

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

HONOR WALK NOMINEE FORM

Please complete this form and return it to the OCSD Public Affairs Office.

Name of nominee Mike McCarthy

Relationship to OCSD OCSD Employee - Retired March 2013

On a separate sheet, please describe:

- The length and nature of the nominee's relationship to OCSD;
- How he or she has enhanced the quality of operations and/or leadership; and
- How the nominee has made an exceptional contribution to the District or people served by the District.

Please use the attached leadership competencies and resolution adopted by the Board of Directors establishing the program, as reference.

Nominees should be past Board Members or retired employees.

Name of requestor Dionne Kardos

Phone/email address _____

Department head approval* N/A Date N/A

General manager approval* Robert Thompson Date 04/14/2025

Steering Committee approval Yes No Date _____

*Required for employee nominations only.

Mike McCarthy – Retired March 2013

resubmitted by D. Kardos 2/24/20

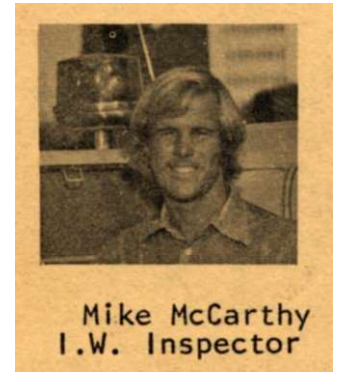
The true Surf-and-Turf environmental steward of OCSD! Mike McCarthy started his career at OCSD in 1979 as an industrial waste inspector in the Resource Protection Division (formerly Source Control). For 18 years, he hit the streets helping enforce regulations protecting our sewers from the illegal dumping of hazardous waste. The mix of enforcement and education from this dedicated group affected change in a big way. At that time the success was an over 80% reduction in heavy metals.

The Source Control family was very tight and Mike started a group appreciation event for his coworkers, but it became something so much bigger – Annual Taco Day! He cooked all the meat and brought fixings for a full taco bar buffet spread. This generous token of affection continued for over 15 years, growing each year to the delight of coworkers throughout OCSD.

In 1997 Mike transferred to the Ocean Monitoring Division and became more than seaworthy! He had many duties on land and sea in this group, including hands on lab work identifying marine polychaetes (worms) and mollusks (clams and snails) that live in the sediment near our outfall. He also had the sea legs working hard as a crew member on chartered ocean monitoring ships and OCSD's own vessel, *Nerissa*, conducting benthic and trawl sampling.

Mike is a very active and fit triathlete, who competed for fun along coworkers in events such as the Annual Camp Pendleton Mud Runs, and a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society fundraising triathlon in honor of his brother. He also donated his time helping support several public outreach events to educate the public on environmental conservation and OCSD's commitment to public health.

Camaraderie came full circle as coworkers rallied and came to Mike's aid for his family when his son had a heart transplant. Six recovery years later in March 2009, Kyle decided to follow in his dad's footsteps and began working in OCSD's Warehouse. Although Kyle's time here before his untimely passing was short, OCSD's family was happy to support him, and Mike was especially proud.



Mike McCarthy was a friend and hardworking coworker to all who knew him. It was a sad goodbye to that bushy mustache when he retired in March 2013. Mike gave 34 years of dedicated and loyal service to the residents of Orange County and sea critters along the coast.

Please refer to list of milestone accomplishments and comments provided by others.

