exit onto Brush Street (toward 14th Street). Turn left on 17th Street and right on Webster.

**From South Bay:** Take I-880 North towards Oakland. Take the Broadway Exit. Turn Right on 11th Street and right on Webster.

**From SF:** Take Bay Bridge to I-880 South/Alameda-SJ. Take the Broadway/Alameda Exit. Turn right on 5th Street, left on Broadway, right on 11th Street, and right on Webster.

**Parking:** Street parking is limited. Paid parking is available via the underground garage entrance at 10th and Webster.



# Spread the WORD...

## It's Awards Nomination Time

San Francisco Bay Section members! It is that time again to acknowledge those special individuals, agencies and projects that exceed par with their contemporaries. Here is your opportunity to recognize outstanding professional achievements within the wastewater field. This is the time to improve the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry and related fields. At the same time you can stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

Please e-mail, write, or call this year's Awards Chair Paul Louis:

Paul Louis

c/o Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

5019 Imhoff Place

Martinez, Ca. 94553-4392

925-229-7165

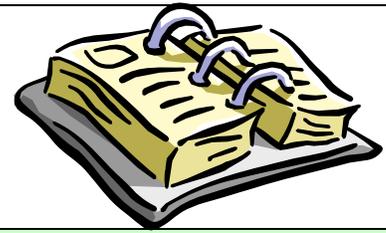
[paul@centralsan.dst.ca.us](mailto:paul@centralsan.dst.ca.us)

OR... logon directly to CWEA's web site at [http://cwea.org/mlr\\_member\\_awards.shtml](http://cwea.org/mlr_member_awards.shtml) to download the appropriate form.

Here are the Local Section awards:

- Collection System of the Year Small (0-249 mi) Medium (250-500 mi) Large (500 mi)
- Safety Small (1-25 employees) Medium (26-75 employees) Large (76 or more employees)
- Plant of the Year Small (0-5 mgd) Medium (5-20 mgd) Large ( > 20 mgd)
- Collection System Person of the Year
- P3S Person of the Year
- Electrical/Instrumentation Person of the Year
- Laboratory Person of the Year
- Operator of the Year
- Mechanical Technician of the Year
- Supervisor of the Year
- Public Education
- Research Achievement
- Engineering Achievement

The deadline (the real deadline) for submitting nomination form(s) is in October 2006.



# SFBS CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2006	
<b>5</b>	<b>SFBS October Dinner Meeting, Silver Dragon, Oakland, Ca</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>CWEA Specialty Conference, The Art of Supervisory Leadership, Berkeley, Ca</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>WEF/IWA World Water Monitoring Day</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Northern Safety Training, Woodland, California</b>
<b>21 – 25</b>	<b>WEFTEC, Dallas, Texas</b>
NOVEMBER 2006	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>SFBS November Dinner Meeting, Location TBA</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SWRCB SSO WDR Notice of Intent Enrollment Due</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Turkey Day!!</b>
DECEMBER 2006	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>SFBS December Dinner Meeting, Location TBA</b>



## SF BAY SECTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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