



# The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

1ST QUARTER, 2005

03/11/05

## Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements

## Meet the Press: An Overview of NASSCO's Wastewater Treatment Facility

By Sara Giobbi, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x8764.

Have you ever seen a vacuum truck operating in your area and wondered what they do with all of the water that they collect? In most cases, this water is taken to NASSCO's wastewater treatment facility for treatment prior to discharge into the City's sewer system.

The treatment facility is located across from the Steel Yard, and is operated by the Blast, Paint and General Services Department.

Wastewater comes to the facility through the wastewater pipeline or by vacuum truck and is placed in one of three large holding tanks. Once a batch of wastewater is collected, the operator begins treatment. The operator starts by running the wastewater through an Oil/Water Separator, which removes floating oil from the water.

Next, the wastewater is routed to a Surge Tank, where treatment chemicals are mixed into the wastewater.

These chemicals cause the metals and suspended solids in the wastewater to coagulate into small clusters. As the wastewater passes to the Retention Tank, high pressure air is injected into the mixture, and at elevated pressure, the air is dissolved.



The Filter Press "squeezes" excess water

(Continued on page 3)

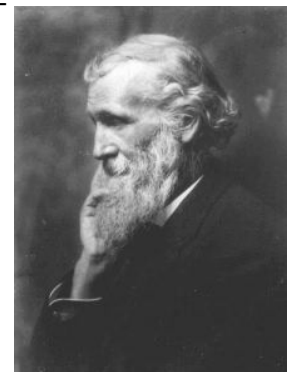
## April 21<sup>st</sup> is John Muir Day

John Muir, born April 21, 1838 was an important naturalist and conservationist. He has been referred to as the "**The Father of our National Parks.**" His words and actions inspired Teddy Roosevelt to establish our National Monuments by Presidential Proclamation and Yosemite National Park by congressional action. He was a founding member of the Sierra Club in 1892 and was the club's president until his death in 1914.



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger selected the John Muir-Yosemite design to represent California in the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters Program. The quarter's design was created from a concept submitted by Los Angeles resident, Garret Burke. These new quarters will be showing up soon as the design was released by the U.S. Mint on December 9, 2004.

To find out more about John Muir or the California Quarter, visit the Sierra Club website at [http://www.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit](http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit).



### 3rd Annual Earth Day Creek to Bay Cleanup (C2B)

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7963.

NASSCO employees, customers, subcontractors, family, and friends will kick off Earth Month by joining in the rewarding fun of cleaning up the Chollas Creek bed during I-Love-A- Clean-San-Diego's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Earth Day Creek to Bay (C2B) Cleanup on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Last year, I-Love-A-Clean-San-Diego (ILACSD) brought together 1,469 volunteers and removed 114,805 pounds of trash, debris, and recyclables from County beaches, bays, creeks, rivers, lakes and lagoons. At the NASSCO sponsored site at the mouth of Chollas Creek, we removed 1,600 lbs. of trash, debris, and recyclables. The source of this pollution is storm water run-off and illegal dumping.

NASSCO sponsors and participates in three Chollas Creek cleanup events each year which are made possible by the volunteer efforts of the NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee (NC4).

This year's committee members are: Ericka Filbert of Integrated Logistics Services; Rey Guerrero of Reclamation; Dave Samudio of Blast, Paint & General Services; Martin Espinoza, Jr., Vince Palencia and Carol Valencia of Production, Larry Flores, Dan Reed, Brian Ruiz, Ben Smith and Mark Vignocchi of the Professional Development Program; Ken Wright, Photographer; and Hugo Bermudez, Kacey Christie, Sara Giobbi and Chad Haza of Environmental Engineering.

Following the cleanup this year, volunteers are invited to join us for a BBQ and volleyball tournament at Cesar Chavez Park catered by Martin Espinoza Jr. & his family.

The NC4 is looking for volunteers willing to donate their time to the Environment and Our Community.

To sign-up for this fun cleanup event contact Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator (619) 544-8826 or via email at [chaza@nassco.com](mailto:chaza@nassco.com).



