
Newsletter for the San Luis Obispo / Central Coast Branch • February 2010

FEBRUARY 2010 MEETING:
*Cogeneration at the Oceano
Water Pollution Control Plant*

TOPIC:

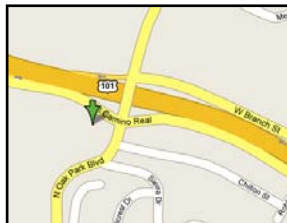
Please join us this month as we invite Peter Rynning and Bill Lindahl (Wallace Group) to discuss the installation and operation of a 150 kW engine-generator cogeneration system at the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District's (SSLOCSD) Water Pollution Control Plant in Oceano. SSLOCSD utilizes a heated anaerobic digestion process in solids handling – a byproduct of which is methane gas.

The new system treats and then burns the methane in a clean-burning internal combustion engine that is tied to a 150kW synchronous generator. The engine drives the generator to produce electricity that powers a significant portion of the plant's electrical load, while the heat generated by the engine is captured in heat exchangers and used to heat the digester.

Because this luncheon includes a site visit to the cogen at the Plant, the format of the meeting will follow that of the Hollister Bridge luncheon. You should expect to arrive at noon, start eating by 12:15, announcements at 12:30, drive to the site 12:40, presentation by Bill and Peter 12:55, Q&A and adjourn around 1:30. Close toed shoes are recommended (boots preferred).

LOCATION:

A.J. Spurs
1760 El Camino Real
Grover Beach, CA



DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Feb. 18th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Food will be your choice of 6 oz. Top Sirloin Steak, 12 oz. BBQ Chicken Breast, or Veggie Pasta. All choices are served with vaquero soup, tequila beans, salsa, garden salad with avocado ranch dressing, rice pilaf, garlic bread, and an old fashioned root beer float for dessert!

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 12th, at the Branch web site (www.ASCESLO.org). Please attend the luncheon if you sign-up – some restaurants will charge the Branch for every seat we reserve, regardless of the actual attendance. If you have specific dietary restrictions or have questions, please contact Liz Moody at (805) 544-7407 or by email at lizm@cannoncorp.us. The cost is \$20 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:
Itsy Bitsy Spider

Last month's luncheon presentation (Tank Farm Sewer Project) was great despite the rain. No, we didn't get a chance to venture into the field and see the new facilities, but David Hix, Jennifer Metz, and Budd Nance put on a great presentation while we sat comfortably dry and ate lunch. Speaking of which, I'd like to give special thanks to David Hix (main presenter) for making a last minute change to create a Power Point style presentation in place of the planned site visit Q&A style presentation. Hopefully it won't rain for our upcoming meeting so we can actually go see the facilities.

Although the rain can mess up our plans for the luncheons, it sure is needed and can be a lot of fun to watch. If you thought anything like I did then you probably think our lakes are pretty full. However, I was wrong. As of this writing, Nacimiento Lake is at 38% capacity and San Antonio Lake is at 43% capacity. And this is in a season when we've already experienced approximately 160% of our average annual rainfall. Let's hope this is an El Nino year as predicted and that a lot more rain is on the way.

That being said, lets talk about what you can do while you're stuck inside due to rain. There are a few good websites to look at for good local weather statistics. The first one I always visit is www.sloweather.com. This site has a lot of good information: current conditions, one week forecast, 24-hour trends (I miss the 1-week, 1-month, 1-year trends), lightning statistics, a link and data for five separate local weather stations, links to satellite and radar images (some looped), and much more.

Another great website is the San Luis Obispo County's website at www.slocountywater.org/site/Water Resources/Data/maps/data.htm. At first glance this website may be a little overwhelming – there is a lot of data here. The first dropdown box on the page allows you to search precipitation, stream flow, or reservoir storage. If you're overwhelmed with all the symbols on the map, I suggest you narrow your search by making a selection in this first dropdown window. If you look at it and give it a chance, I think you'll agree that the County has done a great job setting up a really neat site.

If you have some good weather data sites that I didn't mention, please send them to me (jeffs@cannoncorp.us). There are so many good sites out there it's hard to find them all yourself.

(Continued on page 3)

MEET THE PROJECT - BOB JONES TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS

Whether you walk, bike, rollerblade, or run, chances are you've been on the Bob Jones Trail at one time or another. It's well known for its beautiful scenery and accessibility to Avila Beach. This month I'm proud to be able to focus on another local engineering project that will add to this already well know attraction; The Bob Jones Trail Enhancements.

For this project, I spoke with Doug Nelms, an Engineering Inspector for the City of San Luis Obispo. The Bob Jones Trail Enhancement consists of the construction of a wetland adjacent to the existing Bob Jones City-to-Sea Trail, south of the Water Reclamation Facility. The project also includes an elevated boardwalk, and an informational kiosk, along with other site improvements. The purpose of this project



is to further enhance the area's natural wildlife resources by creating a new wetland along the existing bike path. This new wetland will also double as a retention basin, which will reduce storm water flows in the San Luis Obispo Creek during heavy rains.

