



# Ironhouse Sanitary District BOARD OF DIRECTORS ***DIRECTORS REPORT***

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**DATE:** February 4, 2020  
**TO:** Members of the Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Susan Morgan, Director  
**SUBJECT: Casa Winter Conference**

Wed. 1/22/20

KeyNote Speaker – Maggie Frye – Pour Into Others: Mentor and Advocate

1. Why Mentoring?

- Finding your voice
- Empowering people – to do what they don't know how to do, make mistakes and learn from them
- Provide feedback – good and constructive
- Leadership consulting and strategic planning practice – focus on water/wastewater industry
- Emerging Leaders program
- Mentoring – helps you to grow as a leader

2. How to Mentor

- Difference between mentoring and advocating
- Top 5 mentoring myths
  - Mentors have all the answers
    - No – mentors help people arrive at their own answers
  - Mentors are older and wiser
    - No – Mentors might come as a surprise
  - Mentoring relationships are monogamous
    - No – it takes a village
  - Mentors are untouchable
    - No – mentors aren't bullet proof
  - Mentoring relationships are formal
    - No – mentoring relationships best evolve organically
- Tips for a successful mentoring relationship
  - Create a non-threatening and non-judgmental environment
  - Start out light – trust is earned
  - Ask open-ended questions and prompts
  - Commit and be prepared – and encourage them to do the same
  - Express humility and get vulnerable
- The Like Switch (book)
  - Frequency, proximity, duration, intensity
  - Business, social, and personal settings

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Panel – three speakers

1. Sebastian Tillman's, Stanford – Bioplastics
  - Stanford Codiga Resource Recovery Center
  - Pilot scale testing of new technologies – divert wastewater from sewer line and put it through a set of test beds – to test new treatment technology
  - All effluent goes back to sewer for treatment – so no violation concerns
  - Anaerobic secondary treatment – not need to aerate water (save energy) – reduce greenhouse gasses
  - 20,000 gal/day testing system – can produce up to 2x methane as normal plant
  - 100% renewable – many benefits
  - Exponential growth in plastic production – ending up in oceans and beaches
  - Can make recyclable plastics (and many other products) out of methane instead
2. Vijay Srivatsan, Bloom energy – Solid Oxide Fuel Cells / Waste to Energy
  - Remove sulphur from natural gas's
  - Provide energy from fuel
  - Sustainable – course of 10 years
  - Needs methane-rich gas to operate
  - Biogas sources: Agriculture, land fill, waste, wastewater – agriculture is easiest
  - Full turn-key solution – waste to energy/power
3. Ian Pepper, Univ. of Arizona – rebuttal to OIG Biosolids report
  - Land application unsafe until full risk assessment on 352 contaminants
  - 61 designated as acutely hazardous (primary pollutants)
  - OIG rebuts this report – collaborative effort of CASA and several universities an others
  - Many of the 61 chemicals have been previously assessed – low or non-persisting
  - Level of chemicals added to soil is less then what is already there
  - Pathogens – can be present in Class B Biosolids
  - Exposure is minimal
  - Groundwater at shallow depths is threatened – this is a serious problem
4. Jim Herbert, OC Sanitation District – Climate Resiliency
  - Climate change assessment – required for NPDES renewal permit
  - Coastal zone - requirement the to move inland
  - Sea level rise projections – all show increases / flooding
  - Tsunami impacts – increases
  - For coastal facilities – do you move inland, raise the facilities, or build levees?

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## Future of Workforce Development – Panel (3 speakers)

1. Michelle Roman – Selma-Kingsburgh-Fowler County Sanitation District – Valley Regional Occupational Program
  - 4 MGD (capacity 8 MGD)
  - Retirement – succession planning
  - Rural area – migrant farm workers – good jobs at District but not much exposure
  - High schools need to include education in trades
  - Paid internships for students (\$12/hr – 75 hrs). – visit all areas of district and get some experience at all of the areas of district work.
  - Opportunities for students to consider future jobs, learn about district, and spread information forward
2. Dave Hix – City of San Luis Obispo – Wastewater Utility Intern Program
  - 47K people, plus a university. Main hub of employment (in county)
  - 3.5MGD – discharge to creek
  - Interns – work for no money
  - Tour, expectation – and help them to get certified
  - Waiting list – for students to get the intern positions – high interest
  - Takes time to do – and staff to do. Plus budget (for uniforms, training, etc)
3. Randy Lee – Inland Empire Utilities Agency – IEUA O&M Intern/Volunteer Trades Program
  - 70 years in operation
  - Many regional partnerships and collaborations
  - 5 WW treatment plants plus one potable water plant
  - Retirement / pension reform – less lateral movement
  - Catch-22: without experience, can't get job; without job, can't get experience
  - Program was cert-driven and focused