**Mouth of Chollas Creek before C2B Cleanup 2004**



**Mouth of Chollas Creek after C2B Cleanup 2004**

## Meet the Press: An Overview of NASSCO's Wastewater Treatment Facility

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, a polymer chemical is added to the waste as it passes into the final stage of treatment, the Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) tank. The polymer causes the smaller clumps to join together into larger masses, and the bubbling action of the air causes these clumps, and any remaining oil, to float to the surface of the DAF. A skimmer removes the floating material from the surface of the DAF, and the remaining clean wastewater is discharged into the City's sewer system.

The material skimmed from the DAF is sent to the Filter Press, which "squeezes" out excess water, leaving behind a solid filter cake, which is placed in drums for proper disposal. To ensure that wastewater is managed properly, any Department, Customer or Subcontractor wishing to discharge wastewater at NASSCO must first obtain approval from the Environmental Engineering Department. This is true even if you believe that you are discharging only clean water.



**Pollutants literally float to the top in the Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) Tank**



To request authorization, submit a completed Wastewater Discharge Request (WDR) Form to the Environmental Engineering Department via fax #619-744-1088. Once the request has been reviewed, the Environmental Engineering Staff will let you know if the proposed discharge is approved. For more information, refer to Procedure #304 "Wastewater Discharges" in the Environmental Engineering Manual on LiveLink, or phone the Environmental Engineering Office information line at x7506.

**Operator Juanita Espinoza keeps a watchful eye on the treatment system control panel**



All back issues of the NASSCO Tidepool are available in color on the NASSCO website at [www.nassco.com](http://www.nassco.com) under the "Environmental & Safety Leadership" pull-down menu.

**Save  
the  
Date!  
6/4/05**



## NASSCO Hosts San Diego Waterfront Employment Expo

By Susan Zubiato, Human Resources Representative x3608.

NASSCO celebrated Lincoln's Birthday this year by hosting the first ever **San Diego Waterfront Employment Expo** on Saturday, February 12, 2005. Unlike a traditional job fair held at NASSCO, this was a career expo that provided unskilled job-seekers access to training programs that will provide them the skills necessary to join the ranks of *San Diego's Working Waterfront*.



Despite the rainy day, over 600 candidates attended the Expo and approximately 200 of those filed applications with NASSCO. Candidates that were not currently qualified were turned over to our training partners.

This event showcased the following training partners who have developed programs to address NASSCO's recruiting needs: Center of Employment Training (CET), Coordinated Maritime Services (CMS), San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council, Comprehensive Training Systems (CTS), San Diego Job Corps Center, San Diego Continuing Education-Educational Cultural Complex, and Sweetwater Union High School District's Alternative Adult Education.

Each organization set up a display booth and had representatives on hand to sign up job seekers for training. All of these organizations provide potential candidates with pre-employment training that has been approved by NASSCO.

The Port of San Diego also participated in the Expo as they are seeking candidates for the Harbor Police.

The NASSCO Steel, Outfitting, and Electrical Departments set up trade displays and had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the participants and provide them an expert's opinion of what work is like in the yard.



**Bertha Velazquez and Jorge Jimenez of the Steel Department discuss their jobs.**

Environmental Engineering set up a display board depicting NASSCO's *Commitment to our Environment*. Kacey Christie, of Environmental Engineering was on hand to provide insight into NASSCO's programs that actually go beyond environmental compliance requirements.

City of San Diego District 4 Councilmember, Tony Young stopped by, toured the yard, visited with Mr. Vortmann, spoke with participants, and was very excited about this event. NASSCO is not only providing jobs for his constituents, but is also assisting in preparing them for careers.

Thanks to all the NASSCO employees that helped with this event!



**San Diego District 4 Council Member Tony Young, Mr. Vortmann, and Keith Coleman of CMS**

## Join the San Diego Celebration of Earth Day!

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego celebration of Earth Day will be at EarthFair 2005 in Balboa Park on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is the largest free environmental fair in the United States. Volunteers host the event which features more than 200 exhibits, a food pavilion, special children's area, entertainment, and a Children's Earth Parade.



There is a wide range of exhibits representing all types of environmental causes, government programs, commercial enterprises, conservation organizations, wildlife preservation groups, products made from natural & organically grown crops, organic gardening information, alternative energy vehicles, recycled art, Eco-tourism, alternative & traditional health care products/services, pet adoption, clean air & clean water products, rainforest preservation groups, etc.

For more information on San Diego celebration of Earth Day, visit the *San Diego*

*Earth Works* website at [www.earthdayweb.org](http://www.earthdayweb.org).