2/28/2025 – Additions to Mike McCarthy Honor Wall Nominee

by Dionne Kardos

- Mike is a resident of Huntington Beach. An avid surfer and love and dedication for protecting public health and the ocean environment is the reason he chose to work for the Orange County Sanitation District.
- Mike became friends to many at OC San, his yearly tradition of providing a fun gathering for coworkers “Taco Feast” to all the groups and divisions he worked with during his career at OC San
- Mike McCarthy started his career at OCSD in 1979 as an industrial waste inspector in the Resource Protection Division (formerly Source Control). Quickly learning and becoming a Lead Source Control Inspector of the pretreatment program, protecting what gets discharge into OC San’s sewage. This program, overseen by the Resource Protection Division has helped decrease the amount of toxic pollutants entering the sewer. Businesses that release wastewater into our sewers must meet strict regulations that keep toxic pollutants out of the sewer. Our Resource Protection inspectors monitor the results of testing to see if there are any violations of the ordinances by businesses.
- In 1997 Mike transferred to the Ocean Monitoring Division as a Principal Environmental Specialist. The Ocean Monitoring Program documents that the release of OC San’s treated wastewater (effluent) into the Pacific Ocean is not degrading marine habitats & wildlife and does not pose a risk to human health. OC San’s OMP program compliance is critical to maintain our NPDES permit to release treated effluent into the Ocean. This compliance and monitoring of the affect to the ocean environment has become even more critical over the years since our effluent has changed to a more concentrated brine, GWRS waste streams and treated wastewater that cannot be used for GWRS.
- Mike McCarthy was instrumental in all areas of ocean monitoring sampling, was the most active of boat crew, and worked with Lab staff closely on testing and recording of the samples – water quality, sediment quality, trawls of the benthic community (fish and sea life health), oxygen and pH, profiling ocean current, and special regional testing with other agencies along the Southern California Bight. He was a main contributor to OC San’s yearly Ocean Monitoring Annual Reports.
 - Mentor to Boat Crew and Ocean Monitoring Staff and Analysts in the Lab
 - Mike was "cruise leader" for sampling events
 - Mike was always positive and willing to learn a new task. When OC San in-sourced our benthic taxonomy program, he became a polychaete and mollusk expert.
- Mike’s special skills were missed after he retired in 2013. Being the loyal environmental steward, at the bequest of OC San, he then came back to become a critical Consultant/Contract Employee from 2014 through 2018 to provide the Ocean Monitoring Program with specialized skills in marine invertebrate taxonomy, and to assist in other aspects of the program such as field sampling and data analysis that are necessary to meet the Clean Water Act permit-mandated environmental monitoring requirements.

Below are reasons why:

Mike McCarthy is a trained polychaete and mollusk taxonomist with more than five years of experience identifying these taxa in District samples. His knowledge of OCSD procedures and the species most commonly encountered in the samples to be analyzed is highly specific and unique. McCarthy's expertise will enable OCSD to continue to process these samples in-house, eliminating the more expensive and delaying option of sending these samples to an contract taxonomist and adding the burden of additional quality assurance measure to our current staff's workload. Ten percent of all samples analyzed by contract laboratories must be reanalyzed by OCSD staff to ensure consistent identification of organisms as well as two data reconciliation meetings.

LAB

Marine Invertebrate Taxonomy

CONTRACT PURCHASE ORDER #106114-OA ISSUED TO MICHAEL E. McCARTHY TO PROVIDE THE OCEAN MONITORING PROGRAM WITH SPECIALIZED SKILLS IN MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMY, AND TO ASSIST IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM SUCH AS FIELD SAMPLING AND DATA ANALYSIS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO MEET THE CLEAN WATER ACT PERMIT-MANDATED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE G.M. APPOINTMENT MEMORANDUM DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2017.

****Below are Pipeline articles and pictures supporting Mike's career and leadership qualities he had. NOTE: The 2 published newspaper articles featuring Mike McCarthy were shared in agenda packages at OC Board Meetings. ****

SPECIAL NOTE: Mike McCarthy started his career at OC San protecting and inspecting what initially enters are sewer collections system (Starting Point) and finished his career protecting and monitoring one of the final points of our wastewater treatment process – releasing treated effluent into the ocean environment (Final Point). A true environmental steward from beginning to end! Not too many can proudly say that!

- Many of the original Ocean Monitoring Program crew have since retired from OC San (Jeff Armstrong, George Roberston, Hai, Mike Mengel, etc. and I wasn't able to get new feedback on Mike's contributions. Below is some feedback from current staff who knew Mike.

Thomas, Christina:

He exemplifies integrity/honesty, Interpersonal Skills, goal and task management, and effort & initiative.

sent on Thursday, February 27, 2025 7:07 AM

From: Myers, Dawn <dmyers@ocsan.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:59 AM

To: Kardos, Dionne <dkardos@ocsan.gov>

Subject: RE: Honor Walk Nomination for Mike McCarthy!

Mike is in the group that actually deserves this honor, and much more!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I will support!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you so much Dionne!

