

Valley Sanitary District News

JUNE, 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Treatment Plant Expansion

Lateral Grant Program

Wild Bird Center Habitat Maintenance

Financial Update

Customer Best Practices

New General Manager

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Wild Bird Center News 2

Sewer System Management Plan 2

Fats, Oils and Grease 3

Financial Update 3

Employee & District Awards 3

GM retires 4

Meet District's New GM 4

Treatment Plant Projects Update

District growth, accompanied by advancements in treatment processes and increased regulatory requirements demand the District to make upgrades to its existing plant, operations, laboratory, and administration office facilities. The treatment plant completed the first phase of the plant expansion in mid 2008. The second phase of the treatment plant expansion design is currently underway and will be divided into two projects (Phase 2A and 2B). The District's intention is to have the final design for phase 2A completed by June, 2011 and start construction by January, 2012. A major component of the District's decision to move forward with the upgrades at this time is to take advantage of reductions in construction costs due to the limited projects

available to contractors in the present recessed economy. The phase 2A project will increase the treatment plant capacity from 11 million gallons to 13.5 million gallons. Phase 2A will consist of :

- Rehabilitation and modifications to the aerated grit chamber.
- Two new rectangular primary sedimentation tanks.
- Biofilter for belt press room.

- Chemically Enhanced Primary Sedimentation (CEPS) system.
- Digester and boiler room to receive primary sludge.
- Rehabilitation of Administration Building.
- New Laboratory
- New operators' control room.



Lateral Grant Program

The District recently implemented a grant program to assist property owners with the costs required to replace or repair their private sewer lateral, including the connection.

A private sewer lateral is the portion of the sewer system, beginning at the junction with the building plumbing system, usually located within two (2) feet of the foundation of the building and extending to and including the connection to the public sewer

main. The private sewer lateral is owned by the owner of the property receiving service through the lateral. The property owner is responsible for all costs related to the installation, connection, maintenance, repair, construction, abandonment or removal of sewer lateral and private sewers.

Private sewer laterals that are defective are a source of infiltration and inflow and if not regularly maintained become inoperable because tree roots

enter the line and block the flow or misalign the pipe joints causing sewer backups and spills. Damages caused by sewer spills are very costly not only for property owners but also for the environment, particularly waterways.

For information on how you can save up to 50% off of lateral replacement or repairs, contact the Collection Department of Valley Sanitary District at (760) 347-2356 prior to any work.

Wild Bird Center News *(Alternative Wetlands Vegetation Study)*



Alternative species of bulrush compared to current species.

Valley Sanitary District is working in conjunction with the UC Riverside, Department of Entomology; the CV Mosquito and Vector Control District; and the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center to evaluate alternative species of Bulrush vegetation in the District's wetland habitat. Valley Sanitary District maintains and uses the vegetation zones in wetlands to enhance nutrient removal, provide wildlife refuge, and fulfill other important functions

in wastewater treatment (Kadlec and Wallace 2008). However the large emergent cattails, bulrush, and reeds commonly planted in surface-flow constructed wetlands is often difficult and the rapid growth of these plant species can facilitate the production of pestiferous mosquitoes.

If the study proves successful, the alternative bulrush may provide lower-cost solutions for managing the dense emergent vegetation which

requires trimming to meet the District's water treatment goals as well as limit mosquito production, benefiting the CV Mosquito and Vector Control District. As an additional benefit, the wetlands are maintained and preserved as an important ecological habitat for wild birds during their migratory flights. The alternative alkali bulrush is expected to thrive in and be an important contributor to the nitrogen removal process of the ammonium-rich wetlands at VSD.

Valley Sanitary District has been keeping sewer lines running smoothly for over 85 years.

Sewer System Management Plan

This document, known as the Sewer System Management Plan was designed to describe the activities conducted by the District to effectively manage its wastewater collection system.

Statewide General Waste Discharge required elements include:

- Goals for Collection system management.
- Personnel organization, including chain of command and communication processes for

reporting spills.

- Legal authority for permitting flows into the system, inflow/infiltration control and enforcement of sewers and connections for proper design and construction.
- Operations and maintenance activities to maintain a wastewater collection system.
- Design and performance provisions.
- Overflow emergency response plan.
- Fats, oil and grease (FOG) control program.

- System evacuation and capacity assurance program.
- Monitoring, measurement, and program modification.
- SSMP Program performance and effectiveness audit.
- Communication program.

The entire SSMP may be viewed at the Administration Office of Valley Sanitary District located at 45-500 Van Buren St., Indio, CA.

The public may provide input on future development, implementation and performance of the plan.

Meet Valley Sanitary District's Collection Crew



The collection system for Valley Sanitary District consists of approximately 240 miles of sanitary sewer pipes. This intricate network of pipes exists to ensure the wastewater flushed every day from homes and industries flows to our wastewater treatment plant

without a problem.

