



Purple Pipe

Volume XV Fall 2018



40 Years of VVWRA



Original VVWRA logo

VVWRA construction 1979

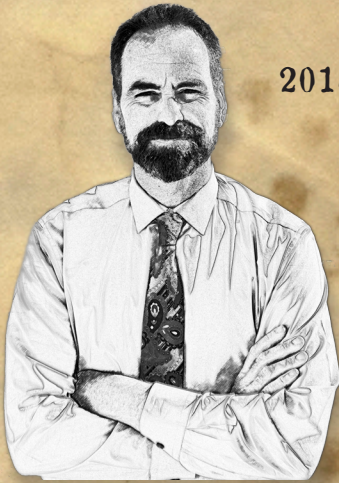


Rep. Shirley Pettis speaks at groundbreaking for regional sewer system

The Sun-Telegram Aug. 10, 1977



A message from the General Manager



Logan Olds


Looking back and planning for the future

2018 marks the 40th year of VVWRA as an independent organization created to convey and treat the liquid waste of Victorville, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Oro Grande and Spring Valley Lake. Providing a critical water resource to the community takes forethought. It also requires people to maintain the infrastructure built to provide that resource. Most people do not consider that the pipes that convey sewage, and the tanks and equipment to treat it, may be required for thousands of years. The infrastructure will be replaced many times during that period, but the concept is simple. If we desire clean drinking water, the infrastructure to convey and treat our waste will be required, as will the people

to operate and maintain it.

I wonder what this organization and this valley will look like when VVWRA celebrates its 40th anniversary? Regardless it will have been and remain the people operating the infrastructure at VVWRA that will continue to protect public health and the environment as the decades and centuries pass. Therefore, it is important that we make the best long-term decisions now to benefit our community for the future.

--Logan Olds has been GM at VVWRA since 2006


VVWRA
HISTORY AT A GLANCE

1973
Victor Valley voters approve a bond measure to finance 20% of the cost of building a regional sewer facility. State and Federal dollars would pay the remaining cost.

1977
The Mojave Water Agency purchases 600 acres near Oro Grande, including the 400 acre Culbertson Ranch for \$360,000.

Mojave Water Agency **1977**
The Mojave Water Agency forms Improvement District #1, which would later become VVWRA.

JUNE 1978
VVWRA officially becomes an independent agency with the task of providing wastewater treatment for the Victor Valley.

Area sewer plant groundbreaking ceremony today **AUGUST 1978**
Official groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction on the VVWRA plant.

DECEMBER 1981
The original 2.5 million gallon per day treatment plant begins operation.



VVWRA construction 1979

VVWRA General Managers over the years

- Bob Watson 1978
- Pete Sartor 1978
- Lloyd Coffelt 1978-1982
- Tom Dittman 1982-1983
- Keith Israel 1983-1988
- Keven Kurtz 1989-1993
- Chuck Wigley 1993-1995
- Dan Gallagher 1996-2006
- Logan Olds 2006-present

Purple Pipe newsletter VVWRA Board of Commissioners

- Larry Bird / Hesperia
 - Jim Kennedy / Victorville
 - Scott Nassif / Apple Valley
 - Jeff Rigney / SB CSA 42 & 46
- The Purple Pipe
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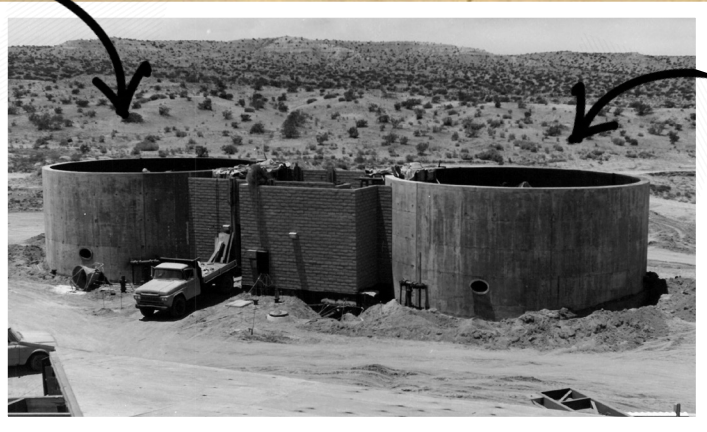
Where we started!



