

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

INDUSTRIAL WASTE PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS

ROBERT C. FERRANTE  
CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

SUBMITTED  
April 14, 2022

**APPENDIX H**  
INDUSTRIAL WASTE REPORTS ON INCIDENTS

## 2021 SUMMARY OF TREATMENT PLANT INCIDENTS

Type of Incident	JWPCP	SJC-E WRP	SJC-W WRP	LC WRP	LB WRP	WN WRP	POM WRP	VAL WRP	SAUG WRP	LAN WRP	PALM WRP	La Can WRP	Total
COD/Solids/Ragging	5	2	1			2						1	11
Metals/Cyanide													0
Toxicity		1											1
pH High		1		5			1						7
pH Low							2						2
Turbidity													0
Grease	7									1			8
LEL													0
NDMA													0
Color				10	1	2					1		14
Foam				1									1
Chloride													0
Odor						1		1					2
Ammonia	1	1	1	1									4
Temperature													0
<b>Total</b>	13	5	2	17	1	5	3	1	0	1	1	1	50

<b>2021 PUMP PLANT INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED</b>	
EXCESS FLOW	1
PERSONAL WIPE RAGGING	
OTHER RAGGING	
FLAMMABILITY/LEL	
COLOR	
CORROSION	
EXCESS MAINTENANCE	
ODOR	1
OILY SLUDGE/GREASE	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

\*In 2009 Compton Yard installed improved pumps that chopped personal wipes

<b>2021 SURFACE DISCHARGE INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED</b>	
IU - SPILL	3
RIVER SPILL/DUMP	
FUEL/SOLVENT	
CHEMICAL/PAINT SPILL	1
SEPTIC WASTE DUMP	
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION	
NUISANCE DISCHARGE	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

## 2021 SEWER INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED

Elevated H2S reported by Sewer crew	1
ODOR- Sulfide	1
ODOR-Other	1
FIRE INVESTIGATION: Non-refinery	3
FOAM	
OIL/FUEL/SOLVENT	5
RAGGING	1
EXCESS SOLIDS	2
SCALE	
Elevated LEL reported by sewer crew	1
LOW pH	4
CORROSION	
RAINWATER	1
COLOR	4
BLOCKAGE/SSO Due to Grease	4
BLOCKAGE/SSO Not due to Grease	3
ILLEGAL ACCESS TO MANHOLE	
EXCESS FLOW	3
ILLEGAL DUMP	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

**2021 SUMMARY OF INCIDENT REFERRALS**

**Nature of Incident**

Caller ID	Industrial User off-spec or non-permitted discharge			IU Equipment Malfunction	Odor Reports	Refinery Fire or impound of off spec waste reports	Sewer Excess Flow	Misc. Haz or Non-Haz Sewer Discharge	Non-Refinery Fire	Non-sewer related incidents	Total
	Acid	Oil	Misc								
IU Release	2	1	8	27		8	3	3		1	53
IU SMR Call	2		20								22
Public Agency		1	2					3	1	1	8
IWMC or CSD	19	1	14	1			2	15		2	54
Citizen					2						2
Anonymous								1			1
News Report									2		2
<b>Total</b>	23	3	44	28	2	8	5	22	3	4	142

## 2021 LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL STATION REFERRALS

	EXCESS SOLIDS	EXCESS GREASE	IRREGULAR RECORDS	LOW/HIGH pH	EXCESS TDS	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	INAPPROPRIATE SOURCE	MISC	TOTAL
Attendant calls for assistance or investigation				4	5				9

# INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021

## TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

### San Jose Creek East WRP High Strength

On Friday, 1-8-2021 at 1255 hours, treatment plant operators at the San Jose Creek East WRP notified the IW Section that the WRP was being impacted by what was likely high strength wastewater entering the plant. Dissolved oxygen levels had bottomed out in the aeration tanks, ammonia levels were up, and operators were observing very low amounts of foam in these tanks. Operators collected samples of both primary effluent and wastewater in the aeration tanks for pick up by IW Inspectors.



**Figure 1: San Jose Creek East WRP dissolved oxygen trend data showing the D.O. drops in the aeration tanks on 1-8-2021 at about 0945 hours.**

Both day and night shift IW Inspectors responded to this incident report. Calculations based on WRP trend data (See Figure 1) indicated the high strength wastewater that caused the incident entered the WRP at about 0800 hours. It had no other observed unusual characteristics such as unusual odors, colors, or the presence of grease observed in the WRP by operators. Also, the influent pH trend data was normal, though it was missing for the period of 0700-0750 hours that day due to maintenance activity. A total of 17 possible industrial sources for high strength industrial wastewater were inspected by IW staff on Friday, 1-8-2021 and Monday, 1-11-2021, but none was identified as the primary cause/source of the incident. Inspections at two of these facilities did indicate some unusual activity, but neither seemed a likely main cause for the incident: One was at a manufacturer of mayonnaise and food dressings that had conducted regular quarterly sewer line cleaning in the early morning hours of 1-8-2021 that could have dislodged some high strength solids to the sewer. The other was a meat processing facility where grease moderately coating their industrial wastewater discharge



sampling location was noted but no evidence of any large discharge of high strength waste was observed.

The impact of the high strength wastewater on the WRP was significant but did not ultimately result in any violations of any effluent limits or guidelines. WRP operators were able to treat the high strength waste by increasing oxygen supplied to the aeration tanks by turning up the blowers. WRP trend data indicated that plant operations eventually returned to normal, but not until 2300 hours on 1-8-2021. IW Inspectors continue to be vigilant to possible sources for this incident.

#### Ragging in J.O. 'E' Unit 3 in Lynwood

On Tuesday, 1-19-2021 at 1200 hours, Districts' sewer maintenance staff notified the IW Section that a sewer maintenance crew had encountered a large amount of rags, described as "mop strings" in the 27" diameter J.O. 'E' Unit 3 trunk sewer line in Lynwood on North Alameda Street.



**Figure 2: "Rags" removed from the J.O. 'E' Unit 3 trunk sewer line in a bucket at the Compton field office on 1-19-2021.**

IW Inspectors responded to the report of ragging in the J.O. 'E' Unit 3 trunk sewer line on the same day it was reported. They examined the rags removed from the sewer at the Compton field office and determined that the rags were non-woven plastic wipes now used by large segments of society (see Figure 2). Inspectors did also inspect two possible industrial sources of cloth rags located upstream of the sewer line in question, a textile dyehouse and an industrial laundry, but found no evidence that either was discharging any cloth type rags. It was also noted that this section of trunk sewer was last cleaned in June 2008, with October 2017 CCTV video possibly indicating that a buildup of likely wipes and grease was present. No further investigation or action on this incident by the IW Inspection staff is anticipated.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

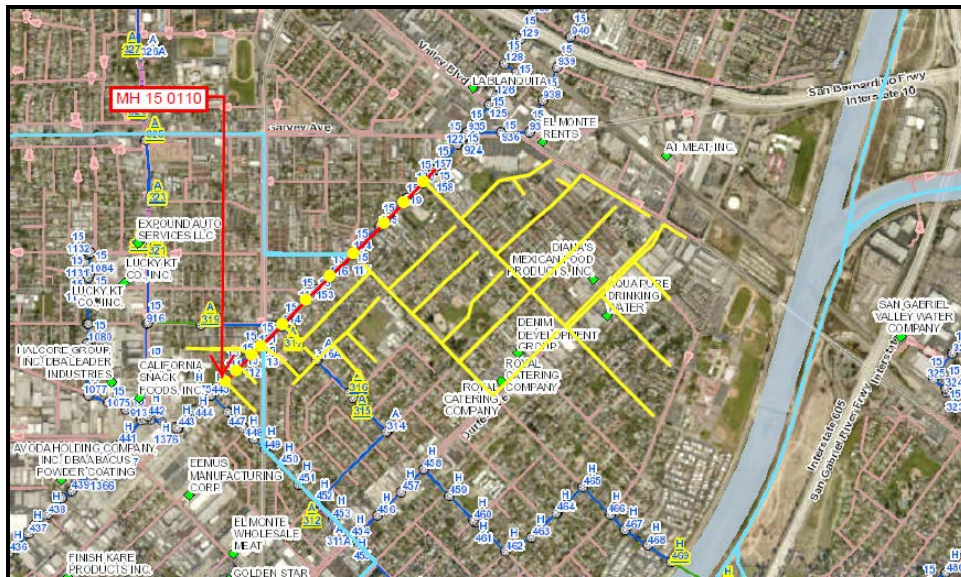
Foul Sewer Odor in Santa Fe Springs

On Thursday, 2-4-2021 at 1115 hours, the IW inspection staff received a report from a Superintendent of Sewer Maintenance Services for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works regarding a foul sewer odor complaint from a business, ICU Medical, located at 13939 Borate Street in Santa Fe Springs.

The Districts' Area IW Inspector investigated the report and determined that the cause of the odor was either lack of water traps in the ICU Medical facility or failure to maintain adequate water in existing traps to prevent sewer odors from migrating from the downstream sewer line into the facility. The complainant was advised to contact a plumber to diagnose the exact cause and to effect correction.

Low pH Wastewater in the Tyler Avenue Trunk in South El Monte

On Thursday, 2-4-2021 at 1124 hours, Districts' sewer maintenance staff from the Compton Field Office reported to IW inspection staff that one of their crews had just noted wastewater with a pH=1 at Manhole (MH) 15 0110 on the 18" Tyler Avenue Trunk in South El Monte. The wastewater had no other unusual characteristics associated with it such as color, odor, sulfide concentration, etc. IW staff requested that the crew collect a sample of the low pH wastewater in the sewer and standby at the manhole location for the arrival of an IW Inspector.



**Figure 1: GIS map indicating the area influent to the low pH finding at MH 15 0110 on 2-4-2021 (local sewer lines shown in yellow).**

Investigating IW Inspectors arrived at the MH 15 0110 at 1150 hours on 2-4-2021 and met with sewer maintenance personnel. Further testing of the wastewater in the manhole at that time indicated the pH had returned to a normal 7-8 and thus no tracing of the reported low pH wastewater in the line to a source was attempted. It was noted that the area influent to MH 15 0110 was relatively limited, encompassing an area only about a mile square (see Figure 1) and included only a few active permitted IW dischargers. IW Inspectors checked these possible sources as well as other possible sources, including the former location of a long-time metal finishing operation in the area that closed in 2016 (Harlow Plating), but found no evidence

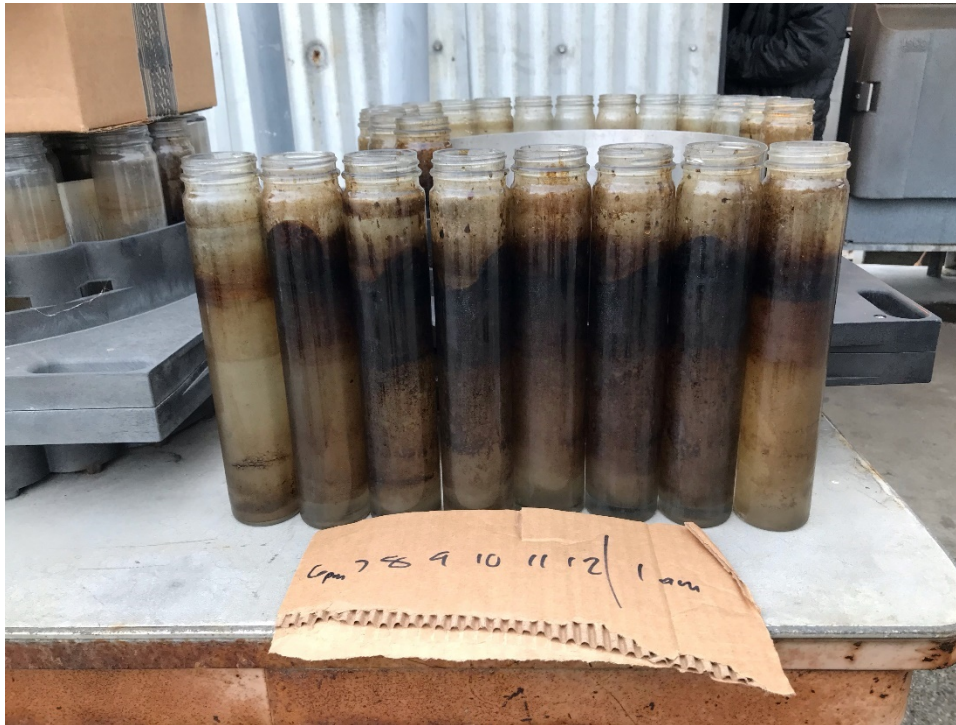
indicating a source. IW Inspectors also reviewed influent pH records for 2-4-2021 at the downstream Whittier Narrows WRP and found no indication of any low pH wastewater entered the WRP. This indicates the low pH wastewater found at MH 15 0110 was likely of very small volume, short duration, or both. This incident had no known negative impact on the sewer or downstream treatment facilities.

#### JWPCP Paint Thinner Odor

On Tuesday, 2-9-2021 at 0121 hours, JWPCP operations staff notified IW inspection staff that they had noted a paint thinner odor and a dark oily sheen in the headworks compactor area where rags are dewatered. Their initial investigation showed the wastewater generated by the compactors had this odor and sheen. There were no other indications of unusual influent into the JWPCP and no elevated LEL readings at the headworks. Operators took a sample of the compactor wastewater for IW Inspectors to pick up for possible analysis. Because the wastewater was in the compactors, operators couldn't tell what line it came in on.



**Figure 2: Black oil globules on the JWPCP E1 skimmings trough on the morning of 2-9-2021.**



**Figure 3: Hourly glass sample bottles at the Phillips 66 Carson oil refinery indicating excessive amounts of oily material were discharged to the sewer between 1800 and 2400 hours on 2-8-2021. Note clean sample bottles in the left rear of the photos as compared to the bottles in the foreground that contain high concentrations of black oil.**

Investigating IW Inspectors determined that the oily material which caused the paint thinner/kerosene odor and oily sheen came in through the J.O. 'A' headworks by noting oil globules in the E-1 skimmings trough (see Figure 2). It was subsequently determined that the Phillips 66 Carson oil refinery (IW#21079) was the source of this material. This large facility has a permitted annual average discharge of 2,823,000 GPD. The discharge of excessive amounts of oil by the refinery was caused by an upset to the refinery's pretreatment system. This incident matched the 11-24-2020 upset at the refinery which also caused a similar impact at the JWPCP. GC-MS analysis of samples from the JWPCP headworks and the Phillips 66 Carson refinery matched and confirmed the refinery as the source of the diesel range hydrocarbons at JWPCP. IW Inspectors estimate that 5,200 gallons (3,700 pounds or 120 barrels) of total oil and grease were discharged to the sewer by the refinery between 1800 hours and 2400 hours on Monday, 2-8-2021.

On 3-2-2021 the Phillips 66 Carson Refinery was issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for causing the 2-9-2021 incident and failing to notify the Districts of their pretreatment system upset that resulted in excessive quantities of restricted waste (oil) to be discharged to the sewer. Refinery managers acknowledged responsibility for the incident and claimed that they are working on altering their notification procedures so that immediate notification is made in the future to the Districts when they become aware that an out-of-spec discharge has occurred. The incident had no known negative impact on treatment plant operations or effluent quality at the JWPCP.

#### Glycol Spill at Cacique LLC in The City of Industry

On Tuesday, 2-9-2021 at 1213 hours, cheese manufacturer Cacique, Inc., in the City of Industry (IW#10898) notified the IW inspection staff that they had an accidental spill and release of 2,700 gallons of ethylene glycol solution to the sewer sometime during the period between the afternoon of Sunday, 2-7-2021 and 0400 hours on Monday, 2-8-2021. This facility has a permitted annual average discharge of 232,000 GPD. It was stated that a pipe on the roof of the building that carries the solution had broken, causing a glycol tank that is part of their

refrigeration system to lose 2,700 gallons of 1/3 ethylene glycol and 2/3 water solution into a sewer drain. This material is syrupy in consistency, as well as colorless and odorless.

Follow-up inspections conducted by the Area IW Inspector on 2-9-2021 and 2-10-2021 confirmed the information reported and resulted in the issuance of a verbal warning for delayed notification in response to the incident. Fortunately, the spilled material did not adversely impact Districts' sewers or downstream treatment operations (JWPCP). The facility's wastewater discharge goes into the District 21 interceptor, bypassing the local sewers which would otherwise take it to the San Jose Creek East WRP where it may have had an impact due to its high strength. The Area IW Inspector contacted JWPCP and JWPCP operations verified that the discharge had no impact on operations. The company contact stated that they would implement a new procedure for immediate notification for future spills.

#### Whittier Narrows WRP Green Color Incidents

On Thursday, 2-11-2021 at 0840 hours, and then again on Wednesday, 2-24-2021 at 1411 hours, operators at Whittier Narrows WRP notified the IW inspection staff that green color was in the raw influent at the "pH box" just prior to their call. In each instance operators took samples of the influent for IW Inspectors for possible lab analysis. In each case all other influent parameters, such as pH and odor, were normal. There were no other unusual characteristics to the raw influent noted.



**Figure 4: 2-11-2021 sample of the green colored raw influent at WNWRP.**

IW Inspectors quickly identified the source of the green color in both incidents as being Vanguard Design Inc., (IW#22004), a garment washing and dyeing facility about a mile upstream of the WRP that has a permitted annual average discharge of 22,000 GPD. Visual analyses, as well as laboratory IR scan test results, confirmed the color at the WRP and the dye used by the Vanguard Design matched in both incidents. Historically, the Vanguard Design facility has done mostly stonewashing operations which produce wastewater with a less intense color, but during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic they have shifted their business to more garment dyeing due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. This is now causing color incidents at the WRP. On 2-26-2021 Vanguard Design Inc., was issued a NOV for causing both incidents and IW Inspectors are working with company managers to improve their color removal pretreatment operations in order to prevent future similar incidents at the WRP. Company managers acknowledge the problem and seem cooperative thus far to trying to solve the issue. A compliance meeting with Districts' Enforcement managers and company managers has been scheduled for 3-16-2021 at 1400 hours.