From: Armstrong, Jeff <JARMSTRONG@OCSD.COM>

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:19 AM

To: Kardos, Dionne <dkardos@OCSD.COM>

Subject: RE: 2019 Honor Walk Nominee MIKE MCCARTHY

Will do. I will be glad to speak about Mike. I really appreciate you taking the lead on getting this in. I meant to, but got side-tracked. I think he's really deserving of this honor.

Thanks, Dionne!

Jeff



Jeffrey L. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Orange County Sanitation District

Laboratory, Monitoring and Compliance Division | Environmental Supervisor

Office: 714.593.7455 | Cell: 714.457.2148 | www.ocsd.com





Mike in Source Control Division.



Mike was an active medical team member. He also volunteered at many OC San events like Kid's day.



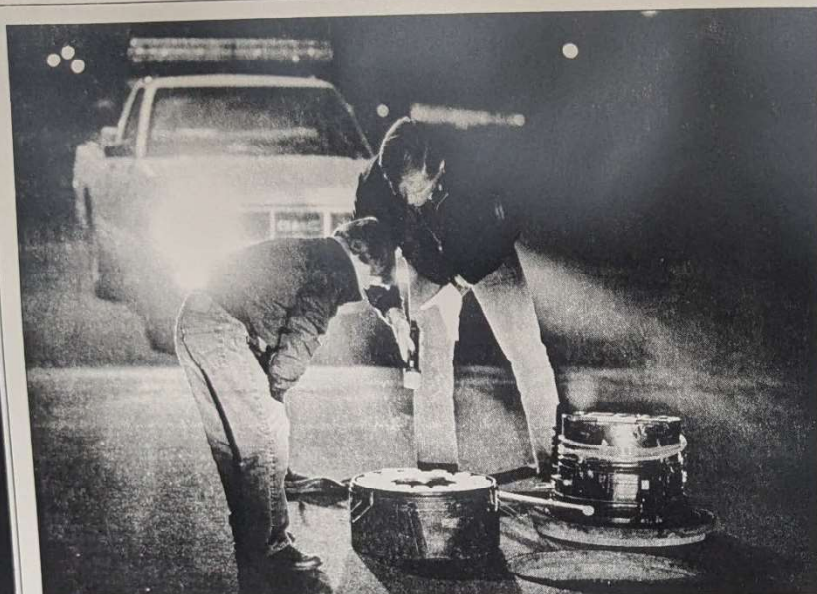
Mike featured in LA Times article in April 1987 during his Lead Source Control Inspector days.

Los Angeles Times
Sunday, April 19, 1987

ORANGE COUNTY

Local News

CCT/Part II



'It's like speeding. You can speed, but you're going to get caught.'

Toxic Cops Are on the Trail of Polluting Firms

By LANIE JONES, Times Staff Writer

It was 4:30 a.m. when two figures stepped into the moonlight, walked to the middle of the street and began to pry the metal cover off a manhole with a pike.

They stopped a moment, looking around to see if anyone in the low-rise industrial buildings along Mariner's Way in Garden Grove was watching. When there was no movement from the darkened buildings, they returned to work.

Resting in sewer water at the bottom of the manhole was the object of their interest, a fat, black canister with a label that warned: "Do not tamper with or remove."

They hauled up the container by a rope and snapped it open. Nestled inside were 24 white, plastic bottles filled with liquid, one for each hour of the day. In most of the bottles, the liquid was clear. But in one bottle, the fluid was milky white and, slowly settling to the bottom, was a half-inch layer of turquoise flakes.

Possibly Discharged Illegally

Industrial waste inspector Mike McCarthy held the milky tank up to a flashlight. "They lost some more stuff last night," he said.

The "stuff" was copper, possibly discharged illegally from a nearby manufacturing plant. And McCarthy and his partner, Mary Sue Thompson, were both inspectors—or "toxic cops" as they are sometimes known—for the County Sanitation Districts of Orange County. Industrial espionage and a get-tough stance against industrial polluters represent a sharp turnaround for the once-complaint sanitation agency based in Fountain Valley.

The 33-year-old agency, which owns more than 800 miles of sewer trunk line, still would rather persuade a company to comply with its regulations than levy fines or take it to court, inspectors say. But recently it has placed a new and strong emphasis on enforcement.

Please see TOXIC, Page 5



Inspectors Mike McCarthy and Mary Sue Thompson, top, retrieve sampling canister from sewer and then carefully handle bottles, left, with rubber gloves to avoid contamination before running tests on samples for toxic content, above.

