

Southwest Membrane Operator Association (SWMOA) Spring 2009 Newsletter

As of May 1, 2009 we are 288 members strong – welcome to all the new members!

Upcoming Workshop & Symposium:

SWMOA's second Technology Transfer Workshop of 2009 will take place in Sand City, CA. Located near Monterey in Northern California, this workshop will focus on seawater desalination in California. Attendees will receive hands-on experience desalination related equipment such as energy recovery devices, cartridge filtration, spiral wound RO membranes and high pressure seawater pumps. In addition, classroom instruction will include presentations on seawater plant design and regulatory challenges facing California today.

All SWMOA workshops have CEU credit – check our website at www.swmoa.org for details or call SWMOA at 888-463-0830.

Mark Your Calendars early for SWMOA's 3rd Annual Symposium to be held in Carefree, AZ on February 22-25, 2010. SWMOA is in the process of developing the agenda for this symposium and is sending out a general call for presenters/papers. The conference committee has determined that the following topics will be presented next February.

Topics for Presentations:

1. Concentrate Disposal
2. System Optimization
3. Startup Issues/Resolutions
4. New Treatment Processes and Innovations

These topics will be applicable for all membrane types and services (i.e. RO/NF/UF/MF, Drinking Water, Reuse, MBR, and Industrial). If you are interested in presenting, please submit a speaker abstract/bio form which is available on the SWMOA website to our office at admin@swmoa.org, or call 888-463-0830 if you have any questions.

The deadline for submission of speaker bio forms is June 14, 2009. If your topic is selected, you will be notified via email by September 2009 and a PowerPoint presentation needs to be submitted in January 2010, ***NO PAPER IS REQUIRED.***

Recent Activities:

The City of Scottsdale, AZ hosted SWMOA's first Technology Transfer Workshop of 2009 on April 7th. The workshop was focused on Operation, Maintenance & Repair of Membrane Filtration Systems and offered tours of both Scottsdale's Water Campus and Chaparral Water Treatment Plant. SWMOA would like to thank the sponsors (Separation Processes, Inc., WaterWorks Engineers, and Professional Water Technologies, Inc.) and all of the presenters for making this technology transfer workshop possible.

SWMOA held its 2009 Annual Symposium this past February in Costa Mesa, CA. This was the second symposium held by our two year old organization, with 142 participants benefiting from technical sessions focused on low pressure membrane technologies. Attendees who completed the 2 1/2 day program were qualified for 20 Contact Hours for Water approved by the States of AZ, CA and NV. A hands-on workshop and facility tour was hosted by the Orange County Water District at their Groundwater Replenishment Facility. Special thanks to all the sponsors (CH2M Hill, Inc., Filanc Construction, Schneider Electric, Siemens Water Technologies Corp., Toray Membrane USA, Inc., Woongin Chemical Company, Ltd, The Coombs-Hopkins Company, Vertech Industrial System, Inc., HDR Engineering, Inc., Timberline Engineering, Inc., Avista Technologies, Inc., and WaterOnline), speakers, and participants for making this year's annual symposium even more successful than last years.

Awards and Recognitions:

Harley Slater of Yucaipa Valley Water District received SWMOA's 2009 Operator of the Year Award at the 2nd Annual SWMOA Symposium. Eastern Municipal Water District was awarded the 2009 Plant of the Year. Congratulations to Harley and EMWD for being recognized by their peers as representing excellence in our industry.

A distinguished service award was presented this past March to Steve Duranceau by the SWMOA Awards Committee at the AWWA Membrane Technology Conference in Memphis, TN. Steve was honored for his role in establishment of our organization and was being one of our founding members.

A special thank you goes out to Jim Elliott for all his hard work and dedication in supporting SWMOA. Like Steve, Jim was a founding member of the SWMOA Board. Unfortunately for all of us, Jim needed to resign his position in order to pursue an opportunity outside the water industry. If you find yourself in Fort Worth, TX, stop in at Habanero's Fresh Mex restaurant and say hello to Jim from his friends at SWMOA.

