Panel Discussion

Flushable Wipes Clogging Pipes

What Can be Done?

Nick Arhontes, P.E. – Director of O&M
Orange County Sanitation District, California
www.ocsd.com
OCSD Service Area

- 479 square miles
- 213 million gallons per day
- 2.5 million population

Service Area

Orange County, California

Los Angeles
Orange County
San Diego
OCSD Service Area
21 cities, 3 special districts

More pipes to unblock
More pumps to de-rag

Orange County

Reclamation Plant No. 1
Treatment Plant No. 2

Pacific Ocean

Ocean Pipeline
OCSD Regional System
582 miles sewers
15 pump stations
2 treatment plants

Local Systems
~5,000 miles sewers
~109 pump stations
Presentation Outline

- Sample photos
- California plumbing code prohibitions
- Statewide WDR Order
- NACWA’s guidance doc
- AB 2256 in California
- How can INDA help?
- Next steps?
Toilet Paper Dissolves Quickly
4 hours heavy stirring
Flushable But Not Dispersible Wipes
clogged pump suction

Photo courtesy of Costa Mesa Sanitary District
clogged check valve

Photo courtesy of Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Bar screen at OCSD wastewater treatment plant
to Landfill next
California Uniform Plumbing Code
Chapter 3 § 306.1 Damage to Drainage System or Public Sewer...
It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit, by any means whatsoever, into any plumbing fixture, or floor drain, interceptor, sump, receptor, or device, which is connected to any drainage system, public sewer, private sewer, septic tank, or cesspool, any ashes; cinders; solids; rags; inflammable, poisonous, or explosive liquids or gases; oils; grease; or any other thing whatsoever that would, or could, cause damage to the drainage system or public sewer.
Statewide WDR Order No. 2006-003 to reduce sewer spills in California

- Stronger version of EPA’s old, unpublished SSO rule….a.k.a. cMOM
- Download at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sso/
- Provides minimum requirements
- What’s next nationally?
Final draft will be released by NACWA in 2010

www.nacwa.org

Provides guidance to owners

Helps improve O&M

Helps reduce sewer spills

Core Attributes of Effectively Managed Wastewater Collection Systems
Proposed AB 2256
Product labeling: flushable products

- Sponsor: Assembly Member Huffman
- www.sen.ca.gov
How can INDA help the wastewater industry... its ratepayers... and its consumers?

- Real lab testing is needed
- Not just a problem for OCSD and California
- Non woven product “re-formulation” needed?
- “Compounds of concern” in nonwovens?
- Improved labeling for consumers and industrial users
Next Steps? Other options and ideas?
Put Flushables in the Trash, Not the Sewer

- Sewers and treatment plants are not a cost effective mean to send rags to a landfill
- The trash can is
- Help prevent sewer spills and reduce O&M costs
- Help provide better functioning sewers and treatment systems

Graphic courtesy of King County
Thank You! Questions?

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A proactive NACWA member agency