

# TCSO CPO Monthly Operation/Maintenance Report December 2022

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## General Plant Operation/Maintenance

- Daily plant maintenance/housekeeping
- Daily/Monthly/Quarterly sampling and reporting
- Data collecting/recording /reporting
- SCADA monitoring
- Compliance enforcement
- Scheduling
- Equipment cleaning/maintenance/calibrating
- Exercise equipment/valve
- SSO prevention
- Safety enforcement/prevention is performed daily through a facility safety walk and regular inspections.

## Safety Report

- A minor safety incident occurred on December 19th. Operator, Colton McMullen was relocating a new floating brush aerator to mounting cleats at a higher elevation in the Sludge Lagoon. While pulling the locking pin with one hand and holding onto the aerator's bracing arm with another, Colton was not prepared to hold the full weight of the bracing arm. Consequently, the bracing arm dropped three to four inches landing on the concrete embankment with Colton's finger caught in between. His wound consisted of a dime-size patch of skin peeled off with moderate bleeding. The injury was cleaned and wrapped with a band-aid. A Safety Incident Report was completed and no additional training or safety modifications were deemed appropriate to prevent this incident from reoccurring.

## Call out/Plug up/Spill/Collection System

Multiple USAN line location and markings were performed.  
High school private lateral and outfall line is checked regularly.

- A call-out to 18530 Pine St. occurred on December 10<sup>th</sup> during non-normal working hours. Sewage was reported coming out of a cleanout in an alleyway. The on-call operator responded and cleared the blockage. When the blockage was alleviated it sent a surge of water into the downstream manhole almost causing it to overflow. Seeing this, and with a storm drain in the immediate area, the operator called in additional help. Fortunately, no spill occurred out of the manhole. This sewer pipe has long been believed to be a combined private lateral system servicing roughly seven

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## December 2022

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homes. This belief was due to the system not on our collection system maps, unusual installation, and being on private property. However, staff looked into and found a District easement for the parcels this system runs through. With this new information the legally Responsible Official was bound to report the sewer spill that occurred in the alley. It was a minor spill with only 40 gallons of spillage reported.

- The Collection System Project continues to uncover such unusual findings that seasoned underground utility installers can be heard from time to time saying, “I’ve never seen that before”. For instance, excavation in front of a business on Bay Ave, had five to six clay lines appearing like sewer laterals but at differing elevations. An underground fuel storage tank and unknown storm drains have also been encountered. The latest, two sewer lines that were believed to be the Christian School’s Gymnasium laterals were found to be inactive and filled with dirt. The gym does have two separate laterals but where they tie into the collection system remains a mystery, even after extensive investigatory efforts were made.
- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Casino flow totals were listed by SCADA at negative 2,240 gallons. This, of course, is impossible and contact was made to Casino personnel. The next day also displayed a slight negative number. In addition, the local SCADA cabinet at the Casino had stopped tabulating and transmitting flows back to the WWTP. While we are still investigating this, District staff were able to restart the local panel back to normal operation. We are working on substituting historical flows for the negative numbers which the Casino has already agreed to.
- TEDA’s Westside Dam Project is undergoing long delays. The construction of the sewer trestle is the first phase of this project and was scheduled to be completed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. To do this work, the contractor, Granite Construction, installed an eight-inch temporary bypass on our 15-inch sewer trunk mainline. With winter approaching fast, concerns were brought to TEDA’s attention that the eight-inch bypass was not acceptable for high winter flows. TEDA unearthed the bypass and on December 9<sup>th</sup> both agencies, TEDA and TCSO, removed the bypass just in time before a major rain event.

## Plant Operations

### **Additional activity performed at the Plant, above and beyond daily general operations and maintenance**

- The second semi-annual groundwater sampling event for 2022 found nitrate levels in monitoring well DG-2 at 12 mg/L where the limitation is 10 mg/L. This location historically has had an upward

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## December 2022

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trend for nitrates and was the driving force behind the Waterboards requirement to eliminate Direct Discharge. Condor Earth Technologies, Inc. is the contractor hired to sample, analyze, and prepare reports for the District Groundwater Monitoring Program. They have not submitted the report yet but have relayed this concern. Condor is under the impression that a plume of older groundwater is passing through and the above compliance threshold for nitrates is not a reflection of current discharge practices.

- December brought heavy rains towards the end of the month resulting in high flow alarms. Of concern is no high flow alarms are being sent to the on-call operator. The server that performed the automated call-out to the on-call operator is still down and staff are having to rely on an old “Chatter Box” for alarm notifications. However, the Chatter Box only allows for four alarms and the High Influent Flow alarm is not one of them. Staff are looking into rewiring the Chatter Box for notifications on the four most critical alarms.
- Some final source water sampling took place in preparation of the compiling the Annual Self-Monitoring Discharge Report for 2022. Source water requirements include water quality data on TUD’s Tuolumne Water Treatment Plant as well as Casino water quality.

### Apply Colony Lift Station

- Daily Apple Colony lift station inspections performed as required by SDRMA.

### Bakers Reservoir and Dam/Outfall line

- Freeboard is roughly at 19 ft. as of December 29<sup>th</sup> and filling fast. It is still well below the freeboard schedule agreement we have with John Baker which dictates how much creek water he can divert into the reservoir.

Ben Kikugawa, Chief Plant Operator

December 29, 2022