



# VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

GM Newsletter

April 2024



Aerial view of Valley Sanitary District's Water Reclamation Facility and administration building.

## **A message from Jason Dafforn, General Manager:**

As we near a century of service in the Coachella region, I am excited to share Valley Sanitary District's (VSD) achievements and future plans with our community. This second edition of our GM Newsletter highlights our

commitment to enhancing services and sustainability. Follow along as we celebrate our legacy and prepare for the exciting developments that lie ahead.

### Advocacy and Progress in Washington D.C.

In late February, Board President Debra Canero and I had the privilege of representing our district during the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Winter Policy Forum in Washington D.C. Our mission was to advocate for Valley Sanitary District and specifically, to highlight our Recycled Water Project Phase II (scroll down to learn more about this project or (scroll down to learn more about this project or click here to view the project fact sheet). Through productive discussions with the offices of Senator Butler, Representative Ruiz, Representative Ken Calvert and the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as support from our federal and state lobbying teams, we highlighted the strides our community is making toward sustainability and environmental protection.



From left to right, State Lobbyist Eric O'Donnell, Federal Lobbyist Jeannette Windon, VSD President Debra Canero, VSD General Manager Jason Dafforn and Federal Lobbyists Letitia White and Jean Denton.



From left to right, VSD General Manager Jason Dafforn, VSD President Debra Canero and Carissa Bunge from Senator Butler's office.

This trip was a critical step in securing federal funding and advancing our commitment to protect public health and the environment. As we eagerly await a response to our funding request, likely by this summer, I want to express my

gratitude for the collective effort and dedication that has marked our journey. The conversations in D.C. were pivotal, aligning with our mission and vision for a sustainable future. I remain optimistic about the outcomes of our advocacy and look forward to sharing updates with you in the months ahead.



Thank you,

Jason Dafforn, PE  
General Manager

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### **About Valley Sanitary District:**

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

### **Sustainability Tip:**

Be mindful of what goes down your drains. After cooking, allow fats, oils and grease to cool down, then dispose of them in a trash can, not down the sink. Even small actions can have a big impact on maintaining a healthy sewer system.





## The Evolution of Wastewater



Check out our newest video featuring Valley Sanitary District's exhibit at the Coachella Valley History Museum detailing the history, innovations and environmental impact of wastewater solutions. Join us as we dive into the past and see how the valley has come a long way in sustainable water management. Click the video to watch or [click here](#).

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT**  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

**WHO WE ARE**  
Governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors, Valley Sanitary District (VSD) was established in 1978 under the California Sanitary Act. Committed to environmental stewardship, we operate with oversight from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**WHAT WE DO**  
VSD is dedicated to the collection, treatment and recycling of wastewater in public and non-residential communities. We proudly maintain the highest standards of safety and environmental care.

**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION**  
At Valley Sanitary District, we are dedicated to protecting our community's health and our environment's integrity. Help us set the green standards to come.

For more information about our services or to sign up for our quarterly Club Newsletter visit [www.valley-sanitary.org](http://www.valley-sanitary.org)

**Stay Connected**  
Facebook: Valley Sanitary District | Twitter: @valley-sanitary

Valley Sanitary District is grateful to the Coachella Valley History Museum, whose facilities have been invaluable in preserving and sharing the rich history of our community.

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT**  
40300 Van Buren Street, Indio, CA 92201  
Phone: (760) 236-5400  
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[www.valley-sanitary.org](http://www.valley-sanitary.org)

**VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT**  
A Journey Through Wastewater Management  
Pioneering Sustainable Wastewater Solutions Since 1925

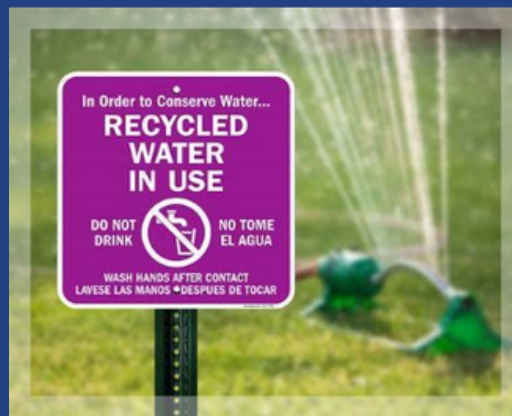
[Click here to learn more about how VSD has been managing wastewater since 1925 by reading our brochure: A Journey Through Wastewater Management.](#)

## Pioneering Sustainable Water Solutions for our Community

Valley Sanitary District is at the forefront of innovative environmental projects with the Recycled Water Project Phase II, as well as a Biosolids Project. Both initiatives, still in the conceptual and developmental phases, promise to revolutionize how we think about and utilize our water resources and waste materials, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability.

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### Recycled Water Project Phase II: A Step Towards Sustainability



Valley Sanitary District is excited to introduce a groundbreaking project that's set to change the way we think about water: The Recycled Water Project Phase II. This initiative marks a significant step forward in our commitment to sustainability, focusing on converting treated wastewater into high-quality recycled water.

The project is currently in the feasibility study phase. Our plan is to build a new system designed to treat and repurpose 1 million gallons of water every day. This water, which would otherwise be unused, will now be treated to meet strict quality standards before it's used to irrigate places like local golf courses and Fantasy Springs Casino's landscapes. By doing this, we're not only saving our precious groundwater but also helping our community's green spaces thrive.

Recycled water is a game-changer for communities like ours, especially in times of drought and water scarcity. It's safe, environmentally friendly and provides a reliable water source for non-drinking uses, such as watering lawns, agricultural

irrigation and keeping our public spaces green. This project showcases VSD's dedication to innovative solutions that benefit our environment and economy.

