

Compiled by WWD Associate Editor Leslie Streicher

# SYSTEMIC evolution

Sewer rehabilitation efforts bolster efficiency to meet public needs

Ali Poosti & Adel Hagekhalil



**H**istorians say the first Los Angeles sewer was a small wooden pipe that burst after heavy rains nearly 2,000 years ago. Technology has come a long way since then, and today the city has more than 6,700 miles of sewer lines serving 4 million people. Recent rehabilitation efforts seek to evolve technology, revitalizing the sewer's aging infrastructure while reducing overflows and stymying noxious odor. Ahead of the tours scheduled for WEFTEC.11 in October, WWD Associate Editor Leslie Streicher talked with Ali Poosti and Adel Hagekhalil of L.A.'s Bureau of Sanitation about the sewer overhauls.

**Streicher:** What do the city's sewer rehabilitations comprise?

**Ali Poosti:** Los Angeles has divided the primary sewer systems into 26 primary planning areas. The existing secondary sewer system consists of 849 reaches, or 42.24 miles of 8- to 15-in.-diameter sewers. Approximately 65% of the sewers are more than 70 years old. About 3.7 miles in this sewer shed are recommended for renewal with an estimated construction cost of \$2.6 million.

**Adel Hagekhalil:** Out of our efforts to effectively manage our sewer system and reduce sewer overflows and odor, we prioritized our basins based on maintenance history, age, materials and potential for sewer overflows. Based on our analysis, it was determined that about 63% of sewer overflows are addressed in 33% of the system. That priority was based on the spill factor and was used for implementing our maintenance, inspection, planning and renewal. Our goal is to renew our system in the most cost-effective and efficient manner with the least impact to our communities.

**Streicher:** How will sewer operations change after the overhauls?

**Poosti:** The only change in sewer operation after rehabilitation is a decrease in the frequency of sewer cleaning and reduction of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Unless there are blockages due to debris accumulation and root intrusion, SSOs and odor will be reduced.

**Hagekhalil:** The completion of this sewer renewal project helps protect homes, businesses, schools and parks

from potential street collapses, sewage backups, overflows and odor.

**Streicher:** How is the project funded?

**Poosti:** The project is a capital improvement project and is funded through the sewer construction and maintenance fund. The sewer service charge is assessed monthly for each household based on water and wastewater. All projects to complete 420 miles of sewers are scheduled for completion on June 30, 2014.

**Streicher:** What can WEFTEC.11 attendees look forward to seeing on the Los Angeles sewer system tour?

**Poosti:** The plan for the group is to tour four areas along one of the city's major outfalls. The tour's first stop is to visit a sewer rehabilitation project to show how a sewer line is rehabilitated using one of our latest technologies. The second stop is to witness how one of our maintenance crews cleans sewer lines using one of the city's cleaning trucks.

The group will also visit one of the advanced air treatment facilities (ATFs). The ATF draws foul air from a major city outfall's headspace and removes hydrogen sulfide and non-methane hydrocarbons, releasing clean air.

Finally, the group will go to the hydraulics laboratory to see a demonstration of sewer flow with a scale model of an actual drop structure.

**Hagekhalil:** We invite you to come enjoy great fun and food, and see many innovative technologies, advances and practices in our water and wastewater industry. [WWD](#)

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## California Sets First Public Health Goal for Chromium-6

California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



established a public health goal for chromium-6 on July 28. The nation's first public health goal for the contaminant will provide scientific guidance to the California Department of Health, which ultimately determines maximum contaminant levels for California drinking water.

The assessment office anticipates that California will be the first state to establish a regulatory standard for chromium-6.

## EPA Awards Great Lakes Restoration Grants



The U.S. EPA awarded organizations, agencies and uni-

versities working in Ohio \$4.5 million in grants under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The 11 grants are the first of 70 totaling nearly \$30 million that EPA is awarding under the GLRI in 2011.

Funded projects will advance the goals and objectives of the GLRI Action Plan, which was released in cooperation with 15 participating agencies and several Great Lakes governors in February 2010.

## CEO Climbs Mountain to Raise Global Water Awareness

In August, Water for People CEO Ned Breslin began a 16,763-ft trek up Mt. Stanley in Uganda in connection with Challenge21's



Everyone Commitment, an initiative to create awareness and widespread support for programmatic principles designed to reach everyone with sustainable water and sanitation development solutions.

The climb is a continuation of Water for People's ongoing efforts to establish creative and collaborative solutions that allow people to build, operate and maintain their own reliable, safe water and sanitation systems.

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provides unique, comprehensive content that covers timely news, water and wastewater industry trends, technical solutions and best practices. The editorial staff strives to provide an effective platform

for industry professionals, and now readers can access news and updates via our social media.

## Partnership to Address Water-Related Disasters



The global humanitarian agency Mercy Corps and ITT Corp.

announced the next stage of their multi-year partnership, which includes risk reduction programs in six developing countries where people are particularly vulnerable to water-related disasters. The programs, currently underway in Colombia, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal and Tajikistan, will be completed by December 2012 and are expected to benefit approximately 500,000 people.

## Aquatech Amsterdam Promises Cutting-Edge Program

Water professionals from around the world



will gather from Nov. 1 to 4, 2011, for Aquatech Amsterdam 2011, a trade exhibition for the global water industry.

The four-day event in the Netherlands features myriad presentations, workshops, and networking and entertainment opportunities for attendees, including a two-day workshop on Europe's new Water Framework Directive. Attendees can look forward to top technology presentations, the International Aquatech Innovation Award ceremony, a pipe-fitting championship and more. Coinciding with the tradeshow is International Water Week Amsterdam, a comprehensive water event targeting industrial water users.

## Water Recycling Facility Receives Innovation Award



The Santa Paula Water Recycling Facility in Santa Paula, Calif.,

was awarded the 2011 Public-Private Partnership Award for Innovation from the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships. This honor recognizes projects developed through a public agency and private company partnership that demonstrate a significant new advancement in the field.

## Networking News

CST Industries Inc. renamed its aluminum cover and structure division, TemcorConservatek, to CST Covers.

Carlos A. Riva stepped in as CEO of Poseidon Resources. [WWD](#)