

SEWER AUTHORITY MID-COASTSIDE
Staff Report

Subject / Title

Receive Report And Possibly Take Action On the Wet Weather Flow Management Project (WWFMP) Committee Meetings and Activities

Staff Recommendation:

Receive Report And Possibly Take Action on the WWFMP Committee Meetings and Activities

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Discussion/Report:

Since the November 2008 SAM Board Meeting, the WWFMP Committee has not had a meeting.

Work continues on the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the WWFMP Project, as authorized by the Board in November 2008. This IS/MND is being prepared to provide the public and responsible and trustee agencies reviewing this project with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment in compliance with the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended), and Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Administrative Code. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, IS/MND will be publicly circulated for review and comment. This work is on schedule and is being completed within the allocated budget. The Public Draft IS/MND will be circulated to the public and responsible and trustee agencies in February 2009 for a 30-day review. Copies of the latest notices are attached.

The Montara Water and Sanitary District approved the WWFMP Project and Budget at their November 2008 meeting. The Granada Sanitary District (GSD) plans to approve the WWFMP Project and Budget at their February 2009 meeting. Following approval of the GSD, the WWFMP Project and Budget will be brought before the WWFMP Committee for approval. Following WWFMP Committee approval, the project will be commenced.

SAM has submitted a new Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Grant Application to the State Water Resources Board for review and approval. This grant may cover up to 24 percent of the total project cost, including planning, environmental review, design, and construction. SAM has a very good chance of receiving the CBI grant. SAM's application has been supported by the CBI Task Force in the past and also received support from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

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Notice of Public Review and Intent to Adopt a Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

SAM Wet Weather Flow Management Project

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970" as amended to date, this is to advise you that the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) has prepared an initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) on the Wet Weather Flow Management Project.

SAM proposes to install two parallel, approximately 700-foot, 60-inch-diameter underground storage pipes to temporarily store excess sewage during peak flows or a storm event. The purpose of the project is to provide facilities to contain stormwater infiltration and inflow that exceed the existing system capacity during storm events and to help prevent untreated sewage discharges and resulting potential contamination of the Pacific Ocean, beaches and sensitive biological habitats. The project site is located within a grassy field area known as Burnham Strip, between Highway 1 (Cabrillo Highway) and El Granada, from Coronado Avenue to Capistrano Road. As the peak flows subside, the sewage would drain from the pipes by gravity to the Portola Pump Station wet well. The storage pipes would be installed immediately east of the Montara interceptor pipeline, and would provide approximately 205,000 gallons of storage. An approximately 15-inch-diameter pipeline would connect the new facilities to the existing 15-inch Montara Interceptor. The parallel storage pipes would be sloped at up to 0.5 percent to allow self-draining to the Montara Interceptor. At this slope, sediments (sand and grit) may accumulate over a wet weather season; therefore, the pipes would require annual flushing at the end of each wet weather season. The IS/MND describes the proposed project, analyzes whether the project would result in any potential significant environmental impacts, and describes measures that would mitigate any potential significant impacts to less than significant level.

Public Comment Period - The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental documents extends to **5:00 P.M., February 28, 2009**. Any comments should be in writing and submitted to the following address:

John F. Foley III, Manager
Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside
1,000 N. Cabrillo Highway
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

The proposed IS/MND will be considered for adoption at the regularly scheduled SAM Board of Directors meeting on **March 23rd, 2009** at **7 p.m.**



Notice of Availability

SAM Wet Weather Flow Management Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Notice is hereby given that an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/ MND) is available for public review. The CEQA Lead Agency is the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM). SAM has established a 30-calendar day review period which begins **January 28, 2009** and extends to **February 28, 2009**. **Written comments on the IS/MND may be submitted to:** John F. Foley III, 1000 N. Cabrillo Highway, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

SAM proposes to install two parallel, approximately 700-foot, 60-inch-diameter underground storage pipes to temporarily store excess sewage during peak flows or a storm event. The purpose of the project is to provide facilities to contain stormwater infiltration and inflow that exceed the existing system capacity during storm events and to help prevent untreated sewage discharges and resulting potential contamination of the Pacific Ocean, beaches and sensitive biological habitats. The project site is located within a grassy field area known as Burnham Strip, between Highway 1 (Cabrillo Highway) and El Granada, from Coronado Avenue to Capistrano Road. As the peak flows subside, the sewage would drain from the pipes by gravity to the Portola Pump Station wet well. The storage pipes would be installed immediately east of the Montara interceptor pipeline, and would provide approximately 205,000 gallons of storage. An approximately 15-inch-diameter pipeline would connect the new facilities to the existing 15-inch Montara Interceptor. The parallel storage pipes would be sloped at up to 0.5 percent to allow self-draining to the Montara Interceptor. At this slope, sediments (sand and grit) may accumulate over a wet weather season; therefore, the pipes would require annual flushing at the end of each wet weather season.

