

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2018



# ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

## **Integrity**

Honest and ethical policies, communication and actions without bias.

## **Respect**

Appreciate differences in background, opinion and approach, and acknowledge with high regard.

## **Trust**

Our actions and words inspire fairness and support.

## **Loyalty**

Dedicated to the Public, the District and its employees.

## **Responsibility**

Demonstrate prudent use of all public and environmental resources.

## **Professionalism**

Conduct interactions in a courteous and respectful manner and be accountable for personal actions and decisions.

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# 2018 Board of Directors



**Jim Hernandez**  
**President**  
**Division 2**



**Hal Martin**  
**Vice President**  
**Division 5**



**Betty Evans**  
**Division 1**



**Craig Elitharp**  
**Division 3**



**Mike Sannella**  
**Division 4**



## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of Vallecitos Water District is to serve as water and wastewater specialists, providing exceptional and sustainable services.*

### How do we achieve our mission?

Supporting and retaining highly trained staff that is knowledgeable, engaged, team-oriented and responsive to the community and other agencies.

Providing continuous outreach and education to our customers on issues and topics that impact the services we provide and our role as water and wastewater specialists.

Proactively, innovatively, and continuously improving the quality and efficiency of our operations and service.

Providing support for the good of the region to remain a respected and active industry partner.

# Vallecitos

## *at a Glance*



### Infrastructure:

- 358 miles of water pipes
- 10 water pumping stations
- 19 water storage reservoirs
- 276 miles of sewer pipeline
- 4 sewer lift stations
- 1 water reclamation facility
- Twin Oaks Reservoir #1 (33 million gallons)
- Twin Oaks Reservoir #2 (40 million gallons)

### Area:

The District provides water, sewer, and reclamation services to a service area greater than 45-square miles. This includes a population of more than 100,000 residents of San Marcos, Lake San Marcos, portions of Carlsbad, Escondido, Vista and unincorporated communities.

# General Manager's Message

## *Summer Break(s)*

Looking back on 2018, what stands out most is the significant water main breaks we had over the summer. Vallecitos had four substantial breaks this summer: in May on Schoolhouse Way; in July there were two breaks, one on South Twin Oaks Valley Road and one at the intersection of W San Marcos Boulevard and S Rancho Santa Fe Road; and in August, one final break at Coronado Hills.



The breaks on Twin Oaks and San Marcos Boulevard were due to the age of the pipes, while the other two breaks were caused by corrosive soil conditions. A recent study by Utah State University found that 82% of the country's cast iron pipes are over 50 years old and experiencing a 43% increase in break rates. The District was founded in 1955 and many of the original water mains installed long ago are reaching the end of their useful life.

Accordingly, the District is creating a prioritized asset/infrastructure replacement schedule--including a condition assessment--for District facilities. Because the District's infrastructure is aging, proper planning requires an understanding of when, where, and how much replacing that infrastructure will cost. Proper preventative maintenance helps ensure the District obtains the maximum beneficial life out of its infrastructure. This is important to reduce unnecessary expenditures, which can negatively impact our ratepayers. The District has already taken steps towards this by implementing a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) to implement and track preventative, corrective, and emergency maintenance/repairs on all assets or infrastructure. In turn, we will use this information to prioritize a replacement schedule, as well as cost, over the expected life of all assets/infrastructure. Consultants who specialize in modeling this emerging technology will be utilized to perform condition assessments on pipelines identified from the District's Asset Management schedule. Data from the condition assessment will identify future repair and replacement projects. In this way, we'll try to predict where problems will occur and make repairs or replacements before failure to minimize any possible inconvenience to our customers and reduce overall costs when compared to emergency repairs. My commitment to all of you is that we will do good staff work to help our Board make solid decisions about our infrastructure.



