



Purple Pipe

Volume VIII Summer 2016



VWVRA Among Top Plants in the State

CWEA recognizes VWVRA at annual conference



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Some of the outstanding employees that have helped make VWVRA one of the best in California.

Santa Clara--VWVRA was named one of the top wastewater treatment facilities in the state during the California Water Environment Association's annual conference in Santa Clara, CA. After winning the Desert and Mountain region competition for medium sized plants, VWVRA was awarded second place in the statewide contest. Public Information Officer David Wylie accepted the award on behalf of the VWVRA staff. CWEA looks at all aspects of the plant operations, including day to day operations, maintenance, safety, finance and innovation. The judges were impressed with VWVRA's operations, including it's Biogas to Energy program that is providing most of the plant's electrical needs. "This award is a tribute to the hard work of the men and women on our staff", said VWVRA General Manager Logan Olds. "We do many innovative projects here at VWVRA and our employees are the ones who make these projects work." In addition to the Plant of the Year award, VWVRA's Purple Pipe newsletter took second place in the statewide newsletter competition. The CWEA is a not-for-profit organization of more than 9,300 water quality professionals that promote sound environmental policies that benefit society.



PIO David Wylie accepts the CWEA award on behalf of VWVRA from CWEA President Garry Parker (l) and Brett Offerman (r) from Kemira.



Predicting the future... A Message from our General Manager

Abraham Lincoln is credited with stating "The best way to predict the future is to create it." I like this quote because it is proactive. I see many issues and people that seem more intent on being reactive and destructive. It takes real effort to create a positive (home, work, community) environment where ideas grow and opportunity flourishes. It takes real effort to help people feel empowered to take chances and make positive change. Certainly, more effort than comes out in a soundbite. Communication requires the courage to be honest, open and trusting. But how do you get people to communicate in a manner which builds rather than destroys, when destroying is so much easier? Why is it easier to be negative?

Perhaps caring is the difference, empathy for others and a willingness to accept conflict as a part of life. At the same time, I think it's important that we stop being lazy in our thinking; we need to question what we are being told and hold it up to the light of reason. It is odd how people will resort to destructive actions rather than just have an open honest conversation. I see this behavior exhibiting itself everywhere; it is what leads to injustice and oppression, aka bullying.

So how do we stand against the tyranny of negativity? Through teamwork and courage. Courage to think independently and question the source; Courage to feel compassion for those around us while still making the tough call; Courage to stand for our American beliefs and not bow down to the politics of fear. Remember the idealism of our 20's, the rationalization of our 30's and the pragmatism of our 40's? Let's hope that there are enough of us that believe in the common good of humanity so that we can continue to overcome the naysayers and "do nothings" to create a future we can all be proud of.



Logan Olds
Logan Olds, General Manager

CA Energy Commission Awards VVWRA \$1.7 million Grant



Energy storage is about to take a huge step forward at the VVWRA plant in Victorville thanks to a grant from the California Energy Commission. The CEC has awarded VVWRA a \$1.7 million dollar grant to install a flow cell battery storage system by Primus Power and a micro-grid developed by the University of California. Installation is expected to begin in August. The flow cell battery storage and microgrid system will enable VVWRA to store and manage excess electricity generated at the Victorville plant, making power available during power outages caused by regular maintenance, equipment failure or other unforeseen occurrences. VVWRA is currently capable of producing up to 1.6 megawatts of electricity through its Waste to Energy Program. On average, the VVWRA plant requires 1.2

megawatts to operate. A portion of the additional power will be stored in the Primus battery system, while the rest will be exported to the grid. The project will enable VVWRA to modify its agreement with Southern California Edison to allow Net Energy Metering (NEM) in July of 2017. NEM will reduce VVWRA's energy costs by approximately \$400,000 per year and enable the Authority to sell renewable energy to the grid. "Selling renewable power to the electrical grid will create a new revenue source for VVWRA", said VVWRA General Manager Logan Olds. "The grant also enables VVWRA to continue on its path towards energy neutrality."

Purple Pipe newsletter

VVWRA Board of Commissioners

- Russ Blewett / Hesperia
- Jim Kennedy / Victorville
- Scott Nassif / Apple Valley
- Jeff Rigney / SB CSA 42 & 46

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New CWEA /DAMS Board Sworn in



(l-r) Communications Chair Nikki Crumpler, BBARWA; Director Sam Arvizu, City of Victorville; VP Robert Coromina, VVWRA; Director Alex Aviles, Barstow; Vendor Liaison Josh Peters, Ponton Industries; Past President Kody Tompkins, Barstow; Director Kim Booth, BBARWA; President Latif Laari, VVWRA; CWEA President Garry Parker; Director Wesley Garrison, Barstow; Secretary Kristi Casteel, VVWRA; Treasurer David Wylie, VVWRA.