Analysis of environmental impacts associated with the proposed project identified potentially significant impacts but mitigable to less-than-significant levels, which would be primarily construction-related temporary impacts, in the following areas: air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; and traffic and transportation.

Electronic copy of the Draft IS/MND is available at www.samcleanswater.org.

Persons interested in reviewing the IS/MND, receiving a copy of the document, or reviewing documents referenced in the IS/MND, are invited to contact: **John F. Foley III, Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, 1000 N. Cabrillo Highway, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.**

DEADLINE: Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. on **February 28 2009**. Submit written comments to **John F. Foley III, Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, 1000 N. Cabrillo Highway, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.**

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Appendix C

For U.S. Mail: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2007082091

Project Title:

SAM Wet Weather Flow Management Project

Lead Agency: Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) Contact Person: John F. Foley III
Street Address: 1000 N. Cabrillo Highway Phone: 650-726-0124
City: Half Moon Bay Zip: 94019 County: San Mateo

Project Location:

County: San Mateo City/Nearest Community: El Granada
Cross Streets: Between Hwy 1 and Obispo Road, from Coronado Avenue and Capistrano Road Zip code:
Assessor's Parcel No. Section: Twp: Range: Base:
Within 2 miles: State Hwy#: Cabrillo Hwy (Hwy 1) Waterways:
Airports: Railways: Schools: The Wilkinson School and Picasso Preschool

Document Type:

CEQA:

- NOP Draft EIR
Early Cons Supplement to EIR
Neg Dec Subsequent EIR
Mit Neg Dec Other:

NEPA:

- NOI
EA
Draft EIS
FONSI

Other:

- Joint Document
Final Document
Other:

Local Action Type:

- General Plan Update Master Plan Use Permit Coastal Permit
General Plan Amendment Planned Unit Development Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Wet Weather Flow Management Project
General Plan Element Site Plan Annexation
Community Plan Rezone Redevelopment
Specific Plan Prezone

Development Type:

- Residential: Units Acres Water Facilities: Type MGD
Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Transportation: Type
Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Mining: Mineral
Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Power: Type MW
Educational Waste Treatment: Type MGD
Recreational Hazardous Waste: Type
Total Acres: (approx.) Other: Wet Weather Flow Management: Underground concrete sewage storage pipes (700-foot, 60-inch diameter)

Project Issues That May Have A Significant Or Potentially Significant Impact:

- Aesthetic/Visual Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation
Agricultural Land Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
Air Quality Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
Archeological/Historical Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
Biological Resources Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
Coastal Zone Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
Drainage/Absorption Noise Solid Waste Land Use
Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Open Space land, commercial recreation

NOTE: Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in. Revised 2004

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The proposed project consists of installing two parallel, approximately 700-foot, 60-inch-diameter reinforced concrete underground storage pipes to temporarily store excess sewage during peak flows or a storm event . The project site is located within a grassy field area known as Burnham Strip, between Highway 1 (Cabrillo Highway) and El Granada, from Coronado Avenue to Capistrano Road. As the peak flows subside, the sewage would drain from the pipes by gravity to the Portola Pump Station wet well. The storage pipes would be installed immediately east of the Montara interceptor pipeline, and would provide approximately 205,000 gallons of storage. An approximately 15-inch-diameter pipeline would connect with the existing 15-inch Montara Interceptor. The parallel pipes would be sloped at up to 0.5 percent to allow self-draining to the Montara Interceptor. At this slope, sediments (sand and grit) may accumulate over a wet weather season; therefore, the pipes would require annual flushing at the end of each wet weather season.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

continued

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of California Highway Patrol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Reclamation Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # 2 - San Francisco Bay Resources Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry & Fire Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board	
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 28, 2009 Ending Date February 28, 2009

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Environmental Science Associates
Address: 225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
City/State/Zip: San Francisco, CA 94104
Contact: Asavari V. Devadiga
Phone: (415) 896-5900

Applicant: Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside

Address: 1000 N. Cabrillo Highway
City/State/Zip: Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
Phone: (650) 726-0124

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ **Date:** _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

CHAPTER 1

Project Description

1.1 Introduction

The Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (hereinafter “SAM”) proposes implementation of the Wet Weather Flow Management Project in El Granada, unincorporated San Mateo County, California (Figure 1-1). SAM provides sewage collection and treatment services to an approximately 12-square-mile area on the western edge of San Mateo County. Approximately half of the service area is within the boundaries of the City of Half Moon Bay, with the remainder divided between Montara Water and Sanitary District and Granada Sanitary District service areas. The purpose of the Project is to provide facilities to contain wet weather flow (including stormwater infiltration and inflow) that currently exceeds the existing system capacity during storm events and to help prevent untreated sewage discharges and resulting potential contamination of the Pacific Ocean, beaches and sensitive biological habitats.