## APCD Quarterly Inspection Results

When the San Diego Air Pollution Control District inspector completed his most recent quarterly inspection last January, he found **no violations of NASSCO's air permits**.

He inspected the following areas and records:

- Prime Line #1 oxidizer including temperature, paint usage and maintenance records.
- Prime Line #2 oxidizer including temperature and paint usage records.
- The Avenger 3.1, 3.3 and 3.5 Plasma Cutters including daily logs and maintenance records.
- NASSCO's Yard-wide Paint & Abrasive Blasting Records.

**This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Consecutive APCD Inspection where the air inspector did not find any violations!**

**Congratulations & Thanks** to everyone that maintain compliance with our air requirements on a daily basis!

A special thanks goes to NASSCO's Air Coordinators: Dennis Bowman, Don Edgington, Mary Herman, Dave Gaccione, Mark Kukuchek, Geno Martinnelli, Marc Metzler, Frank Reyes, Dave Samudio, Kelly Taylor and Carl Whitaker for their daily efforts in support of our Air Quality Program.



## Crane Re-Powering Project Receives Recognition

By: Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7963.

NASSCO is committed to being the Industrial Neighbor of Choice for Barrio Logan and joined the Barrio Logan Environmental Justice (EJ) Partnership which is lead by the Environmental Health Coalition and US EPA. In working within this partnership, it became evident that diesel exhaust emissions were a key environmental health issue impacting the Community.

We worked closely with the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to identify economically viable means of reducing diesel emissions. Based on discussions with APCD and other Barrio Logan EJ partners, NASSCO participated in the Carl Moyer Grant program of the California Air Resources Board (ARB), which provides funding to businesses willing to make a Commitment to the Environment and go beyond what is required by environmental regulation.

As part of this commitment, NASSCO replaced engines of Cranes, 10, 11, 12, and 14 with EPA Tier I engines which have state-of-the-art pollution control equipment consisting of catalyzed diesel soot filters and selective catalytic reduction systems. The diesel soot filters remove 99% of all diesel particulate matter which has been classified as a "Toxic Air Contaminant" by the ARB.



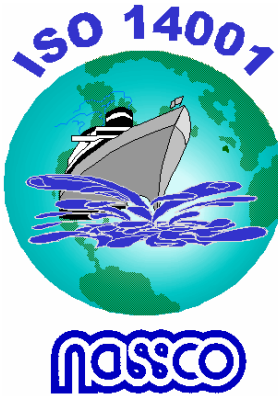
Jim Quagline, Engineering Specialist in the Facilities Department, headed the Crane Re-powering Project. The overall cost of the engine replacements was \$3,487,400.00. As noted above, it was made possible, in part, by an ARB Carl Moyer Grant of \$1,017,145.00.

Since NASSCO was the first organization in Southern California to install these types of pollution controls on large overhead crane engines, representatives from the US EPA, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Representing LA, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino Counties), APCD, Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach and BP visited NASSCO last September during National Pollution Prevention Week to learn about this project.

Last November, NASSCO received a **2004 Governor's Environmental & Economic Leadership Award Certificate of Recognition** for this Crane Re-Powering Project.

Jim Quagline is again heading up a Crane Re-powering Project with assistance from another ARB grant. For this project, the new engines on Cranes 7 & 9 will be installed on a new platform above the existing engine platform in order to reduce production downtime. When completed, 8 of our 9 overhead crane engines will be equipped with diesel particulate filters to reduce diesel particulate emissions by 99%. Only Crane 8 remains to be retrofitted and plans are in the works to do this engine as well.

## Hints the upcoming ISO 14001 Audit by ABS – May 11-13, 2005



First of all and most importantly, an audit is like an **Open Book Test**. You don't have to have anything memorized. The auditor is simply looking for proof that NASSCO does what it says to protect the Environment. So show the auditor your NASSCO Environmental Pocket Guide, procedures, copies of BMPs, E-Grams, whiteboard postings, etc.,... and even this article to help you answer the auditor questions!

The auditor typically asks the following questions:

**What is NASSCO's Environmental Policy?** This seems like an easy question to answer, but it is often missed. It is part of NASSCO's Mission, Vision, Values & Guiding Principles, which is on your blue card. It is not enough to simply state this and show your blue card. You must also point out that the back of the blue card contains a "Commitment to Our Environment."

