

VWVRA Wins 2 Local CWEA/DAMS Awards



Environmental Compliance Manager Latif Laari was named Supervisor of the Year.

VWVRA captured two awards at this years CWEA Desert and Mountain Section Awards ceremony. HR Technician Toni Henning was named Administrative Person of the Year. She was recognized for excellence in providing and supporting human resources programs and policies at VWVRA. Environmental Compliance Manager Latif Laari won Supervisor of the Year for the leadership he provides our staff. The annual awards ceremony was held in Silver Lakes. Winners of the state-wide awards will be announced in April. CWEA is the California Water



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Environment Association which provides training, certifications and support for wastewater agencies throughout the state.

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CA Water Associations Applaud Historic Approval of Direct Potable Reuse Regulations

The State Water Board made California history in December by granting approval for direct potable reuse regulations, also known as DPR. California's water and wastewater associations are joining forces to celebrate this momentous achievement. United in the spirit of 'One Water' we are proudly working together to build California's utilities of the future.



Following a final State administrative review, expected to conclude in April, the DPR regulations provide a roadmap and standards for municipal water agencies to follow when building advanced water treatment facilities (AWTFs).

These state-of-the-art systems have a proven track record of transforming recycled water into pure water. Already, two pure water facilities are nearing completion in the San Diego area, with dozens of additional facilities in the planning pipeline.

The purified water that flows from these advanced facilities holds the potential to be harnessed by water agencies for raw water augmentation or treated drinking water augmentation. The water is tested and treated one more time at a drinking water treatment facility before being sent into the distribution pipelines.

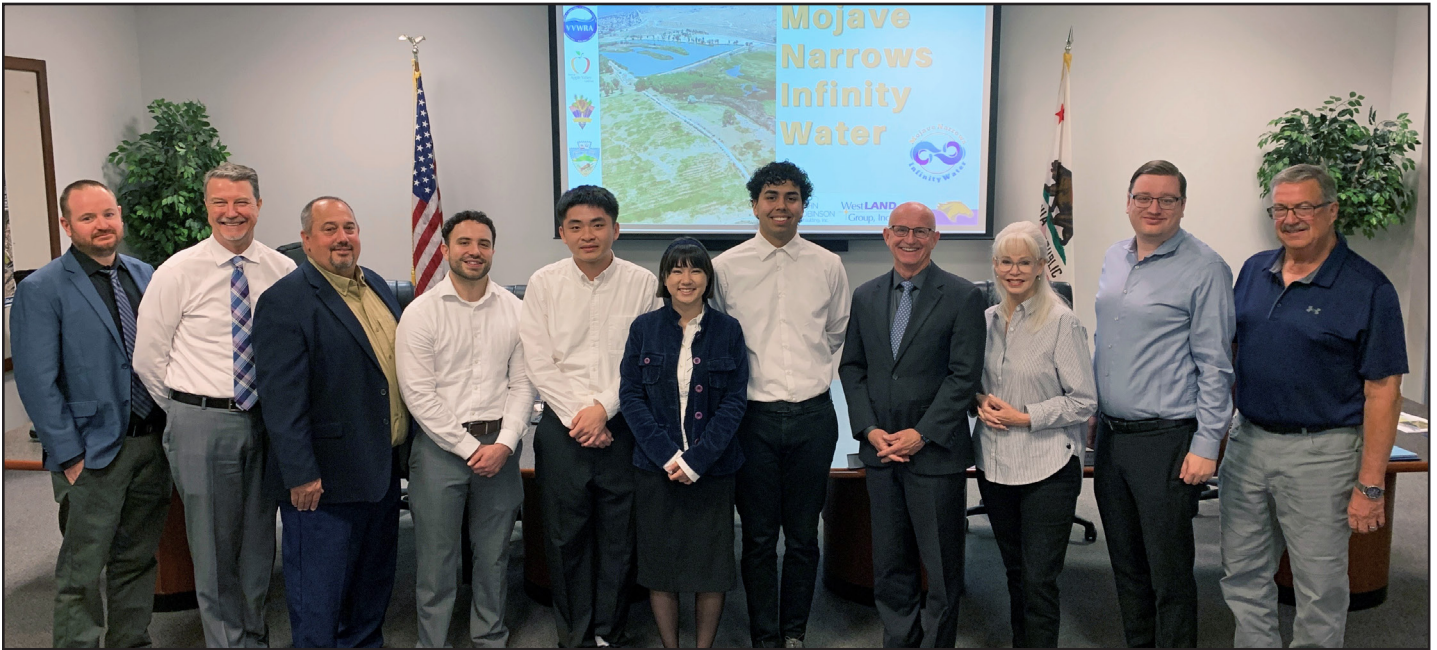


One Water Oceanside



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Cal Poly Students Research Wastewater Treatment and the Future of Recycled Water