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared to provide the public and responsible and trustee agencies reviewing this project with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment. This IS/MND has been prepared in compliance with the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended), and Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Administrative Code. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15070, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared if the following criteria are met:

- There is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect; or
- Where there may be a potentially significant effect, revisions to the project would avoid or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur.

In accordance with Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, this document is being circulated to local, state and federal agencies and to interested organizations and individuals who may wish to review and comment on the report. Written comments may be forwarded to:

John F. Foley III
1000 N. Cabrillo Highway
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Figure 1-1 Site Location Map

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1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 Existing Facilities

SAM is a Joint Power Authority formed in 1976 by three member agencies: the City of Half Moon Bay, Montara Water and Sanitary District and Granada Sanitary District. Each agency acts independently under the direction of its respective governing board and/or city council and owns, operates, and maintains sewer collection systems in its respective service area. SAM's regional system includes an Intertie Pipeline System consisting of four pumping stations (Portola, Montara, Vallemar and Princeton); gravity sewer and force main pipelines including an 8,860-foot, 14-inch-diameter wastewater conveyance pipeline along Highway 1; and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Half Moon Bay (Figure 1-2).

Sewage collected from the Montara Water and Sanitary District and Granada Sanitary District service area is conveyed by the 14-inch-diameter force main to the SAM WWTP for treatment. The effluent is then discharged to the Pacific Ocean via an ocean outfall west of Pilarcitos Creek. The treated wastewater is discharged under SAM's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The outfall consists of a discharge pipe that extends 1,900 feet from the shoreline with a submerged diffuser placed at a depth of approximately 40 feet. The discharge occurs within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

1.2.2 Sanitary Sewer Overflows

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued an NPDES Compliance Evaluation Report to SAM in August 2006. The report described the existing SAM system and the sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that have occurred through 2005, and made recommendations to eliminate SSOs. The USEPA report stated that the SAM sewer system does not have sufficient capacity to convey peak flows during the winter rains. The capacity shortages are manifested most noticeably in the large-volume overflows at the Montara Pump Station and from manholes upstream of the Portola Pump Station. The excess wet weather flow can also cause spills within the member agencies' systems. The largest spills, however, have occurred when the excess wet weather flow reached bottlenecks in the SAM Intertie Pipeline System at the Montara and Portola Pump Stations.

Capacity assessment studies conducted by SAM indicate that the capacity problems stem primarily from excess infiltration and inflow (I/I) in the member agencies' sewer systems. Capacity limitations caused by I/I can be managed either by reducing I/I, conveying the excess flow through larger sewers and storage basins, or a combination of these basic approaches.

1.2.3 Alternatives Considered

SAM conducted a series of studies to evaluate wet weather flows in the Intertie Pipeline System and developed recommendations for relieving capacity restrictions in the system. The studies made general recommendations to install off-line flow storage, expand the capacity of the system

Figure 1-2 Existing Facilities

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downstream of the Portola Pump Station, and/or conduct a comprehensive I/I evaluation and corrective measures in each of the member agency collection systems

The Portola Pump Station is considered a bottleneck due to inadequate capacity of the Intertie Pipeline System downstream therefore, the alternatives that were evaluated were located at or near the Portola Pump Station. The alternatives included either constructing a storage facility at or near the pump station, or enlarging the Intertie Pipeline System downstream of the Portola station. SAM conducted a study to evaluate several alternatives consisting of storage facilities of varying capacities, additional pipelines, and pump station improvements. Based on the study, SAM initially considered two alternatives for further analysis: a 600,000-gallon underground tank or an approximately 8,850-foot underground pipeline along with installing offline storage at the WWTP or the Portola Pump Station and improvements at the existing Portola Pump Station.

SAM issued a Notice to Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was circulated to local, state, and federal agencies as well as other interested parties on August 15, 2007, by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse (SCH) and Planning Unit. The NOP (SCH # 2007082091) provided a description of the proposed project (i.e., implementation of one or both of the tank and pipeline alternatives). The public review period for the NOP started on August 15, 2007 and ended on October 19, 2007. A scoping meeting was held on August 28, 2007 to present the project components and the environmental review process and to solicit public comments.

The proposed project consists of Granada Sanitary District's purchase of the Harbor District property and lease or other agreement to SAM for construction and operation by SAM of a storage facility in the form of two pipes on the acquired property across Obispo Road from the Portola Pump Station. The scale of the Project was reduced to almost one-third: storage capacity of 205,000 gallons from the originally proposed capacity (600,000 gallons).