**Figure 5 and 6: 2-11-2021 photos of green pants being dyed at Vanguard Designs Inc., as well as the green-colored wastewater in the drains at the facility. Note the close match in visual appearance to that of the wastewater noted at WNWRP in Figure 4 above.**

#### Los Coyotes WRP Excessive Foam

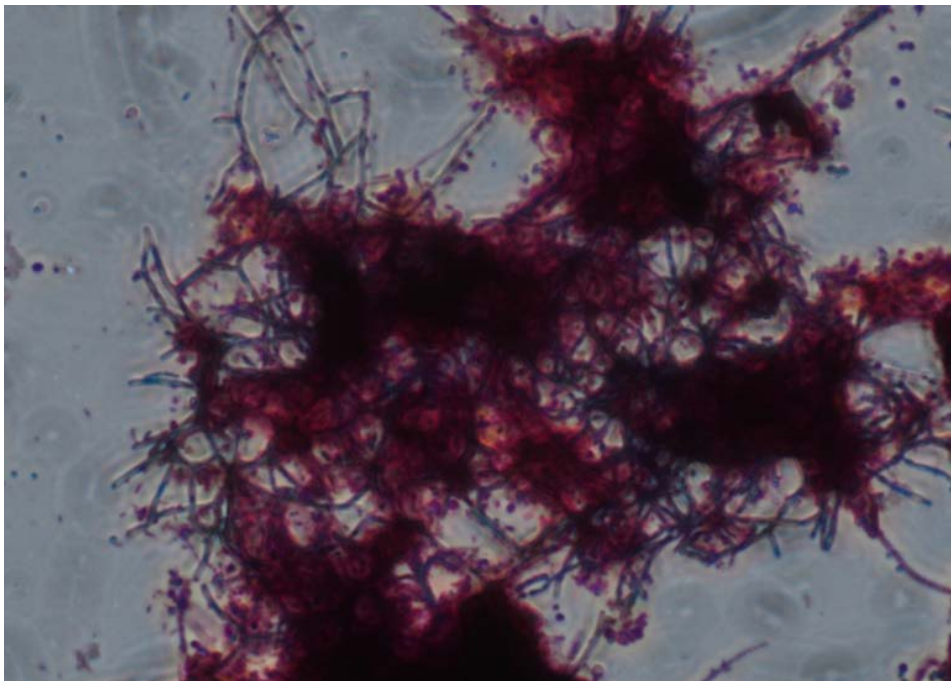
On Thursday, 2-18-2021 at 0710 hours, the IW inspection staff was notified by Los Coyotes WRP operators that there was excessive foam in the first and second passes of aeration unit 1 as well as two moderate high pH influent spikes early in the morning. The foam was excessive enough in the first pass that it overflowed the channel and spilled onto the adjacent walking path and landscape gravel (see Figure 8). There was no foam observed in the secondary settling tanks or in the final effluent forebay. Samples of the foam as well as primary and secondary effluent samples were collected by operators. The pH events were short duration spikes to 7.7 and 8.1 at 0345 and 0620 hours, respectively.



**Figure 7: 2-18-2021 excessive foam in aeration tank at LCWRP at 0730 hours.**



**Figure 8: 2-18-2021 excessive foam in aeration tank at LCWRP at 0730 hours. Note that the foam got deep enough to overflow onto the walkway above the tank.**



**Figure 9: Microscopic photo of the Nocardia filaments in the foam from the LCWRP on 2-18-2021.**

IW Inspectors responded immediately to the report of the foam. Microscopic examination of the foam by laboratory personnel revealed it to be composed of filamentous Nocardia bacteria, indicating the foam is biological in nature. Nocardia foaming can be caused by high levels of fats, oils and greases, and/or high sludge age conditions. It's also believed that different types of surfactants (soaps) can result in the formation of Nocardia forms. Typical industrial wastewater caused excessive foam in a WRP usually appears as billowy white, not as the thick brown Nocardia foam as seen in Figures 6 and 7 above. IW Inspectors conducted inspections at 16 possible industrial sources for foam causing materials but did not identify a likely source. It remains unclear if the moderate high pH influent spikes noted on 2-18-2021 are related to the foam incident. No NPDES violations resulted from the incident and no foam was observed in plant effluent. The sample results for the MBAS and NID analyses requested for the WRP primary and secondary effluent samples taken remain unavailable as of 3-4-2021. IW Inspectors remain vigilant as to any possible industrial sources for the incident.

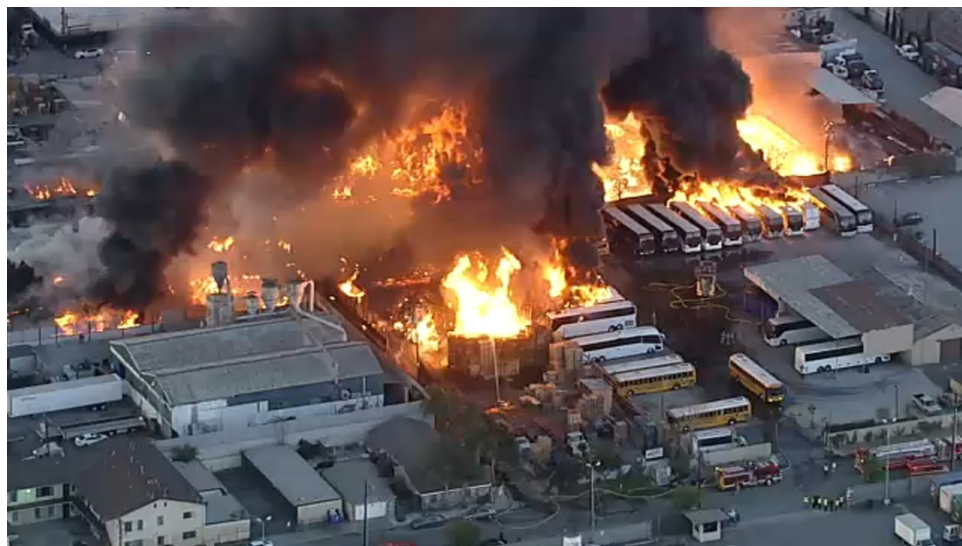
#### Whittier Narrows WRP Lavender Odor

On Friday, 2-19-2021 at 0840 hours, operators at Whittier Narrows WRP (WNWRP), called the IW inspection staff and reported that they had noted a lavender type of odor in the headspace of the primary settling tanks at 0830 hours. They said they took a grab sample of the wastewater in the tank but that the odors were not present in the sample, stating that the odor was only noticeable in the headspace and areas surrounding the primary tank. The influent pH was not affected, and there were no other operational issues or unusual influent characteristics such as high/low pH, color, oil and grease, or foaming in the secondary aeration tanks occurring.

IW Inspectors visited the WNWRP and confirmed the presence of the mild lavender odor reported by operators. Several possible industrial sources, including two large drum reconditioning facilities, were inspected, but no likely source was identified. IW Inspectors remain vigilant to a source for this incident.

#### Large Fire in an Industrial Area in Compton

On Friday, 2-26-2021 at 0716 hours the IW inspection staff noted that local news media was reporting that there was an ongoing large fire in an industrial area in the northeast corner of Compton near the intersection of Santa Fe and Weber Avenues. News media reports stated the fire broke out at about 0500 hours and had engulfed a large storage yard full of wooden pallets, as well as an adjacent bus storage lot.



**Figure 10: Local news media (KABC) aerial photo of the fire in Compton on 2-26-2021. Note the buses that are on fire.**

Both day and night Team IW Inspectors responded to the fire out of concern that fire water generated from fighting the fire could be intentionally or unintentionally discharged into the sewer, or that there could be businesses in the affected area in which liquid industrial chemicals or wastes could be spilled into to the sewer as a result of the fire. Fortunately, it was



determined through observation and conversation with the Compton City Fire Department Incident Commander and leaders of the L.A. County Fire Department's Health/Hazardous Materials Unit that was also on-site, that there were no known discharges of liquid toxic materials to the sewer. All runoff from fighting the fire was flowing into the storm drain system where other L.A. County resources were handling it. The fire affected area contained no permitted industrial wastewater dischargers and no known industrial storage or manufacturing facilities with liquid chemicals on-site. There is no evidence that any liquid materials were discharged into the sewer as a result of the fire and the downstream Districts' treatment facility, JWPCP, had no indications otherwise.



**Figure 11: Late afternoon photo taken by a Districts' IW Inspector on 2-26-2021 after the fire had been extinguished. Photo is of the entrance to the wooden pallet storage yard that burned. Note the puddled firewater in the street gutter.**

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Lancaster WRP High Influent Diesel Range Organics

On Wednesday, 3-3-2021 at 0649 hours, the Districts' Reuse and Compliance Section reported to the IW Section that a grab sample of raw influent taken at the Lancaster WRP at 1048 hours on Tuesday, 2-2-2021, had tested high in both diesel range organics (DRO) and oil range organics (ORO) with results of 925000 ug/L for the DRO (normal result range is 9390-17000 ug/L) and 185000 ug/L for the ORO (normal result range is 3600-4900 ug/L). Additionally, it was reported that a Lancaster WRP effluent sample collected that same day at 0930 hours had tested at normal (i.e., non-detect) DRO and ORO concentrations. It was added that the 2-2-2021 samples were the only DRO/ORO samples taken at those locations thus far in 2021.

IW Inspection staff investigated the report but found no evidence linking any industrial sources to the incident. Inspectors remain vigilant to any possible sources.

Long Beach Main Pumping Plant Oil in Wet Well

On Tuesday, 3-9-2021 at 1030 hours, the Long Beach Main Pumping Plant (LBMPP) Alarm Center reported that operators had noted black oil in the LBMPP's wet well moments earlier. Operators took a sample of the oil. It was stated that there had been some oil in the wet well a week earlier too, but less so.



**Figure 1: Floating oil in the wet well at the Long Beach Main Pumping Plant on 3-9-2021.**



**Figure 2: Sample of the oil taken from the LBMPP wet well on 3-9-2021.**

IW Inspectors responded immediately, arriving on-site at the LBMPP at 1130 hours on 3-9-2021. After observing the oil in the wet well (see Figure 1 above) they attempted to see if it could be traced in the sewer upstream to a source, but no oil was visible in samples taken from manholes just upstream of the pumping plant. Inspectors then inspected likely sources for the oil, including the large Ultramar oil refinery in Wilmington, as well as numerous oil production field leases which have industrial wastewater discharge permits, but found nothing out of the ordinary. The influent area to the LBMPP is quite large, including most of Long Beach, Lakewood, and Signal Hill.

Testing of the wet well sample indicated it was a near 50/50 mixture of petroleum oil and animal/vegetable oil. This mix indicates it was highly unlikely to have come from a single source and likely represents fat, oil, and grease discharged into the sewer by industrial, commercial, and residential sources. It was noted that prior to the construction of the “new” Long Beach Main Pumping Plant recently, operators had little opportunity to observe the quality of the waste in the wet well and it may be that such a layer of floating oil was not uncommon, but unobserved by operators. However, with the new plant allowing such observations, the oil can now be seen more easily. Lastly, discussions with operators indicated the oil was observed when they were in the process of drawing down the wet well to draw down the level in J.O ‘C’ trunk line so CCTV inspection could be performed. It is possible that in drawing down the sewer, oils that had built up in the sewer upstream of the pumping plant were released and ultimately collected in the wet well. Inspectors remain diligent in looking for potential sources and are checking in with the LBMPP for updates on the condition of the wet well.

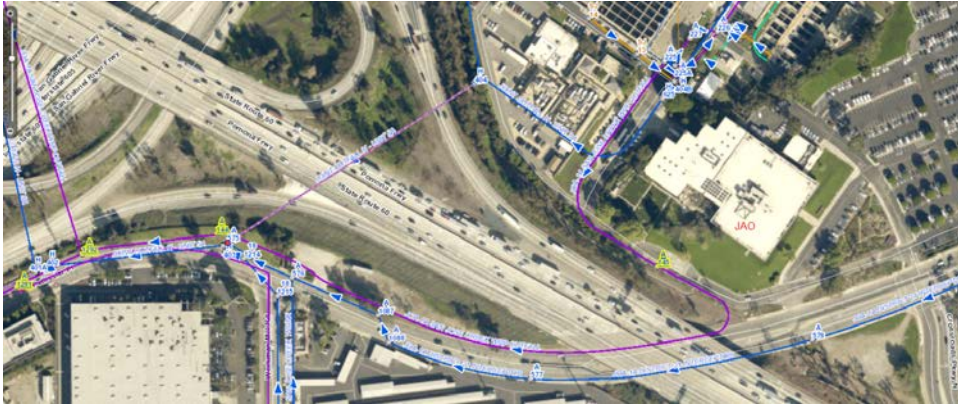
#### District 21 Interceptor White Foam and Elevated Sulfides

On Wednesday, 3-17-2021 at 1250 hours, a Districts’ construction inspector notified IW Inspectors that white foam was present at Manhole (MH 18 A 575) on the 60” diameter J.O. ‘H’ trunk sewer (See Figure 3). This manhole is currently the focus of an ongoing sewer

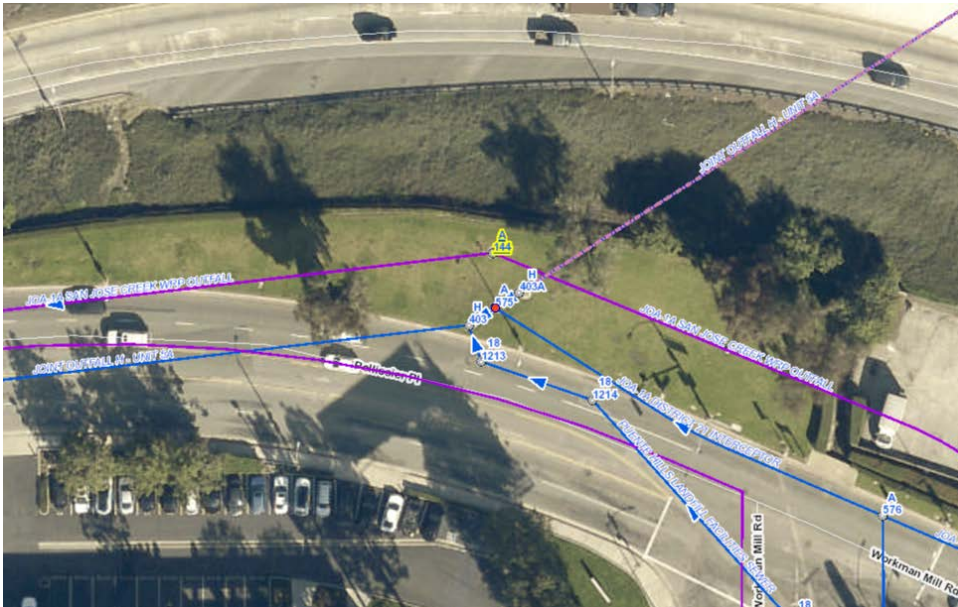
rehabilitation project at the confluence of the J.O.'H' and J.O. 'A' District 21 Interceptor trunk sewers southwest of SJC WRP-East at MH 18 A575 about 0.25 miles west of JAO (See Figures 4 and 5 below). The construction inspector also described "strong sulfide odors" that accompanied confined space alarms for hydrogen sulfide ( $H_2S$ ) gas in the headspace. He stated that the sulfide alarm sounds at 6ppm, and that the incident peaked at 25 ppm  $H_2S$ . Construction workers evacuated the confined space upon the alarm.



**Figure 3: Looking into the vault that is MH 18 A575 on 3-17-2021. Note the white foam and the yellow air blower hose used to control the presence of sulfide gas.**



**Figure 4: GIS map showing MH 18 A575 and the Districts' Joint Administration Building (JAO) in North Whittier.**



**Figure 5: GIS map closeup view of the area where the District 21 Interceptor joins J.O. 'H.'**

The investigation by IW Inspectors determined that the source of the white foam was multiple (4) 5,000-gallon loads of shampoo laden wastewater from the Bocchi Laboratories Inc. shampoo manufacturing facility located in Santa Clarita that were hauled and dumped at the Pomona Liquid Waste Disposal Station as is allowed under the permit issued by the Districts. This waste is not allowed to be discharged to the sewer at the manufacturer's location due to concerns the downstream Valencia WRP would be adversely affected by the foam caused when the wastewater reached the aeration tanks at the WRP. Instead the loads are directed to the Pomona LWDS and discharged there so that the waste flows to the JWPCP where the potential to cause foaming is much less due to dilution from the large flow volume treated there.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS					IWL118
HAULED LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM					Page 1 of 1
Hauler Generator Information					Date: 03/17/2021
Station: Pomona					
TRANSACTION DATE	MANIFEST ID	NAME	WASTE GENERATOR ID	WASTE VOLUME	
Mar 17, 2021 7:00 AM	1323929	United Site Svcs-Apple Valley	449538	5480	
Mar 17, 2021 7:26 AM	1323932	Porta-Kan Sanitation, Inc.	404462	1500	
Mar 17, 2021 7:32 AM	1323933	UCLA Medical Center	514158	2500	
Mar 17, 2021 7:49 AM	1323935	United Rentals	401152	4000	
Mar 17, 2021 8:00 AM	1323939	O.A. Roberts Job Site	514165	1900	
Mar 17, 2021 8:11 AM	1323944	Bocchi Laboratories, Inc.	401141	5000	
Mar 17, 2021 8:25 AM	1323947	So Cal Sanitation	400823	3500	
Mar 17, 2021 8:33 AM	1323950	Bocchi Laboratories, Inc.	401141	5000	
Mar 17, 2021 9:22 AM	1323957	American Industry Fence	463208	1800	
Mar 17, 2021 11:08 AM	1323965	United Site Svcs-SanBernardino	24924	5460	
Mar 17, 2021 11:30 AM	1323968	Michelle Kurts	514184	1300	
Mar 17, 2021 11:34 AM	1323971	Bocchi Laboratories, Inc.	401141	5000	
Mar 17, 2021 11:51 AM	1323975	American Industry Fence	463208	1800	
Mar 17, 2021 11:59 AM	1323977	Keystone Pacific	474950	400	
Mar 17, 2021 11:59 AM	1323977	Jarrod Lewellen	514190	1300	
Mar 17, 2021 11:59 AM	1323977	California Coast Plumbers	514191	300	
Mar 17, 2021 12:21 PM	1323981	Bocchi Laboratories, Inc.	401141	5000	
Mar 17, 2021 12:29 PM	1323983	Thomas Winzig	514195	1500	
Mar 17, 2021 12:37 PM	1323985	Southwest Site Services	445316	4160	
Mar 17, 2021 1:32 PM	1323995	United Site Svcs-SanBernardino	24924	5460	
Mar 17, 2021 3:20 PM	1324008	Prado Dam	512589	4160	
Mar 17, 2021 3:37 PM	1324009	Tony	514208	1500	

**Figure 6: Pomona LWDS 3-17-2021 load log. Note the four 5000-gallon loads from Bocchi Laboratories Inc.**

The elevated H2S headspace gas concentration at MH A575 was determined to be due to a combination of the presence of “old” wastewater that is in the District 21 interceptor line. About a quarter of the flow in the District 21 interceptor comes from the contracted flow from the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA). This flow has the constant potential to be high in sulfides and IEUA operates a ferric chloride addition station upstream of the “East End Outfall” monitoring location on the eastern border of Pomona/Los Angeles County where the flows from the IEUA join the Districts collection system. Checks of the East End monitoring location on 3-17-2021 found elevated concentrations of dissolved sulfide (1.1 mg/L) and IEUA was issued a verbal warning for this exceedance. In response, IEUA managers increased the ferric chloride dosage rate and the sulfide concentration returned to <0.1 mg/L as is required. IEUA continues to monitor the situation and ensure that they comply with the requirements in place at the East End outfall.