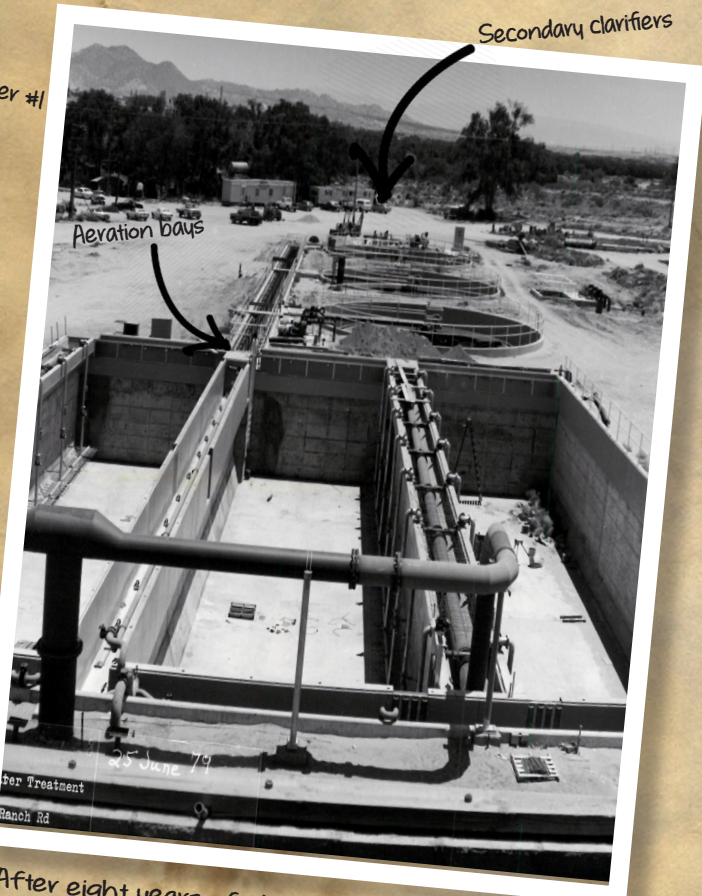
Culbertson Ranch 1978

It was here at the old Culbertson Ranch in Victorville where construction on the new wastewater plant began in 1977. The agency purchased 400 acres from Leon and Margaret Culbertson and 200 more acres from two other land owners. During surveying of the property, human foot prints and artifacts estimated to be 5000 years old were found. That area is now under Federal protection.

Digester #2



Digester #1



Secondary clarifiers

Aeration bays

**Fun Fact: VVWRA employees originally wore brown and tan uniforms, but in 2004 they switched to VVWRA blue.

Construction of the original digesters in 1979.



Aerial shot of the plant in 2000. The plant featured three 330,000 gallon digesters, four primary clarifiers and 6 secondary clarifiers. In those days, we used chlorine to disinfect the treated water. Today, we use powerful ultra violet lights in our disinfection process.

After eight years of planning and construction, the original plant began operating in December of 1981 and treated about 2.5 millions of wastewater per day.

**Fun Fact: When first formed by the Mojave Water Agency in 1977, VVWRA was known as Improvement District #1. VVWRA officially became the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority in June of 1978.



Around the Plant

Air Pack Derby Title Returns to VWVRA



Brad Adams

VWVRA Lead Operator Brad Adams and Lead Mechanic Marcos Avila captured the 2018 Air Pack Derby title at the Big Bear Convention Center in August. The annual event is put on by the Desert and Mountain Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). The Air Pack Derby is a timed competition where wastewater workers have to don SCBA's (self contained breathing apparatus) and close a "leaking" pipe. VWVRA took the top two spots at this years event and has now won the competition four of the last five years.



