

REPORT OF DWIGHT MERRILL  
CASA CONFERENCE 25 – 27 JAN 2023

1. Collection System Requirements: SSS WDR Reissue. I attended Paul Causey's Roundtable on the new SSS WDR's. I'm sure Rex is up to date on the new requirements. The "reissued" order is available at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2022/wqo\\_2022-0103-dwq.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo_2022-0103-dwq.pdf). Each spill will have to be analyzed for all 11 elements and available for audit. Category 1 spills are now "to Surface Waters" in place of "to Waters of the US." There is a new Category 4 for small spills. Updated SSMP is due in 2025/2026. Keep complete records!
2. CSRMA Board meeting. Property insurance rates are going up—at least double digits; perhaps as much as 40%. Worker's Comp reserves are still a little low since the big loss a couple of years ago, but the board is still going to send out a dividend. There were two CSRMA Excellence winners for workers comp; Stege was not among them. Apparently you have to apply.
3. Keynote speaker Bob Bowcock focused on PFAS. Be on your toes and be transparent!
4. Recruiting for Retention. The speakers made a number of points which apply directly to Stege, especially since with COVID-19 we have been neglecting some important things. Our Holiday Party used to give the whole crew and board a chance to socialize. This is an important part of forming a cohesive organization. One, five and twenty year pins should be given out to everyone who qualifies. A brief ceremony where pins are awarded is a great organization builder and employee recognition event. DEI is important both for retention and recruitment. DEI helps insure current employees stay and makes it easier to recruit new employees. Any sort of internships our just an afternoon program once a year to bring a few students into Stege so they can see what crew members do would be helpful.
5. Cyber and Physical Security. Reminders!
6. Disaster Preparedness and Hurricane Response. Todd Swingle, mgr ToHo Water Authority in Florida discussed how ToHo Water dealt with the latest hurricane. ToHo serves about 200,000 customers in central Florida, providing both fresh water and sewer service. They got about 15 inches of rain over 36 hours, which he said was about a 500 year storm. They were able to get back up and running fairly quickly because they had been planning, planning, planning, and once in the situation, they were able to adapt, adapt, adapt. Public communication was a critical part of their response. They got help from many different agencies. I could not help but note the contrast to the situation here in the Bay Area. Here SF got more rain in a single day than in its entire history and had some street flooding. Did SF get help? No, the Water Board rushed over to see how much they could fine SF for its sewage spills. Florida the authorities went to help, not to hinder. One interesting point Todd made was that portable generators were much better than stationary generators located a critical pump stations. The stationary generators often got flooded out, while to portable generators could be towed in where needed.

Questions?