Azusa Local Sewer Line Excessive Grease

On Tuesday, 3-23-2021 at 1105 hours, City of Azusa sewer maintenance reported to the Districts large amounts of food type grease in an 8” diameter short local line that joins the Districts’ line at MH 22 0914A on the 15” Coney Trunk) in Azusa south of Foothill Boulevard. See Figures 7-9.



**Figures 7 and 8: 3-23-2021 local sewer line manhole grease in Azusa.**



**Figure 9: 3-23-2021 MH 22 0914A; where the local line shown above joins the Districts' 15" diameter Coney trunk sewer. Note the grease in the local sewer line and lack of such in the Districts' line. The Coney trunk was cleaned at this location on 2-24-2021.**

IW Inspectors quickly determined the source of the grease to be a large meat processing and cooking operation upstream of MH 914A, S & S Foods LLC. This facility cooks ground beef used in fast food restaurant tacos and hamburger beef patties. The facility has an industrial wastewater permit (IW#16449) and a permitted annual average discharge of 75,000 GPD. S & S managers admitted they were the cause of the grease, saying that they had been having issues with running and properly maintaining their pretreatment system during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This system is supposed to remove grease from their wastewater discharge. Company managers voluntarily agreed to hire an outside contractor to clean the local line sewer and this was accomplished without incident on Tuesday, 3-30-2021, under the observation and guidance of both City and Districts' sewer maintenance personnel (Figures 10 and 11). A verbal warning was issued to the company for causing the greasing and managers said they will be more diligent in operating their grease removal pretreatment system.



**Figure 10: Cleaning the local line on 3-30-2021.**



**Figure 11: Local line manhole after cleaning on 3-30-2021.**

Districts sewer maintenance also reported that during Districts cleaning of the sewer reach between MH 22 914A and MH 22 914 on 2-24-2021 they noted “heavy grease,” though not enough to warrant notification of IW inspection staff. Districts and City staff will monitor this situation more closely in the coming months.



**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

JWPCP Excessive Black Solids in the E-3 South Skimmer Tanks

On Wednesday, 4-14-2021 at 0010 hours, JWPCP Operations staff notified the IW inspection staff that the JWPCP was experiencing excessive solids loading in the E-3 South primary sedimentation tank skimmers. It was stated that the level sensors in the tanks began to register erroneous readings of “zero” at approximately 2030 hours on 4-13-2021. This reading, according to operators, indicates a floating mass has entered the tanks and interfered with the sensor readings. Operators said that at the moment of their notification it appeared that some of the sensors may be returning to normal. Operators stated that the solids were similar in appearance to several previous events that had affected the E-3 skimmers in the last year. The solids were again black with a gelatinous consistency but with no distinguishing unusual odor.



**Figures 1 and 2: Samples of JWPCP raw influent taken on 4-14-2021 at 0100 hours. Note the appearance of the samples immediately upon collection (left) and then after 1 minute of settling (right). Note how readily the material floats due to the presence of cationic polymer.**

IW Inspectors on both night and day shifts investigated this incident. Although some similar appearing material was spotted at one industrial discharger, Qualawash Holdings LLC in South Gate, a tanker truck washing facility that also washes totes and containers used to haul bulk chemicals, GC/MS analysis of the suspect waste determined it was not the same material reported at JWPCP. Furthermore, numerous inspections at other industrial facilities influent to the J.O. ‘B’ trunk line that feeds the E-3 South Skimmer tanks found no likely sources for the incident.

Eventually, IW Inspectors determined that the most likely cause of the incident was the upstream Districts’ San Jose Creek East and Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plants taking secondary aeration unit tanks out of service and discharging the solids from those tanks to the JWPCP. The SJC-East WRP took 2 units out of service and washed the solids to the waste line on 4-12-2021 – 4-13-2021. Then on 4-14-2021, the LC WRP removed a unit from service and

drained and washed solids to the waste line that flows to the JWPCP from 4-14-2021 to 4-15-2021. Note that the travel time from SJC and LC WRPs to JWPCP is estimated at 9 to 11 hours. Therefore, it appears likely that solids generated during SJC maintenance activities may have resulted in floatable solids entering JWPCP on the night of 4-13-2021 while LC maintenance activities may have resulted in floatable solids on the following evening of 4-14-2021. Additionally, infrared spectroscopy analysis indicated a high degree of similar characteristics in the solids samples, including the presence of cationic polymer, which is used by the WRPs for solids settling.

In summary, it appears the mostly likely cause of the recent events of floatable solids entering JWPCP via J.O. 'B' was from upstream WRP discharge of secondary solids to the sewer. It is not anticipated that any further investigation of the floatable solids found at JWPCP from 4-13-2021 to 4-14-2021 will be needed, but inspection staff remain vigilant and will respond if further complaints of floating solids are noted by operations staff.

#### JWPCP Oily Material in the E-3 North Skimmer Tanks

On Wednesday, 4-14-2021 at 1309 hours, JWPCP operators notified IW Inspectors that oily material globules were observed in E-3 North Skimming trough.



**Figure 3: Oily material in JWPCP North Skimmer trough on 4-14-2021 at 1300 hours.**

IW Inspectors investigated the report on 4-14-2021 and 4-15-2021. They found that the oil was not a petroleum-based oil material. Instead, the globules observed above in Figure 3 were food-based grease probably liberated by JWPCP operators doing routine steam cleaning of the E-3 influent line on the morning of 4-14-2021. Checks of plant influent found no similar oily material was entering the JWPCP during the afternoon of 4-14-2021 and inspections at possible upstream industrial sources did not reveal a likely source.

#### JWPCP Elevated Ammonia

On Friday, 4-23-2021 at 1135 hours, a JWPCP Operations Engineer emailed IW Supervising Engineer to report that on Thursday, 4-15-2021, at about 0200 hours, Metropolitan Water District (MWD) operators noticed a significant increase of ammonia at the Advanced Purification Center (MWD Demonstration Plant) where influent ammonia levels were approaching 60 mgN/L ammonia-N versus a normal concentration of about 40 mgN/L. The JWPCP engineer was inquiring about a possible relationship between the 4-14-2021 incident of

excessive solids in the E-3 tanks noted above and the elevated ammonia levels. She asked if IW had any ammonia sampling results from the 4-14-2021 incident. She was informed at that time that although IW had tested the 4-14-2021 influent sample using GC/MS analysis (see Figure 1 above) they had no ammonia sampling results for the sample and incident. She was also informed that IW Inspectors were investigating a possible relationship between the incident and upstream WRP maintenance activities.

The IW inspection staff investigation found no evidence of any large ammonia discharges by industrial wastewater dischargers that could account for the elevated ammonia levels at the MWD Demonstration Plant on 4-15-2021. However, after discussing the issue with WRP operations supervisors it appears likely that the aeration tank maintenance solids discharged from the San Jose Creek-East and Los Coyotes WRPs between 4-12-2021 and 4-14-2021 may have contributed to the ammonia increase observed at the MWD Demonstration Plant. IW will further investigate the incident with the Wastewater Research Section.

#### South Gate Local Sewer Line Excessive Grease

On Thursday, 4-15-2021 at 1138 hours, city of South Gate Sewer Maintenance reported to the IW Section that a small sewer overflow, due to excessive grease in a local sewer line had occurred on Otis Street. City workers reported they believed the source of the grease was a local catering truck yard operation, Rudy's Wholesale Group, located at 8450 Otis Street. The overflow was preceded by a manhole cover sensor high level alarm. A city sewer maintenance crew responded to the alarm and subsequent overflow, finding the local line clogged with grease. They immediately dealt with the overflow and cleared and cleaned the local line.

The investigation into the incident by the area IW Inspector concluded that Rudy's Wholesale Corp. was the source of the grease buildup in the local line. Inspection of the facility however found no evidence that the company is failing to properly maintain their grease interceptors. IW Inspectors believe the grease buildup in the local line was likely gradual and noted that the local line hadn't been cleaned since 2019. This facility allows commercial catering trucks to wash their vehicles and cooking equipment in their yard and this wastewater typically contains some food-grade grease. The facility has an industrial wastewater permit (IW#14304) and a permitted annual average discharge of 3,400 GPD. Inspection of other businesses along the small stretch of Otis Street found no industrial wastewater dischargers. The catering yard services their clarifiers every two weeks and no excessive solids/grease were observed in their clarifiers during the inspections. IW Inspectors will perform follow-up inspections to ensure the catering yard continues regular clarifier maintenance.

#### Palmdale WRP Black Influent

On Tuesday 4-20-2021 at 0920 hours, Palmdale WRP operators notified IW staff that the plant was seeing black colored raw influent, which was first observed at 0800 hours during morning rounds. Operators collected a raw grab sample for the benefit of the IW inspection staff. Operators also reported there were no unusual odors or other operational difficulties associated with the black influent. It was noted a while later that the black color began dissipating in the influent at about 0900 hours, but the primary tanks remained "black."

IW Inspectors investigated the incident but found no likely industrial source. Subsequently, WRP operators reported that the incident was caused by a faulty polymer pump that feeds the WRP centrifuge unit. The faulty pump was discovered by plant operators on the afternoon of 4-20-2021 after they found the polymer-tank levels static since the previous day. The failure to thicken and dewater the WRP sludge resulted in the centrate having excessive black solids, which was returned to the plant influent. The pump was repaired, and the plant returned to normal operating conditions.

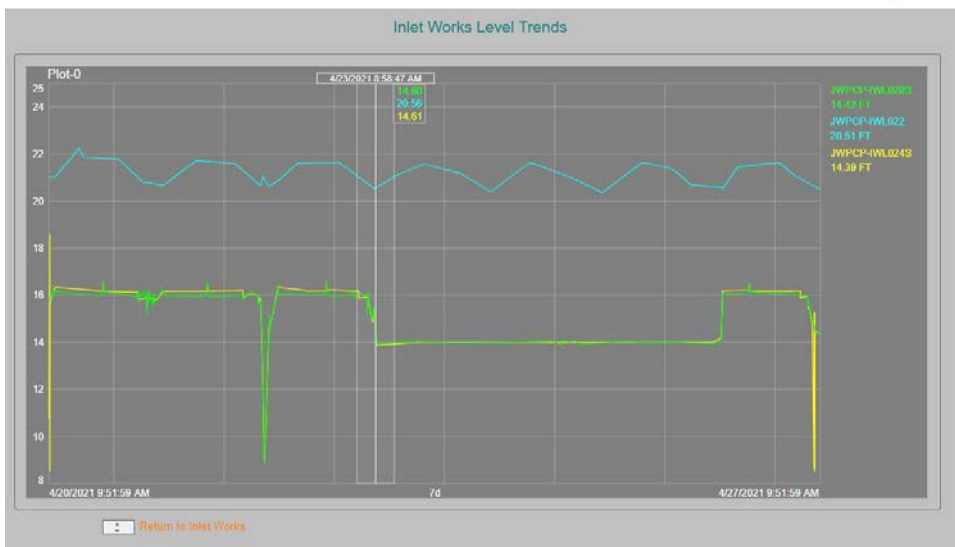
#### JWPCP Excessive Floating Solids in the E-1 Skimmer Tanks

On Sunday, 4-25-2021 at 1500 hours. JWPCP operators notified IW Inspectors that 10 minutes earlier they had noted a high volume of floating black oily solids in the skimming trough of the E-1 battery of sedimentation tanks (see Figure 4 below).



**Figure 4: 4-25-2021 floating black oily solids in the skimming trough of the E-1 battery of sedimentation tanks at JWPCP.**

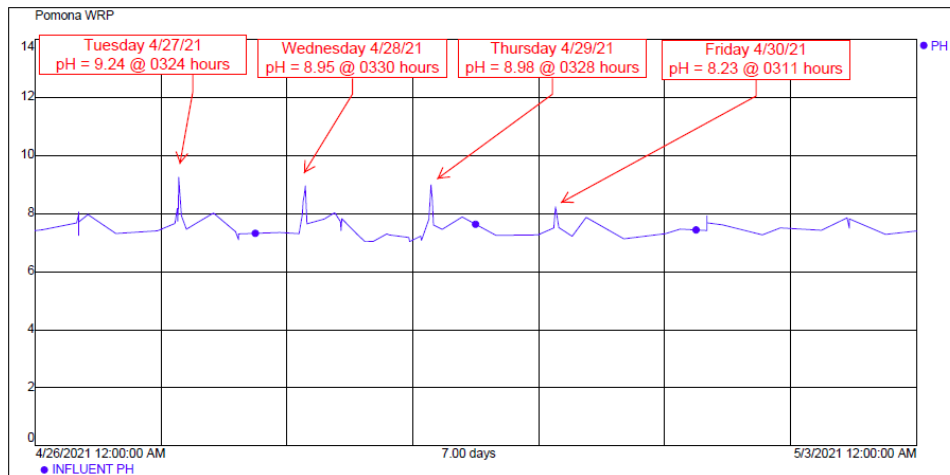
The IW investigation of the report found no likely industrial sources but did reveal that the incident was likely caused by JWPCP operators on 4-23-2021 and 4-24-2021 preparing the plant for a possible rainstorm event predicted to occur on 4-25-2021. This preparation includes lowering the influent levels in the J.O. 'A' and 'D' influent chambers by about 2' (See Figure 5), thus creating more plant capacity to handle stormwater flows that get into the sewer. This activity also causes an increase in the influent flow rate, causing line scour, which also increases the ability of influent lines to handle higher flows. However, this scouring action also results in more solids flowing into the headworks at the JWPCP. As a side note, the storm predicted to arrive on 4-25-2021 turned out to be a minor rain event.



**Figure 5: Note the green and yellow influent level trend lines which indicate operators reduced the level in the lines by about 2' at about 2100 hours on 4-23-2021 and left it there for a little more than 3 days.**

### Pomona WRP High pH Influent

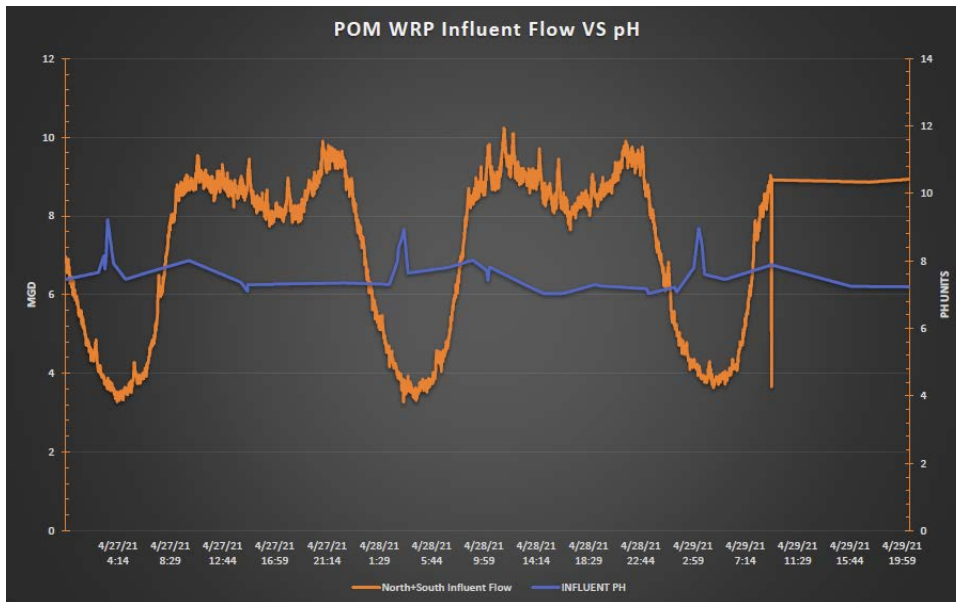
On Wednesday, 4-28-2021 at 0645 hours, Pomona WRP operators notified IW inspection staff that recently the WRP had been seeing periodic short duration spikes of elevated influent pH to about 9 between the hours of 0300-0400 during weekdays (Figure 6). The most recent incident was earlier that same day at about 0300 hours. Operators took a sample of the influent for IW Inspectors to examine or have analyzed.



