



# VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

GM Newsletter

July 2025

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A message from Jason Dafforn, General Manager:

As we move through our 100th year, it's been inspiring to see how our team continues to honor the legacy of Valley Sanitary District while pushing forward with new initiatives and community connections.

This spring/summer has been full of activity, from celebrating long-standing team members and earning statewide recognition to expanding outreach and advancing key infrastructure projects.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, partners and community members for helping shape this historic year. We're proud of our past and even more excited for what's ahead.



Thank you,

Jason Dafforn, PE  
Gerente General

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## Thank You for Joining Us!



On April 5, more than 100 community members joined us at Valley Sanitary District's first-ever Community Open House to kick off our 100-year celebration. Guests enjoyed facility tours, equipment demonstrations, kid-friendly activities and booths hosted by our local community partners.

We're grateful to everyone who stopped by to learn more about how we protect public health and the environment and we look forward to celebrating with you throughout the year!

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## VSD Participates in Legislative Days at the State Capital



Valley Sanitary District recently joined fellow agencies in Sacramento for the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Legislative Days, held over two days in May.

Board President Debra Canero, Secretary/Treasurer Edgar Santana and General Manager Jason Dafforn represented VSD, meeting with elected officials and legislative staff to advocate for the needs of special districts throughout California. Meetings included productive conversations with Assemblymember Greg Wallis, Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh and staff from Senator Steve Padilla's office.

VSD appreciates the time and attention of our state representatives and their commitment to understanding the critical role that special districts play in delivering essential services to communities across the state.

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## VSD General Manager Running for CSDA Board



We are proud to share that Jason Dafforn, General Manager of Valley Sanitary District, is a candidate for the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Board of Directors, representing the Southern Network, Seat B.

Jason brings more than 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry, including 17 years as a utility manager for California local governments and over eight years with a special district. His leadership, industry knowledge, and strong commitment to public service make him a strong voice for special districts across Southern California.

CSDA member agencies can vote through July 25.

To learn more about Jason's background and priorities, watch his candidate video here: [Vote Jason Dafforn - CSDA Board of Directors - YouTube](#)

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## California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Facility Tour



As part of the California Water Environment Association's (CWEA) Annual Conference, Valley Sanitary District welcomed a group of attendees for an in-depth tour of our wastewater treatment facility. The tour offered water professionals from across the state an up-close look at VSD's treatment processes, recent upgrades and long-term infrastructure plans.

Guests had the opportunity to engage directly with VSD staff, ask technical questions and explore the equipment and systems that support daily operations. The visit showcased our commitment to innovation, reliability and environmental protection and highlighted the important work being done at the local level to advance wastewater management.

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## VSD Staff Recognized with Statewide Honors



Valley Sanitary District is proud to announce that three of our dedicated team members were recently recognized at the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) State Awards. These awards highlight exceptional performance in the wastewater industry across California.

- Anna Bell - Crystal Crucible Award
- Mario Luna - 3rd Place, Laboratory Person of the Year
- Steve Shepard - PICK Award

These achievements reflect the hard work and professionalism of our team and reinforce VSD's commitment to protecting public health and the environment. Congratulations to Anna, Mario and Steve!

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### Upcoming Meetings

July 22

Board of Directors Regular Meeting - 1:00 pm

August 12

Board of Directors Regular Meeting - 1:00 pm

[Click here for the latest: Board of Directors Meeting Minutes & Agendas](#)

[Click here for the full: Calendar of Events](#)

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## Sustainability Tip: Don't Flush Wipes!



Wipes may be convenient, but they don't belong in the toilet. Even those labeled "flushable" can clog household pipes and damage the sewer system because they don't break down like toilet paper. Help keep our wastewater system flowing smoothly and avoid costly plumbing problems by only flushing toilet paper.

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## About Valley Sanitary District

Valley Sanitary District (VSD) serves and benefits Indio and the surrounding communities by collecting, treating and recycling wastewater to ensure a healthy environment and sustainable water supply.

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We invite you to stay connected with us through our social media channels.

Follow us for the latest updates and opportunities at Valley Sanitary District.



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Valley Sanitary District  
45500 Van Buren Street, Indio, CA 92201  
Teléfono: (760) 238-5400 | Línea directa las 24 horas:  
(760) 238-5400  
[www.valley-sanitary.org](http://www.valley-sanitary.org)