Photos: DON KELSEN
Los Angeles Times

Continued from Page 1

Two weeks after Thompson and McCarthy's pre-dawn inspection, the districts' lab tests showed that a small circuit board manufacturer called Alphaneutics Inc. had committed "major discharge violations." The company's permit limited its discharge to 0.45 pounds of copper per day. But, according to samples taken from Alphaneutics' sewer line, the plant was actually dumping up to 14.85 pounds a day.

In a formal cease-and-desist notice, the districts' industrial waste division chief, Richard von Langen, threatened to assess \$4,040 in non-compliance fees and another \$36,000 in civil penalties.

Initially, Alphaneutics' President, Paco Lopez, denied the charges. But after meeting with Von Langen and other agency officials, he agreed to comply and to add new waste treatment systems to his plant. For now, agency officials are still considering whether the civil penalties are necessary and they are monitoring Alphaneutics closely.

For years, the common perception among the public and sanitation engineers was that dumping paints, pesticides, carcinogenic metals and just about anything into the sewer was acceptable, says Blake Anderson, the districts' director of operations.

Amid Growing Concerns

"No one really thought about what happens when you depress the chrome handle" of the toilet, Anderson said.

But amid growing concerns about the impact of toxic and carcinogenic metals on both marine life and humans, the 1972 federal Clean Water Act set the first limits on dumping pollutants into rivers and oceans. In addition, as firms began to relocate to Orange County in the late 1960s and early 1970s, agency officials realized they needed to limit industrial waste, Anderson says.

Starting in 1976, the districts set precise limits on the number of pounds of pollutants a firm could discharge and began monitoring those discharges. Initially, compliance was voluntary; there were no fines. But as inspectors have repeatedly caught small or sometimes just "stubborn companies" trying to get around the rules, the districts' attitudes have changed, Anderson says.

"We've become much more enforcement-oriented," he said. In 1980, the agency, which represents nine sanitation districts in Orange County, had only four industrial waste inspectors. Now there are 13. And last year, the agency published a list of the county's 24 significant violators. In addition, the districts assessed \$146,402 in non-compliance fees.

Already, officials say they can measure the impact of their recent regulations. In 1976-77, Orange

usually clean. There was a reason. "He had a garden hose in his line," McCarthy said.

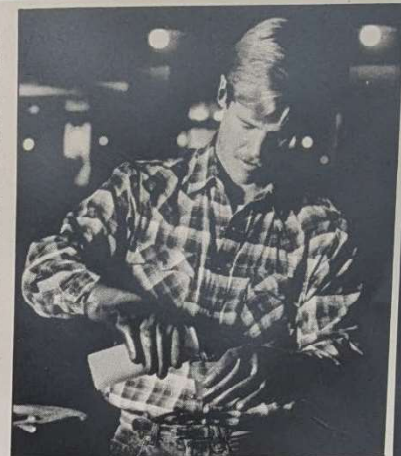
Another inspector, Kelly Christensen, says that he has watched plant managers "running across the shop" when he arrived, to unhook the garden hose they have attached to his sampling device.

Surprise inspections keep manufacturers alert, the inspectors say. "You figure if the CHP only worked weekdays from 8-5, everybody would drive at night," inspector Brad Bateman said.

A Mix of Skills

Inspectors say their job is enjoyable but unusual, because it requires a mix of skills. They must be part diplomat as they meet with plant managers, explain the latest waste treatment technology and persuade them to comply. But they are also chemical detectives, using lab tests, surprise daytime visits and surreptitious nighttime ones to find out whether a firm is illegally dumping toxins.

Lately, several inspectors say, they have stepped up their night-lousy, rise at 4 a.m. for a week or so to sample the waste water discharge of one or two plants, then conduct regular daytime inspections.



DON KELSEN / Los Angeles Times

Mike McCarthy, industrial waste inspector

'I figure if there is a compliance problem when I'm on site, they may do something even nastier when I'm not there.'

County firms discharged 92 pounds per day of cadmium into the sewers; by 1985-86 it was only 32 pounds per day. Similarly, copper discharges of 890 pounds per day in 1976-77 fell to 597 pounds in 1985-86.