**Figure 6: Pomona WRP pH trend 4-26-2021 to 5-3-2021. Note the daily high pH spikes at about 0300 hours on working days (i.e., non-weekend days).**

IW inspection staff inspected ten permitted facilities having elevated pH risks and tributary to Pomona WRP. The high pH alarm (9.02) at 0329 hours indicated a suspected operation and discharge between 0100 and 0300 hours. Ling's, a facility that makes Chinese style orange chicken entrees and has an IW permit (IW#17041) and a permitted annual average discharge of 4,200 GPD, was identified as the source of the incident.

Ling's was also found responsible for a previous series of similar incidents at the WRP in September 2019. In response to the latest series of incidents, Ling's was issued a written Notice of Violation and IW Inspectors are now working with Ling's managers to try to moderate the high pH impact on the WRP by increasing the time over which the high pH wastewater is discharged. The high pH wastewater is generated from the use of highly caustic cleaners used to wash and clean four 500-gallon oil fry tanks once the oil has been removed from the tanks during their nightly graveyard sanitation shift. These discharges reach the WRP between 0300 and 0400 hours when flows into the WRP are lowest (see Figure 7) and thus the plant is least able to handle such a high pH discharge. Note that when Ling's is not in operation, there are no such elevated pH impacts on the plant.



**Figure 7: Pomona WRP 4-27-2021 to 4-29-2021 influent flow (orange trend line) vs. pH (blue trend line). Note that the high pH readings caused by Ling's coincide with the lowest flow rates each day.**

## **INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2021**

### TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

#### Fire and Possible Nitric Acid Release in Carson

On Monday, 5-3-2021 at 1350 hours, the IW inspection staff noted a California Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES) online report that stated West Coast Aerospace, Inc. a metal finishing facility in Carson that has a Districts' issued IW permit (IW#14419) with an annual average discharge of 3,800 GPD, had a fire on 5-2-2021 at 2131 hours. The report stated the fighting of the fire resulted in a release of nitric acid when a tank holding the acid combusted. The report also stated that no waterways were impacted.

Follow-up inspections by the IW inspection staff on 5-4-2021 and 5-19-2021 determined that the spilled nitric acid was contained onsite in a spill containment area with no releases of the acid or other concentrated process solutions to the sewer or offsite storm drains. The fire damaged part of company's production tank line for acid cleaning, copper stripping, and associated rinses. The facility complied with all hazardous clean up requirements. They stored contaminated wastewaters and materials in totes and bins to be hauled away for proper disposal. The incident had no impact on Districts' operations.

#### Los Coyotes WRP Color Incidents

During the month of May 2021 three separate color incidents occurred at the Los Coyotes WRP in Cerritos. The incidents occurred on Thursday, 5-6-2021 (plum color); Monday, 5-10-2021 (brown or "tea" color); and Friday, 5-21-2021 (pink color). None the incidents resulted in a WRP NPDES violation. The source for all 3 incidents was identified as the Tri-Star Dyeing & Finishing facility in Santa Fe Springs. This large facility washes and dyes textiles and has been the source of several color incidents at the Los Coyotes WRP over the past year. The facility has an industrial wastewater discharge permit (#17196) and a permitted annual average discharge of 450,000 GPD.



**Figures 1 and 2: 5-6-2021 photos of the influent sample at LCWRP (left) and discharge effluent at Tri-Dye Dyeing & Finishing (right). Note the red 'plum' color in each.**



**Figure 3: LCWRP forebay on 5-10-2021 at 1000 hours. Note the brown or “tea” color.**



**Figures 4 and 5: Samples of influent wastewater at LCWRP (left) and effluent from Tri-Star Dyeing & Finishing (right). Note the pink color in each.**

The color at the Los Coyotes WRP occurs due to a combination of inadequate treatment to remove it by Tri-Star and reduced flowrates into the WRP that have occurred over the past year. This reduced influent rate at the WRP makes it more susceptible to this type of incident. A virtual compliance meeting with Tri-Star managers was held at 1000 hours on 5-18-2021 in which Districts’ staff emphasized the need for the facility to consistently meet the color limit of a 50:1 dilution test in which no discernable color is visible in the Tri-Star effluent. In response, the Tri-Star managers stated they will be improving their treatment system to remove color by effecting repairs to a broken valve which is causing short circuiting of their existing pretreatment



system and equalizing their flows in order to moderate the flow rate of their discharge. It remains unclear if these efforts will be able to successfully address the color issues. An inspection on 5-28-2021 once again noted the facility was failing to meet the 50:1 limit, but fortunately the WRP did not report color that day. Multiple notices of violation have been issued to the Tri-Star facility in response to these incidents and IW Inspectors continue to monitor the situation very closely.

#### Ammonia Release in Commerce

On Thursday, 5-20-2021 at 1430 hours, Industrial Waste inspection staff noticed that there was an ammonia release at the Safeway, Inc. dairy and yogurt production facility in the City of Commerce that was listed on the Cal OES website. This facility has an industrial wastewater discharge permit (#21714) and a permitted annual average discharge of 289,235 GPD. The release of the ammonia occurred on Wednesday, 5-19-2021 and was contained according to the OES report. The report further stated that 1,000 pounds of the anhydrous ammonia leaked into a 30,000-gallon chiller water holding tank and was being held there.



**Figure 6: 5-21-2021 photo of the chiller water tank that contained the released ammonia at Safeway, Inc. in Commerce.**

IW inspection staff conducted inspections at Safeway Inc. on 5-20-2021 and 5-21-2021. They were able to determine that the ammonia contaminated wastewater was being held on-site as stated in the OES report (see figure 6 above). Testing by both Safeway and the Districts of the impounded chiller water determined that the amount of ammonia released into the 30,000 gallons of chiller water was somewhat higher than initially estimated, and was actually 4,100 pounds. The company subsequently requested and was granted a one-time approval by the Districts to bleed the chiller water to the sewer at a 20 gpm rate on Friday, 5-28-2021 and again on Tuesday, 6-1-2021 from 0700-2000 hours both days during peak influent times at the JWPCP. By limiting the flowrate of the discharge and the time at which it was received at the JWPCP, it had no impact on JWPCP operations or the Metropolitan Water Department's water reuse demonstration plant. Calculations indicated the ammonia concentration in the JWPCP influent would have risen by 1.5-2.0 mg/L from the approximate 40 mg/L normal concentration, but they ultimately discharged at a lower rate likely resulting in a concentration of less than 1 mg/L.

### Anonymous Tip of Illicit Dumping in Gardena

On Monday, 5-24-2021 at 0730 hours, IW inspection staff received an anonymous tip telephone call. The tipster reported that a company called "Valence Circuit Technology," located in the City of Gardena at 128 W. 154th Street (90248) had been, for about the last 2 months, discharging untreated process solutions and wastewaters to the sewer. The tipster stated that even though the material is passing through the pretreatment system on-site he/she didn't think it was actually being treated. The tipster said the facility is no longer conducting any manufacturing operations and is going out of business due to air quality violations. A review of Districts' iPACS records indicated that the facility in question is Coast Plating, Inc., a metal finishing operation with an active industrial wastewater permit (IW#20325) and a permitted annual average discharge of 25,750 GPD.

Prior to receiving the tip IW Inspectors were already aware that the Coast Plating facility in Gardena was in the process of closing. After receiving the tip information IW Inspectors on both day and night teams conducted follow-up inspections at the facility. Those inspections did not find any evidence of illicit dumping of concentrated process solutions as alleged in the tip. The concentrated process solutions, including most significantly those containing chromic acid, were found still on-site and the company contact stated he was preparing to have the solutions hauled off-site for proper disposal. IW Inspectors will continue to monitor the facility closely to ensure proper site closure processes are followed.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Ammonia Leak at the Torrance Refining Company

On Wednesday, 6-23-2021 at 0904 hours, the Torrance Refinery Company, LLC, a large oil refinery in Torrance, notified the Industrial Waste Section that their facility had an ongoing "pinhole" ammonia line leak that occurred at 0810 hours that morning. The caller stated that refinery operators were currently controlling the leak with 2-3 gpm of firewater misted onto the pinhole leak as vapor release control water as they attempted to repair the leak. The wastewater generated from this was being impounded and in an abundance of caution the facility had temporarily ceased discharge at their Van Ness outfall (IW#21899) which has permitted flowrate of about 3.6 MGD.

IW Inspectors immediately responded to the reported ammonia leak on 6-23-2021, arriving onsite at 1000 hours. They confirmed the relatively limited nature of the ammonia leak, noting that ammonia is used for NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> air emission control onsite. The facility contact stated that because it was impossible to segregate the vapor leak suppression wastewater at the source of the leak, they opted for a total impound at the back end of their API oil/water pretreatment system and segregation into a holding tank. Following the repair of the leak which had already occurred upon arrival of the inspectors, and ceasing of the vapor suppression flow, the facility resumed the normal discharge of wastewater at the outfall and sampled the impounded wastewater. It was determined the impounded wastewater met all permit limits and requirements, including the 100 mg/L Ammonia Nitrogen limit, and it was subsequently discharged to the Van Ness outfall that afternoon. The incident had no known impact on Districts' facilities or operations.

Los Coyotes WRP Color Incidents

During the month of June 2021 there were two more color incidents at the Los Coyotes WRP in Cerritos. The incidents followed three in the month of May 2021, and several others earlier in the year. The latest were both light orange-brown color in the final effluent forebay and were reported at 1321 hours on Friday, 6-25-2021 and the following day, Saturday, 6-26-2021 at 0857 hours (See Figures 1 and 2 below). Neither of the incidents resulted in a WRP NPDES violation.



**Figure 1: LCWRP forebay on Friday, 6-25-2021 at 1330 hours. Note the light orange-brown color.**



**Figure 2: LCWRP forebay on Saturday, 6-26-2021 at 0900 hours. Again, note the light orange-brown color.**

Investigating IW Inspectors again identified the source for both incidents as the Tri-Star Dyeing & Finishing facility in Santa Fe Springs. This large facility washes and dyes textiles and has been the source of many color incidents at the Los Coyotes WRP over the past year. The facility has an industrial wastewater discharge permit (#17196) and a permitted annual average discharge of 450,000 GPD. The Tri-Star facility was issued written NOVs for causing the color incidents at the WRP and discharging at a flow rate above their permit limits.

As was noted in last month's monthly summary report, the Tri-Star facility continues to struggle with inadequate pretreatment of their industrial wastewater discharge which causes them to violate their 50:1 color dilution limit. A virtual compliance meeting with Tri-Star managers was held on 5-18-2021 in which Districts' staff emphasized the need for the facility to consistently meet the color limit. Additionally, the reduced flowrates coming into the WRP currently increases the WRP's susceptibility to mildly excessive color coming from the Tri-Star facility. Managers at the Tri-Star facility are aware of the issues and continue to attempt to improve their color removal pretreatment processes by adjusting their production operations and improving their wastewater retention times. IW Inspectors continue to monitor the situation very closely.



**Figure 3: LCWRP raw influent sample taken on 6-26-2021 at about 0915 hours. Note that the sample contains essentially no unusual color.**

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

San Jose Creek East and West WRPs Low Dissolved Oxygen and High Ammonia

On Tuesday, 7-20-21 at 1340 hours, the Districts' Upstream Facilities Operations Section notified the IW Section of low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the aeration units at both the San Jose Creek East and West WRPs. Operations also stated that the low dissolved oxygen concentrations had in turn caused, and were anticipated to cause again, an elevated ammonia nitrogen concentration in the secondary effluent. It was stated that the dissolved oxygen concentrations started to decrease on Sunday, 7-18-2021 at around 1300 hours and stayed down for about four hours. This happened again on Monday, 7-19-2021 and again on Tuesday, 7-20-2021 just prior to the notification call.

IW Inspectors responded immediately to the notification but were unable to identify an industrial source for the incidents despite conducting an extensive investigation that included the inspection of 16 permitted facilities having a high risk factor for the discharge of high strength wastewater into the SJC-East and SJC-West WRPs. These inspections were conducted during day and evenings shifts. Suspected sources inspected included dairy processors, food manufacturers, a truck wash, and a chemical manufacturing company. Minor violations were noted at some of the facilities, but no evidence was found that indicated they were a source for the incidents.

It was noted by IW Inspectors that the new flow equalization system at the SJC-West WRP has resulted in both SJC WRPs sharing influent throughout most of the day. It was also noted that laboratory analysis of wastewater samples taken on 7-19-2021 and 7-20-2021 indicated essentially normal concentrations for chemical oxygen demand, as well as a normal ammonia nitrogen secondary effluent concentration on 7-20-2021. IW Inspectors currently lack any sampling data that indicates unusually high strength wastewater entered the plants during these incidents. IW Inspectors remain in close contact with WRP operators and will respond to any future reported similar incidents. These incidents did not result in any NPDES violations.

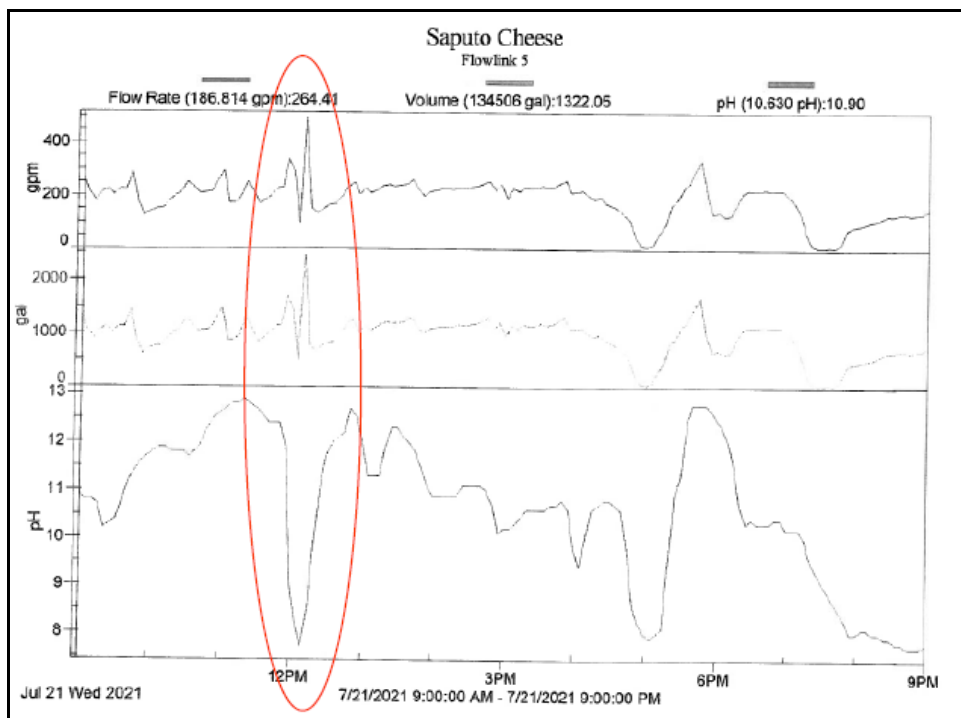
Milk Spill at Saputo Cheese USA in South Gate

On Wednesday, 7-21-2021 at 1514 hours, Saputo Cheese USA Inc., a large cheese manufacturer in South Gate (IW#14716) with a permitted industrial wastewater discharge rate of 281,300 GPD, called the Districts' IW Section and reported that earlier that morning at 1150 hours during the transfer of a load of raw (4% fat) milk from a 5,000-gallon tanker truck to an on-site silo, they had spilled 1,744 gallons of raw milk to the sewer through floor drains in the silo area. It was stated a transfer system check valve failed and then a hose clamp popped off, causing the spill.

IW Inspectors arrived on-site at 0900 hours on 7-22-2021. They verified the spill report received the previous afternoon, confirming the volume and cause. Although the facility has an equalization tank system to moderate flows to the sewer, it was found that the drains which received the spilled milk bypassed this system. Data on the facility's flow and pH chart (see Figure 1 below) indicated compliance with pH limits, but a violation of the 290 GPM 5-minute peak flow rate limit for a few minutes during the spill incident with flows at approximately 490 gpm. The facility was issued a verbal warning enforcement action for the exceedance.

There were no known downstream negative impacts on Districts' facilities due to the spill incident, such as a sewer overflow or treatment plant upset at the JWPCP. While 1,744 gallons represents a large amount of milk, such not enough to cause a loading problem at the JWPCP. Although Saputo managers will try to prevent any future spills of this nature it was noted during the inspection that the company plans to cease onsite production of cheese by the end of calendar year 2021. They plan to move these operations to a new plant in the Central Valley of

California. This facility in South Gate will then become a packaging operation only, without the potential of milk spills such as occurred in this incident.



**Figure 1: 7-21-2021 Saputo Cheese USA IW discharge flow rate and pH chart. Note the lower pH and high flowrate associated with the spill as circled in red.**

#### Excessive Solids in the J.O. 'H' Unit 9C Trunk Sewer in San Dimas

On Friday, 7-23-2021 at 0754 hours, the Industrial Waste Section was notified by the Districts' Construction Management Section that a private water purveyor, Golden State Water, had recently completed construction of a 12-inch private brine sewer line that ties into the J.O. 'H' Unit 9C trunk sewer. This trunk sewer, previously known as the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) brine line, received the new tie-in at a newly constricted manhole located at San Dimas Canyon Road and Juanita Avenue in San Dimas. It was stated that construction inspectors noted a considerable amount of "sludge" in the newly constructed manhole that seemed to be coming down the Unit 9C line. IW Inspectors were tasked with inspecting the new manhole and the Golden State Water facility to determine the scope and source of the issue reported.

IW Inspectors inspected the manhole and Golden State Water facility on 7-26-2021. It was determined that although the sewer connection for the new private line was complete, there had yet to be any discharges from the water purveyor facility. The facility continues to haul their waste brine to the Pomona WRP Liquid Water Disposal Station. Additionally, there was no sludge observed in the new manhole structure (see Figure 2 below). The J.O. 'H' Unit 9C line at this location carries brine and filter backwash from the MWD's large Weymouth potable water treatment plant (IW#9953). When the permit was issued it was recognized that the MWD had the potential to at times discharge solids laden wastewater to the sewer which could be problematic. A permit requirement was included to hold the MWD responsible for any extra maintenance that would be needed due to this (See Figure 3 below). This facility has a permitted discharge rate of 106,700 GPD and is designed to treat 500 MGD of potable water from the Colorado River Project as well as the California State Aqueduct Product. IW Inspectors will continue to monitor the situation.