Purple Pipe - *bits & pieces*

VWRA earns Dept. of Energy Award for Energy Efficiency

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority is proud to be one of this year's Better Buildings, Better Plants Challenge energy goal achievers having accomplished 27 percent energy savings within a three year period. That far surpassed the Challenges overall program goal of 20 percent energy savings in ten years. As a partner in the Department of Energy's Better Buildings, Better Plants Challenge, VWRA is proven to be a leader among a group of 310 Better Buildings Challenge partners who are leading the energy efficiency sector by deploying solutions and strategies to improve the efficiency of the nation's buildings, plants and homes. A cornerstone of the President's Climate Action Plan, the Better Buildings, Better Plants Challenge is aimed at achieving the goal of doubling American energy productivity by 2030 while motivating corporate and public sector leaders across the country to save energy through commitments and investments.



VWRA Mentors Granite Hills HS Students



(l-r, GHHS students Andy DeLeon, Sergio Montantes, Commissioner Jim Cox, students Aaron Renteria, Akshar Patel, Commissioner Russ Blewett, Commissioner Jeff Rigney, student Raj Patel, Commissioner Scott Nassif, student Robert Green, VVWRA IT Coordinator Bruce Correia)

Six students from Granite Hills High School successfully completed a year long SCADA mentorship program with VVWRA. SCADA stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. It is the system that VVWRA and many other agencies uses to remotely monitor, automate and control their operations. SCADA has many uses, not only in the wastewater industry, but in other fields such as manufacturing and power generation. It's even used to control traffic lights and amusement park rides. The mentorship was guided by VVWRA's IT Coordinator Bruce Correia, who calls the experience "one of the most rewarding of his career". Students learned how the processes work and how to create programmable logic controllers (PLC's) to control automation.



VVWRA GM Logan Olds emceed the High Desert Economic Summit in May. The event brought together community leaders and respected economists to discuss the economic future of the High Desert.

ISO 50001 Strives to Boost Energy Efficiency *Training in Victorville attracts attendees from across the Nation*

VVWRA recently hosted a three day training session at Victorville City Hall for both local staff and staff from other organizations across the country. The session was Phase 2 of the ISO 50001 training for this group. A third and final session will be held later this year. Attendees came from as faraway as Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia to attending the training at Victorville City Hall. ISO 50001 is an internationally recognized standard that has been established to specify the requirements for implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system. Most of the energy efficiency measures are not about investing in new technology, but finding ways to better manage energy usage and performance. VVWRA staff has been going through extensive training in ISO 50001 in an effort to identify areas where we can reduce our plants energy use. The VVWRA effort has been dubbed Endeavor as we continue to look for ways to reduce energy usage and increase energy efficiency.



ISO 50001 training group in Victorville.



Around the Plant

Marcos Avila-- Employee of the Quarter



Congratulations to Senior Mechanic Marcos Avila for being selected VVWRA's Employee of the Quarter. Marcos joined the VVWRA in 2011 and is an important part of our maintenance team. Marcos and the rest of the maintenance crew maintain and repair the equipment at VVWRA. With their expertise, VVWRA is able to treat the wastewater to the best means possible. Marcos was honored for his hard work and commitment to excellence. Before joining VVWRA, Marcos worked in the commercial refrigeration field. As part of being awarded Employee of the Quarter, Marcos received a \$150 gift card and claims the coveted reserved parking space at VVWRA. Congratulations Marcos!



Marcos Avila

Employee Promotions & Accomplishments



Congrats to Bobby Hesse who was promoted to Senior Operator



Congrats to Johnny Bustos who was promoted to Operator



Congrats to Latif Laari who earned his AA degree in Math & Science from Victor Valley College



Congrats to Miguel Mendoza who earned his AA degree in Math & Science from Victor Valley College



PIO David Wylie received his Certification in Public Information from CAPIO (California Association of Public Information Officials)

Congratulations!

