Long Term Flow Monitoring

San Diego, CA - The City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department received a formal consent decree from the EPA in 2005. In response, the department decided to replace and update the flow monitoring system they had in place. They selected ADS® for the challenge of installing 156 flow monitors in sites that were scattered across varied terrain, including canyons and limited vehicle access. The City could not afford to have any interruption in data while replacing the existing network, so ADS project management set an ambitious schedule for installing all flow monitors in only 14 days.

Primary accomplishments:
- Record breaking installation and operational success
- Improved fiscal management and billing data
- Improved preventive maintenance
- Consent decree compliance

Services Provided by ADS
- Monitor installation and calibration
- Field services
- Event notification and overflow alarming
- Data analysis

Underground Intelligence® from ADS
The City's wastewater department manages and operates the wastewater collection and treatment for 16 cities and districts a total of 2,800 miles of collection system. The ADS monitoring network was tasked with monitoring events, providing overflow alerts, accurately capturing data for billing purposes, and providing detailed analysis tools for sewer modeling and planning. The monitors had to be capable of providing remote data access and diagnostics in both small and large diameter pipes (8 inches to 108 inches).

The consent decree required that the City constantly monitor 90 percent of flow through the system and detect a flow loss that could indicate a spill or other event within 60 minutes of occurrence. ADS utilized IntelliServe® for the San Diego system, a web-based data collection software system for event notification, alerts, interagency billing, and sewer modeling.

"If you define what you want to achieve through gathering this data and determine where that data can or should be collected, it is a good investment. This type of flow monitoring data can give you a very clear picture of how your system is operating and how it is faring over time. This information can be invaluable for planning an efficient maintenance program and planning for your community's future."

Larry Sherry
Project Officer II
City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department

ADS Environmental Services®, a division of ADS® LLC, is a leading technology and service provider and a reliable source of knowledge to the global wastewater collection system industry. ADS delivers value to its customers by providing industry-leading solutions for flow monitoring, data analysis, reporting and field services.