**Figure 2:** 7-26-2021 new manhole and connection to the J.O. 'H' Unit 9C trunk sewer, located at San Dimas Canyon Road and Juanita Avenue. Note the lack of solids in the line.

**22. Monitoring & Cleaning of Trunk Line**

The brine line, now called the J.O. "H" Unit 9 Trunk Sewer, was not designed to accept excessive solids discharges. The permittee shall be responsible for monitoring the line and subsequently cleaning the line should the line become clogged with sludge or should the hydraulic capacity of this line become seriously compromised due to sludge accumulation.

**Figure 3: Requirement #22 of Industrial Waste Discharge Permit #22 as approved on February 6, 2019.**

Excessive Sulfides at the Torrance Refining Company in Torrance

On Monday, 7-26-2021 at 1625 hours, the Torrance Refining Company notified the Sanitation Districts regarding their Van Ness outfall (IW#21899). It was reported that at 1547 hours that afternoon the large oil refinery facility, which has a permitted daily industrial wastewater flowrate of about 3.6 MGD had received a total sulfides=1.23 mg/L grab sample test result for the flow entering the Van Ness pretreatment system's API oil/water separator unit. This concentration was higher than normal and may have resulted in a violation of the 0.1 mg/L dissolved sulfide limit at the outfall as the pretreatment system has no effective way to remove dissolved sulfides. Refinery operators began impounding all the flow immediately and tested the effluent at the outfall for dissolved sulfides. This grab sample tested at dissolved sulfide = 0.07 mg/L, indicating compliance with the limit of 0.1 mg/L. This information was forwarded to South Teams' IW Inspectors for immediate follow-up.

The IW Inspector's follow-up on 7-26-2021 found that the high sulfide influent to the pretreatment system was of a short duration. Refinery operators continued impounding the flow for several hours to dilute out the high sulfide wastewater by comingling it in a storage/impound tank with other "normal flows" which contained no sulfides. The impounded wastewater, with a

soluble sulfide concentration of <0.1 mg/L, was later released back through the pretreatment system and discharged to the sewer later that evening without incident or consequence to downstream Districts' facilities. The source of the high sulfide wastewater remains under investigation by refinery managers.

#### Long Beach WRP Interceptor Pumping Plant Excessive Flows

On Friday, 7-30-2021 at 1433 hours, the Compton Field Office (CFO) notified the IW Section that it appeared that the Water Replenishment District of Southern California - Leo J. Vander Lans Water Treatment Facility located adjacent to the Long Beach WRP had been, for about the last day, discharging their wastewater to the WRP sludge line at a peak flow rate approximately 100 gpm higher than allowed under their IW permit's 5-minute peak flow rate limit of 525 gpm. CFO believed the high flow caused both the primary and secondary pumps in the Long Beach WRP Interceptor Pumping Plant downstream to run simultaneously. Having both pumps operating simultaneously is a violation of operational protocols. CFO requested an IW Inspector inspect the Vander Lans facility as soon as possible to verify the high discharge rate, and if possible, have it ceased.

The area IW Inspector responded immediately, arriving onsite at the Vander Lans facility at 1520 hours on 7-30-2021. Examination of the facility's discharge flow records and discussion with facility managers indicated that although the facility was discharging at a rate above recent long term averages due to a push to increase the amount of recycled water being produced by the facility, they were still consistently in compliance with the 525 gpm 5-minute peak flow rate limit. The inspector conveyed that due to the increased flowrates being noted at the pumping plant, it was possible the Sanitation Districts might request the Vander Lans facility voluntarily reduce their flows to the sewer. Facility managers agreed that they would do whatever they could in this regard if needed.

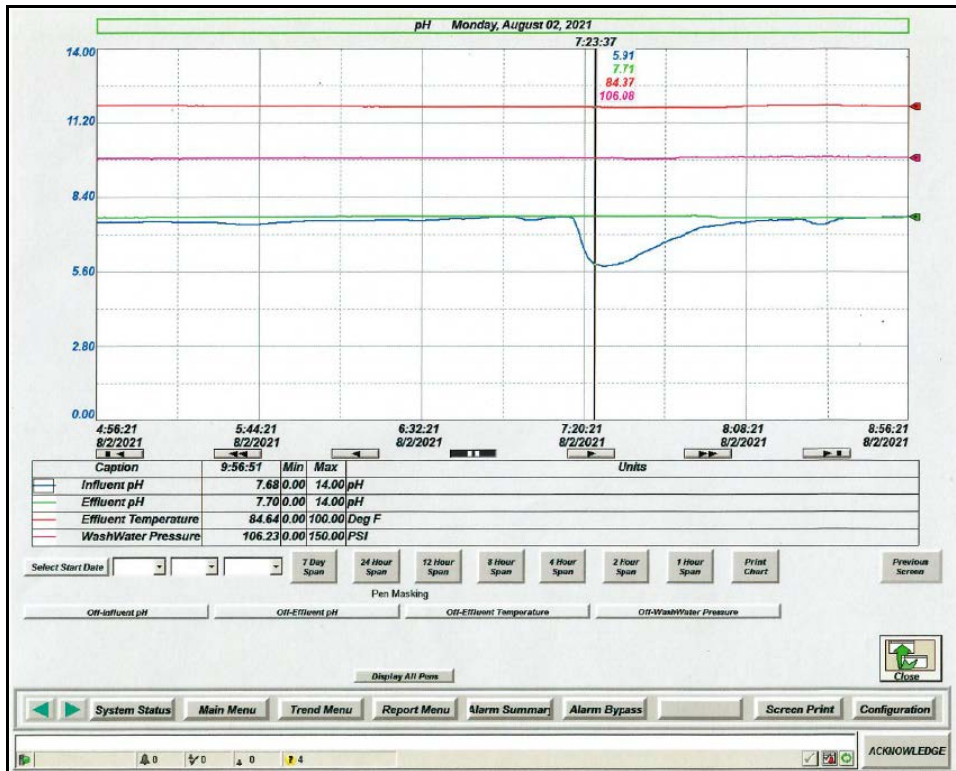
Subsequent information gained by Compton Field Office personnel from Long Beach WRP operators indicated that the high flow rates observed at the Long Beach WRP Interceptor Pumping Plant on 7-30-2021 were likely due to discharges from the WRP, not the Vander Lans facility. This information was forwarded to the IW inspection staff, causing them to conclude their investigation. No further action is anticipated.

# INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2021

## TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

### Pomona WRP Low pH

On Monday, 8-2-2021 at 0744 hours, Pomona WRP operators notified the IW Section that low pH wastewater was entering the WRP. It was stated that the influent pH was 5.87 according to the influent meter and that a sample taken to the treatment plant lab had confirmed the low pH, testing at pH=5.86. WRP operators took samples from channels 1 and 2 for IW Inspectors to pick up for possible analysis. In addition to the low pH, it was stated the influent wastewater also was orange-colored, and foamy with a "hard" possible bleach-like odor.



**Figure 1: Pomona WRP influent pH trend (blue line) on 8-2-2021 indicating the drop in influent pH reported.**



**Figures 2 and 3: Pomona WRP influent sample. Note the orange color.**

Based on WRP observations and lab results, investigating IW Inspectors decided that a food discharger or other high COD discharger was the likely source. Testing of the influent sample noted above did indicate the orange colored, low pH wastewater received during the incident was significantly elevated in chemical oxygen demand (COD) concentration. The sample taken had a COD concentration of 9242 mg/L, normal is 450-650 mg/L. While no definitive source for the incident was identified, investigating IW Inspectors found that a possible primary source, or at least contributing source, for the incident was event clean-up operations associated with the National Hot Rod Association's (NRHA) Winternationals event held at the Pomona Fairgrounds on the Weekend of July 31-August 1, 2021. The event had about 9,000 attendees. The event was delayed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, thus explaining why an event that usually occurs in February was held in mid-summer. Inspectors determined that clean-up operations in the food service areas of the event and the associated wastewater discharge from that occurred in the early morning hours of Monday, 8-2-2021. Odors at the event site encountered on 8-2-2021 were of a very similar nature to that of the raw sample taken by operators at the WRP. Inspectors spoke with Fairgrounds managers to discuss ways to limit the use of cleaning chemicals and the discharge of the high-strength food residual laden wastewater from future clean-up operations.

#### JWPCP Excessive Solids or Greasy Material in the Headworks or Primary Tanks

During the month of August 2021 JWPCP operators notified the IW Section on multiple occasions of excessive solids or greasy materials in the headworks or primary treatment tanks. Such reports were received on:

- Thursday, 8-5-2021 at 0641 hours, floating black solids affecting JWPCP E-3 primary sedimentation tanks. First noticed as a drop in the blanket sludge level readings at approximately 0530 hours. Operations verified the conditions of the sensor at approximately 0620 hours and determined that there was floating material coming into the plant.
- Thursday, 8-12-2021 at 0652 hours, floating greasy material coming into JWPCP. The material was discovered at the inlet sludge compactor and bar screens. At the time of the notification phone call, level sensors were not affected. Operators were unable to identify which line the material was coming in on but were attempting to do so and will update IW investigators if they are able to do so. Reports of similar material at the JWPCP headworks were also received on the following two days, Friday, 8-13-2021 at 1400 hours and Saturday, 8-14-2021 at 0603 hours.
- Thursday, 8-19-2021 at 1810 hours, JWPCP operators reported that earlier that afternoon at 1500 hours they noted excessive black greasy solids in the primary treatment sedimentation units 7 and 8. Samples of the material were taken by operators and made available to IW Inspectors at the plant lab.

Investigations of these incidents were conducted by both day and night team IW Inspectors. These incidents are very similar to numerous other incidents at the JWPCP reported over the past 2+ years. No likely industrial source(s) for these incidents has been identified, but IW Inspectors have found some evidence in terms of the nature of the material received and the timing of its arrival at the plant, that the discharge of liquified food waste loads at the JWPCP liquid waste disposal station is a likely source for some, especially the incidents of 8/13-15/2021, as are the discharges of fine-solids laden sludge waste from cleaning and maintenance operations being conducted periodically at upstream WRPs. IW Inspectors continue to respond to these reports from JWPCP operators, checking for illicit discharges from industrial wastewater dischargers. These incidents did not ultimately have any known negative impact(s) on secondary effluent treatment operations or plant effluent quality.

#### Valencia WRP Citrus Odor

On Thursday, 8-5-2021 at 1035 hours, Valencia WRP operators notified the IW Section that at 1000 hours a pumping plant operator had noticed a strong citrus odor in the wet well of the Castaic Pumping Plant just upstream of the Valencia WRP. They expressed confidence that the odor would soon show up at the WRP. All operational parameters at the WRP were normal, but they expressed concern that the odor could signify possible negative impacts on the WRP, especially given the fact that they are in a sensitive period prior to bringing new reverse osmosis and UV disinfection systems online as part of plan to reduce the amount of chloride in the WRP's effluent.

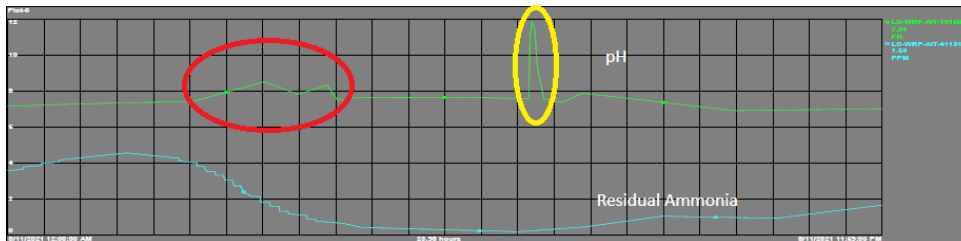
The investigating IW Inspector quickly identified the source of citrus odor as Bay Center Foods, LLC (FID: 9255505). The facility processes fresh lemons, extracting the lemon juice, which is then packaged and sold. The facility has an IW permit (#22449) for washing and cleaning operations which allow for the discharge of some lemon pulp solids in the wastewater. The permitted industrial wastewater flowrate is 9,750 gpd. The facility contact confirmed that they had discharged a larger than usual amount of lemon pulp solids since the start of operations on the morning of 8-5-2021 due to maintenance operations. The contact was encouraged to try not to discharge the pulp solids in a slug manor to limit impact on the downstream pumping plant and Valencia WRP. The contact was also informed that they would need to immediately cease wastewater flow to the sewer if the Valencia WRP started to experience any negative operational impacts due to the discharge. No known negative impacts at the WRP occurred and operators later stated that no citrus odor was noticed at the WRP on 8-5-2021.

#### Los Coyotes WRP High pH

During the month of August 2021 Los Coyotes WRP operators reported several high pH influent incidents. The incidents reported were as follows:

1. On Wednesday, 8-11-2021 at 0849 hours, operators reported a high influent pH at 8.49 was occurring.
2. On Thursday, 8-12-2021 at 0820 hours, operators reported the influent was 9.2.
3. On Thursday, 8-19-2021 at 0740 hours, operators reported the influent pH was 9.2.
4. On Tuesday, 8-24-2021 at 0509 hours operators reported the influent pH was 9.1.

WRP operators stated on 8-11-2021 that the influent pH had been running higher than normal since 8-10-2021 and they were concerned it might move higher. These elevated pH reports were apparently unrelated to reports of pink colored wastewater concurrently entering the plant on 8-11-2021 and brown color in the WRP effluent reported on 8-17-2021 (see below).



**Figure 4: LCWRP 8-11-2021 trend data showing the elevated pH reported at 0849 hours (circled in red) and pH spike from routine upstream caustic addition activity later that day (circled in yellow).**

Investigating IW Inspectors noted that the high pH incidents on 8-11-2021, 8-12-2021, and 8-24-2021 were not linked to routine caustic addition or crown spray activities upstream of the WRP because they occurred too early in the day (see Figure 4 above). However, the 8-19-2021 event was linked directly to crown spray activity.

The influent high pH readings observed on 8-11-2021 and 8-12-2021 were attributed to the large Shasta Beverages facility in La Mirada that makes and bottles both carbonated and non-carbonated beverages. The facility has an IW permit (#15351) and is permitted to discharge 163,151 gpd. Due to an increase in production the facility has been having trouble controlling the pH of their wastewater discharge. However, as of the end of August 2021 they have upgraded their pretreatment system so they can discharge wastewater at more moderate pH levels. If this is unsuccessful IW staff will likely implement a strict upper pH discharge limit. Shasta Beverages was cited for flow limit exceedances and adversely impacting downstream treatment plant operations for the August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> incidents. IW Inspectors continue to monitor the situation closely.

As to the other high pH incidents, the 8-19-2021 incident was attributed to routine crown spray activity and no source was found for the 8-24-2021 incident. Though IW Inspectors are currently investigating a food manufacturing facility in Santa Fe Springs, Day-Lee Foods (IW#11906), that operates and cleans large fry tanks during the early hours of 0130-0200 with concentrated caustic solution, that may be the source of the 8-24-2021 incident.

#### Los Coyotes WRP Color

On Wednesday, 8-11-2021 at 0849 hours, Los Coyotes WRP operators reported to the IW section that pink color had been noted at the influent building raw pH measurement station at 0830 hours that day. It was stated the color was not yet affecting the plant. On Tuesday, 8-17-2021 at 1230 hours WRP operators reported brown color was present in the plant's effluent forebay. No NPDES violations at the WRP resulted from either incident.

Investigating IW Inspectors again identified the source for both incidents as the Tri-Star Dyeing & Finishing facility in Santa Fe Springs. This large facility washes and dyes textiles and has been the source of many color incidents at the Los Coyotes WRP over the past year plus. The facility has an industrial wastewater discharge permit (#17196) and a permitted annual average discharge of 450,000 GPD. The Tri-Star facility was issued Notices of Violations for causing the August color incidents at the WRP.

The Tri-Star facility continues to struggle with inadequate pretreatment of their industrial wastewater discharge which causes them to violate their 50:1 color dilution limit. Compliance meetings and other meetings with Districts' industrial waste inspection and enforcement staff have emphasized the need for the facility to consistently meet the color limit. Current reduced flowrates coming into the WRP increases the WRP's susceptibility to mildly excessive color coming from the Tri-Star facility. Managers at the Tri-Star facility are aware of the issues and have hired a consultant to assist in addressing them. The company continues to attempt to improve their color removal pretreatment processes by adjusting their production operations and improving their wastewater retention times. IW Inspectors continue to monitor the situation very closely.



**Figures 5 and 6: Tri-Star Dyeing & Finishing discharge sample and sample dilution test results (fail) on 8-11-2021.**

#### La Cañada WRP Blue Solids

On Friday, 8-13-2021 at 0735 hours, WRP operations staff reported to the IW Section that there was a blue-colored clay like material in the raw channel at the La Cañada WRP (see Figures 7 and 8 below). The blue color solids could have come in anytime in the previous 24 hours. The raw influent pH was 8.7, somewhat elevated, as the normal influent pH is 7.4.