**How do you Protect the Environment?** The answer is you following the NASSCO BMP's (Best Management Practices). **Everyone at NASSCO (including office areas) must follow the applicable yard-wide BMP's, #101, 110, 204 & 408.** These are available on LiveLink and in Section 7, of the NASSCO Environmental Practices Manual.

**Do you have any Goals for Improvement?** Some departments have specific environmental goals related to their own area.

**There are two yard wide Environmental Goals:**

- 1. 100% Recycling using our Color-Coded Skip Tubs.**
  - Red = Scrap Metal (all types – including aluminum cans)
  - Blue = Paper (all types), Cardboard, Wood
  - White = Trash
- 2. Energy Saving Programs consisting of the following:**
  - Leak Tag Program (See E-Gram #EMS 11)
  - Turn - off the Lights (See E-Gram #EMS 12)
  - Equipment Shutdown (See E-Gram #EMS 13)
  - Desktop Computers (See E-Gram #EMS 14)



The auditor also focuses on **Emergency Response - Everyone at NASSCO must know:**

To call **x911** for a Fire or Medical Emergency.

To call **x8401** for a HazMat Spill or other Environmental Incident.

- 1 drop spilled into the Bay is reportable to x8401.
- 1 quart spilled onto the ground is reportable to 8401.

The Location of the nearest **Fire Extinguisher**.

The Location of **Spill Cleanup Materials** if hazardous materials are stored in your work area.

**You also must know the emergency evacuation route for your work area and its muster location.**

All managers and supervisors are requested to utilize the NASSCO Environmental Pocket Guide to assist them in answering the auditor's questions concerning the BMPs. The current version of this pocket guide was updated on 9/1/04. If you'd like a copy of this guide, contact Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator, x8826 or stop by Environmental Engineering, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Building 8.

## Southwestern College Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Environmental Symposium

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7963.

On Thursday, April 28, 2005 Southwestern College (SWC) is holding its First Annual Environmental Symposium at its campus in Chula Vista. This symposium was funded by a grant from the US EPA awarded to SWC to promote environmental careers to women and minorities.

In addition, to promoting environmental careers to SWC students and other college students, approximately 200 San Diego County high school students will be in attendance.

NASSCO is on the steering committee for this event, which features environmental displays, presentations and workshops from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The *Negocio Verde Task Force*, which promotes the *San Diego Green Business Program* to small automotive shops, will be hosting a free bilingual automotive pollution prevention and compliance assistance workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during the event.

NASSCO serves on this task force with the Air Pollution Control District, County of San Diego – Dept. of Environmental Health - Hazardous Materials Division, Cuyamaca College, Inner City Business Association, REBRAC, Southwest Marine, Southwestern College, and US EPA Region 9 Small Business Liaison.

The other bilingual workshops is entitled, "Women in Environmental Careers" is being conducted from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and I am proud to have the opportunity to discuss my job here at NASSCO during that workshop.

For additional information on this event, contact me at 619-544-7963 or via email at

[kchrist1@nassco.com](mailto:kchrist1@nassco.com).

*"Our quality of life is dependent on the quality of our environment."*

SWC  
SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

# First Regional Environmental Symposium

**April 28, 2005 • 9am-3pm • Free Admission**  
Southwestern College • 900 Otay Lakes Rd • Chula Vista, CA • Public Welcome • Free Parking

*Learn About:*

- Educational Opportunities
- Local Environmental Activities
- High Wage Environmental Careers

*Hear Experts in the Field Talk About:*

- Environmental Compliance
- Safety in the Workplace
- Pollution Prevention

*Informational Displays & Workshops*

- Women in Environmental Careers
- Pollution Prevention in the Automotive Industry

For more information please contact SWC CTECS 619-421-6700-5805 or REBRAC 619-440-2404  
[www.swc.cc.ca.us/~ehmt](http://www.swc.cc.ca.us/~ehmt)

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If you are interested in submitting an article of environmental interest, or would like us to address one of your questions/concerns, please contact us at Environmental Engineering, Mail Stop 22A.

Editor: Kacey Christie (619) 544-7963, [kchrist1@nassco.com](mailto:kchrist1@nassco.com) | Layout: Chad Haza (619) 544-8826, [chaza@nassco.com](mailto:chaza@nassco.com)

Contributors: Sara Giobbi, Meari Keating, Ken Wright, Susan Zubiata

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