



Purple Pipe



Volume VI Winter 2016

Taking the waste out of wastewater!

7th Street Reopens as Project Progresses



Colored concrete poured.



The intersection of 7th St. and C St. in Old Town Victorville.



Street being paved with asphalt.

Another major milestone has been achieved as 7th St. in Old Town Victorville was reopened early on the morning of December 10th. The site at 7th and D is where a new manhole has been installed and two large pipelines are joined about 30 feet underground. The new pipeline and manhole are part of the Upper Narrows Emergency Pipeline Project that was made necessary after a series of powerful storms in 2010 severely damaged VVWRA's main sewer line that ran along the Mojave River. "We are very excited that this part of the project has been completed," said VVWRA General Man-

ager Logan Olds. "We appreciate the communities patience during this time." Crews had dug more than a half mile of tunnels and installed 4000 feet of pipe before they filled in the hole and paved the street. The idea behind the ambitious pipeline replacement project is to create a permanent sewer line solution that avoids environmentally sensitive areas. Construction continues in the Kemper Campbell Ranch area with completion expected in mid 2016. When completed, the new lines will bring wastewater from Apple Valley, East Victorville, Spring Valley Lake and Hesperia to the main VVWRA plant in Victorville for treatment and conversion to renewable energy.



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VVWRA Lands \$9.2 Mil Grant for AV Subregional

VVWRA has been awarded a Prop. 1 grant of \$9,181,841 towards construction of the Apple Valley Subregional Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). With the newly awarded funds, 26% of the total cost to design and build the Water Reclamation Plants in Apple Valley and Hesperia is now covered by state and federal grants. Prop. 1 is the water bond measure approved by Cali-

fornia voters in Nov. of 2014. The new grant was made possible, in part, because the Apple Valley project is already under construction. The remaining cost for the WRP's is being paid for with a 30 year, 1% loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. "The grants manage to cut almost \$2 million dollars per year in borrowing costs over the course of the loan", said Olds.



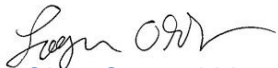


A Message from our General Manager



Responsibility is a burden like no other. It drives us to provide for our families, seek an education, to accomplish something that will benefit others and ourselves. It teaches us tolerance, patience, respect and how to work together as a team to achieve goals. What I do not expect to understand is how someone could act so irresponsibly that it would cause them to deprive others of their right to exist. The tragedy our fellow civil servants faced at the County of San Bernardino is a somber reminder that irrespective of religious faith, irresponsible people will act selfishly. When I look around at the accomplishments of my co-workers at VWRA in 2015, I see countless reminders of individuals acting responsibly for the betterment of our home, our work and our valley. We have several more projects to accomplish together in 2016 and then my hope is that they begin to fall off one by one like a bird shedding its winter feathers for all to see its new summer coat. Perhaps next year we can plan to do some paint and paving, maybe even clean out the round house. Or even more hopeful, the end of the Upper Narrows Project! Regardless of what we accomplish next year, I am very proud that our team will act responsibly, through good times and bad, so that we may celebrate another year together.

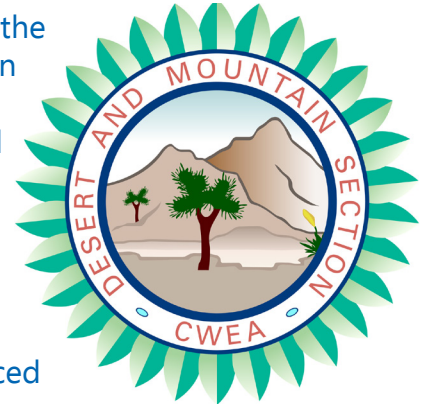
"What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."
Ralph Waldo Emerson


 Logan Olds, General Manager

VWRA wins Plant of the Year & Newsletter Awards



VWRA was named the Plant of the Year at the Annual CWES/DAMS Awards Banquet held in December at the Lake Arrowhead Resort. VWRA won the award in the medium sized plant category. The Purple Pipe, VWRA's newsletter, was also named Newsletter of the Year. Both the VWRA treatment plant and the Purple Pipe will compete for the same honors in the statewide competition. The statwinners are expected to be announced in early 2016.



El Nino is on the way!