Marcos Avila

Rock & Roll Operator

Fore!



Congrats to Travis Prine who has earned his Grade 1 Operator Certificate. When Travis isn't here at VWVRA, he can often be found playing guitar in the band Delta Shade. www.facebook.com/deltashademusic/



The VWVRA Golf Team took part in the 2nd Annual Victor Valley Regional Open at Spring Valley Lake which benefited the Victor Valley College Foundation. Our team from left to right was David Wylie, Mike Koncur, Brad Adams and Craig Taylor.



Upcoming CWEA/DAMS events

- Oct. 19- Annual TCP Training @ SB Valley College
- Nov. 7 - Collection Systems Day Training @ Rick Novack Center in Hesperia
- Dec. 1 - DAMS Awards Banquet @ El Pescador, Victorville

For more information:

<https://www.damsocwea.org/trainings-events/local-events>



Strange but true...

The Story of the Flushable Wipes That Almost Cost Me \$320!

By Collin Morgan
reprinted from Hip2save.com

So as most of you may know by now, my family and I have recently moved to Reno, NV where we're in the planning stages of renovating a 1950s ranch for our new family home.

Coming into this experience, we were so proud of how many of our old belongings we were able to purge so that we could start fresh in this new home! However, we weren't greeted with the freshest experience. After moving in, it became clear something was seriously wrong with our plumbing system. The picture to the right is evidence of the disgusting sewer backups we were experiencing. Excuse me while I go throw up...



We called in a plumber to come fix the issue and...

"after troubleshooting a couple different causes, he found the culprit — Flushable wipes."

Yup! Something that's advertised (in the name no less) actually isn't supposed to be used for its intended purpose — what the heck?! Naturally, this both confused and upset me, so I gave the flushable wipe company's customer service a call. To my surprise, the customer service rep was actually so gracious in this situation as they not only refunded me for the wipes that I purchased on Amazon, but they are sending me a prepaid Visa card with the amount we paid to the plumber as reimbursement for the clogged pipes! WOW! I love great customer service and I was pleased to get

Snaked Toilets					50.00
Several Times					
Pulled Toilet					
Pulled Back					
Wipes					
No Guarantee for					
Wipes					
Duck					
LABOR	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT	TOTAL	
	2	135			
				TAX	
				TOTAL	320.00

Plumbers bill!

that reaction from the company. That's \$320 I don't need to stress about losing. Luckily, this not so pleasant situation had a happy ending for my family, but that's not always the case. In fact, this problem is becoming all too common. Flushable wipes are bad because they don't break down as

fast as toilet paper when they are flushed, meaning they back up your sewer. Even if they flush, they cause issues in your actual piping. It's even worse if they make it through your private sewer lines. This ends up causing problems in the public sewer lines, meaning it causes plumbing issues for you and your neighbors. This is actually becoming a well-known issue among consumers and there are groups dedicated to raising more awareness, like nomorewipes.com.

Wipes actually cause 90% of sewer related issues. Um, YIKES! Who knew these seemingly safe wipes could cause so much damage. You can bet that my family and I are going to be way more conscious about what we try flushing. Below are the dos and don'ts that our plumbing expert shared with us:

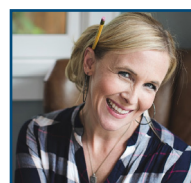
Do flush things that are safe:

Toilet paper labeled as septic safe
Yeah, that's it. A good rule of thumb — if it's not toilet paper or human waste, DON'T flush it! Instead, toss it in a garbage can nearby

to dispose of it. If you have a poor plumbing or a septic system, you'll want to be extra careful with the type of toilet paper you flush.

Don't flush things that are not safe:

- Flushable wipes (or any other wipes for that matter)
 - Tampons and sanitary napkins
 - Tissues
 - Paper towels
 - Anything that's NOT toilet paper
- Anyway, I'm glad that nightmare is over and it's certainly a lesson learned. Now we can get back to the renovation so I can start sharing my money-saving home improvement tips!