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## Biosolids Project: Turning Waste into Environmental Wins



Valley Sanitary District is reimagining waste management through its Biosolids Project. This innovative program aims to convert biosolids, a byproduct of wastewater treatment, into a liquid fertilizer, providing a sustainable alternative to traditional waste disposal methods. By partnering with Lystek, a company specializing in waste conversion technologies, VSD is exploring ways to transform biosolids into a valuable resource for agricultural use.

The project seeks to address high costs and environmental concerns associated with transporting biosolids out of state or potentially having to dispose of biosolids in landfills. By converting biosolids on-site into a marketable fertilizer product, VSD anticipates significant savings on transportation and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative will not only meet stringent California environmental standards but also support local agriculture by supplying a cost-effective, sustainable fertilizer alternative.

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Valley Sanitary District is actively engaged in various Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to enhance our community's infrastructure for a sustainable future. To learn more about these exciting initiatives, [click here](#).

Capital Improvement Projects are large-scale construction, renovation, or maintenance projects that enhance or upgrade public infrastructure.

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## Introducing our new Board Director: Edgar Santana



Valley Sanitary District is proud to welcome Edgar Santana as the newly appointed Board Director for Division A. Director Santana brings a wealth of public servant experience and a passion for environmental stewardship to his new role. His dedication to the community and vision for the future aligns perfectly with our goals and values. We are confident that Director Santana will be an invaluable asset to our board, providing insightful governance and oversight to ensure the continued success and efficiency of our operations.

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## Valley Sanitary District is Hiring!

Valley Sanitary District seeks a passionate individual to join our Environmental Compliance team. This Environmental Compliance Inspector position offers a chance to directly influence the oversight of essential sanitary services vital to our community's health and environmental well-being.

Apply today: [Environmental Compliance Inspector I, II, III | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

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In December, Valley Sanitary District proudly achieved the distinction of being certified by [Great Place To Work!](#)



For the latest job openings and career opportunities at Valley Sanitary District, please follow our social media pages.

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## Upcoming Meetings:

**April 23**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting 1:00 pm

**May 14**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting 1:00 pm

**May 28**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting 1:00 pm

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Click here for the latest:

[Board of Directors Meeting Minutes & Agendas](#)

Click here for the full:

[Calendar of Events](#)

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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.

Facebook: [Valley-Sanitary-District](#)

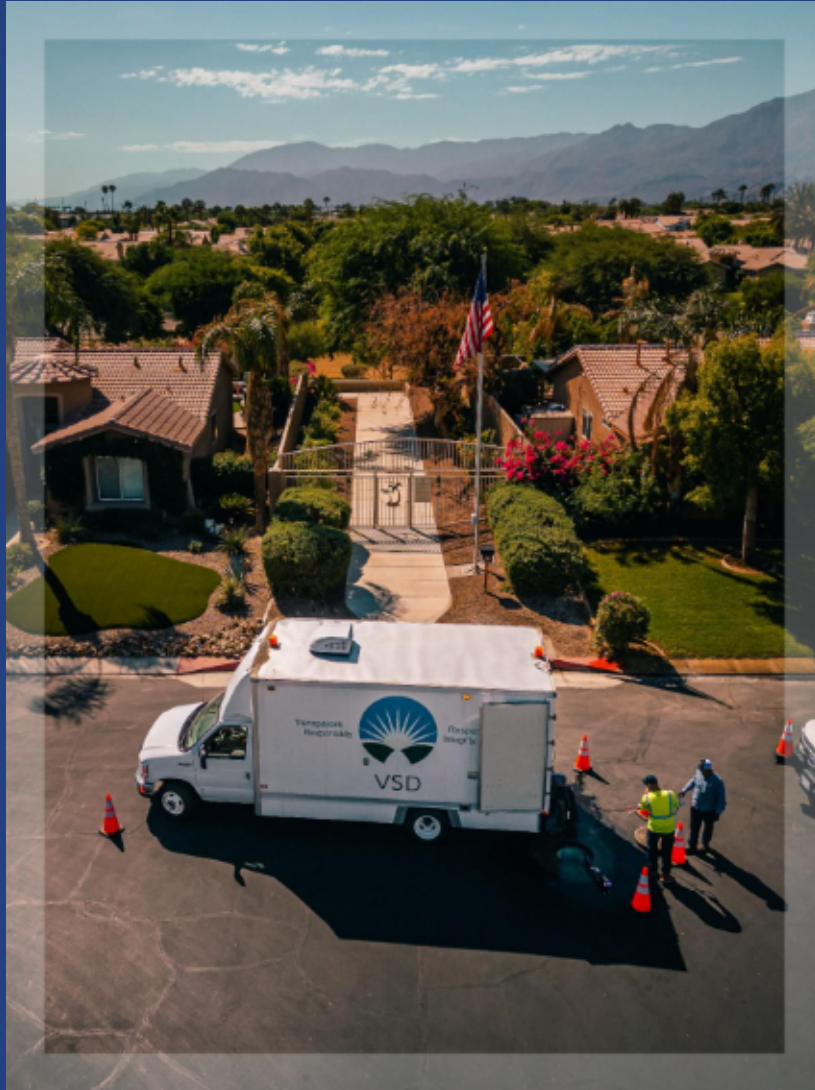
Instagram: [@valleysanitary](#)

LinkedIn: [Valley Sanitary District](#)



Core Values:

TRANSPARENCY  RESPONSIBILITY  RESPECT  INTEGRITY



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