Weather experts say an El Nino condition has formed in the Pacific Ocean and they are predicting large storms to hit Southern California this Winter. The High Desert has always been prone to flooding. If the El Nino weather patterns come as predicted, many areas of the Victor Valley could be threatened by rising waters and flash flooding.

VWRA encourages everyone to prepare their families and property before the storms hit. Go to VWRA.com/elnino where we have links to many helpful websites, including the state of California's Storm Ready site and an American Red Cross video that shows you how to make an emergency preparedness kit.





Purple Pipe - bits & pieces

CWEA/DAMS Collection System Training



VWRA's Keith Lueken and Robert Townsend take part in enclosed space training class.

The Clean Water Environment Association/Desert and Mountain Section (CWEA/DAMS) held its annual Collection System Training Day in October at the Rick Novack Center in Hesperia. A number of VWRA employees were in attendance. The day long event featured seminars on things like confined space training, manhole rehabilitation and collection system leadership. This training day and other similar CWEA/DAMS sponsored events give VWRA employees, and their counterparts at other agencies, the opportunity to get their needed contact hours. For more info, go to damsfcwea.org.



VWRA Employees Donate Food to VV Rescue Mission

The VWRA Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive was a big success! VWRA employees donated hundreds of pounds of food to the Victor Valley Rescue Mission in Old Town Victorville. The food was delivered by VWRA's Daniel Enriquez and Johnny Bustos brought a van full of food to the mission's office in Old Town. The Rescue Mission provides meals, clothing and services for poor and needy people in our community. Mission Director Bill Edwards said "Thank you for helping those in need!" The Victor Valley Rescue Mission is always looking for donations and volunteers to continue their outreach. Donations can be made on their website at VictorValleyRescueMission.org. If you would like to give some of your time, email Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy George at jgeorge@rescuemission.org.



VWRA's Dan Enriquez and Johnny Bustos present Rescue Mission Director Bill Edwards with employee donated food.

The Apprentice meets Mr. Dingle



(l-r) VWRA's David Wylie, Apprentice winner Bill Rancic, Mr. Dingle and VWRA GM Logan Olds

Bill Rancic, the winner of Season 1 of "The Apprentice" TV show had a chance to meet Mr. Dingle at the 2015 High Desert Opportunity conference in October. Rancic was the keynote speaker at the event. Rancic smiled and shook his head after meeting Mr. Dingle. VWRA Public Information Officer David Wylie presented Rancic with a Dingle Dollar to remember the momentous occasion. Rancic in turn autographed a Dingle Dollar as a souvenir for Mr. Dingle!



VWRA's Johnny Bustos (above) and Moises Castro (pg. 4) volunteered their time at the Victor Valley Rescue Mission's Christmas Toy Giveaway!



Around the Plant

Moises Castro--Employee of the Quarter



Moises Castro, VVWRA Operator

Congratulations to **Moises Castro**, who is the new VVWRA Employee of the Quarter. Moises came to VVWRA as a Victor Valley College intern and, in March of 2014, he was hired as a Mechanic in Training. He has since earned his Grade 2 certification and has been promoted to Operator. Moises brings a positive, "can do" attitude to the VVWRA team. Whether offering assistance to new employees and interns, or bringing life to Mr. Dingle, Moises is always enthusiastic about his work. Moises grew up in Santa Ana, CA and graduated from Saddleback High School. He was working as a truck driver when his cousin, who works at a treatment plant in Orange County, encouraged him to pursue a career in wastewater. He took his advice and once he landed a full time job at VVWRA, he moved to the High Desert. Moises lives in Hesperia with his wife and three sons. Moises is often heard encouraging our current class of interns, telling them "If I can do you it, you can do it". When he's not at VVWRA, Moises enjoys spending time with his family. As part of winning Employee of the Quarter, Moises was awarded a \$150 gift card. He used the gift card to buy Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children in our community.



Moises at VV Rescue Mission Toy Giveaway

VVWRA Maintenance Team Keeps Plant Running



VVWRA's Mike Koncur, Richard Swatzell and Brad Doneff work with a contractor on a mixing mechanism taken from inside the Omnivore digester.