Also, for the first time, the agency last year began taking violators to court. Civil charges were filed against three firms and misdemeanor charges were filed against Vinod S. Shah and Narendra Shah, owners of a Brea metal plating firm that allegedly dumped cadmium, chromium and copper down the sewer.

And, in an action even agency officials concede was extreme, inspectors last Nov. 5 visited the Shahs' firm, S & B Plating, and bolted their sewer line shut with a metal plate. The Shahs claim the agency has harassed them.

However, Ed Woolsey, president of the Industrial Environmental Coalition of Orange County, says he believes district inspectors are tough but fair.

"They have to be tough because of the regulations that they are trying to adhere to... therefore, they have to pass on to industry some very stringent controls," Woolsey said.

Meeting agency requirements often can be very costly. Companies have paid from \$2,000 to several million dollars to install complex waste treatment systems, usually required to meet the agency's discharge limits.

When the regulations were imposed, many mom-and-pop firms "either complied or were forced out of business," Woolsey says. His own firm, Cherry Textron, a Santa Ana fastener supplier for the airline industry, spent more than \$2 million on its pretreatment system.

Has Little Sympathy

But the transitional era is over; now companies are expected to use pretreatment systems or face penalties, agency officials say. And Woolsey, for one, has little sympathy with companies that violate their discharge permits.

"It's like speeding. You can speed but you're eventually going to get caught," he said. "You're just playing your chances. And I don't condone that for anyone."

Inspectors like Mike McCarthy say they have had plenty of experience with violators.

McCarthy, for instance, recalls visiting an electroplating plant where water discharge seemed un-

usually clean. There was a reason. "He had a garden hose in his line," McCarthy said.

Another inspector, Kelly Christensen, says that he has watched plant managers "running across the shop" when he arrived, to unhook the garden hose they have attached to his sampling device.

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Three weeks after the night sampling, when the agency had lab tests in hand but had not yet assessed any penalties, McCarthy was back at Alphaneutics.

This time it was for a surprise daytime inspection to buttress his case against the firm. Alphaneutics' President Lopez led the tour of his 15-employee plant, past etching machines and several chemical baths, including a clear one said to be copper.

Lopez was cordial with McCarthy but also not happy to see him. "With all the pressure we have from the sanitation districts, we are trying to expand and move to Mexico," he said at one point.

At the back of the small business, Lopez took McCarthy outside to see Alphaneutics' pretreatment system, a large rectangular machine that was supposed to filter leftover copper from the plant's waste water.

The machine was turned off and its top was filled with dead leaves. It had been temporarily disconnected for a day or two, Lopez said, because a pump was broken.

McCarthy accepted the explanation—for the moment. Still, he added, "You were in noncompliance with your last sample. We will be talking."



Mike using a CTD-rosette sampler is used to collect water samples and oceanographic data (e.g. temperature). These data are used to evaluate water quality and track the movement of our discharged effluent (via dissolved organic matter, depicted in red in the plot above)



Mike overseeing and conducting trawl sampling. A trawl net is used to collect fish and large invertebrates from the ocean floor to conduct marine population assessments, counting, and fish tissue contaminant analysis.



At the M/V *Nerissa* christening and dedication ceremony.

A news alert about an OC Register Personal Interest Story in Local Section – published in April 2005 written by Corky Carroll a Register columnist and award-winning surfer and friend of Mike McCarthy. The published article was shared in agenda package at OC Board Meeting.

From: Wassgren, Sonja

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2005 8:53 PM

To: Anderson, Blake; Arhontes, Nick; Beekman, Carol; Garrett, Gail; Ghirelli, Robert; Herberg, Jim; Hugin, Brad; Ludwin, David; Miles, Patrick; Ooten, Robert; Streed, Gary; Tomko, Lisa; Woodruff, Tom; Yoost, Paula (external)

Cc: Garcia, Alfredo; Kovac, Lilia; Kyle, Penny; Maravilla, Laura; Matthews, Geraldine; Skillman, Juanita; Smith, Suzanne; Beekman, Carol; Cabral, Jennifer; Covarrubias, Daisy; Hellebrand, Ingrid; Kardos, Dionne; Maldonado, Celeste; Maravilla, Laura; McLaughlin, Richard; Scott, Cheryl; Wassgren, Sonja; Armstrong, Jeff; Baroldi, Layne; Hagerty, Wanda; Hetherington, Michelle; Hunter, Deirdre; Kalman, Julianne; Lucena, Laura; McCarthy, Mike; Mengel, Mike; Moore, Michael; Morgenstern, Anissa; Nguyen, Hai; O'Brien, Fred; Questa, Jamiann; Robertson, George; Rocha, Laura; Sakamoto, Ken; Thomas, Christina