L-r, VVRA Operations/Maintenance Director Brad Adams, Cal Poly instructor John Robinson, VVRA General Manager Darron Poulsen, Cal Poly students Angel Gomez, Brian Chen, Shannon Skelley, Noah Zapata-O'Brien, VVRA Commissioners Larry Bird, Deborah Jones, Dakota Higgins and Scott Nassif.

As the Victor Valley grows, expanded wastewater treatment services and recycled water distribution will be needed. The time for planning is now. It's estimated that the population in the valley will double in the next 10 to 20 years. A group of engineering students from Cal Poly Pomona recently completed a study of a possible new wastewater treatment facility near Mojave Narrows and a recycled water distribution system that would expand the availability of the underused resource. Their findings were presented to the VVRA Board of Commissioners at the October meeting. The research will be considered as VVRA looks to add an additional wastewater treatment facility for the High Desert in the coming years.



Purple Pipe

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VVRA Board of Commissioners

Scott Nassif - Town of Apple Valley
Larry Bird- City of Hesperia
Paul Cook - SB CSA 64 & 42
Debra Jones - City of Victorville



Around the plant

Congratulations!



Operator Danny Mullikin earned his Grade I Wastewater Certificate.



Juan Alvarez has earned his Grade I Mechanic certificate.

Welcome to VVWRA



Charlene Villalvazo
Accounting Technician



Jack Luiten
Electrical
Instrumentation
Technician



Food to Fuel

VVWRA EMBRACES CO-DIGESTION TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTION OF BIOGAS FOR CONVERSION TO RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS IN A GLOBAL AWARD-WINNING

VVWRA's RNG Project was featured in a recent edition of Treatment Plant Operator magazine with an interview with O & M Director Brad Adams (r) and Operations Supervisor Kalin Westover. The article can be read at <https://www.tpo-mag.com/ezine/2023/11>.

Miss July?

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JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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VVWRA staff is featured in Haaker Equipments 2024 calendar with our new vector truck and our giant American flag in the background.



Reaching Out

VWRA spreads the word about resource reuse and career opportunities



VWRA staff including GM Darron Poulsen talk with high school students at a recent career fair.

Protecting public health and the environment is the primary mission at VWRA. So educating our community about the things we do is important. Our staff spreads the word at many events throughout the year, talking to students and educators, as well as, business and community leaders. VWRA has a great story to tell. We recycle about 12 million gallons of water every day while converting waste into renewable natural gas that can be used in homes and industry. Recently, VWRA participated in a high school career fair where students not only learned about the science of resource recovery, they were introduced to the idea of working in the wastewater field.

The wastewater and resource recovery industry offers a number of exciting career opportunities including plant operators, mechanics, lab technician, electricians and more. These are good paying jobs and most don't require a college education to get started. A similar message went out to educators at the annual High Desert Education Summit at Victor Valley College. In addition, VWRA offers tours of our regional plant. To schedule a tour or a speaker, contact David Wylie at dwyllie@vwra.com.



VWRA staff attending the High Desert Educational Summit at VVC.

PP at the Palace



Environmental Compliance Inspector Daniel Enriquez takes time to read the Purple Pipe outside Buckingham Palace during a recent visit to England.



Direct Potable Reuse cont.

Over the last six decades, California’s water associations have steadfastly championed water recycling innovations, with the aim of creating dependable local water supplies and reusing our available water supplies as many times as possible. VWRA recycles millions of gallons of water per day which helps replenish the local aquifer. Hesperia is using recycled water to irrigate green areas around city hall



Darron Poulsen

and Apple Valley will be doing the same soon. While direct potable reuse is not something that will happen in the Victor Valley in the near future, it is something that is being considered in the coming years. “As we develop our own One Water concept for our region, direct potable reuse has to be part of the long term plan” said VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen. “DPR offers a safe and sustainable addition to the High Desert’s water resource portfolio to ensure we have enough water for the future.”