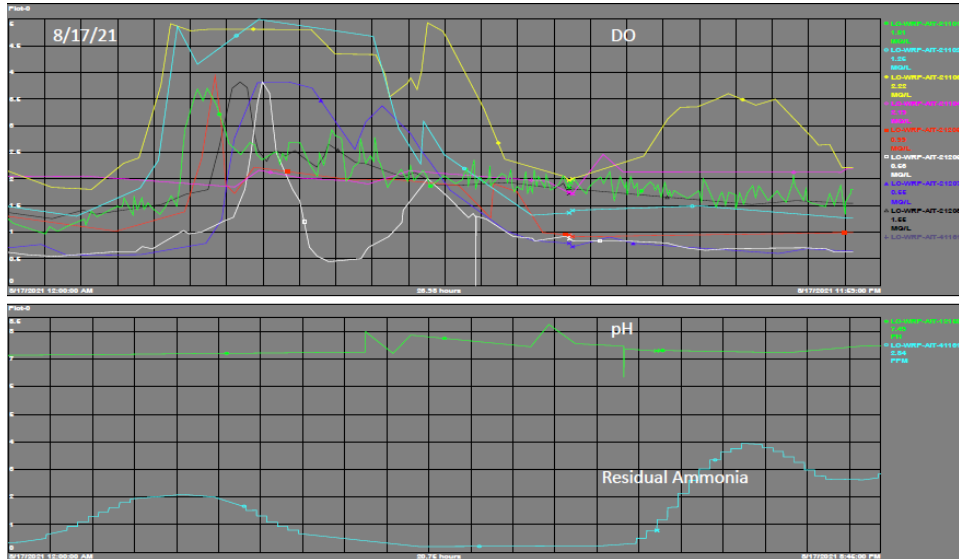


**Figures 7 and 8: The blue solids present in the influent channel at the La Cañada WRP on 8-13-2021.**

The blue solids were identified through laboratory FT-IR analysis as drywall joint compound. Although a specific source was not found, it was likely from a home construction or a similar residential project. The surrounding neighborhood was canvassed the day the material was discovered, but no major construction projects were observed. The lone industrial wastewater source influent to the WRP, the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club, was also inspected, but was determined not to be the source. The area IW Inspector will continue to periodically canvas upstream residential neighborhoods in search for signs of illegal dumping.

## Los Coyotes WRP Ammonia Spike

On Tuesday, 8-17-2021 at 1240 hours, Los Coyotes WRP operators reported to the IW Section that the WRP experienced a spike in the ammonia concentration in the secondary effluent at 0330 hours earlier that morning. Operators stated the plant was operating at about 20 MGD and had full capacity of airflow available. Additionally, it was noted that the secondary tank dissolved oxygen concentrations dropped prior to the ammonia concentration spiking, probably indicating that some high strength wastewater entered the plant at about midnight hours to 0100 hours.



**Figures 9 and 10: LCWRP trend data for 8-17-21, including that for influent pH (green trench line on the bottom graph), secondary effluent ammonia concentration (blue trend line of the bottom graph) and secondary aeration tank dissolved oxygen concentration (yellow trend line on the top graph).**

Investigating day and night Team IW Inspectors did not identify a source for the incident despite inspecting 14 large industrial facilities. They did note that the WRP trend data for the 5 days preceding 8-17-2021 also showed similar trends for the dissolved oxygen concentration and residual ammonia concentration levels. Industrial waste Inspectors continue to monitor upstream dischargers that may pose a risk to the WRP.

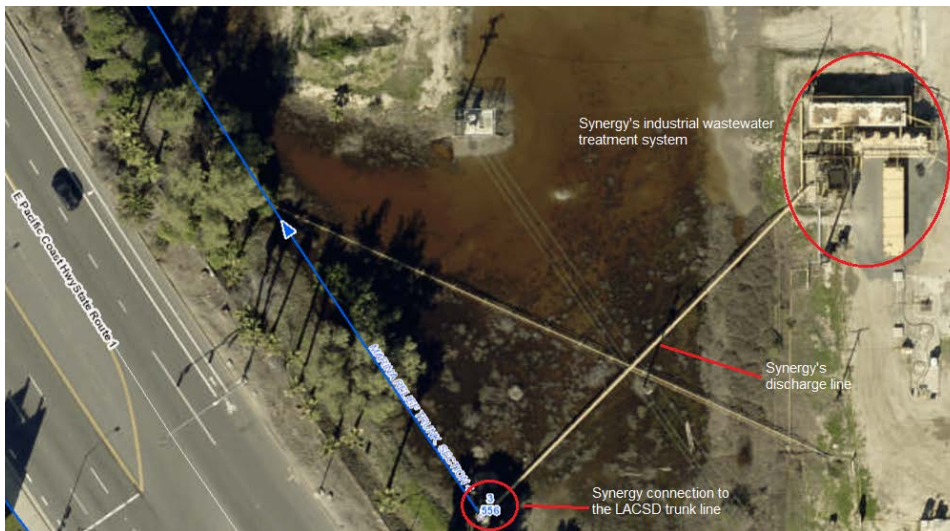
## Sewer Connection Leak at Synergy Oil & Gas, LLC in Long Beach

On Friday, 8-27-2021 at 1158 hours, the IW Section received a call from Districts' Wastewater Collection Section (WCS) personnel who reported that at Manhole (MH) MH 03 0556 in Long Beach they had just noticed an approximately 6" wide hole in the ground in which the sound of water flowing could be heard, along with the oily brine odor characteristic of oil production field brine, emanating from the hole. The hole is in the small (1' wide) space between the MH 0556 cover and the 8" vertical pipe that carries the IW discharge from Synergy down into the Districts' 15" diameter Marina Relief Trunk Section 4 trunk sewer where it connects directly to the trunk line manhole riser (see Figure 11). The Synergy facility is a large oil production field which holds IW discharge permit (#21422). Synergy has about 50 operating oil wells at this site and discharges 493,000 GPD of treated brine at a typical rate of 400 gpm. Note that there is no other wastewater, other than that from Synergy, present in the flow at MH 0556 (See figure 12).





**Figure 11: 6" wide hole in the ground next to Synergy's discharge line and MH 03 0556 on 8-13-2021. MH 0556 cover structure at lower right.**



**Figure 12: GIS diagram showing the 8" diameter above ground line that runs from Synergy's industrial wastewater treatment system to its connection to the sewer at MH 03 0556.**

There was concern the sound of flowing water and the odor present may indicate failure of the connection between the Synergy pipe and the manhole riser resulting in the solids underneath washing out. The area under the hole will require excavation to assess the situation. It was initially thought the excavation could wait until Monday, 8-30-2021. However, upon re-evaluation and conversation between IW Inspectors and WCS Managers, and in an abundance of caution, that excavation was carried out immediately during the afternoon and evening of 8-27-2021. To accommodate the need for no ongoing flow at the manhole when the excavation work was done, Synergy facility managers were contacted and agreed to cease the discharge

flow for what turned out to be a 16-hour period while the needed work was completed. This required Synergy shutting down all the oils wells on-site for that period as they only have capability to impound flows for 3-4 hours while in production.



**Figure 13: WCS personnel examining MH 03 0556 on 8-13-2021. Note the above ground 8" diameter Synergy IW discharge line in the background.**

IW Inspectors were on-site with WCS and Synergy personnel when it was confirmed there was a hole in the Synergy discharge pipe about 18" below grade with some minor soil removal having occurred. The 2" x ½" hole in the line was repaired by Synergy workers, who used EPDM expansion tape and concrete to encase the spot-repair from about 12 inches below and 12 inches above the hole. Final repairs will likely require further work in the future to replace the Synergy line, which was severely corroded, as well as reconstruction of the connection to the MH 556 manhole riser. Also left to be completed is cleaning of the trunk line from MH 03 556 to MH 03 0554 to accommodate CCTV of those two reaches of trunk sewer to assess line condition. IW discharge to the sewer at MH 03 0556 from Synergy resumed at 1000 hours on Saturday, 8-14-2021. IW Inspectors will continue to work closely with WCS and Synergy staff to coordinate the needed future work.



**Figure 14: 8-14-2021 work showing the finished concrete repair work at MH 03 0556.**

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Acid Spill at the Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Downey

On Friday, 9-3-2021 at 1310 hours, Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling, LLC in Downey reported to the IW Section that in the early a.m. hours of the past Sunday night/Monday morning (August 9-30, 2021) they had a problem that resulted in an unknown, but relatively limited amount of sulfuric acid spilling that then flowed into the industrial wastewater pretreatment system. This facility blends and bottles a wide variety of carbonated and non-carbonated beverages generating about 270,000 gpd of industrial wastewater which is sewered under IW permit (#22137).

The Districts' area IW Inspector conducted follow-up on the report with a site inspection on 9-7-2021. He confirmed the initial report details, which indicated that the spilled acid caused an automatic control valve to close. This led to a cascading series of events in which the discharge of wastewater to the sewer ceased, in turn causing the facility's pretreatment system pH neutralization system tank to eventually overflow about 150 gallons of pH=4 (mildly acidic) wastewater to the storm water collection system on-site. Eventually facility staff on-site noticed the overflow and shut down operations so they could address the situation. The local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health/Hazmat Unit, as well as the Downey City Fire Department, were notified of the event. According to records and manifests reviewed on 9-7-2021, a contractor cleaned up the spilled low pH wastewater. It was subsequently hauled off-site for proper disposal along with water used to flush the storm drain system and gutter during cleanup. There was no evidence found that the acid and wastewater from the spill or cleanup was discharged to the sewer. Facility managers are currently in the process of modifying their spill procedures, valves, and tank high-level alarms to try to ensure this type of this incident does not recur. The incident had no known impact on Districts' facilities or operations.

JWPCP Excessive Grease in the J.O. 'B' Headworks

On Wednesday, 9-8-2021 at 0725 hours, JWPCP operators reported to the IW Section that heavy gray grease was entering the J.O.-B inlet. At the time of the notification operations were unaffected by the incoming grease.



**Figure 1: Bar screen #1 at JWPCP on 9-8-2021 with the observed greasy material, including grey grease balls about the size of grapefruits.**



**Figure 2: 9-8-2021 photo of a large grease ball at the JWPCP headworks bar screens. Note hoe for scale.**

Investigating IW Inspectors checked with Compton Field Office (CFO) and San Gabriel Field Office (SGFO) about the possibility that the observed grease balls at the JWPCP bar screen (see Figures 1 and 2 above) were from any heavy greasing observed by sewer maintenance crews during routine cleaning of sewer lines including siphon structures where grease tends to accumulate. Both the CFO and SGFO reported they had not recently observed any heavy grease during cleanings.

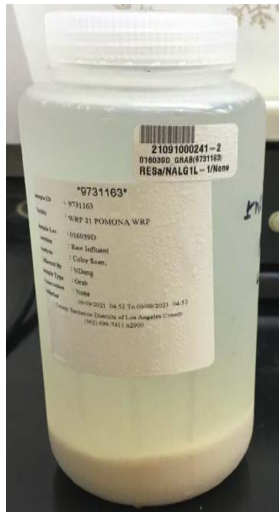
The source of greasy material affecting the JWPCP J.O. 'B' inlet on 9-8-2021 was not identified. Inspections at historic grease sources in the city of Vernon, including Southwest Processors, which receives waste restaurant grease, and the large grease rendering facility, Baker Commodities, as well as other possible sources such as large food manufacturing facilities, found no evidence of any source for the grease observed on 9-8-2021. IW Inspectors continue to be vigilant to industrial sources of grease that can impact Districts' sewers and treatment plant operations.

### Pomona WRP Low PH

On Thursday, 9-9-2021 at 0514 hours, Pomona WRP Operators notified the IW Section that low pH wastewater was entering the WRP. It was stated that the influent pH was 5.62 according to the influent meter and that a sample taken to the treatment plant lab had confirmed the low pH, testing at pH=5.6. Operators took samples from channels 1 and 2 for IW Inspectors to pick up for possible analysis (see Figure 4 below). In addition to the low pH, the operators stated the influent wastewater also appeared to contain "white chunky" material (see Figure 5).



**Figure 3: Pomona WRP influent pH trend (blue line) for 0700 hours on 9-8-2021 to 0700 hours on 9-9-2021. Note low pH dip at about 0430 hours on 9-8-2021.**



**Figures 4 and 5: On the left is a raw influent sample taken on 9-9-2021 at 0452 hours. Note the unusual fine white *calcium dirincinoate* solids that settled out. On the right is a top view of the solids after they were filtered out from the influent sample.**

Investigating IW Inspectors were unable to determine a source for this incident. The low pH influent was of a short time duration, only about an hour or less (See Figure 3 above). Fortunately, WRP operations and effluent quality were not adversely affected by the incident. Subsequent analysis of the raw influent sample and the unusual white solids it contained, revealed the solids to be *calcium dirincinoate*, a non-toxic compound derived from castor oil that is also known as Ricinoleic Acid Calcium Salt. This substance has anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, and anti-viral properties, and is used in many anti-fungal creams. Investigating IW Inspectors inspected pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in the Pomona WRP influent area but have not identified any facilities using this material. Inspectors continue to investigate the incident.

#### Los Coyotes WRP High pH

On Saturday, 9-11-2021 at 0835 hours, Los Coyotes WRP operators reported to the IW Section that at 0811 hours the influent pH alarmed at 9.1 at the influent pH box. A sample of the high pH influent was collected and the WRP lab verified the pH was 9.01 S.U.

The investigation of this incident by the IW inspection staff found that although there are several large industrial dischargers likely contributing moderately high pH wastewaters to the Los Coyotes WRP that are causing the influent pH alarm to trigger at 9.0, the influent pH is not

exceeding 9.2 and WRP operations and final effluent quality are not being negatively impacted. It is important to note that none of these large industries currently have a high pH discharge limit and are thus technically in compliance with their permit limits when discharging in the 9.0-10.5 range as is typical for them both now and in the past. The alarm in this incident was triggered at a time of relatively low WRP influent flow (9 MGD) and at a time when operations has diverted all J.O. 'A' influent flow, which contains mostly residential/commercial sewage, away from the Los Coyotes WRP as part of the ongoing WRP modification work being done. This diversion has caused the influent from the J.O. 'F' line, which contains a larger percentage of industrial flow with higher pH values, to be the predominate influent at the WRP. This leads to minor exceedances of the pH alarm threshold before the normal diurnal flow pattern resumes in which the flow rate climbs to 12-13 MGD, effectively diluting the influent pH value back under 9.0 due to the residential flow having a neutral pH value (7.0). IW Inspectors continue to monitor this situation closely, but it is likely these influent high pH values will cease once the ongoing WRP modifications are completed.

#### Raw Milk Spill at the Alta-Dena Dairy in the City of Industry

On Wednesday, 9-15-2021 at 2113 hours, staff with the DFA-North (Alta-Dena Dairy) facility on Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry emailed the IW Section and reported that the facility had had an equipment failure at a raw milk silos at 1855 hours that evening resulting in approximately 3,000 to 5,000 gallons of raw milk being discharged to the sewer. The spill did not go outside of the production building where it occurred, but it did reach indoor drains that conveyed it to the sewer system. Facility operators stopped the spill by 1925 hours. IW staff became aware of the email at 0600 hours the next morning.

IW Inspectors checked with the downstream Districts' WRPs, San Jose Creek East and West, at 0740 hours on 9-16-2021, and were told by operators that they had not noticed anything unusual over the previous 12 hours. Thus, there were no known adverse impacts on WRP operations due to the spill.

Inspection of the large Alta-Dena Dairy facility on 9-16-2021, which processes and packages/bottles a variety of milk products, confirmed the previously reported details of the spill. The facility has a permitted industrial wastewater discharge of 242,600 GPD and a 5-minute peak flowrate discharge limit of 700 GPM under their I.W. permit (#22692). Facility managers stated that the spill occurred due to an operator failing to properly close a cap on a silo drain line. The cap popped off as pressure built when the silo was being filled. It was stated that operators had some difficulty in placing an emergency cap to stop the spill, thus explaining the large volume of milk lost. The 40,000-gallon silo was about 1/4 full at the time of the incident. A review of discharge flow and pH records on-site indicated that during and following the spill discharge limits were met. Facility managers were advised that in the future any incidents that occur during off-hours need to be reported, as is required under their permit requirements, to the Districts' 24-hour Alarm Center in Long Beach and that these notifications need to result in them contacting a live individual so that an immediate response by the Districts can occur if needed in order to protect Districts' assets and operations. Managers agreed to this and stated they are reviewing their own internal procedures to prevent such a spill from occurring again.

#### Fire at the Tesoro Wilmington Oil Refinery

On Wednesday, 9-22-2021 at 2105 hours, The Districts' Long Beach Main Pumping Plant Alarm Center received a call from the Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC oil refinery in Wilmington reporting a small fire had occurred and that the refinery was impounding their industrial wastewater. Alarm Center personnel forwarded the information to IW Section inspection staff immediately for follow-up.

IW Inspectors from both the night and day teams investigated the report, first arriving on-site at 2230 hours on 9-22-2021. It was verified that the large refinery, which holds IW permit (#20098) and discharges IW flow at 3.1 MGD with a peak flow rate limit 10,000 gpm, did have a fire in their catalytic reforming unit (CRU) that evening from 2000-2100 hours. A ruptured tube within the CRU heating system leaked, causing fuel to ignite, starting the fire. About 120,000 gallons of wastewater was generated from fighting the fire. The firewater was impounded in Tank 143000 on-site and later blended with their "Low COD" process wastewater



stream, treated to remove any oil, and subsequently discharged to the sewer on the evening of Thursday, 9-23-2021. Observations of the wastewater discharges from the refinery, as well as data from samples taken and discharge monitoring equipment, revealed no evidence that any discharges of prohibited materials occurred due to this event, though some sample analyses do remain outstanding as of 10-1-2021. No violation notices were issued to the refinery and there were no known negative impacts on the Districts' collection system or treatment operations at the downstream JWPCP due to this event.

#### City of Pomona Sewer Maintenance Report of Excessive FOG

On Tuesday, 9-28-2021, the IW Section was notified by city of Pomona sewer collection system operations staff by email of the likely discharge of excessive amounts of fats, oils, and greases (FOG) at or near 1047 E. 3rd Street in an industrial area of Pomona. A city sewer maintenance crew discovered unusual greasy material in the city sewer line there during recent routine maintenance activities.