Subject: New Alert Follow Up - Corky Carroll

He protects the local surfing environment

CORKY CARROLL
Register columnist
SURF'S UP
corkysurf@aol.com

In the past couple of decades much attention has been focused on the water quality here in Southern California and especially here in Orange County. And even more especially here in the Huntington and Newport Beach areas.

I can tell you for a fact that when I was a kid the water was much more clear than it has been for years and years. You used to be able to see the bottom! You could watch fish go by and all that stuff. That was totally cool, unless it happened to be a really big scary-lookin' fish or a shark or somethin'.

But you don't have to worry about that anymore. Heck, you can't even see your feet half the time, even when you're sitting on your board.

With all that in mind let me set the scene for you. I am sitting here with a local surfer named Mike McCarthy. Mike has been surfing the local waters for something like 35 years.

But not only that, Mike has worked for the Orange County Sanitation District for almost as long. He is one of the dudes who actually does the checking of the pollution in our local waters.

We always hear about the levels and this and that, but this is the first time that I have actually spoken face to face with a real live checker. My question to him is how long have they been really checking the water and how do they do it?

Also what is done to the water that gets dumped into the ocean and what, if anything, is being done to make it better?

Here are his comments.

"Around 1972 they installed the pipe that goes out into the ocean five miles. It makes a 45 degree right-hand turn where it goes about another half a mile in 200 feet of water. During that last part of the pipe there are a series of diffuser ports, sort of like a bunch of holes, that the treated wastewater is released into the ocean from.

"This is better than just having it all burst out at one point. Even though they were probably doing some testing before that, it was then that they got real serious about it. The Environmental Protection Agency requires us to monitor water sediments, which is basically mud or sand or whatever you have on the bottom or filtering around in the water.

"We also test fish and invertebrates, things without backbones, to see how healthy they are. Part of the water sampling is for bacteria levels, and that is probably what most people are interested in who go to the beach.

"We have a machine called a Rosette Sampler that has a series of bottles that surround it in a circular pattern that is lowered off the back of a boat. We lower it to the bottom and then sample the water at a variety of different depths. We do it in a grid that ranges from five miles out to two miles out in half-mile increments.

"We also do "surf zone" testing right near the beach all the way from Crystal Cove to Seal Beach and that is done five days a week.

"These are all taken to a lab for testing that is located off of Ellis Avenue right near the 405 freeway. This testing reveals bacteria levels. There are certain levels that cannot be exceeded. If they are then the Health Department has to close the beaches where the levels are too high. We give all the information to them, and it is up to them to make the call as to closing what stretch of beach and for how long, etc.

"The worst time for pollution was probably 1999. The exact cause of the levels being so high at that time has never been discovered, but since then it has been progressively getting better.

"One of the things that we did was starting to capture runoff from the streets and putting it through the sewage treatment system rather than just letting it flow right onto the beaches and into the ocean. It is this runoff that has always been the cause of the pollution and not the wastewater offshore outfall.

"We have been steadily increasing the areas of collection for runoff to be treated and continuously looking for sources of pollution and in the course of doing so have been making progress toward cleaning up the local waters and keeping them safe for you and me to surf in and everyone else to swim or whatever they want to do in."

I asked Mike if he enjoyed this choice of jobs.

He smiled really big and said "Oh yeah, I love my job and all the people that I work with love their jobs, too. When you are in the field of protecting the environment you got that job for that reason. So

it is both rewarding and interesting at the same time. Besides that I get to ride around in the boat checking the surf all the time."

Corky Carroll is a three-time international and five-time U.S. surfing champion. He writes weekly columns for the Huntington Beach Wave, the Fountain Valley View and the Orange County Register and an "Ask The Expert" column on the [ocregister.com surfing page](http://ocregister.com/surfing). Send comments, suggestions, donations or rude remarks to him by e-mail at corkysurf@aol.com

Subject: OCSD News Alert

This News Alert is to provide you with advance notice of an article that will run in the Orange County Register.