## Medium and Small Agency Solutions

1. Greg Swartz – Piper Sandler – Helping with Funding Decision Making
  - Debt vs pay-as-you-go (Pay Go) financing
    - Interest vs inflation
  - Definition of funding source
    - State taxes, user rates, Federal Taxes, grants & Loans
  - External funding sources – governmental, market and other
    - CA sources – Ibank, Rural dev., SWRCB, WIFIA
    - Placements – one issuer and one investor ( e.g., bank loan) VC public offering – eg. Bonds (many investors)
    - SD Assoc, - Co-Bank, SDA , etc
  - 5 key factors – funding decisions
    - Reason, timing/need, primary input, schedule, repayment (interest rate is not primary issue)
  - IBank – prefer community and Econ development, rural dev compliance,

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- SWRCB – resource related
- Growth related – other sources
- Tech project – use SRF
- Short-term — WIFIA is better
- 2. Bob Holt – SUEZ – Minimally Invasive Nutrient Removal
  - MABR cassettes – installed in bioreactor tanks
  - Biomass carrier – supports growth of biofilm
  - Very efficient oxygen transfer – can install in existing tanks – fast deployment
  - Augment WW plant performance – energy savings
- 3. Alexander Quinn, JLL – Assessing Triple Bottom Line
  - SF challenges – aging, seismic, climate change, ...
  - Improvement goals – system, climate change, Econ and environ sustainability, affordable, ...
  - Coined it – Trimble bottom line - Financial, social, environmental returns
  - Difficult to score/measure, but worthwhile to do

## Closing Session

1. Federal Legislative Updates
  - Appropriations
    - FY 2020 strong numbers
    - \$3B SRF
    - \$60M VIFIA
    - \$55M Estuary Protection
    - \$63M Reuse
    - \$20M PFAS
    - Sets the stage for FY 2021
  - Infrastructure and Permit Process
    - **HR1497** – clean water
      - \$14B SRF
      - 15% set-aside resiliency
      - 30% SRF grants – disadvantage
      - 1% SRF grant workforce development
    - **Senate** – pending Legislation WRDA rewrite
      - House Infrastructure package unveiling - \$1T package (transportation) could touch on water
    - **NPDES** – 10 year permits approved
      - Conditions imposed – “gotcha” provisions
      - Sample 10 year permit – approach in senate – some support exists
      - Leave authority in the state
  - PFAS/PFOS
    - Poses a threat

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- EPA to issue guidance – treatment and disposal (including Biosolids)
- HR535 – EPA to designate PFAS as hazardous substance
- Could close off options for Biosolids.
- Regulatory Initiatives
  - WOTUS – final rule rewrite – no effect
  - Water Recycling action plan – coordinate agencies and collaborate
  - PRAS Action Plan
  - NEPA Rewrite – creating discussion on antiquated rules
  - House Resolution on CWA – no effect (but, if Democrats president is election – may be giant rollback of constraints and large number of new regulations)
  - Designation of wipes – as flushable or non-flushable (as in European model) – work on this ongoing.
- 2. State Legislative Updates
  - AB1672 – should pass out of Assb appropriations this week
    - Joint goal to address disposal of wipes
  - Ocean discharge – Sen. Hertzberg – working on bill (CASA co-sponsor)
  - Capacity Fees – limits per housing bills – attempts to change this
  - Climate Resiliency Investments
  - Water Recycling Bonds – 3 measures (1 in Sen., 2 in Assb)
    - Organic management – in one of the bonds
    - Bond measures, if passed by Sen/Assmb and signed by Gov, will need to go on 2020 ballot
- 3. Sonoma's Recent Disaster Experience – Michael Thompson – Sonoma Water
  - PGE Pub Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS - Oct 23)
  - Kincade Fire Starts – Oct 23
  - Winds carried winds south – toward Healdsburg
    - AirRadar.com – track planes in sky – track fire
  - Oct 26 – Windsor evacuated
  - Sonoma Water – 200 yards outside of evacuation area – later, evac area expanded, to include them. Had to evac offices. 6 hrs – removed file servers, systems, documents, etc. 12 vans/SUVs – to load all of the legasee documents and drive down to another city (storage facilities provided). Monitoring system transferred, etc.
  - 2/3 of staff – also evacuated
  - CPOD – centralized point of distribution
  - SEMS – standardized emergency management system
- 4. National Partnerships and Priorities – National assoc of clean water agencies (NACWA)
  - CASA and NACWA partnership has benefitted CASA with:
    - SRF funding
    - Water Reuse funding
    - Green energy funding
    - Bond status

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- Regulatory reform
- Clean water act
- Safe drinking water act
- Affordability regulations
- Groundwater, wipes, and other issues
- Municipal authority – local gov protection – permitting issues
- PFAS – very fractured – need new model under Clean Water Act
- Utility of the Future – resource recovery
- Governance – is biggest challenge
- Privatization – could also be a problem
- Pub-Pub partnerships needed – between smaller districts – to effect efficiencies
- Climate and resiliency and planning
- Want to have CASA efforts shared nationwide (not just State level)