Collin Morgan is the founder of Hip2save.com. She lives in her wipes free home in Reno, NV with her husband and their three children.

Reprinted by permission from hip2save.com, edited for space <https://hip2save.com/2018/08/27/flushable-wipes-plumbing/>

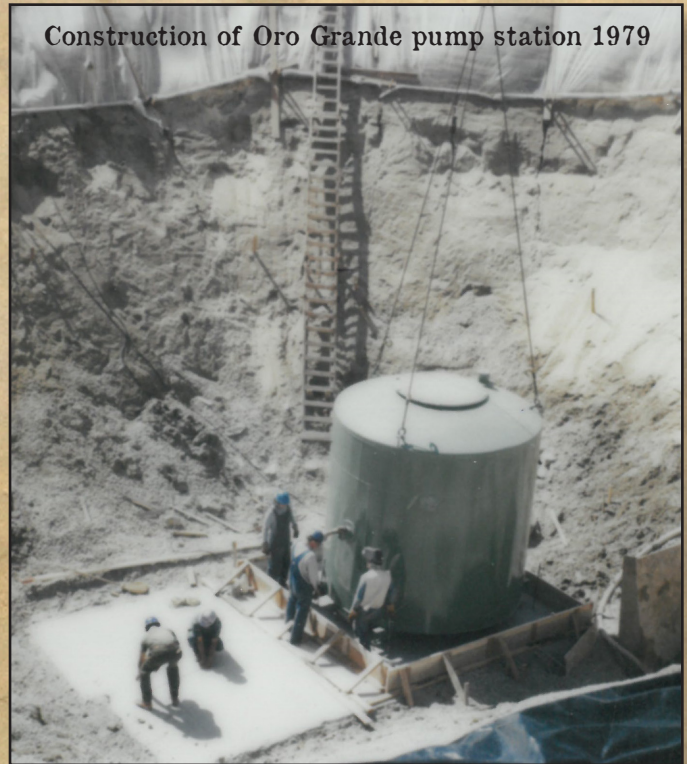


Memory Lane

A look back at VVWRA history...



Construction of digesters 1978



Construction of Oro Grande pump station 1979



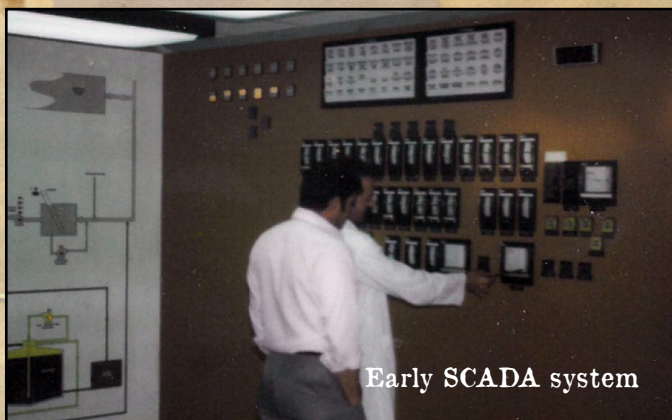
Early board meeting



Original VVWRA logo



VVWRA 2000



Early SCADA system



Mr. Dingle debuts
September, 2014

**SCADA stands for supervisory control and data acquisition and helps automate many of our processes.

**Fun fact: Dingle is the name of a small fishing village in Ireland that dates back to the 13th century.



This and that...

VWVRA Salutes Staff Veterans



VWVRA marks Veterans Day by saluting members of our staff who are military veterans. From left to right: Eugene Davis, Navy, Logan Olds, Army, Daniel Enriquez, Marines, Eric Schweizer, Army, Kyle Regis, Marines. Thank you for your service!

Desert Knolls Interceptor Realignment

Main sewer line in Apple Valley to be moved.

