

# Valley Sanitary District News

ISSUE 6

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

A New Look For The District!

Going Green: Our New Solar Project

Reclaimed/Recycled Water Project

Major Sewer Main Improvements Planned

Awards Received by the District

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## A New Look For The District!



In April 2014, the District completed Phase 2A of the plant expansion project.

A larger influent flow meter was installed in the existing influent piping. The new meter allows the system to measure up to 30 million gallons per day (MGD) of influent flow.

A Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment System (CEPTS) was built to enhance the settling of the solids in the primary clarifiers. The CEPTS also helps reduce the hydrogen sulfide that is generated in the anaerobic digester.

Two new primary clarifiers were built. These new clarifiers will allow approximately 90-99% of solids entering the clarifiers to be removed before the waste stream enters the biological treatment process. The solids (primary sludge) that are removed from the primaries are pumped to the anaerobic digester for further treatment.



A new anaerobic digester was built. The digester receives the primary sludge and, under a controlled environment, will break down the sludge and produce methane gas. This gas is used to run the boiler and, in the future, a co-generation system that will produce electricity for the treatment plant. The primary sludge that is treated in the digester and dewatered is then laid out to dehydrate further to be used as a fertilizer.

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Valley Sanitary District's next big step in energy conservation.

Valley Sanitary District has been serving the community for over 85 years.

## Going Green: Our New Solar Project

As part of a program to develop and utilize renewable energy sources, Valley Sanitary District (VSD) is proposing to design, construct and operate a Solar Photovoltaic Generating project.

The project would install 1,000 to 1,200 ground-mounted photovoltaic solar panels within the boundaries of the VSD facility to generate one

(1) megawatt (MW) of photovoltaic energy which is approximately 50% of VSD's electrical demand. The project would be installed in four (4) separate areas of the VSD facility.

Surplus electricity would be metered back to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) through an electrical distribution system inter-connection.

Construction is expected to begin during the first quarter of FY 2015-2016 (July – September, 2015), and continue for approximately 4 to 6 months. Gravel will be compacted around the solar panel installations for dust control and to provide a finished appearance.

Construction is expected to occur during weekday hours and be similar in scope to ongoing operations and maintenance activities.

## Reclaimed/Recycled Water Project

The District is exploring the possibility of a joint Reclaimed/Recycled Water project with the Indio Water Authority (IWA). The purpose of the project will be to utilize reclaimed water from Valley Sanitary District (VSD), with additional tertiary treatment for recycled water purposes. The process will take the existing treated water from

VSD and treat it to a higher standard, suitable for recycled water use. The water would be beneficial for use in irrigating golf courses as well as recharging the aquifer for supplemental water supplies.

The next steps in the project are the final feasibility study, financial planning, preliminary engineering studies and an agreement between VSD and IWA on how to proceed.

The benefits to the community would be an alternate source of sustainable water from local sources.



## New Truck, New Crew

The 2100 Plus Series Combination Sewer Cleaner Vactor Truck is used for regular sewer line maintenance. It has a rotating, telescoping hose that delivers a high-pressure spray of up to 2500 pounds per square inch (PSI) that effectively breaks up blockages in sanitary lines and flushes out debris, and uses a high volume vacuum to remove broken up grit and debris.



This special piece of equipment is operated by the crew of the Collection Systems Department; Jason, Nick, Peter and Tito.

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## Major Sewer Main Improvements Planned

Valley Sanitary District is in the final planning stages to design a large diameter sewer main to replace existing pipelines up to 80 years old, eliminate one sewage pump station and create ultimate build out capacity for future development.

This pipeline will be constructed between the treatment plant on Van Buren Street and heads westerly through an easement until it meets Citrus Avenue, then heads cross country through a few more easements until crossing Indio Boulevard at Requa Avenue and Flower Street. From here the sewer main alignment will follow along Requa Avenue from Flower Street to Aladdin Street, south on Aladdin Street to 46th Street, west on 46th Street to Madison and then south on Madison to Highway 111.

The sewer main begins at the District's wastewater treatment plant on Van Buren Street and heads westerly through an easement until it meets Citrus Avenue, then heads cross country through a few more easements until crossing Indio Boulevard at Requa Avenue and Flower Street. From here the sewer main alignment will follow along Requa Avenue from Flower Street to Aladdin Street, south on Aladdin Street to 46th Street, west on 46th Street to Madison and then south on Madison to Highway 111.

The project is under final design with expected completion in the spring of 2015, with planned construction in the late summer. Stay tuned for more information to follow prior to construction.



## Awards Received by Valley Sanitary District



Valley Sanitary District received six awards from the Colorado River Basin Section of the California Water Environment Association at the awards ceremony on February 7, 2015. The following awards were received:

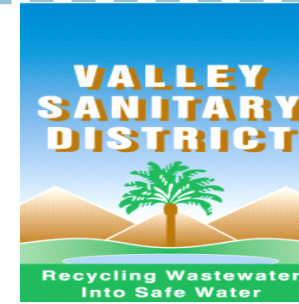
- Plant of the Year (5-20 MGD)
- Collection System of the Year (0-249 Miles)
- Andy Boyd — Operator of the Year
- Brian Sprueill — Mechanical Technician of the Year
- Steve Shepard — Supervisor of the Year
- Andy Calhoun — Safety Program of the Year (26-75 Employees)

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) have announced the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting be awarded to the Valley Sanitary District for its 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

A Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high

standards of the program including demonstration of a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. We invite everyone to view the 2013 and the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports on our website at [www.valley-sanitary.org](http://www.valley-sanitary.org).



### Valley Sanitary District Management:

Douglas A. York  
*President*

Richard Friestad  
*Vice-President*

Merritt W. Wiseman  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Mike Duran  
*Director*

William R. Teague  
*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.

### Common Mistakes That Can Create a Plumbing Nightmare

The drains in your home lead to a plumbing system of narrow pipes (often only three inches in diameter) before connecting to the larger sewer main. Those small pipes can easily be clogged by grease, wipes, and other items.

**To prevent clogs, sewage backups, and costly plumbing bills:**

**DO NOT** Dump your grease down the drain. Grease is one of the most common causes of sewer clogs and backups.

**DO NOT** Treat your garbage disposal like a garbage disposal. Put food scraps in the trash (or compost) instead.

**DO NOT** Treat your toilet like a trash can. Flush only human waste and toilet paper. Put everything else in the real trash can.