Issue: Personal Interest Story- OCSD Employee Mike McCarthy,

Pr. Environmental Specialist, Ocean Monitoring Program

Columnist: Corky Carroll, Orange County Register

Run dates: The columnist has said the article will run Thursday April 28th or Saturday April 30th in the local section.

Background:

Corky Carroll regularly writes for the OC Register. He is a five time United States Overall Surfing Champion, and named the Number One Surfer in the World by SURFER magazine. He writes weekly columns for the Huntington Beach Wave and the Orange County Register., and an "Ask The Expert" column on the [ocregister.com surfing page](http://ocregister.com/surfing).

Mike McCarthy works in our ocean monitoring division. He is regularly out on the boat during the week. He is also a Huntington Beach resident who regularly surfs in the waters off HB. He recently spent a week at Corky's house in Mexico surfing.

Corky will write about Mike as a dedicated surfer who works as a marine biologist for OCSD and some one who truly cares about his environment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions,

Sonja Wassgren

Principal Public Information Specialist



Mike was a friend to many at OC San hanging out after work.



Mike would continue to visit OC San after retiring to support other retiree parties and OC San outreach events.



Mike with fellow OC San coworker friends at a surf vacation

submarine or "Snooper" off her host boat *Mother Goose* this past January. Attempting to collect a fresh water sample as it exits a three-inch port in 200 feet of sea water is a challenging task.

his son Curt continues the family business and the fourth "Snooper" is currently under construction—in the family's backyard, naturally.

Ocean Monitoring's Mike McCarthy stands next to Snooper ready to launch. See the diver peeking out?

Thanks to the multiple groups that helped with this effort: O&M & Engineering for measuring flow rate and making sure chemical dosing procedures were followed precisely; the Lab for sampling final effluent at precise intervals to compare with the submarine's; Ocean Monitoring who worked with the submarine contractor and ECRA who worked with the Regional Board to assure compliance.



**March 22 is
International
World Water Day
2009**

The Pipeline / March 2009



Top left to right: Michele Farmer, retiree Tom Blanda and son Tommy, Chris Cervellone, Jami Questa, Brian Bingman (baby Hunter cheering him on), Theresa Evans, Chris Maher, Mike McCarthy, Michelle Hetherington and Vicki Francis.

Mud Run

For the past few years, several OCSD employees have headed south to participate in the world famous Mud Run held annually at Camp Pendleton. This June, ten OCSD employees and a retiree participated.

The Mud Run is a challenging 10K course with hills, tire obstacles, river crossings, two 5-foot walls with mud on both sides, tunnel crawl, slippery hill climb, and the final 30-foot long mud pit. There are marines throughout to cheer the participants on and give help if needed.

The weather was perfect for the run with overcast skies dominating the day. The sun made its way out towards the very end for the cold showers and much needed drinks.

The excitement and happiness was visible as they crossed the finish line and saw familiar faces awaiting their arrival.

"Camaraderie helps one in crossing that finish line," said **Theresa Evans**. "Just knowing there are others waiting to congratulate you makes it all worthwhile."

How we saved 2,750 work hours a year (cont'd from page 1)

The new permit renewal procedure is more comprehensive, allowing more data to be analyzed and more detailed engineering evaluations to be performed. Prior to this application, the process was manual and culminated with the program assistant generating the permit. With the automated procedure, the process is mostly in the engineer's hands, with the computer generating the many needed graphs, tables and a centralized fact sheet, as well as the permit itself.

The application has been in production for over a year. It saves about twenty hours per engineer, and about five to eight hours per program assistant for every permit renewal. Every year over 100 class 1 categorical permits are renewed. This adds up to about 2,750 hours

per year saved. In other words, the District is gaining an estimated 1.25 FTEs in employee productivity! The team successfully implemented an effective technology solution to improve work-flows and address strategic business requirements.

The automated procedure also provides needed consistency in the evaluation of the Class 1 permits, such as supplying standard paragraphs for common conditions. Most importantly, it enables Source Control staff to generate a centralized fact sheet that meets the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Pipeline / July 2007



20 Years
James Davidson
Source Control

15 Years

Dean Fisher
Engineering &
Construction Mgmt.