**Figure 6: City of Pomona sewer maintenance staff photo showing excessive grease in a city sewer line at approximately 1047 E. 3rd Street. Note that the line channel is completely full of grease.**

As of the 10-1-2021 the investigation of this incident by IW inspection staff is ongoing. Initial investigation findings indicate the site in question may be occupied by TNJ Foods, Inc., a chicken processing operation previously unknown to the IW inspection staff.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Los Coyotes WRP Color Incidents (4)

During the month of October 2021 Los Coyotes WRP operators reported a total of four color incidents to the IW inspection staff. The incidents reported were as follows:

1. On Monday, 10-4-2021 at 1500 hours, operators reported that the WRP influent was orange at the influent pH monitoring station.
2. On Sunday, 10-10-2021 at 0900 hours, operators reported the WRP influent was blue.
3. On Thursday, 10-14-2021 at 0700 hours, operators reported that the WRP influent was blue at the influent pH monitoring station.
4. On Thursday, 10-21-2021 at 0815 hours, operators reported that the influent was purple at the influent pH monitoring station.



**Figures 1 and 2: 10-4-2021 Los Coyotes WRP grab samples and a sample picked up from Shaw Diversified Services on 10-5-2021. Note the color match.**



**Figures 3 and 4: Los Coyotes WRP raw influent samples taken on 10-10-2021 and 10-21-2021, respectively showing the blue and purple colors reported on those days.**

IW Inspectors from both day and night teams investigated these incidents. They found that the two usual suspects for excessively colored influent to the LCWRP, carpet manufacturer Shaw Diversified Services, Inc. and textile dyehouse Tri-Star Dyeing and Finishing, both of which are located in Santa Fe Springs and which discharge 600,000 gpd and 450,000 gpd of industrial wastewater respectively, were responsible for causing all four incidents. Of note was that Shaw caused only the incident on the 4th and this was due to an equipment failure in their pretreatment system which caused a failure to remove the orange color from their effluent. Tri-Star was the source for the other three incidents with these last three representing only the most recent of many such incidents caused by this facility over the past year. Tri-Star has continued to cause these incidents despite many issuances of notices of violation as well as the holding of compliance meetings called by the Districts. The facility is apparently unwilling to adequately address their failures to meet the 50:1 color dilution limit that is in place. Notices of violation were issued to both Shaw and Tri-Star for causing the color incidents and/or violating their effluent color dilution limits.

Districts' enforcement officers are considering taking further actions to try to address and remedy the situation at Tri-Star. Additionally, the IW Inspectors continue to monitor and respond to these incidents on a timely basis and to conduct further enforcement activity as deemed necessary by Districts' managers.

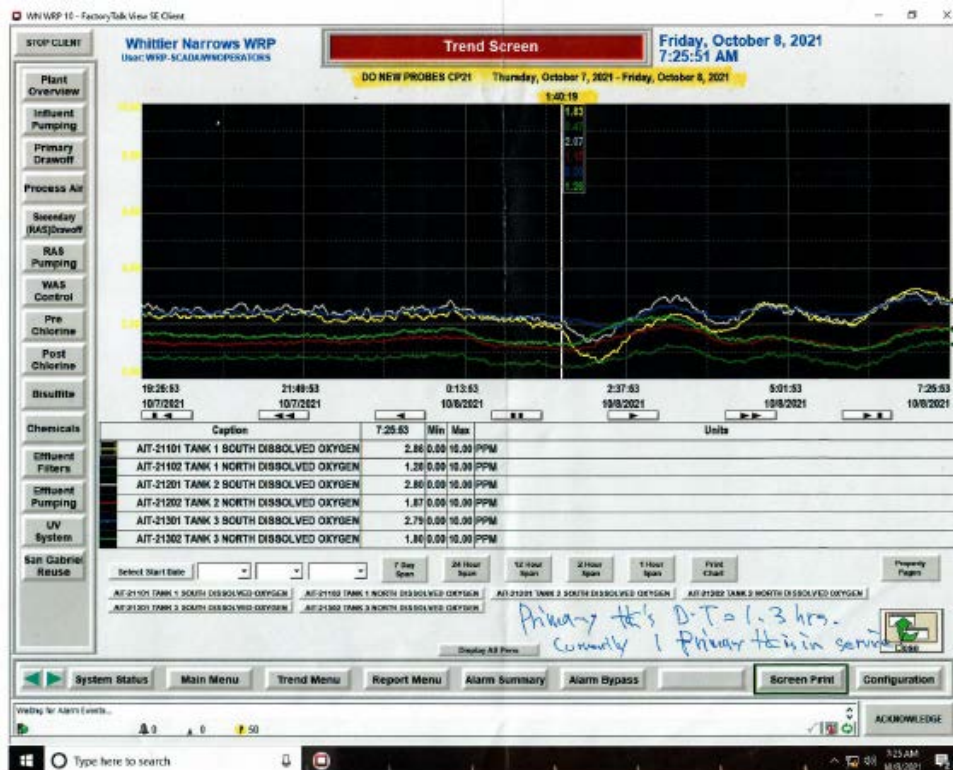
#### Whittier Narrows WRP Low Dissolved Oxygen Concentration Incidents (2)

On Tuesday, 10-6-2021 at 0720 hours, Whittier Narrows WRP operators informed IW Inspectors that a low dissolved oxygen (D.O.) condition in the aeration tanks had just occurred. Operators indicated that the plant was slowly recovering at the time of the call. The low D.O. period began at 0500 hours and stayed below 1 mg/L for about 2 hours (see Figure 5 below).



**Figure 5: Whittier Narrows WRP aeration tank dissolved oxygen trend data for 10-6-2021. Note the drop off that started at 0445 hours and lasted about 2 hours.**

On Friday, 10-8-2021 at 0729 hours, WNWRP operators again reported to IW Inspectors that upon arrival at the WNWRP that morning at 0700 hours they noted on the plant data trend charts that the dissolved oxygen levels in the aeration tanks had dropped earlier that morning at 0137 hours for an approximate 30 minute period before they returned to normal. Other than the drop in D.O. noted, the WRP was running well. Additionally, operators stated that the aeration tanks looked normal during rounds at 0700 hours and there was nothing else unusual evident such as a pH levels, color in the wastewater, or the presence of unusual odors. The information was referred to Team 1 and Team 4 IW Inspectors as part of the ongoing investigation of the initial low D.O. incident reported on 10-6-2021.



**Figure 6: Whittier Narrows WRP aeration tank dissolved oxygen trend data for 10-8-2021.**

IW Inspectors investigated both reports and were unable to determine a likely source. Possible sources included both the Thrifty Ice Cream and United Site Services facilities in El Monte, as well as other known industrial facilities with the potential to discharge high strength wastewater. A total of 24 industrial facilities were inspected as part of the investigation. IW Inspectors continue to be vigilant to possible sources for these incidents.

Long Beach WRP Green Color

On Wednesday, 10-13-2021 at 1445 hours, Long Beach WRP operators notified IW Inspectors that green color was present in the final tanks. The green color was first observed approximately a half hour earlier than the notification call. Samples were collected by operations for possible analysis.

Night Team IW Inspectors were just on shift immediately responded to the report. After inspecting the influent sewers to the WRP it was determined that the faint green color in the secondary clarifiers, as well as rust-orange colored floating mats in the effluent filters and effluent forebay, were caused by a leak of ferrous chloride from the odor control station. The leak of ferrous chloride solution was found to be entering the WRP influent sewer at manhole C-323 from a drain located at the sulfide odor control station (see Figure 7). The Compton Field Office was notified of the finding at 1600 hours and they dispatched a technician immediately who shut off the ferrous chloride dosing pumps, stopping the leak.



**Figure 7: Districts' GIS screen grab photo showing the ferrous chloride addition system at the Long Beach WRP odor control station.**



**Figure 8: 10-13-2021 photo of the ferrous chloride addition system at the Long Beach WRP odor control station.**



**Figure 9: 10-13-2021 picture of the separated connection on the ferrous chloride line that was causing the chemical to leak into the influent sewer line at the Long Beach WRP, causing the orange and green colors noted at the WRP.**

City of Pomona Sewer Maintenance Report of FOG and Debris

On Monday, 10-18-2021, City of Pomona wastewater collection system maintenance operators emailed IW Inspectors reporting a partial sewer blockage had been caused by fats, oils, and greases (FOG), as well other “unknown debris” in a 15” diameter local sewer line located at approximately 4200 Valley Boulevard. The Pomona operators reported they had been cleaning the line between 10-15-2021 and 10-18-2021 when they found the FOG and debris (see Figures 10 and 11). Operators stated that they did not know exactly when the last time was the line had been cleaned prior to the report, but that it is on a schedule for cleaning every 1.5 years. They requested information about any illicit discharges upstream of the blockage that IW Inspectors had or could uncover through investigation.



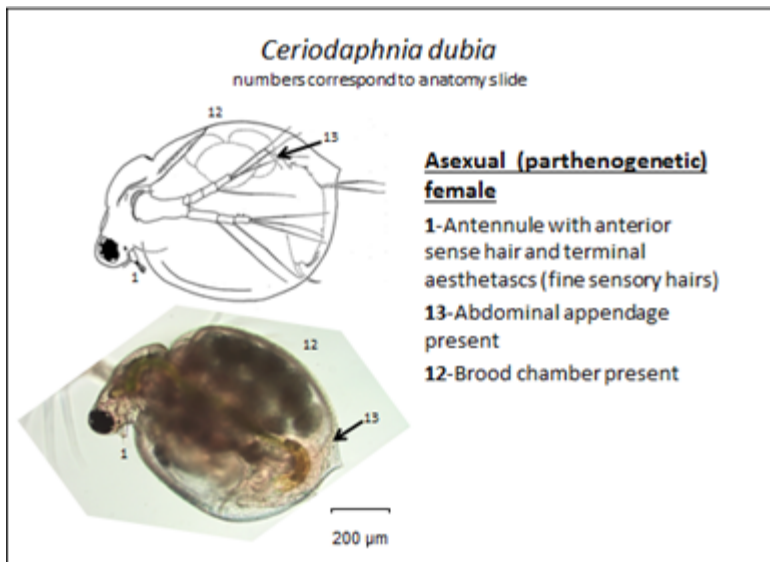
**Figures 10 and 11: 10-20-2021 Pomona city sewer maintenance CCTV and photo of the FOG and debris removed from the local line at approximately 4200 Valley Boulevard.**

IW Inspectors met with Pomona sewer maintenance operators on 10-28-2021. The initial investigation has failed to find the source for the material that caused the partial sewer line blockage. The investigation remains ongoing.

#### San Jose Creek East WRP High Toxicity

On Wednesday, 10-27-2021 at 1525 hours, the Districts' San Jose Creek Water Quality Laboratory notified the IW Section that a final effluent 24-hour composite sample taken at the San Jose Creek-East WRP on October 10-11, 2021 from 0700-0700 hours had shown a very high toxicity level, causing 100 percent lethality in the *Ceriodaphnia dubia* ("water flea") test organisms. The lab said they had sent the sample to be further analyzed for pesticides and metals. Preliminary results from the pesticide scan showed the pesticide dichlorvos was present at a concentration  $>300$  ng/L. It was stated that the Districts' Research Section indicated this pesticide had never been found previously in any other Districts' water reclamation plant final effluent samples. It was added that there was a small amount of Azoxystrobin (~50 ng/L) pesticide present in the sample, stating the concentration for that compound is usually found at a concentration of non-detect ( $<10$  ng/l) to 15 ng/L. Lastly, it was stated that similar samples were collected on 10/8-10/9/2021 and 10/9-10/10/2021 at SJC-East WRP, and those samples had no toxicity. It is noted that despite the presence of the pesticides in the final effluent the treatment plant processes at the WRP were otherwise unaffected. The lab asked if the IW Section could shed any light on possible sources for the pesticides detected.





**Figure 12: *Ceriodaphnia dubia***

In response, IW Inspectors conducted a site inspection at a facility in Monrovia that manufactures a variety of agricultural chemicals, cleaners and coatings (waxes, fungicides & preservatives) which contain pesticide active ingredients for use in the post-harvest fruit and vegetable industries. It was confirmed the company does not use the pesticide dichlorvos nor do they have any onsite. IW Inspectors are also following up on other, less likely leads, including the use of pesticides by local sewer maintenance crews to control insects during routine sewer maintenance activities.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Clarifier Overflow in Vernon

On Wednesday, 11-03-2021 at 1010 hours, a Districts' IW Inspector was driving by the Stantex Inc. facility in Vernon and noted black-colored surface run-off flowing into the street gutter from the facility's industrial wastewater clarifier at a rate of about 15 gpm. The Stantex facility is a garment dyeing and washing operation that is permitted under IW#16952 at a discharge flowrate of 70,000 GPD. The inspector immediately stopped to assess the situation. He also then immediately notified the City of Vernon's Environmental Health Program Administrator of the ongoing overflow into the storm drain system.

At 1012 hours the IW Inspector entered the facility and required that they stop or reduce the wastewater discharge in order to stop the overflow into the street. The facility was able to stop the overflow by 1025 hours. Facility management claimed that the overflow/spill occurred two minutes prior to inspector's arrival and that lint solids building up in the sewer downstream of the clarifier were the likely cause of the overflow.



**Figures 1 and 2: 11-3-2021, 1015 hours photos of the ongoing overflowing industrial wastewater clarifier into the street gutter, i.e., storm drain, at the Stantex Inc. facility in Vernon.**

City of Vernon responders arrived onsite at 1045 hours with a Vactor truck and immediately began collecting the spilled wastewater. Approximately 400 gallons of spilled wastewater and cleanup water associated with the overflow response was collected for disposal. The Districts' IW Inspector issued Stantex a Notice of Violation for failing to properly maintain their clarifier and lint screens, exceeding their peak flow limit of 54 GPM and discharging industrial wastewater into the storm drain system. City and Stantex managers, along with Sanitation Districts' IW permit engineers are working together to implement actions to prevent a recurrence of the spill. Such actions may include more frequent maintenance of both the facility's sewer line and the downstream local sewer to prevent the build-up of lint solids that likely caused the overflow, as well as installation of more effective lint screens and an equalization tank at the Stantex Inc facility to limit peak discharge rates. It was verified that the

spill on 11-3-2021 did not reach the nearby Los Angeles River and that all waste generated from the overflow and cleanup was disposed of properly. The event did not impact any Districts' equipment or operations.

### Whittier Narrows WRP Low Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations

On Wednesday, 11-3-2021 at 1459 hours, and again on Friday, 11-5-2021 at 0703 hours, Whittier Narrows operators notified IW Section staff that they had noticed significant drops in the secondary aeration tank dissolved oxygen concentration values. WRP operators report the episodes typically last around 2 hours and operators increase the process air compressors (PACs or "blowers") from 10,000 cfm to their maximum output of 12,000 cfm to effectively address the issue. It was noted that all other influent parameters such as pH, odor, and color were normal. Samples of the raw influent were collected for possible analysis.

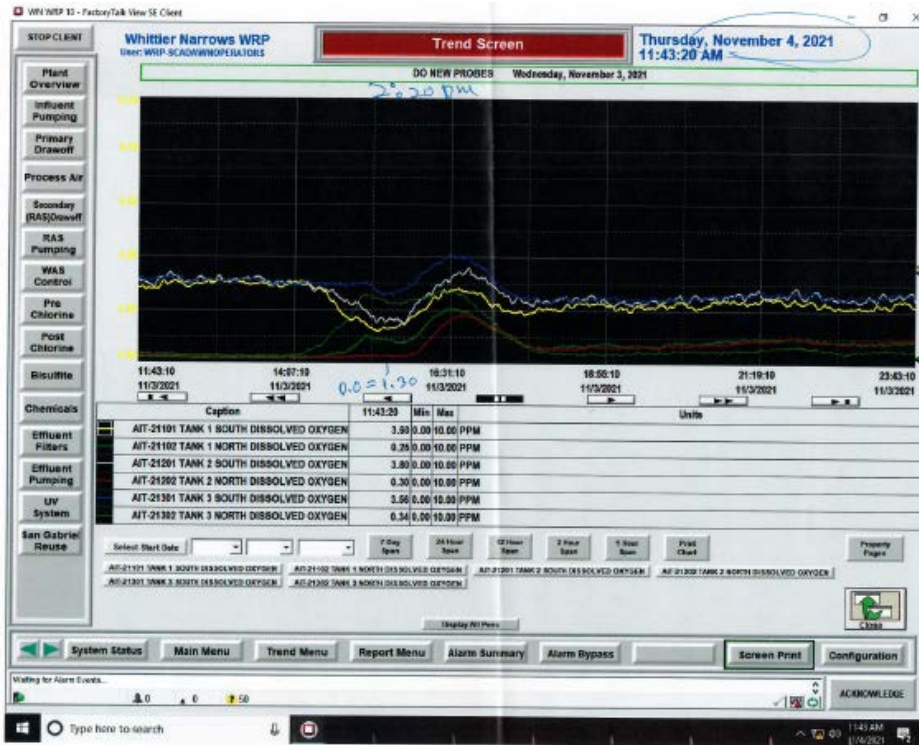


Figure 3: Annotated WNWRP D.O. trend chart for 11-3 1143 hours to 11-3 2343 hours. This shows the incident reported on 11-3 at 1459 hours.

