



Charles Little (from left) and Steve Hanes, both with the SFPUC, listen to Bill Sadler, Water Facilities Supervisor at the Zone 7 Water Agency in Livermore discuss their process of salt management using Mocho groundwater demineralization during the BAYWORK East Bay Workshop on Wheels March 11, 2014.

The BAYWORK Workshop on Wheels tour of the East Bay saw innovations at seven locations on March 11

By Kory Loucks-Powell

Over 50 water and wastewater professionals experienced a whirlwind innovation-filled day visiting seven water and wastewater facilities on March 11 at the BAYWORK East Bay Workshop on Wheels tour. BAYWORK is a consortium of 22 signatories, including 19 Bay Area water/wastewater utilities working together in the area of workforce reliability, with objectives that include candidate development, staff preparedness, optimized use of existing staff, and cost-effective workforce reliability investments through collaboration. The East Bay Workshop on Wheels conducted by BAYWORK combined components that addressed all of these strategic objectives.

The free bus tour began at the City of Pleasanton Operations Center in the morning, with stops at the Zone 7 Water Agency, the Dublin San Ramon Services Center, and the SFPUC's Sunol Water Treatment Plant all before lunch. In the afternoon the tour continued to the Alameda

County Water District, the Hayward Water Pollution Control Facility, and the Oro Loma Sanitary District in the afternoon.

Leo Lopez, Assistant Utilities Superintendent with the City of Pleasanton, began the day by showing a video of how the city is leveraging technology to optimize operations and maintenance - saving the city time and money. At Zone 7 Water Agency, Bill Sadler, Water Facilities Supervisor, demonstrated how they remove salt from water at their Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant using SCADA technology to manage the complex water treatment processes.

At the Dublin San Ramon Services District, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor Levi Fuller discussed rehabilitation efforts to restore their sand filter performance. Next, Steve Hanes, ITS SCADA Administrator at the SFPUC's Sunol plant, talked about using SCADA technology to effectively manage complex water treatment processes.

After a quick box lunch at the Sunol Temple, it was off to the Alameda County Water District, where Water Treatment and Distribution Supervisor Milan Viau gave a tour of their facility and spoke about energy savings through the use of hydroelectric and control of ozone disinfection products through upstream Chloramination.

On the bus, City of San Jose Control Systems Manager Raj Singh gave a presentation about the BAYWORK On-line Discussion Forum; a place where water and wastewater professionals can meet on-line and discuss their challenges and solutions.

At the City of Hayward's Water Pollution Control Facility, Manager Ray Busch discussed their new state-of-the-art Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Jenbacher 1.137 kW generator, which converts fats, oils, and grease, or FOG, into energy. They have local businesses, such as Berkeley Farms, bringing them milk byproducts that they will convert to energy. Next, Jimmy Dang, Associate at the Oro Loma Sanitary District, talked about their digester facilities upgrade project, and how the use of 3D design tools helped improve the design-stage review and construction process.



Brenda Donald, Wastewater Control Inspector with the SFPUC listens to Levi Fuller, Operations Supervisor at the Dublin San Ramon Service District facility during the BAYWORK East Bay Workshop on Wheels tour.

Brenda Donald, Wastewater Control Inspector with the SFPUC, was one of the professionals who attended the tour. She said, “I think people in the water/wastewater industry are doing amazing things and are reaping huge rewards for their customers. The tour is geared for operators but certainly managers would do well to hear about the innovations in the Bay Area. The SFPUC is so far flung that it is nice to be able to get together and talk.”

Being from the wastewater industry, Donald said that the tour was instructive because she was able to meet professionals in the water industry. “I was really impressed by Alameda County Water District, and how they are generating power,” Donald said. “That was really unbelievable. Benchmarking is a really big benefit. I was also impressed by the City of Hayward and how they have businesses coming to them. I would never have known about those kind of innovations, like the ones at Alameda and Hayward, which are really cutting edge, if not for BAYWORK.”



Ray Busch, Manager with the City of Hayward Water Pollution Control Facility, discusses their Biogas Cogen upgrade project at the BAYWORK East Bay Workshop on Wheels.

Hanes also enjoyed meeting other professionals in the water and wastewater industry. “This was my first adventure,” Hanes said of the tour. “I liked the concept. I’m always fascinated by different facilities and what they are doing. As technology goes, it is constantly in flux. Innovation I believe is more about people than products. Some of these smaller outfits, like the City of Hayward, are investing a lot of money into energy-savings. It is pretty amazing.”

Hanes recommended the BAYWORK’s Workshop on Wheels tour for operators and managers too. “I think it is beneficial for all operators and managers to get a chance to get away and see other agencies and see what they are doing well,” Hanes said. “It really allows you to reevaluate what you are doing.”

The next BAYWORK Workshop on Wheels tour is slated for the South Bay in May. For more information, visit <http://baywork.org> or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/baywork.