After a heavy rain storm came through the High Desert in the Winter of 2016, a large sewer interceptor or pipeline surfaced in the Desert Knolls

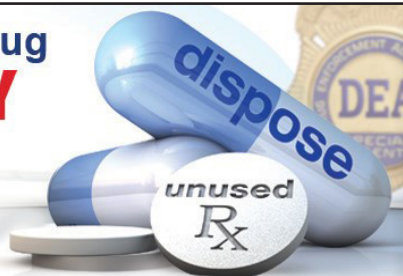


Wash in Apple Valley south of Highway 18. The water rushing through the wash had exposed the pipe. While there was no break in the pipe and no sewage spill, the incident reinforced VWVRA's concerns about the location of that pipeline. The 15" pipeline was installed many years ago below the Desert Knolls Wash, but in recent years, VWVRA had become increasingly concerned about the possibility that a large storm could seriously damage the interceptor. With that in mind, contractors will begin the process of re-aligning a 2600 foot section of the interceptor out of the wash this Fall. The project is expected to take about six months to complete.

National Prescription Drug TAKE BACK DAY

Saturday, October 27, 2018
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
takebackday.dea.gov



Results: April 2018 15th National Take Back

- Total Law Enforcement Participation: 4,683
- Total Collection Sites: 5,842
- Total Weight Collected: 949,046 lbs. (474.5 Tons)



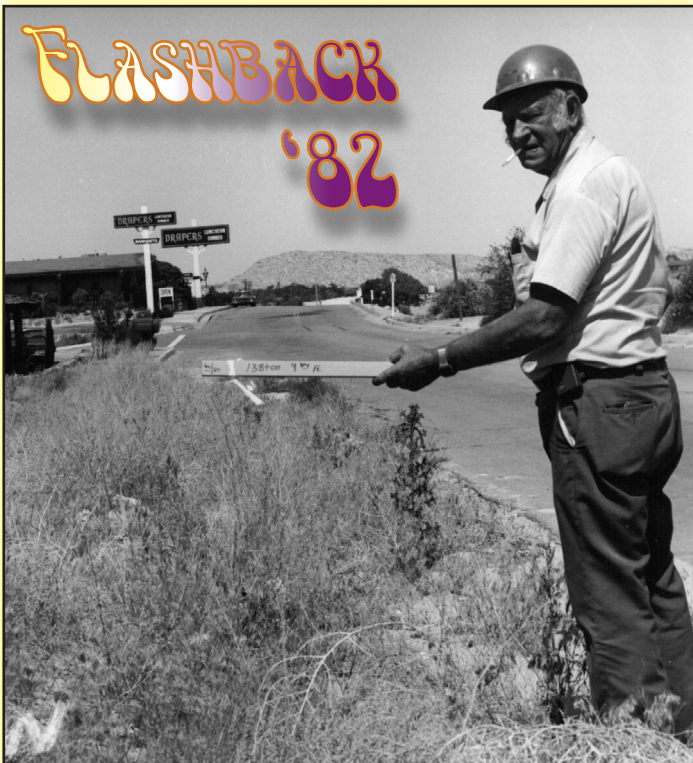
The rear end

Clean recycled water flows in Apple Valley



Clean Title 22 recycled water is flowing into percolation ponds at the Apple Valley Golf Course. The water was produced at the new Apple Valley Subregional Water facility at Brewster Park. The recycled water will eventually be used to irrigate the golf course saving precious drinking water. Startup has begun on the nearly identical Hesperia Subregional facility. Recycled water produced there will be used to irrigate the Hesperia Golf Course.

**Title 22 of California's Water Recycling Criteria refers to California state guidelines for how treated and recycled water is discharged and used.



In 1982, contractors were taking measurements for the Apple Valley interceptor along Outer Highway 18. Longtime residents may recognize the old Drapers restaurant and nightclub in the background.

Dingle's Corner



Sections **BBC NEWS** AA

SCOTLAND

Sewer was blocked by large Pooh

Last updated 17 Feb 2014 00:03 GMT



A Winnie the Pooh teddy bear was found dumped in a manhole in East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire