



Purple Pipe

Volume III Spring 2015

VVWRA Breaks Ground on Hesperia and AV Sub-regionals



Hesperia groundbreaking: VVWRA Commissioners and the Hesperia city council were among those turning dirt at the Hesperia WRP site.

Apple Valley groundbreaking: VVWRA Commissioners and the Apple Valley Town Council celebrate the start of construction at Brewster Park.

They are projects that have been more than 20 years in the making and now work has begun on two subregional water reclamation plants (WRP) in Hesperia and Apple Valley. A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Hesperia site (near Tamarisk Ave & Mojave St.) on March 24th and was attended by a number of local officials including Mayor Eric Schmidt and VVWRA Commissioner Russ Blewett. The Apple Valley groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 16th at Brewster Park. Mayor Larry Cusack and VVWRA Commissioner Scott Nassif were among the many local officials in attendance. With another year of severe drought ahead of us, these facilities highlight the importance of finding alternative sources of water. When completed, each facility will produce one million gallons per day (1MGD) of recycled water. That's water that will be used to keep our local parks and golf courses green while preserving our precious drinking water. Each of these facilities will have the capability of being expanded to double their output to two million gallons of recycled water a day as the need grows in the future. (more photos on page 5)

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Hesperia WRP



Apple Valley WRP

The Hesperia and Apple Valley WRP's are "good neighbor" facilities that will each feature state of the art noise and odor controls, as well as extensive exterior landscaping and buildings that are designed to blend with area neighborhoods.

A Message from our General Manager

Drought, Drought, Drought. California's dire water shortage is something everyone is talking about. The Governor has issued a second emergency proclamation, and unless you are clairvoyant, we have no idea when it will end. At this point, we need a minimum of three "normal" water years to recover. So are we being proactive or reactive to the drought? Well, VVWRA has proactively pursued recycled water for many years with the subregional water reclamation plants (WRP's) being the penultimate objective response to drought and growth while focusing on the bottom line. The ultimate solution being rain and unlimited funding. I am not going to hold my breath for either of those occurring in our community anytime soon. So with that in mind, we evaluated the upgrades needed to our interceptor system and how



the WRP's could solve those deficiencies and accommodate growth. We also looked at cost to make sure it was fairly balanced. It became clear that WRP's would provide a number of benefits to our community. Chief among them is the ability to offset local potable water sources with clean reusable recycled water. Construction has begun on the WRP's with completion expected in 2016. So in 2016, we can hope for rain. But whether it comes or not, thanks to the foresight of our elected officials and Member Agencies, we will be producing two million gallons of recycled water per day for use in Apple Valley and Hesperia. That's in addition to the two million gallons a day of recycled water produced at our main plant for the City of Victorville. We at VVWRA are taking a proactive approach to the water shortage. Let's hope the rest of the state strives for long term solutions as well.

Logan Olds Logan Olds, General Manager

VVWRA Given Prestigious NACWA Award for Environmental Performance



VVWRA was recognized for its innovative approach to converting waste to energy through its Biogas to Energy Project. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) gave VVWRA its 2015 National Environmental Achievement Award on February 2 in Charleston, South Carolina. The Biogas to Energy Project, which includes the Omnivore program, is the first of its kind in North America and is part of a unique partnership between VVWRA and Anaergia LLC. Omnivore uses a special process to thicken sludge and increase the capacity of co-digestion inside a newly, retrofitted anaerobic digester. That in turn dramatically increases the production of bio-gas or methane. The resulting bio-gas is captured and will be used to generate electricity to power nearly 100 percent of plant operations.

"We are honored to be recognized by NACWA", said VVWRA General Manager Logan Olds. "The Omnivore is unprecedented technology that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while virtually eliminating electricity and natural gas related expenses that VVWRA would normally have to pass along to the community." The cost savings for VVWRA translates into savings for local businesses and residents which in turn gives the region an economic advantage."

SCE Presents \$48,000 Refund for Energy Efficiency

Southern California Edison presented the VVWRA Board with an incentive refund check for \$48,846.27. The check was in response to new energy saving methods of operating the VVWRA UV Disinfection system. The methods were developed by VVWRA Director of Operations Gilbert Perez and his staff.

UV Disinfection uses powerful UV lights to disinfect the wastewater and traditionally is one of VVWRA's biggest energy users. Perez and his team developed and put in place a new operating protocol that has resulted in dramatic energy savings.



SCE's Amy Olson and Nancy Jackson present VVWRA with refund check.



VWRA Board of Commissioners



Jeffrey O. Rigney
County of San Bernardino



James N. Kennedy
City of Victorville



Scott Nassif
Town of Apple Valley



Russ Blewett
City of Hesperia

Upper Narrows Tunneling Making Progress

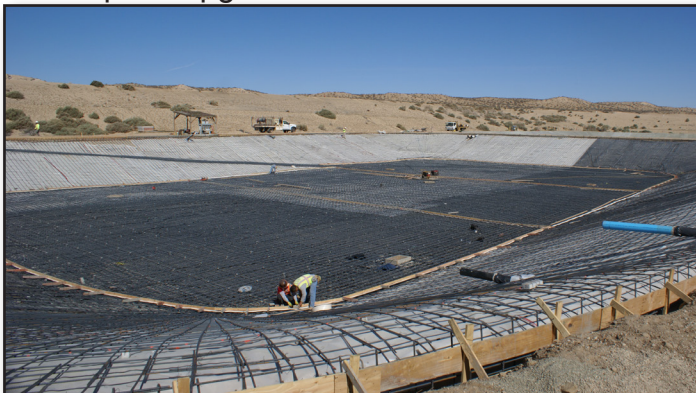


This picture was taken about 300' inside the tunnel being drilled at the Upper Narrows

The drilling at the Upper Narrows site is moving along. Workers are using a large tunnel boring machine to create an 80" tunnel about 1/4 of a mile long underneath the rocky hills of the Narrows. It will eventually connect with a previously drilled tunnel underneath C Street. These tunnels are part of a new series of pipelines that will transport wastewater from Apple Valley, Hesperia, Victorville and Spring Valley Lake to the main VWRA plant. These pipeline are part of the Upper Narrows Emergency Pipeline Replacement Project which was necessary after a series of storms damaged our previous pipelines in 2010. The project is expected to be substantially completed in August.

VWRA sludge lagoons get a makeover

The two sludge lagoons located at the north side of the VWRA plant are getting a new look. They are being re-lined with a geo-membrane impregnated with bentonite clay and then topped with steel reinforced concrete. Contractors are using 2400 cubic yards of concrete to line the lagoons. Once completed, each lagoon will have a capacity of 4.3 million gallons. The \$1.4 million dollar project is Phase B of plant upgrades. Phase A included the new UV disinfection building and micro filtering system.





This 'n That

Xiwei Wang *Employee of the Quarter*



VWRA accountant Xiwei Wang was named Employee of the Quarter. He was recognized for his hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence. Xiwei started in the VWRA accounting department as an intern back in 2010 and was hired on full time a year later. In addition to a bachelor's degree in accounting, Xiwei is now a Certified Public Accountant, passing the exam in March. He is continuing to pursue his master's degree. Xiwei says he likes accounting because it is "challenging and unpredictable", and compares it to putting puzzles together. When he isn't crunching numbers at VWRA, Xiwei enjoys snowboarding, tennis, archery and computers. Congratulations Xiwei!

Lead man!



Congratulations to Eugene Davis who was promoted to Lead Operator!

Grade 3 Cert!



Congratulations to Sr. Operator Keith Lueken who earned his Grade 3 certification!

Making a Move!



Moises Castro is now an Operator in Training

New Faces @ VWRA!



Kyle Parker
Accounting Technician



Richard Swatzell
Maintenance Mechanic in Training

subscribe to the **Johnny Wastewater** YouTube channel

Follow **VWRA** on Social Media








WRP Construction in Hesperia



Construction is well underway at the site for the Hesperia water reclamation plant (WRP). Workers have been excavating, pouring concrete and installing piping. The city of Hesperia will begin work this Summer on a pipeline that will eventually take the recycled water from the WRP to the Hesperia Golf Course. Similar work is expected to begin soon at the site of the Apple Valley WRP at Brewster Park. The town will also be installing a pipeline to the Apple Valley Golf Course. Both WRP sites are scheduled to be completed by mid-2017.