“The passage of these DPR regulations heralds a new era for water reuse in California. We believe this will benefit communities by providing a safe and resilient supply. These regulations will serve as a model for the nation,” said Jennifer West, managing director of WaterReuse California.

“It’s essential for Californians to know there’s nothing to waste in wastewater. It is a resource we can recycle over and over again. With the introduction of these rules, the State is opening the flood gates for water reuse ideas and innovation to start flowing,” said Jenn Jones, Executive Director and CEO of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). “As communities ramp-up water recycling projects, California is going to experience a jobs boom, a construction boom, and a technology-innovation boom. Water reuse will create supplies that last for generations to come.”



Article reprinted courtesy of CWEA

DPR uses advanced treatment technologies such as filtration, reverse osmosis, and disinfection. These methods effectively remove impurities and produce high-quality water, often removing even more pollutants than conventional drinking water treatments.



What is the One Water Concept? The concept was first developed about 15 years ago. The One Water approach manages all water—whether from the tap, a stream, a storm, an aquifer, or a sewer—in a collaborative, integrated, inclusive, and holistic manner. The idea is that all water has value and the concept envisions regional agencies working together to provide a sustainable and multi-beneficial water supply. While this concept has been in use in places like Monterey and San Diego for years, VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen introduced the One Water concept to the High Desert in 2023. He has been collaborating with a number of colleagues to create a unified water strategy for the the region.





Sunrise over Aeration



Operator James Pasieka captured this stunning shot of a High Desert sunrise over the aeration basins at the regional plant.



Smooth Operators!

VWRA Plant Operators Danny Mullikin and Moises Castro compete in Dance Dance Revolution during our staff Holiday Party at Dave and Buster's in Ontario.



Upcoming CWEA Events

P3S Conference and Expo

February 5-7
Anaheim, CA

CWEA Annual Conference and Expo

April 9-12
Sacramento, CA



2023 in Review

VWRA had many successes in 2023. It marked the first full year of treating food waste as part of our Renewable Natural Gas Program. Food waste is diverted from the landfills, sent to our digesters and the resulting methane is captured and converted into renewable natural gas that is injected back into the energy grid. The RNG program was featured KABC Channel 7 news in Los Angeles and won numerous awards including the Global Water Award, the Exemplar award from the Mojave Desert AQMD and the Award of Excellence from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies. And VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen was inducted into the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame.



2023 also marked the unveiling of the One Water concept in the Victor Valley. The idea, in part, would look for way to expand the use and distribution of recycled water while collaborating with other city's and water agencies in the region. This is a long term project that is still in the early stages of development, but will play an integral part of the High Desert's water future.



CASA Award



VVC Alumni Hall of Fame

Our annual Core Values awards were given to Accounting Supervisor Xiwei Wang for Collaboration, Safety/Communications Officer David Wylie for Dedication and E & I Lead Mauricio Marin for Integrity.

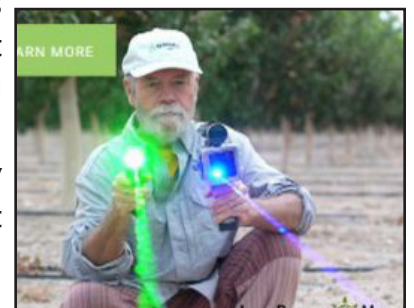


Mauricio Marin

VWRA did face some challenges in 2023. Most notably from Hurricane Hilary which drenched the Victor Valley in August. The heavy rains flooded our drying beds where treated bio-solids are dried putting us behind going into the traditionally wet months. Staff has been working on short and long term answers for dealing with excess water. A new side stream treatment process is being built at our regional plant and is expected to be online in the Spring of 2024.



VWRA also hosted a science experiment of sorts for a non-lethal way to ward off unwanted ravens. Hardshell Labs used our plant to try out their green laser deterrent system. It's hoped the lasers will be useful in protecting endangered desert tortoises and agricultural crops.



The Back Side...



Latif Laari won the 3rd annual VVWRA Employee Chili Cook-off and took home the toilet bowl trophy. He got his secret recipe off youtube!

VVWRA Staff Softball Game



VVWRA staff and their families (l) recently enjoyed an off-hours softball game. Director of Operations & Maintenance Brad Adams (c) threw strikes while Administrative Aide Hillary Chavez (r) showed off her hitting skills.