

Valley Sanitary District News

ISSUE 7

APRIL 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Requa Sewer Project Nearing Completion!

Gone Green: New Solar Project Completed

Michael Lopanec Celebrates 30 Years with VSD!

Collection System Master Plan

Awards Received by the District

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Requa Sewer Project Nearing Completion!



In July 2016, the District and its contractor Downing Construction Inc. began construction of the Requa Sewer Project. This project entails the construction of approximately 4 miles of 24 inch and 30 inch diameter gravity flow sewer in order to add capacity from central Indio to the District's Water Reclamation Facility.

The purpose of constructing this new sewer is to replace existing pipelines in need of repair, eliminate one sewage

pump station, and create ultimate build out capacity for future development.

The new sewer begins at the District's wastewater treatment plant on Van Buren Street and heads west through an easement into Citrus Avenue. From there, the sewer heads through several more easements until it crosses Indio Boulevard. From there, the sewer main alignment follows 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.

Construction has been proceeding through downtown Indio and is past the Indio Senior Center. Construction will be on hold during the month of April 2017 and will continue in May 2017 on Madison Street.



Valley Sanitary District takes its next big step in energy conservation.

Gone Green: New Solar Project Completed

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

With the help of a power purchase agreement with Solar City, this project came to fruition. The project began construction in August 2016 and was

completed in October 2016. A special groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 19th, to commemorate this special occasion.

Solar City installed over 1,000 ground-mounted photovoltaic solar panels that now cover the majority of the northern half of the VSD facility.

The Solar array is to generate approximately one (1) mega-

watt (MW) of electricity which will be utilized to offset approximately 50% of VSD's electrical demand.



Valley Sanitary District has been serving the community for over 90 years.

Congratulations to Mike for 30 years of service!

Reclaimed/Recycled Water Project

The District is exploring a joint Reclaimed/Recycled Water Project with the Indio Water Authority (IWA). The purpose of the project is 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 for indirect potable reuse. 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 securing capital

funding sources. The benefit to the community would be an alternative source of reliable, sustainable water from local sources.



Michael Lopanec Celebrates 30 Years with VSD!

On April 21, 1986, Mike began his amazing journey with VSD. After just 14 years, Mike was promoted to Chief Plant Operator in February 2000. Mike holds a Grade IV Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator certificate and his commitment, dedication, and decades of hard work are greatly appreciated by all at VSD.

Congratulations, Mike!



On April 12, 2016, Michael Lopanec was recognized by Valley Sanitary's Board of Directors for his service and dedication.

Collections System Maintenance Program

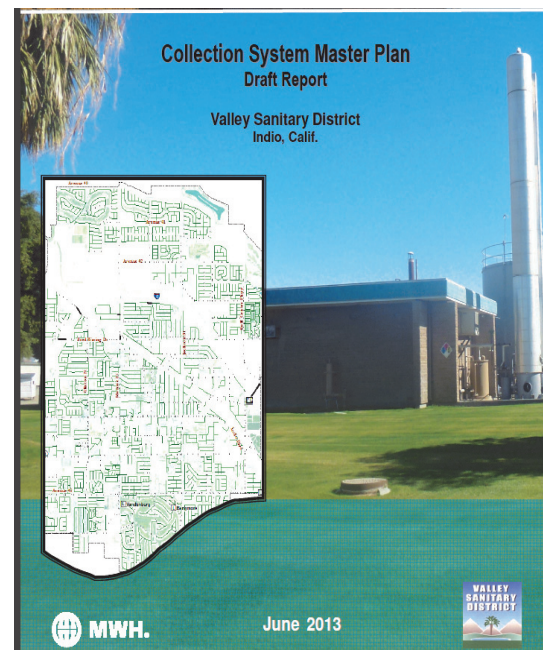
Valley Sanitary District is in the early stages of developing a new maintenance program for its collection system. VSD operates and maintains approximately 246 miles of sanitary sewer line, and delivers over six (6) million gallons per day of wastewater to its wastewater reclamation facility.

Approximately twenty percent (20%) of the sewer owned by VSD was installed before the 1970's. The Requa Sewer Project, which is currently under construction, will be VSD's newest addition to its collection system and will add in over four (4) additional miles of gravity

flow sewer as well as allow for future capacity and growth.

In order to keep up with an aging and expanding infrastructure, VSD has begun working on a multimillion dollar maintenance program that will span over the next several years. This program will be split into at least four (4) phases that will take place over the next ten (10) years.

The District's Collection System Master Plan and additional research will serve as a foundation for determining and prioritizing areas that are in need of repair.



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 11, 2017. The following awards were received:

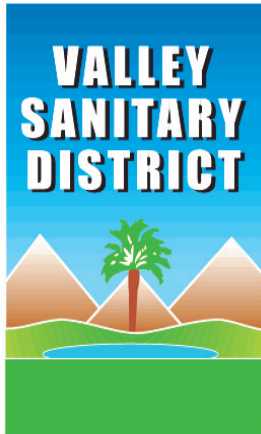
- Plant of the Year (5-20 MGD)
- Collection System of the Year (250-500 Miles)
- Mike Lopanec — Supervisor of the Year
- Ian Wilson — Community Engagement & Outreach

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has announced the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting be awarded to the Valley Sanitary District for its 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The 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 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on our website at www.valley-sanitary.org.



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Mike Duran, *Vice President*

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Dr. Joseph Glowitz, *PE, PMP*

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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.

In an effort to reduce paper and continue our efforts to go green, VSD will offer future newsletters on our website located at www.valley-sanitary.org