The plan's for this project was completed by CJP Pro-

ductions, along with Structural Engineering services provided by Wallace Group, and Geotechnical services provided by Geo-Solutions. This \$325,000.00 project was fully funded through the State's Environmental Enhancement Mitigation program. Design for the project began in early 2009, and construction in January 2010. Currently

the project in under construction, and is expected to be completed by the end of March, weather permitting. So far, they have had no significant hurdles to overcome during the life of this project.

My wife and I already enjoy taking our son for walks along the Bob Jones Trail, and we look forward to seeing the completion of this project. I would like to thank Doug Nelms of the City of San Luis Obispo for taking the time to answer a few questions from me about this interesting project. If you would like more information on the Bob Jones Trail Enhancement project, feel free to contact the Project Manager Dan Van Beveren at the City of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department.

~ Anthony J. Severy

K-12 OUTREACH: *Well Done SLO Branch!*

Before I let you know what K-12 Outreach is offering over the next month, I want to thank our K-12 volunteers. Between our Cal Poly SCE and Branch volunteers, we reached over 20 classrooms and three career fairs throughout SLO County in just THREE MONTHS! Most of this took place during our one week celebration of Engineer's Week! Thank you to all, especially Roshani Patel- SCE VP of Community Service, for pulling these events off.

Upcoming Outreach Events:

What? Career Fair - Share your love of CE with local youngsters!
When? Wednesday, March 17, 2010 (time TBD)
Where? San Gabriel Elementary - Atascadero

... AND ...

What? Day with "Bright Futures" - Activities, presentations, and FUN!
When? Friday, March 19, 2010, 12:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.
Where? Grover Heights Elementary - Arroyo Grande

These are both great opportunities to get involved if you have not had the opportunity in the past! The San Luis Obispo Branch and Cal Poly SCE have done a great job making K-12 Outreach a priority in recent years and we hope to continue our strong, enthusiastic presence in our community.

Contact Carolyn Berg at (949) 422-3616 or ckberg2@gmail.com if you have some outreach ideas or want to get involved.

SALUTE CE AT THE 2010 OPAL GALA

Come to the nation's capital on March 25 to honor outstanding CEs and amazing infrastructure projects at ASCE's Outstanding Projects And Leaders Gala. Be on hand for the announcement of the world's Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement for 2010. Watch several of civil engineering's greatest practitioners as they receive OPAL awards and other honors. Get your tuxedo or evening gown ready and register today.

PRESIDENT PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

On a different note I'd like to give you a little update regarding our 50-th Year celebration plans. Currently the committee is made up of existing ASCE officers (Kari Wagner, Courtney Howard, and Valerie Huff). This is a great start, but honestly it would be nice to see some past officers get involved and help fill in some of the gaps. 50-years is a long time with a lot of people and stories. Much of those will be lost if you do not get involved with this event. Please consider joining the team to make the 50-year celebration a great one.

Thank you,
~ Jeff Spannbauer

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010?

If you have, thanks! If you haven't, please remember that 2010 calendar dues are past due. Don't miss out on our local activities and exciting benefits for 2010 such as:

- ASCE eLearning Workshops – Use free member-only access to live Web learning programs designed to help you hone critical career skills.
- eMentoring Programs – Mentors and protégés benefit from an extended personal online network to exchange ideas, learn new skills, and share experiences.
- Section/Branch Membership – Don't forget to pay your Section/Branch dues; members who participate in their local Section find more value in their membership by building new relationships, participating in local projects, and staying up-to-date on the latest local civil engineering news.

So, renew today! It's quick, easy and convenient. And fast if you charge your dues to Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Just:

- Call 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or (703) 295-6300 and renew over the phone, or
- Renew online at ASCE's secure renewal website: www.asce.org/renewal

If you don't already have an ASCE online account, you'll have to take a minute or two to create one using your last name and member ID#. You may also take this opportunity to update your address and other ASCE database records by choosing the site's "Update Your Record" link and going to www.asce.org/my_profile.

Check out the photos taken at recent branch meetings
on the SLO Branch website: www.ASCESLO.org

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like posted at no cost, contact Syllas Cranor at 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

The local chapter of the **American Public Works Association** meets on the second Wednesday of the month, every other month. For details, contact Jay Walter at jwalter@slocity.org.

The Central Coast Branch of the **California Land Surveyors Association** usually meets the second Thursday of each month. Contact Rochelle Vierra at 549-3461 or Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov for more information.

Cal Poly's **Society of Civil Engineers (SCE)** welcomes local professionals to its regular meetings held alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 13-118. For further information, contact Kari Wagner (kariw@WallaceGroup.us) or Jeff Spannbauer (jeffs@cannonassoc.com).

The Central Coast Chapter of the **International Code Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Margie's Dinner. Contact Sylvia Aldana at 781-4671 or saldana@co.slo.ca.us for information.

The **American Institute of Architects** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Vista Grande Restaurant (Cal Poly). For information, call Jeff Emrick at 549-8658.

Engineers Without Borders meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Noon. For further information, contact an EWB Officer at ewb.slo@gmail.com.

The **Central Coast Geological Society** meets every second Tuesday. For information, contact Lou Blanck at 542-4626.

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Visit ASCE-SLO at www.ASCESLO.org

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