The Collections department employs a proactive maintenance and cleaning program to prevent blockages, caused by tree roots and cooking grease, from occurring. You may have seen our Vactor sewer cleaning truck or

TV van working in your neighborhood. We also inspect the inside of sewer pipes with a close circuit video camera to look for any broken pipes that may cause a sewerage overflow.

If you ever suspect that sewer may be overflowing onto the ground, call the District at (760) 347-2356. 24/7

Customer Best Practices for reducing Fats, Oils and Grease

The Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Control Program is designed to reduce sewer pipe blockages and related overflows from the improper disposal of fats, oils and grease from sources such as cooking oils, salad dressings, meat fats, dairy products, butter and margarine to name a few. Valley Sanitary District implemented a program in 2009 to review and help the approximately 230 non domestic grease generators in the City of Indio comply with the program's requirements. Since that time, the District has reviewed and assisted 99 of those non domestic

generators to get them into compliance with the rules of the program. The District is working diligently to review the compliance requirements with the remaining generators by the end of this year. Thanks to public support, the District has noticed the reduction in pipe maintenance resulting from improper disposal of FOG.

With the cooperation of these businesses, this program can help the District reduce expenses and keep sewer costs down for everyone. Residential users are no exception. You can help eliminate

sewage clogs and the resulting sewage overflows by taking the following actions:

- Never pour fats, oils and grease down the sink or garbage disposal.
- Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.
- Pour fats, oils and grease after it has cooled into a sealable container and place it in the trash.

- Use sink strainers that will catch food scraps and empty them into the trash. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system.

“99 of the 230 non domestic grease generators in the City of Indio identified in 2009 are now in compliance with the VSD FOG control program rules.”

Financial Update

The District has been planning for the upgrade of the Treatment Plant facilities and has set aside reserve funds for this project, when it was required.

This approach has allowed the District to be able to construct the needed upgrades without the use of borrowed funds.

The District has also been able to time these improvements during

times of lower construction costs.

This approach allows the District to minimize debt service costs and also get better value for the construction.

The estimated construction cost for the Plant upgrade is approximately \$ 17 Million, and the Operations & Laboratory Building at \$ 2.7 million.

The District is also planning for long term improvements to the collections system with the next major upgrade being the Requa Avenue upgrade project, estimated as a \$ 10 Million project.

Finally, our annual Sewer Use rates and Capital Impact fees will continue to remain at their 2008/09 levels of \$259 and \$3,957 respectively.

Awards received by the District in 2009-2011

Valley Sanitary District was once again awarded the **Collection System of the Year Award** for small systems up to 249 miles of sewer pipes by the **Colorado River Basin Section of the California Water Environment Association** in 2010.

Also from the **United Way**, the District received a Silver Award for 2010.

The following staff members received individual awards (left to right) :

Collection System Operator of the Year

– 2009: **Tito Moreno.**

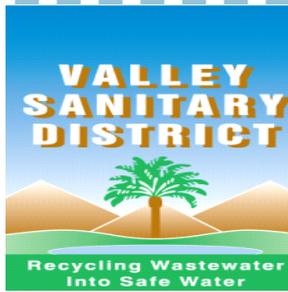
Collection System Operator of the Year

– 2010: **Oscar J. Vela.**

Operator of the Year– 2010: **Scott Graham.**

Operator of the Year– 2011: **James Mills.**





Valley Sanitary District Management:

William R. Teague

President

Richard Friestad

Vice-President

Merritt W. Wiseman

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Duran

Director

Doug A. York

Director

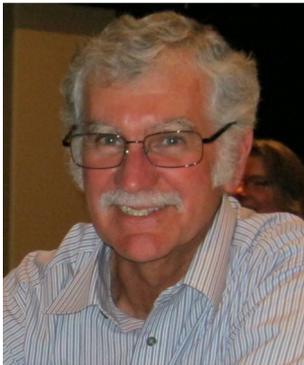
Joseph A. Glowitz

General Manager

Mission Statement

The mission of the Valley Sanitary District is to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater in a safe and cost effective manner as prescribed by state and federal law. The District is dedicated to: maintaining a high standard of operations and maintenance; forward thinking in planning for facility and operational needs, and achieving maximum cost efficiency and effectiveness. The District board and staff are dedicated to having the District be a positive asset to the community.

District says Farewell to Former GM, Welcomes New



Former General Manager, Rex Sharp, recently retired at the end of November, 2010 after a 22 year career with the District. Mr. Sharp held a variety of jobs with the District, including Operations Director and Laboratory Manager. During Mr. Sharp's tenure, the

District grew substantially and several major plant expansions were completed. He also worked for a stint at the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. He and his wife, Evalani, are looking forward to retirement, spending time with family and traveling.

The District's new GM is Joseph Glowitz. Joseph has a background in engineering and project management. He has a B.S. and M.A.Sc. in Civil Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer. He has 30 years of experience in the water, wastewater and municipal services fields in

California, and the western U.S. as well as Canada. He looks forward to continuing the excellent stewardship of the District and leading the efforts for the next phases of the plant, building and system expansion.