1.3 Project Location

The proposed project site lies in El Granada on the western edge of San Mateo County, California (Figure 1-1). The project site is located within a grassy field area known as Burnham Strip, between Highway 1 (Cabrillo Highway) and El Granada, from Coronado Avenue to Capistrano Road, as shown in Figure 1-3. The strip is partly privately owned and partly owned by the government agencies. The project components would be located in the portion currently owned by the Harbor District. The Granada Sanitary District is in the process of acquiring the portion of the property owned by the Harbor District. El Granada Fire Station is located adjacent to the Portola Pump Station. The project components would be constructed in an approximately four-acre area east of Cabrillo Highway and west of the existing Portola Pump Station, and in a portion of Obispo Road.

Figure 1-3 Project Site

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1.4 Project Objectives and Need

SAM proposes to implement the Wet Weather Flow Management Project for the following key reasons:

- The existing conveyance and treatment facilities lack the ability to convey excess stormwater received by the system during wet seasons, and
- Sewage overflows and potential raw sewage discharge into the Pacific Ocean adversely affect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, a sensitive biological habitat, and a recreational beach area.

The proposed project is intended to serve the following objectives:

- Assist in preventing untreated sewage overflows impacting the public health and/or safety and the coastal sensitive biological resources in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- Address the concerns raised in the USEPA Report and provide efficient management of sewage flows and prevent sewage overflows;
- Establish increased capacity to contain stormwater infiltration and inflow during storm events; and
-

1.5 Proposed Project

The proposed project consists of acquiring land across Obispo Road from the Portola Pump Station and installing two parallel, approximately 700-foot, 60-inch-diameter reinforced concrete storage pipes to temporarily store excess sewage during peak flows or a storm event (see Figure 1-3). As the peak flows subside, the sewage would drain from the pipes by gravity to the Portola Pump Station wet well. The storage pipes would be installed immediately east of the Montara interceptor pipeline, and would provide approximately 205,000 gallons of storage. The proposed pipes would connect to a new junction box as shown in Figure 1-3. An approximately 15-inch-diameter pipeline would begin at the junction box and traverse east to Obispo Road, and then south along Obispo Road for approximately 40 feet to connect with the existing 15-inch Montara Interceptor at Manhole No. 8. The parallel pipes would be sloped at up to 0.5 percent to allow self-draining to the Montara Interceptor. At this slope, sediments (sand and grit) may accumulate over a wet weather season; therefore, the pipes would require annual flushing at the end of each wet weather season.

1.5.1 Construction

Project construction would involve site preparation, grading, excavation, and installation of the storage pipes and ancillary facilities (e.g., a junction box), followed by site backfilling. Excavation would occur up to a depth of approximately 12 feet. The graded/dirt area in the

southeast portion of the grassy strip would be used for staging of equipment and material and construction vehicle parking [. The proposed pipes would be installed at a distance from the existing pipelines to allow for sloped trenching, which reduces the need for shoring. Installation of the storage pipes would predominantly utilize open cut trenching technique. Manholes would extend from the top of the junction box to the ground surface. Construction activities along Obispo Road would be planned so as to provide sufficient width for access for emergency vehicles from the El Granada Fire Station. Following construction, the ground surface would be restored to its existing condition. Construction is scheduled to occur in summer 2009 and continue for approximately nine months. Approximately six workers would be employed for the construction activities.

1.5.2 Operation

Project operation would involve maintenance of the storage pipes to manage the wet weather flows. Access to the north end of the storage pipes for maintenance and cleaning would be provided by two manholes, one for each pipe (see Figure 1-3). The manholes would be covered with grating to allow airflow through the storage system during the filling and draining cycles. The pipes would require annual flushing of the sediment accumulated during every wet weather season. Flushing would occur once, at the end of every wet weather season, for up to 2 days and would either be an automatic hydraulic activity (i.e., automated routing of the debris to the Portola Pump Station) or a pumping activity (i.e., use of a mobile truck with a pump to flush the debris into the Portola Pump Station). In both cases, the debris would be conveyed to the WWTP for treatment.

1.6 Potential Permit Requirements

Following are the permits or agreements that may be required for project implementation:

- State Water Resources Control Board: General Construction Permit; and
- San Mateo County: **Coastal Development Permit or a Waiver for Certificate of Compliance to legalize _____ sq. ft. parcel located on the [property description of intersections or parcel number] in the unincorporated El Granada area of San Mateo County and to allow acquisition of property by Granada Sanitary District and Coastal Development Permit for construction of Project by Sponsor.**
- Granada Sanitary District: Lease or other agreement enabling SAM to use the property for construction and maintenance of the Portola Storage Tanks.

References – Project Description

SAM, *Draft Wet Weather Flow Management Project Description*, 2008.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9, NPDES Compliance Evaluation Report, Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, Half Moon Bay, Granada Sanitary District, Montara Water and Sanitary District, August 18, 2006.

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