Miriam Angold
Environmental
Sciences Laboratory

Pinky Burke
IT Administration

Maria Becerra
Source Control

5 Years

Steve DeWilde
IT Programming &
Database Support

The Pipeline provides news and information to OCSD employees, retirees and the Board of Directors. Please submit your ideas to **Daisy Covarrubias** (ext. 7119) in the Public Information Office. **Every topic submitted will be entered into a monthly drawing to win a prize.**

Orange County Sanitation District
www.ocsd.com
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 962-2411



Running Down Cancer

Last year, **Mike McCarthy** from the Environmental Assessment division participated in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training (TNT) triathlon. His motivation to do this came from the loss of his younger brother to lymphoma, a form of blood cancer. This year, Mike has rejoined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's TNT program, not only as a participant, but also as a mentor. Mike will help 15 other team members during their rigorous six-day-a-week training schedule. He will also help them raise funds for three different triathlons, two in Hawaii and one in central California.

The participants will all start with a 0.9 mile lake or ocean swim followed by a 25 mile bike ride and finish with 6.2 mile run.

The first triathlon will take place the first weekend in May where Mike will be participating. He can't wait to see the faces

they cross the finish line. He remembers the tremendous feeling of accomplishment he felt last year when he completed his triathlon.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is proud of the fact that 75 percent of all funds raised by their endurance athletes go directly to improving the lives of cancer patients. To join Mike or donate, call him at 714-593-7427, or visit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Web site at www.leukemia-lymphoma.org.



Making a Big Splash at the Children's Water Festival

A little rain never hurt anyone, heck it's a "WATER" festival! Mother Nature didn't put a damper on activities at the 10th Annual Children's Water Festival held on April 4 & 5. Nine OCSD volunteers launched a new game called "Simple Sewer Science," which had kids sorting out items found in wastewater and urban runoff to dispose of them properly, in the trash or the recycling center. "The Drain is Not a Dump!" was the message delivered to 332 kids and their teachers from 12 Orange County schools.



More than 5,000 third, fourth & fifth-grade students attended the two-day event sponsored in the past by OCSD.

OCSD volunteers included:
Deirdre Bingman, Jim Burror, John Flores, Ingrid Hellebrand, Mila Kleinbergs, Jami Questa, Rich Schlegel, Jane Tran, and Joe Vallone



30 Years

Tony Baxter

Operations Plant 2

Mike McCarthy (pictured)

Ocean Monitoring

25 Years

Doug Hauser

Operations Plant 2

20 Years

Alan Dumlao

Operations Plant 2

15 Years

Jerry Doss

Engineering and Construction

5 Years

Ann Crafton

O&M Process Engineering

Raul Olaiz

Collections Facilities O&M

Samir Patel

Information Technology

The Pipeline provides news and information to OCSD employees, retirees and the Board of Directors.

Please submit your ideas to **Sonja Morgan** (ext. 7122) in Public Affairs by the 10th of the month. **Every topic submitted will be entered into a monthly drawing to win a prize.**

The September drawing winner is **Kyle McCarthy**. Congratulations!

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Reflecting on 30 Years

Mike McCarthy – When I was first hired in 1979, sampling industrial waste was an adventure. There were few enforceable regulations, so companies used the sewer to “get rid of” hazardous waste. I remember picking up my sampler seeing blues, greens and yellows all laden with heavy metals. Today wastewater entering our system from industrial sources is so much cleaner. I think people forget how big an impact OCSD’s Source Control Program has had over the years.

After 18 years I transferred to the Ocean Monitoring Division. And 12 years later I’m still learning something new every day. My latest challenge is learning to identify



marine polychaetes (worms) and mollusks (clams and snails) that live in the sediment near our outfall.

I am very grateful that OCSD has provided me with so many opportunities and challenges over the years. It makes it fun to come to work. And as many other people have stated, it helps to have great people to work with. We really do have a tremendous staff here in all departments, including the recent addition of my son Kyle! I’m looking forward to the future.

We are celebrating Thursday, October 8th

Decorating & Costume Contest

Ways to enter:

- Your office, cubical, work area
- Group, division, or dept. work area
- Individual and group costumes

All employees will vote for the winners and a costume parade will be held in the afternoon.

Get ready for some trick-o-treating! Look for more information on MyOCSD.