On a more festive note, SWMOA would like to welcome its newest Board member, David Russell. David has been appointed by the SWMOA board to fill the vacancy left by Jim Elliott. David brings an immense wealth of knowledge from his 27 years in the membrane industry, and SWMOA plans to tap into that knowledge immediately.

SWMOA Legislative Committee:

"Legislation that Membrane Plant Operators can care about"

The SWMOA Legislative Committee is dedicated to providing SWMOA members with knowledge and awareness of federal and state legislative and regulatory issues that impact membrane plant operators. To this end, the SWMOA Legislative Committee will focus its efforts towards identifying and distributing information that may be of benefit or interest to membrane plant operators. State legislative and regulatory items will focus on the Southwest United States region including, but not limited to, Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

- On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which included \$2 Billion in funding for drinking water infrastructure. The ARRA will fund water and environment related projects through several agencies, including:
 - US Environmental Protection Agency
 - Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation.
 - US Army Corp of Engineers
 - US Department of Agriculture

[\(Link to AWWA News Article\)](#) [\(Link to the ARRA website\)](#)

FUNDING AGENCIES

- The ARRA specifically includes \$7.22 billion for projects and programs administered by USEPA. These programs will protect and promote both "green" jobs and a healthier environment. These environmental areas include Clean Water State Revolving Funds and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, Brownfields and Land Revitalization, and Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup. [\(Link to the USEPA Recovery website\)](#)
- US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has detailed how the Bureau of Reclamation will spend the \$1 billion it is investing in water infrastructure projects — a quarter of which is heading to California to solve that state's water challenges. [\(Link to AWWA News Article\)](#) [\(Link to the USDOJ Recovery website\)](#)

- Find out how The US Army Corp of Engineers will use a portion of its \$4.6 Billion towards Civil Works Programs: [\(Link to the USACE Recovery website\)](#)
- The US Department of Agriculture was appropriated \$28 billion (3.5 percent) of the ARRA package and will expand funding opportunities to develop water and waste facilities. [\(Link to the USDA Recovery Website\)](#)

STATE USES

- The link below includes a comprehensive listing of how California will apply \$700 million of its estimated \$80 Billion Federal Stimulus Funds towards Water & Environment projects. [\(Link to the California Recovery Website\)](#)
- See the link below for information on how Arizona will use Federal Stimulus dollars towards Water and Wastewater projects: [\(Link to the Arizona Recovery Website\)](#)
- See the website below for information on how Nevada will use Federal Stimulus Funds towards Environmental Infrastructure: [\(Link to the Nevada Recovery Website\)](#)
- See the website below for information on how Hawaii will use Federal Stimulus Funds: [\(Link to the Hawaii Recovery Website\)](#)

Let your friends at other water districts know about SWMOA - we are dedicated to providing a forum for membrane system operators to exchange information, experience and knowledge. As important, we provide educational credits through our workshops and hands-on training necessary for Operator Certification. Our goal is to make our vital industry stronger and the technology more reliable. Prospective members can find application information online on our website at www.swmoa.org.

You are receiving this email from the SOUTHWEST MEMBRANE OPERATOR ASSOCIATION (SWMOA) as a registered member. If you would like to be removed from SWMOA's email list, please respond to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. For further questions, please email SWMOA at admin@swmoa.org.

SWMOA was formed in 2006 as an affiliate of the American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA). It is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of water supplies through desalting, reuse and other water sciences. The Corporation's members are concerned with design, research and development, equipment manufacture, operation and maintenance, environmental regulations and legislation.

The Corporation's objectives include promotion, both to the public and to elected officials, of available technologies that improve water quality; education, training and certification of plant operation personnel; communication within the membership; development of meaningful interface with regulatory agencies; technology transfer; and protection of the environment.

The Corporation is committed to the advancement of its objectives throughout the Southwest United States region including but not limited to Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada within the limits of its resources.

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