WRP Groundbreaking Photo Album



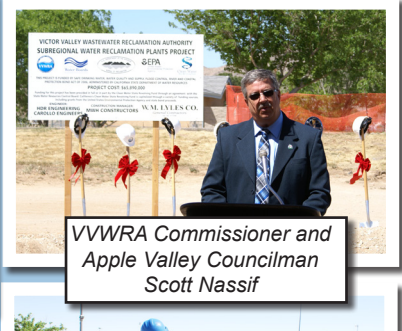
Hesperia Mayor Eric Schmidt with VWVRA GM Logan Olds.



VWVRA Commissioner and Hesperia Councilman Russ Blewett



Large crowd at Apple Valley groundbreaking

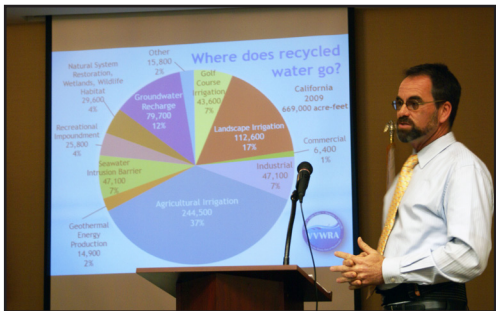


VWVRA Commissioner and Apple Valley Councilman Scott Nassif



Mr. Dingle greets Town of Apple Valley employees!

Speaker, speaker!



VWVRA GM Logan Olds speaks to the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce. VWVRA is always happy to share the exciting things that are happening here. If your group or organization is interested in learning about VWVRA, and our various projects, we have speakers available. Contact PIO David Wylie (dwylie@vwwra.com) for scheduling and availability.



TAKING THE WASTE OUT OF WASTEWATER!

Johnny Wastewater

Solar power at VWVRA?

VWVRA is seriously considering using solar power as a low cost way of offsetting the electricity used by the subregional WRP's being built in Apple Valley and Hesperia. A solar farm could be built at the VWVRA main plant that would put electricity back into the Edison grid. This idea is in it's early stages and we'll have more in future editions of the Purple Pipe!



Mr. Dingle Hits the Big Time!

He's front page news and there's no doubt about it, Mr. Dingle is the talk of the Victor Valley. Mr. Dingle was a collaborative creation of a number of employees. The unofficial mascot of VWVRA started making appearances late last year. But it wasn't until the recent Hesperia WRP groundbreaking that Mr. Dingle became a star. Guests at the event scrambled to get their picture with him and as a result a Daily Press reporter became enamored with the fluffy, brown guy. The next day, he appeared on the front page of the newspaper



with the headline "Mr. Dingle makes quite a splash". He has even spawned his own currency. The "Dingle Dollar" was originally created as a prize token for school students taking field trips at VWVRA. But

the "Dingle Dollars" have become so popular that VWVRA GM Logan Olds often keeps a stack of them with him to hand out at various events. Now, with all the attention he has received, everyone seems to have an opinion about Mr. Dingle. But there is no doubt that he has people talking about VWVRA. Olds says, "Our primary mission at VWVRA is to treat waste and this is just a lighthearted tribute to what we do."

Bye Bye Birdy!



The VWVRA plant is a resting place for a number of different species of migrating birds during the year. This unusual looking bird, a black necked stilt, was recently spotted at the plant. These are shore birds who have the second longest legs in proportion to their bodies of any bird, exceeded only by the flamingo. Within a few days, it had moved on.

Funny!



NOBODY TOLD JAMES THAT THE FIVE SECOND RULE DIDN'T APPLY IN THEIR LINE OF WORK.

TOURS!



VVC students get up close look at the tunneling operation at the Upper Narrows.



Students from Granite Hills High School learn about the 2G generators, which are crucial to VWVRA's bio-gas to energy program.

Tour info: dwyllie@vwvra.com

Don't Flush!



There are a number of items you shouldn't flush down the toilet and topping that list is prescription drugs! Treatment plants like VWVRA are not designed to filter prescription and over-the-counter drugs. If flushed, the drugs can cause environmental damage, so it's important to dispose of these things properly. Drugs can be taken to local household hazardous waste disposal sites. Occasionally, local agencies host "drop off" events. We also ask that you don't flush wipes, even those that say they are flushable. They can clog pipelines and cause damage to our equipment.

