



MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2024

In-Person Meeting

Attendees:

Name	Company	Email Address
Carina Gonzalez	Brown and Caldwell	CGonzalez1@BrwnCald.com
Sasha Mestetsky	CCCSD	smestets@centralsan.org
Kristopher Decker	Oro Loma Sanitary District	kdecker@oroloma.org
Ben Wright	Black & Veatch	wrightb@bv.com
Nancy McWilliams	Solano Irrigation District	nmcwilliams@sidwater.org
Kurt Chirbas	GeoTree Solutions	kchirbas@cs-nri.com
Ryan Pendergraft	DSRSD	pendergraft@dsrsd.com
Lisa Zou	Central San	lzou@centralsan.org
Tara Sweet	EBMUD	tara.sweet@ebmud.com
Kingsley Kuang	EBMUD	kingsley.kuang@ebmud.com
Lu Wang	Mott MacDonald	lu.wang@mottmac.com
Landon Lochrie	Castro Valley Sanitary District	landon@cvsan.org
JaJuan Murray	EBMUD	jamurray@ebmud.com
Ashruf Khan	West Yost	akhan@westyost.com
Camren Saville	Rain For Rent	csaville@rainforrent.com
Nohemi Sanchez	Central San	nsanchez@centralsan.org
Victoria Wong	Freyer & Laureta	vwong@freyerlaureta.com
Loana Petcan	Freyer & Laureta	petcan@freyerlaureta.com
Bernard Corrales	City of West Sacramento	bernardc@cityofwestsacramento.org
Jason Fitch	Central San	jfitch@centralsan.org
Ryan Nguyen	City of West Sacramento	ryann@cityofwestsacramento.org
Tay Nguyen	City of Hayward	tay.nguyen@hayward-ca.gov
Salvador Navarro	City of Hayward	salvador.navarro@hayward-ca.gov
Dorothy Bechler	Central San	dbechler@centralsan.org
Iris Yuen	CDM Smith	yuenc@cdmsmith.com
Amy McGowan	Oro Loma Sanitary District	amcgowan@oroloma.org

Minutes by James Kohne, Woodard & Curran
Secretary, Nor Cal PUG

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Name	Company	Email Address
Kevin Randeni	Central San	krandeni@centralsan.org
Mario Gordillo	Mott MacDonald	mario.gordillo@mottmac.com
Elena Topete	EBMUD	elena.topete@ebmud.com
Dustin LaValle	EBMUD	Dustin.lavalle@ebmud.com
Emily Chavez	City of West Sacramento	emilyc@cityofwestsacramento.org
James Kohne	W&C	jkohne@woodardcurran.com
Wenyuan Tang	AECOM	Wenyuan.tang@aecom.com
Aaron Artap	Central San	aartap@centralsan.org
Diego Soto	Central San	dsotolopez@centralsan.org
Fidel Salamanca	Harris & Associates	Fidel.salamanca@weareharris.com
Alexandra Watson	Hydroscience	awatson@hydroscience.com
Jaco Marquez	EBMUD	jacqmarquez@ebmud.com
Casper van Keppel	AECOM	Casper.vankeppel@aecom.com
Oscar	City of Hayward	Not provided
Usman Iqbal	EBMUD	Usman.iqbal@ebmud.com
Phoebe Chen	B&C	pchen@brwnald.com

Announcements and General Business:

Dustin opened the meeting and conducted the group’s business.

1. Introduced the new PUG Board Members starting this month:
 - a. Past Chair: Nancy McWilliams
 - b. Chair: Dustin La Vallee
 - c. Vice Chair: Alexandra Watson
 - d. Treasurer: Adam Brown
 - e. Secretary: James Kohne
 - f. NEW: Communications Officer: Landon Lochrie**
 - g. NEW: At-Large Representative: Fidel Salamanca**
2. Reminded the group about signing up for monthly presentations.
3. Upcoming conference dates:
 - a. ASCE UESI Pipelines Conference, July 27-31, 2024 Calgary, Canada
 - b. Breakthrough in Tunneling, September 9-11, Denver, Colorado
 - c. WEFTEC, New Orleans - October 5-9
 - d. PUG Training Day – October 17 (topic TBD)
 - e. PUG December Meeting Field Trip to the Center for Smart Infrastructure, Richmond Field Station (Dec 10th), Richmond
 - f. AWWA Cal/NV Fall Conference Oct 21-24, Reno, NV

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- g. PUG Annual Seminar February 13, 2025
- h. 2025 No-Dig March, in Denver
- i. Tri-States Seminar, Water/Wastewater show, in Las Vegas casino (Aug 5-8)

Attendee Announcements:

- 1. None.

James Kohne provided a recap of the June meeting minutes.

Alexandra Watson provided the financial summary report. The current total in the organization account is \$88,256. It was previously \$90,379.60, but there were expenses (lunches), totaling \$2,133.60.

Project Discussions:

- 1. Central San hoping to get “Lafayette” project out to bid in the next couple of months.
- 2. Nancy is going to bid 150’ of 36” pipe (small job) of HDPE or PVC, plus a small structure rehab. Looking for interested contractors. Should be out next week.
- 3. EBMUD procures pipe through US Pipe (TR Flex). Doing some pipe testing through the Center for Smart Infrastructure at UC Berkeley.
- 4. Nancy shared that her water district had a pipe installed along a bridge by the County during another one of their projects using TR Flex pipe. It was the only section using TR Flex pipe and when they pressure tested it, all the pipe segments twisted. They had to add lateral supports to fix the issue.

Presentation:

“Hot Taps and Line Stops” Presenter: Steve Helm with Tap Master.

Overview:

The presentation covered the basics of Line Stopping, Hot Tapping, Valve Insertions, and Pipe Freezing. Methods and techniques to minimize service shutdowns and major interruptions were also included. Highlights are provided below. Note that the presentation was filled with sample photos.

Highlights from the presentation include:

- 1. Provided background on himself and TapMaster. Been with the company 8 years. TapMaster is continually expanding. Currently in most states in the western half of the Country.
- 2. Exclusive service provider for city of Las Vegas. Lots of work for mining industry. Municipal taps. Oil and gas industry.
- 3. Four core services. Descriptions are provided below, but the presentation was filled with sample photos.
 - a. Hot/Wet Tapping:
 - i. Installing a new branch connection to in-service piping without a shutdown.
 - ii. ¼” to 36” pipe
 - iii. Any pipe material

- iv. Presentation includes lots of sample installation photos.
- b. Line Stops
 - i. Mechanical way to temporarily isolate the pipeline with/without service interruption.
 - ii. Can insert a larger stop through a smaller insertion hole by using a bending cap.
 - iii. The plug is held in place by the pressure differential across the seal.
 - iv. Often used to address situations where the isolation valve has gone bad (often butterfly valves).
- c. Pipe Freezing
 - i. Another way to block a pipe. They use liquid nitrogen to freeze the pipe.
 - ii. They wrap a sleeve around the pipe and use liquid nitrogen to freeze the water inside.
 - iii. Can only freeze metallic based pipe (no PVC, HDPE).
 - iv. Eliminates draining the entire system
 - v. To dethaw the ice plug, they heat the bottom till water start to travel through. Then they remove the heat and let the water passing dethaw the rest.
- d. Insert-Valves
 - i. New in-line gate valve installed in open position, shut down with you need it.
 - ii. Can be done without a shut down
 - iii. Can be installed up to 250 psi
 - iv. Can usually be installed in 2-3 hours
 - v. Ex 1: Mueller “PermaSeal” Insert Valve
 - 1. Has it’s own seat (doesn’t rely on the host pipe)
 - 2. 100% Factory tested and verified 250 psig working pressure
 - 3. 10-year warranty (instead of typical 1-year)
 - 4. Exceeds AIS
 - 5. Same height as 2300 series gate valve
 - vi. Ex 2: Hydro-Stop, Insta-Valve
 - 1. Seats on the pipe, so tuberculation could cause seating issues.
 - vii. Specialty fittings
 - 1. Save-a-T
 - 2. Hot tap saddle
 - 3. Angle tap fittings
 - 4. Thermowells (way to install a permanent temperature monitors)

Next Meeting:

The next general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13th, 2024, and will include a presentation by Su Soe and Patrick Lam with Delve Underground titled “Geotechnical Considerations for Pipeline Projects”. The August meeting will be held in-person at Brown and Caldwell’s offices located at 201 North Civic Drive, Suite 300, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Please call James Kohne at 925-627-4173 or email pugnorcal@gmail.com for additional information on this month’s meeting minutes.