The VVWRA maintenance team makes sure our plant is running smoothly, which is no small task. There is more than \$200 million dollars in infrastructure on the grounds of the VVWRA plant with many moving parts. The maintenance team is led by Maintenance Supervisor Dean Johnson, and includes three mechanics (Marcos Avila, Brian Fenton, Mike Koncur) three mechanics in training (Richard Swatzell, Benjamin Martin, Brad Doneff), three electrical instrumentation technicians (Randy Gillette, Mauricio Marin, Wesley Bardsley) and a utility worker (Chuck Trammel). Together, they make sure that all the equipment and components that VVWRA uses to clean wastewater and create renewable energy are operating properly, while making improvements and repairs when needed.



Brad Doneff and Ben Martin checking equipment at the VVWRA plant.

Congratulations!

- **Keith Lueken & Miguel Mendoza** passed their Grade V exams
 - **Salvador Carlos** passed his Grade III exam
- **Tyrese Powell & Johnny Bustos** passed their Grade I exam



Subregionals Update

***VWVRA is currently building subregional water reclamation plants in Hesperia and Apple Valley. Both are set to open in early 2017. When fully operational, 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 on the Hesperia subregional water reclamation plant (WRP) is progressing well. Construction crews from W.M. Lyles Co. are finishing up the concrete decks on the main structure. 85% of the concrete work has been completed. They have begun backfilling the concrete structures at the site. Crews will back fill with material excavated from the adjacent percolation pond that is also under construction.

The percolation pond will be completed in the first quarter of 2016. In the first quarter of 2016, the focus of the project will transition from concrete and earthwork to architectural items and mechanical piping. Crews will begin the masonry block, structural framing, walls and roofing of the main structure buildings. That will continue into the summer of 2016. The construction team will also be starting to install above ground and below ground piping and equipment. This type of work will continue to the end of 2016.



Workers pouring concrete for aeration basins at Hesperia subregional.

APPLE VALLEY



Excavation at the Apple Valley subregional site at Brewster Park has been completed and crews are now concentrating on building the concrete structures. Construction of these below ground structures will continue until the Summer of 2016. At that time, the construction team will begin back filling the structures. Important note:

Brewster Park remains open during construction. Meantime, two percolation ponds adjacent to holes 13, 14 and 15 at the Apple Valley Golf Course are virtually complete. Most of the pipelines along Town of Apple Valley streets have been completed and construction on piping at the golf course is expected to begin at the end of March.



Aerial view of construction of Apple Valley subregional

Pipes Installed as Part of Aeration Efficiency Upgrades

The aeration energy efficiency upgrades are continuing at the main VWVRA plant in Victorville. This is part of VWVRA's overall effort to reduce energy usage. Over 90% of the wastewater treatment process takes place in our aeration basins. Powerful blowers supply oxygen to the bacteria in the wastewater in a treatment process known as activated sludge. The process uses a great deal of electricity, so VWVRA is making energy efficient upgrades. The upgrades include new air diffusers at the bottom of the aeration basins and new piping to provide a more efficient and reliable source of oxygen.





Dingle Claus Visits VVWRA



Dingle Claus and Mike Gouin are all smiles and thumbs up!



Wonder whats in the bag? Wes Bardsley looks surprised by what Mr Dingle got him.



Operations Supervisor Eugene Davis and Dingle Claus share a laugh!

You better watch out, your better not cry! Dingle Claus made a surprise visit to the VVWRA employee Christmas party in December, spreading holiday wastewater cheer! He got a warm welcome from our employees, although they did ask him to stay clear of the buffet.



VVWRA showed it's holiday spirit with this beautiful banner along Amargosa Rd. near Macy's in front of the Mall of Victor Valley.



The CWEA's annual Pretreatment, Pollution Prevention and Stormwater Conference (P3S) is coming to the Riverside Convention Center February 28 - March 2. The event will feature sessions on stormwater permitting, EPA pretreatment training and building your utility's brand, featuring VVWRA GM Logan Olds. For more information, go to P3S16.org.

TARGET 99

fashion

Winter 2016

Magazine

10 ways to wear a Target 99 hat

Lucity green is the new black!

"I got 99 Problems but Lucity ain't one of them"

by Johnny Wastewater

Tyrese Powell & Johnny Bustos

Target 99 is off to a great start! "Remember to use Lucity when requesting work...every time!" Thanks for the awesome job! Whats next? A magazine? It might look something like this!

Please Don't Flush!

Please don't flush prescription drugs down the toilet! 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.

Contact the Purple Pipe: info@vwwra.com