

Public Comment for 2-14-22 SAM Board Meeting

From: Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Kishen Prathivadi <kishen@samcleanswater.org>
Subject: Public comments/questions for SAM

The SAM board is aware of the fragility of the plant, as evidenced by the Dec. 13th storm, and others. I cannot attend tonight's meeting but would appreciate you reading into the record my questions below, if not all the text.

1. What steps have been taken, or are planned and by when, to protect the Electrical facilities from storm damage? It seems the GM's of both MSWD, GCSD and I have all made similar short term recommendations regarding the current electrical building, but I haven't yet heard what is being done. I would expect immediate actions, medium term changes, and eventually longer term redesign and/or movement of the plant based on your subcommittee studying the future of SAM.
2. When will we get a SAM CIP longer than one (1) year? Some years ago, I was impressed to see a 20 yr SAM CIP at a MWSD meeting. Most agencies use at least a 5 yr CIP planning horizon. Even that, while it might be adequate for coping with problems from an engineering perspective (design, build), is inadequate to smooth the impact on ratepayers for assets which are decades in life, and can lead to borrowing which further exacerbates the costs. It is analogous to night driving faster than your headlights can illuminate. Ratepayers at all agencies need to see a long term, fiscally sustainable plan.
3. What actions are planned to address the extreme flows from HMB? During that Dec. storm, flows from the north peaked at 5 times dry weather averages, but flows from HMB increased 15-fold. I made a number of suggestions in this article: <https://www.coastsidebuzz.com/how-hmb-can-avoid-another-sewer-lawsuit/> I have yet to hear what wet weather storage, I&I repairs, new connections moratorium, or other coping actions are being taken to prevent major sewer spills or a crippling of the SAM plant in future storms.
4. What can we do to help? And by we I include concerned citizens and perhaps the MCC. We recently got some County funding to begin to address the wildfire threat to our region. Perhaps we can enlist the RWQCB and/or the County and other agencies in funding the efforts required in HMB, SAM, and elsewhere. I'm told that HMB has significantly depleted their sewer capital account in recent years, so some immediate funding might be most timely, while we further assess the capital adequacy of our collective situation.

Thank you for your continued attention to our essential public works infrastructure. I look forward to some combination of a reply and/or SAM meetings where these topics are agendaized and discussed/resolved.

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