

# COMPANY LINE

## **CH2M Hill Selected for San Diego Treatment Plant**

*from the San Diego County Water Authority*

In September, the San Diego County Water Authority board of directors approved construction of a 100 million gallon-per-day water treatment plant, and awarded the contract to design, build, and operate the plant for 15 years to CH2M Hill Constructors Inc. The contract includes \$159 million to design and build the treatment plant, and a base operation and maintenance fee of \$6 million per year.

The water treatment plant is part of the Water Authority's \$3.2 billion Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to reduce over-reliance on a single supplier and to improve water reliability by diversifying the region's water supply portfolio. The CIP includes plans to develop seawater desalination, increase regional water storage capacity, and both construct new and rehabilitate existing facilities to increase operational flexibility and capacity to deliver water. Construction of the treatment plant will begin in early 2006, with completion scheduled for spring 2008.

In awarding the design-build-operate contract to CH2M Hill, the board selected the submerged membrane treatment process over two other proposed conventional treatment processes because it is expected to produce higher quality water, be less expensive, and be more environmentally friendly.

With membrane treatment, untreated water is forced through very fine pores in membrane fibers that are large enough for water molecules to pass through but that reject contaminants and particles.

Visit [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org) and [www.ch2m.com](http://www.ch2m.com).

## **Tetra Tech Awarded \$43M EPA Contract**

In late summer, Tetra Tech Inc. signed a \$43 million, five-year contract with the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wastewater Management to support efforts to protect and restore the nation's waters and watersheds. The indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract will support EPA's expanding programmatic responsibilities under the Clean Water Act. Tetra Tech will provide technical expertise to EPA as it utilizes the watershed approach to address water pollution problems, promote the use of innovative technologies, and address the nation's growing wastewater infrastructure needs, according to a company news release.

Visit [www.tetrattech.com](http://www.tetrattech.com).

## **Malcolm Pirnie to Develop Treatability Database for EPA**

The U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development is funding a five-year, \$2 million research project led by consulting firm Malcolm Pirnie to develop a comprehensive Drinking Water Treatability Database (TDB). The database will house information on the effectiveness of nearly 30 treatment technologies for the removal of up to 250 regulated and emerging contaminants.

According to Pirnie vice president Doug Owen, the TDB will be a great step forward in making environmental knowledge available to the public. "A centralized database that includes peer-reviewed information on the effectiveness of various treatment technologies for removing drinking water contaminants will enhance our profession's ability to improve drinking water quality and achieve regulatory compliance."

This project is designed to provide a single source of information on available technologies to help water utilities readily determine the best-fitting and most cost-effective tools to ensure regulatory compliance. Under the direction of EPA scientists, Malcolm Pirnie will identify and develop data requirements to ensure the maximum benefit to the drinking

water industry. This includes the review of thousands of sources of treatability data to determine the effectiveness of various technologies for the removal of priority and emerging contaminants. Research efforts were scheduled to begin last fall, with the database to be released to the public by mid-2007.

Visit [www.pirnie.com](http://www.pirnie.com).

## **Columbia Analytical Services Purchases Transwest Geochem**

In October, Columbia Analytical Services Inc. (CAS) announced the purchase of Transwest Geochem Inc. (TGI) of Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Michael E. Barber, president of TGI, continues as laboratory director of the combined Arizona operations, which will continue to operate under the TGI name.

Stephen Vincent, CAS President, noted that "combining full-service, fixed laboratory and mobile laboratory capabilities, including metals screening technologies, along with an organics laboratory and service center in Tucson will allow us to provide complete and cost-effective service to our clients in Arizona."

CAS's organics laboratory in Phoenix plans to add its standard volatiles analytical capacity, as well as the ability to analyze for explosives and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, to TGI services in the present TGI location.

Kelso, Washington-based CAS is employee-owned, with a laboratory network spread across seven states.

Visit [www.caslab.com](http://www.caslab.com) and [www.transgeo.com](http://www.transgeo.com).

## **CH2M Hill Opens Tucson Office**

The consulting firm CH2M Hill recently opened a new office in Tucson, managed by Alan Forrest. The office plans to focus on water and wastewater planning and engineering projects in southern Arizona.

Contact Alan Forrest at [Alan.Forest@CH2M.com](mailto:Alan.Forest@CH2M.com).