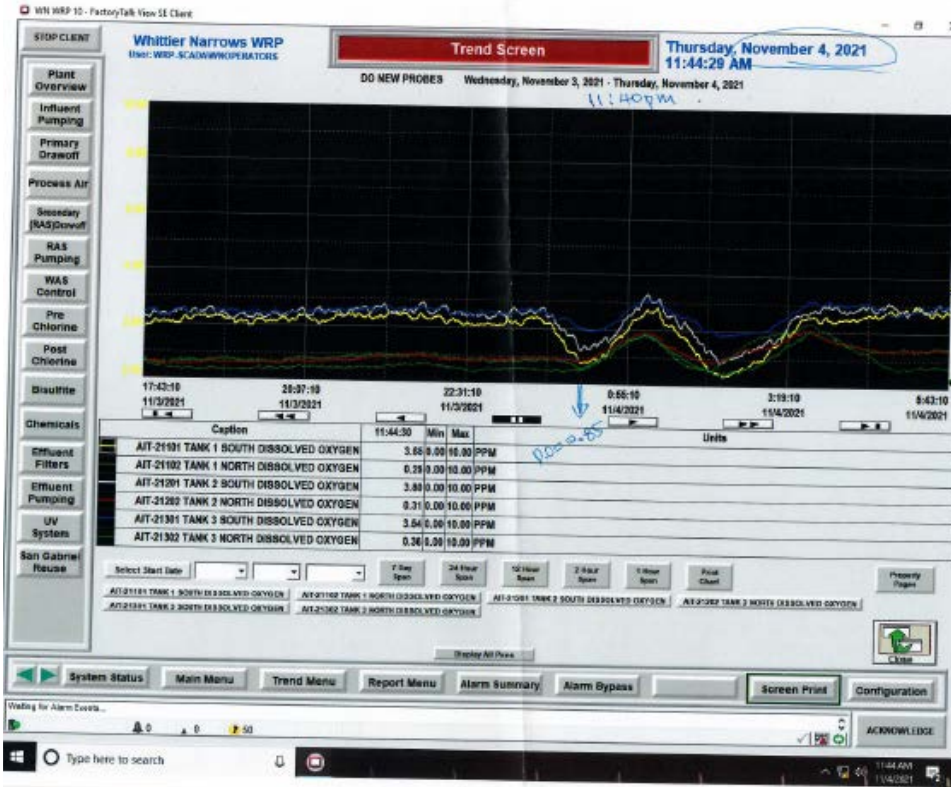


Figure 4: Annotated WNWRP D.O. trend chart for 11-3 1743 hours to 11-4 0543 hours. This shows two 11-4 incidents at midnight and 0200 hours.

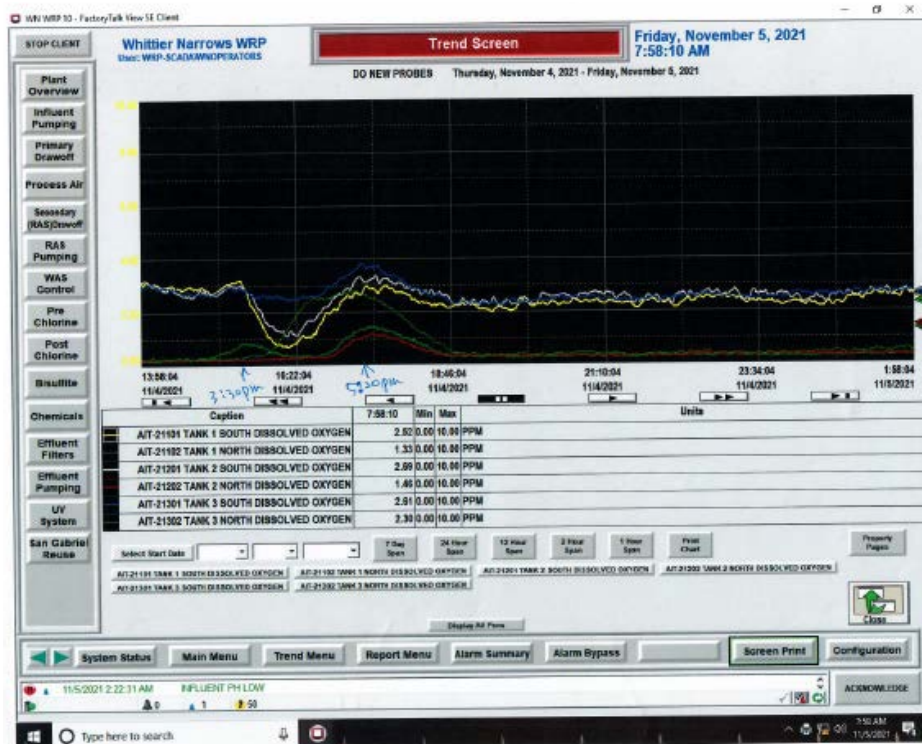
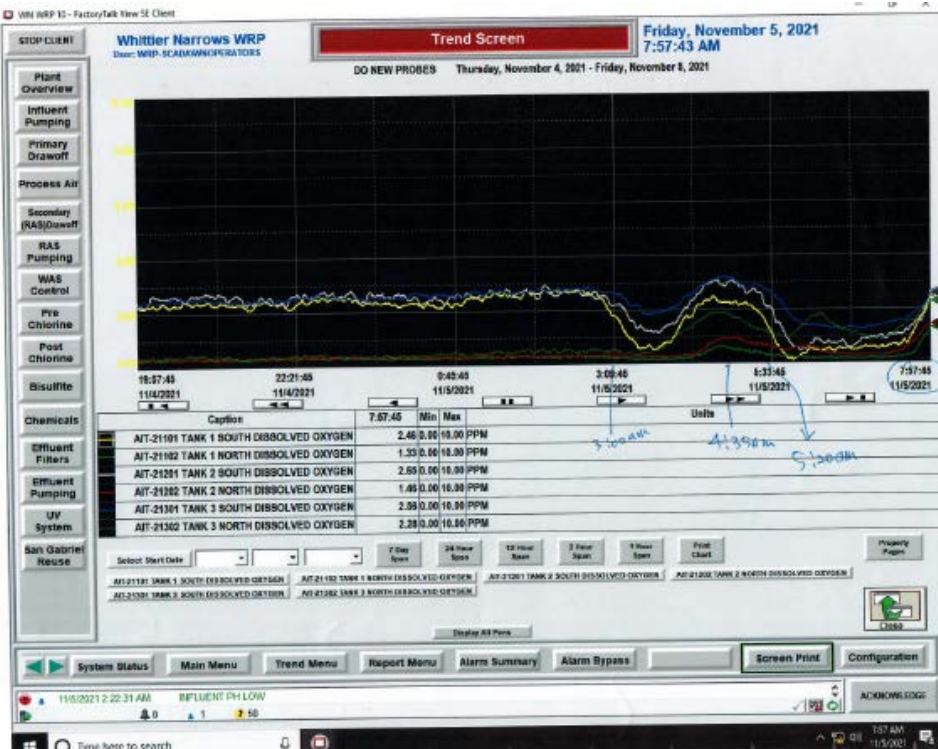


Figure 5: Annotated WNWRP D.O. trend chart for 11-4 1400 hours to 11-5 0200 hours. This shows the 11-4 at 1530 hours incident.



**Figure 6: Annotated WNWRP D.O. trend chart for 11/4 1800 hours to 11/5 0800 hours. This shows incidents on 11/5 at 0300 and 0520 hours.**

These incidents are very similar to a recent incident that occurred on 10-6-2021 at WNWRP. It was noted that there had been other similar drop offs that occurred on 11-4-2021 during the early a.m. hours around midnight and 0200 hours, and then again from 1536-1720 hours.

IW Inspectors investigated facilities that have a potential of discharging high strength wastewater to the Whittier Narrows WRP but found nothing that could explain the cause of the periods of low D.O. in the secondary aeration tanks from 11-3 through 11-5. In addition, grab samples collected from the raw influent and primary effluent on 11-3 had COD concentrations slightly higher than daily averages, but not significant enough to suggest an industrial source. A sample collected on 11-5 from the primary effluent for COD was well within the range of daily averages. It is unclear what is causing these periods of low D.O., but IW Inspectors continue to investigate. It is noted that thus far the D.O. drop-offs have not resulted in any impact to final effluent quality at the WRP.

### JWPCP Excessive Floating Solids in the E-3 Primary Tanks

On Thursday, 11-18-25 at 2237 hours, JWPCP operations staff notified the IW inspection staff and reported that the JWPCP had been experiencing excessive solids loading in the E-3 South primary sedimentation tanks since 1900 hours when they first noticed fouling of the sludge level sensors.

Investigation of this incident, which was very similar to a series of incidents that occurred most recently in August 2021, but which have been occurring periodically over the past 2+ years, did not identify a source. In fact, no likely industrial source(s) for any of these incidents has yet to be identified with any certainty. Occasionally, IW Inspectors have found some evidence in terms of the nature of the material received and the timing of its arrival at the plant, that the discharge of liquified food waste loads at the JWPCP liquid waste disposal station may be source. Especially the incidents of 8-13 through 8-15-2021. Another possible source is the discharges of fine-solids laden sludge waste from cleaning and maintenance operations being conducted periodically at upstream WRPs. However, in this most recent incident of 11-18-2021 no such evidence was found. IW Inspectors continue to respond to these reports from JWPCP

operators, checking for illicit discharges from industrial wastewater dischargers. This incident did not ultimately have any known negative impact(s) on secondary effluent treatment operations or plant effluent quality.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION  
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021**

TREATMENT PLANT/SEWER/OTHER INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Possible Illicit Discharge of Industrial Wastewater to the Storm Drain in Carson

On Wednesday, 12-8-2021 at 1130 hours, IW Monitoring crew technicians reported to the IW Inspection staff that they had just observed an employee at Vanitas Manufacturers Inc., a small soap, shampoo, and hair conditioner manufacturing operation in Carson, rinsing 350-gallon capacity storage totes in an alley as he was setting up his composite sampler. This facility holds IW permit #15017 and is permitted to discharge 507 gpd of industrial wastewater from their operations. The IWMC technician noted that the water from cleaning the totes had not yet reached the nearby storm drain on Wilmington Avenue, and he instructed the person rinsing the totes to cease doing that to insure no wastewater would get into the storm drain.



**Figure 1: Photo taken by IWMC on 12-8-2021 documenting the improper washing of storage totes in the alley outside of Vanitas Manufacturers Inc. in Carson.**

IW Inspectors responded to the call at 0830 hours the next morning. The inspector observed liquid pooled in the alley but determined there was not enough to indicate any had left the property and entered the storm drain. The area was mostly clean with a small streak line of shampoo visible on the asphalt. When asked about the operations the previous day, a Vanitas supervisor admitted some improper cleaning of totes had been done in the alley and that he would remind employees to only do this activity at the designated cleaning area inside the facility. The supervisor was advised by the IW Inspector that if such illicit activities lead to

wastewater entering the storm drain a notification would be sent to the local agency responsible for the storm drains.

#### High Discharge Flowrate reported by the Torrance Refining Company

On Thursday, 12-30-2021 at 0950 hours, the IW Section was informed by the large oil refinery, Torrance Refining Company in Torrance, that their Van Ness outfall (IW#21899), which is permitted to discharge about 3.6 MGD of industrial wastewater, was discharging at a rate above that allowed under their permit during an ongoing rainstorm. Refinery managers stated that at 0900 hours they had and continued to exceed the peak flow limit of 5,300 gpm that applies during ongoing rainstorms during on-peak hours (the limit of 5,300 gpm applies during the hours of 0900-0100 hours daily while it's raining; note that the limit increases to 10,000 gpm during the off-peak hours of 0100-0900 hours). Managers stated the current flows were 6,200-6,300 gpm and that while refinery operators were trying to reduce flows where possible, it was likely the flowrate would remain in the 6,300 gpm range for the rest of the day. Note that such an exceedance can place the downstream JWPCP at an increased risk of not being able to handle influent flows during such rain events. Fortunately, at the time of the call the current rainstorm was starting to abate, with the next predicated storm not predicted to arrive for another week.

IW Inspectors arrived on-site at the refinery at 1230 hours on 12-30-2021 to follow-up on the above report. Review and observation of the ongoing discharge and flow chart data at the Van Ness outfall confirmed the information reported earlier. Flow trends indicated the facility discharged at 6,400 gpm at 1000 hours on 12-30-2021, with trends tapering down as the storm subsided. The facility contact stated that the exceedances were needed to prevent the refinery from "submerging." The flow rate had returned to compliance levels, at 4,211 gpm, at the time of the inspection. The contact was reminded by the inspector that the flow limit during wet-weather, peak flow hours is 5,300 gpm. The inspector also reviewed the facility's rainwater practices regarding the refinery's sourwater side, known as the "Del Amo" outfall (IW#21900): Rainwater is not discharged through this outfall according to the contact, who stated all rainwater from the refinery is treated and discharged only through Van Ness outfall. However, it was noted that the facility's combined permitted wet-weather peak hour flow limit for both permits is a total of 7,500 gpm. It was noted that the combined peak flow on 12-30-2021 was ~7,200 gpm, within the theoretical combined limit for both outfalls of 7,500 gpm.

Enforcement action for the flow rate exceedance at the Van Ness outfall was limited to a verbal warning, as opposed to issuance of a written Notice of Violation. This was because there was no imminent flooding of JWPCP, nor surcharging of local/CSD sewers as noted by Districts' operations staff on 12-30-2021, as well as the fact that the refinery stayed within the theoretical combined permitted wet-weather flow limit noted above.

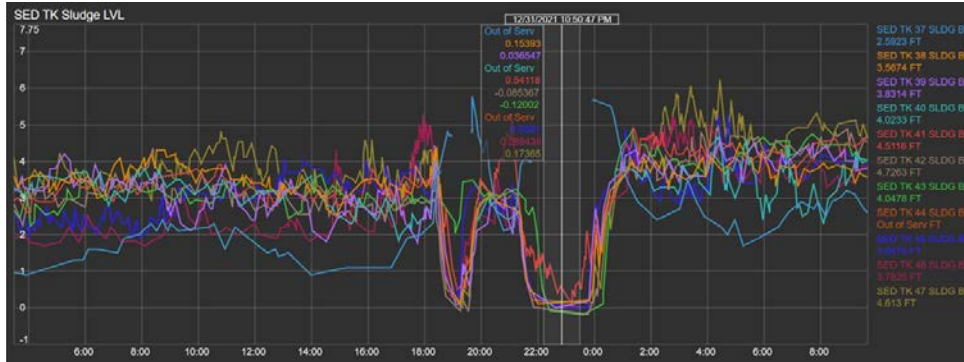
#### JWPCP Excessive Floating Solids in the E-3 Primary Tanks

On Friday, 12-31-2021 at 2235 hours, the IW Inspection staff received a call from JWPCP managers reporting the plant was again experiencing excessive floating solids at the E-3 primary skimmers. Managers said that although it was noted due to tank level data dropping to zero due to the sensor head being submerged (See Figure 2 below) they didn't think this was as significant as previous incidents and didn't think it would take operators long to clear up the affected tanks. They also stated they didn't believe the material was still entering the tanks and that the affected tanks were downstream of the J.O. "B" inlet. At about 2330 hours night team IW Inspectors called JWPCP grave shift operators, who confirmed the tanks were slowly returning to normal, and that nothing unusual was entering the plant. A sample from the E-3 primary tanks was collected and left in the sample receiving refrigerator for IW Inspectors.

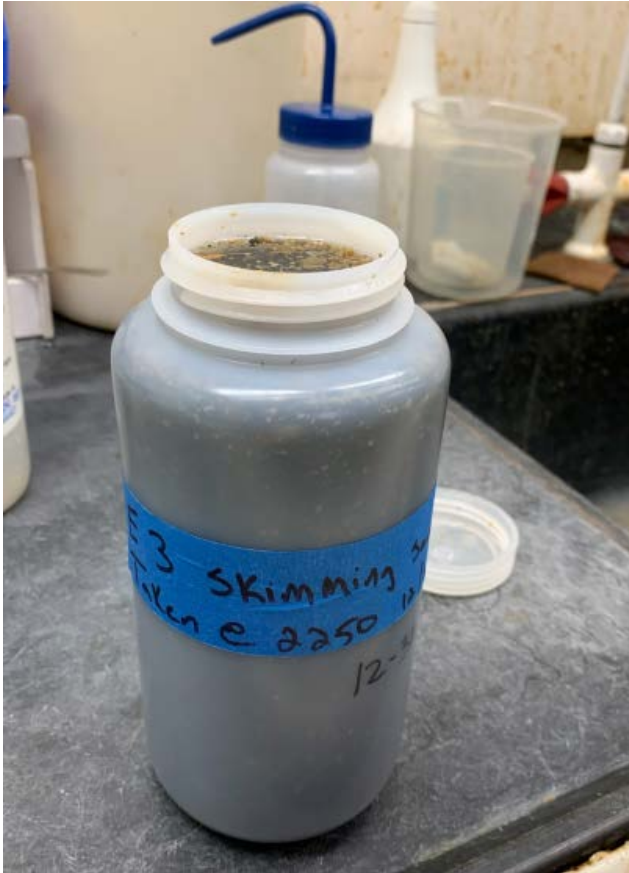
Since this incident appeared to be less significant than past incidents, and there was nothing unusual entering the plant at the time of the call, along with the fact that Friday, 12-31-2021 was a holiday and thus no IW Inspection staff was on shift at the time of the call, it was jointly decided by IW Inspection supervisors that IW Inspector response could wait until Monday, 1-3-2022.



On Monday, 1-3-2022, IW Inspectors responded to the report. The sample taken on 12-31-2021 was observed and found to be runny, rather clean looking, and not having any petroleum characteristics (see Figure 3 below). It didn't look like the black solids observed previously during similar high-level incidents in the E-3 primary tanks, most recently on 11-18-2021. JWPCP managers reported the solids had very little impact on plant operations. Historically, once the level sensors foul, they would stay fouled for an extended period. Trend data on Figure 2 indicates in this case they were only fouled for about 2 hours. This incident may have been caused by high influent flow rates at the plant caused by significant rainstorms that occurred in Southern California on 12/29-12/30/2021. The downtown Los Angeles weather station recorded 1.74 and 2.57 inches of rain on 12/29 and 12/30, respectively. In conversation with JWPCP operators, it was stated that grease balls tend to show up at the JWPCP after such large rainstorms. Inspection at upstream industrial facilities, including the large Tesoro Carson oil refinery (IW#21299), found no evidence that any was the source for this incident. IW Inspectors continue to be vigilant for any industrial sources for this type of incident.



**Figure 2: JWPCP primary tank level data on 12-31-2021 at 2250 hours (vertical timestamp line on the chart) indicating the tank high floating sludge level. Note that the reading drops to zero when the level sensor is covered by sludge floating on top of the skimming tank. The incident lasted about 2 hours according to the chart.**



**Figure 3: E-3 skimming tank grab sample taken on 12-31-2021 at 2250 hours.**