- Keith Lueken, Miguel Mendoza & Ryan Love received their Grade V certifications
- Bobby Hesse & Brad Adams passed their Grade III exams
 - Kyle Regis passed his Grade II exam
- Intern Denise Schneider passed her Grade I exam

A new face @ VVWRA



VVWRA welcomes Adam Molina as our new Information Systems Technician

32nd annual Tri-State Seminar September 20-22



The 32nd annual Tri-State Seminar is coming up September 20-22 in Las Vegas. The Tri-State Seminar provides training and certification classes for water, wastewater and storm-water industry professionals from California, Nevada, and Arizona. Technical sessions and workshops are tailored to help each attendee learn about new techniques, regulations, and advancements within each industry. The Tri-State Seminar experience is the choice for those looking for training that is focused on practical, application-oriented objectives that can be used on the job once you return from the seminar. This years event will feature quality educational programming, up to 21 hours of continuing education and certification credits and expanded exhibitor space. For more information, visit tristateseminar.com.

Subregionals Update

***VWRA is currently building subregional water reclamation plants in Hesperia and Apple Valley. Both are set to be completed in 2017. Each site will be capable of producing one million gallons per day of recycled water. The water will be used for above ground irrigation saving our precious drinking water.**

HESPERIA



Construction crews at the Hesperia site are finalizing the roofing for the secondary and primary buildings where much of the wastewater treatment will take place. They are currently scheduled to start other activities like installing doors, metal stud walls and interior painting in early July. This is all in preparation for receiving and installing electrical equipment in August. Additionally, crews are continuing to work on the mechanical equipment, as well as above ground and below ground piping. Contractors with WM Lyles have 3 full time crews assigned to piping and mechanical equipment. This Arch and Mechanical work will carry to the end of 2016 when we plan on starting up the plant for initial testing.



Hesperia subregional construction site.

APPLE VALLEY



Crews are working on the concrete structures on the Apple Valley site at Brewster Park. They are scheduled to complete backfilling the below ground structures by the end of July. Masonry block is being installed at the secondary building and crews will start on the masonry walls at the primary building in August. Additionally, construction crews will begin installing underground piping on the site at Brewster Park in August after the structure is backfilled. They are scheduled to start installing the irrigation piping and plants at the Apple Valley Golf Course in the last quarter of 2016.



Aerial view of construction of Apple Valley subregional

Upper Narrows Pipeline Replacement Project nearing Completion



A worker inspects the outside of steel casing.

The Upper Narrows Pipeline Replacement Project is drawing closer to completion as crews. The final stage in the project is a 90' pipe crossing underneath the BNSF railroad tracks near Kemper Campbell Ranch. The initial 60" casing has been installed and a 48" sewer pipe will be put inside of that. The new pipeline will permanently carry wastewater from Hesperia, Spring Valley Lake and Victorville. The project is scheduled to be completed in early August.



Inside 60" steel casing with mud on the floor.



It's a dirty job keeping VVWRA running

It's been estimated that there is more than \$200 million in equipment and infrastructure at the main VVWRA plant in Victorville. In order to keep up with the constant flow of wastewater, these important pieces of equipment often run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Therefore, it is important that they are well maintained and repaired promptly when there is a problem. VVWRA employs a great staff of operators, mechanics, electrical technicians and utility workers. It's extremely dirty work that can often put our employees in tight spaces, so safety is always a priority. A recent repair of a leaking pipeline required mechanic Brian Fenton to repel down a 40' foot wet well while



Mechanic Brian Fenton makes repairs to a pipeline inside a 40 foot wet well.

wastewater was flowing all around him. The team went through a safety protocol before Brian went into the well. During that same project, the team decided to pull a very heavy pump from the wet well for cleaning and inspection.



Senior Operator Brad Adams (l), Mechanic Brian Fenton (c) and Mechanic in Training Brad Doneff (r) pull a pump for inspection and cleaning.

Once again, our staff was strapped into safety harnesses to prevent dangerous slips or falls. This is all part of the daily efforts by our maintenance and operations teams to keep VVWRA running smoothly and efficiently.

Sign of the times!



Visitors to VVWRA may notice a new look at our plant. A team installed the VVWRA letters and logo along with an American flag on a portion of a 36" white aeration pipe that stretches some 17' feet above a service road. "The new sign provides a source of pride and identity for those who work here at the plant" said VVWRA PIO David Wylie.

Dingle's Corner



Everyone loves Mr. Dingle! He got the rock star treatment from kids at the Helendale Earth Day event. Mr. Dingle played games, posed for pictures and helped teach students about the importance of recycling water and converting waste into energy. (vvwra.com/mrdingle)

Save the Date!

2016 AIR PACK DERBY
AND VENDOR FAIR
Thursday, August 25th
BIG BEAR ELKS LODGE

Contact the Purple Pipe: info@vvwra.com