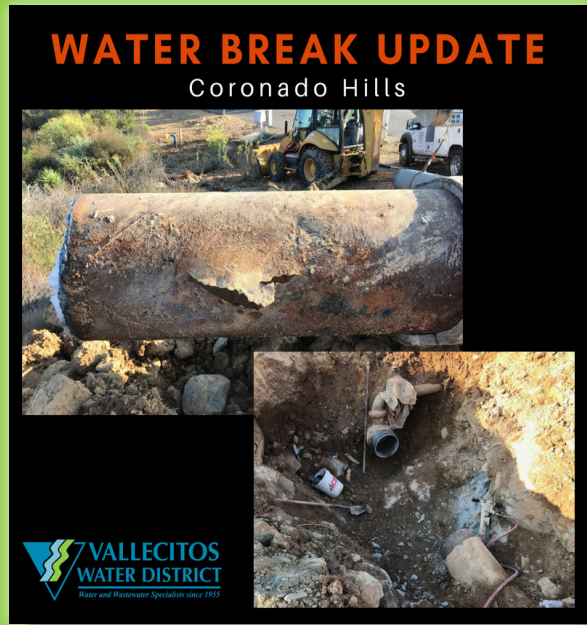
Meanwhile, whenever an emergency occurs, response and preparation are critical. I am so proud of Vallecitos crews who managed these large breaks and worked with the City of San Marcos to keep both water and traffic flowing. Everyone here was prepared to take action. Staff had the training, tools, and resources to do the job and their work effort helped minimize impacts to businesses and families in our service area.



Finally, I would also like to point out that, in many cases during these main breaks, water continued to flow to customers. The reason? Vallecitos engineers have designed redundancy into our system that allows us to deliver water as normal during incidents. So, despite the summer break(s), Vallecitos works around the clock to be your water and wastewater specialists.

# Keeping the public informed during water breaks

With the summer breaks of 2018, the District's Construction and Inspection crews worked around the clock making sure that critical infrastructure was repaired in a timely manner, minimizing the impact to the community. At the same time, another District team was working hard behind-the-scenes to make sure the public was informed on issues that may affect them. Vallecitos' Public Outreach team posted regular updates to the District's website and social media accounts, and partnered with the City of San Marcos' social media team to notify tens of thousands of residents about how these breaks may impact their daily lives. In addition, a new web-page was created at [www.vwd.org/breaks](http://www.vwd.org/breaks) to answer residents' questions about why the breaks occurred and the process involved to make the repairs.


Although water main breaks are never easy, overall the community was very supportive of the District's efforts to make the repairs in a timely manner and continually communicate during these events, as shown by some of these comments that appeared on social media:





 **Diana Elitharp** Well done!  1  
Love · Reply · Message · 2w



 **Lisa Marie Medina** Thank you for the update and your hard work on a Sunday! (Resident) 😊  1  
Love · Reply · Message · 22w · Edited


 **Rebecca Reese Jones** Great job! Thank you city of Vallecitos Water District.



 **Angie Ross Teanio** Thanks for all the hard work! 👍  
Like · Reply · 26w

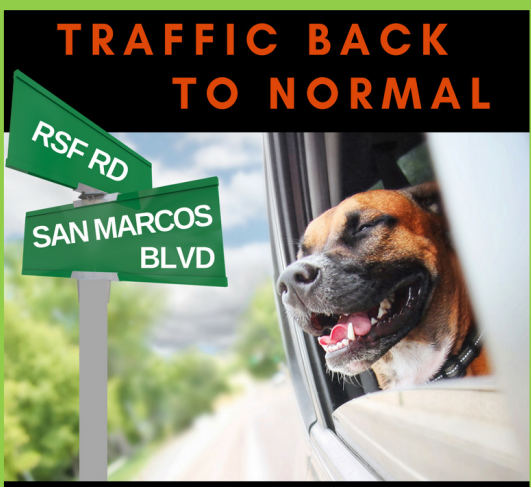
 **Loretta Marin** Vallecitos crew: AWESOME JOB! Truly not much of an inconvenience because of the way you handled the problem! 🍷🍷🍷

 **Lisa Silverman Adams** Great work, thank you!  
Like · Reply · 26w

 **Janet Mcconachie** Yay!  1  
Like · Reply · 22w

 **Catherine Munson** Outstanding! That was a really big project on a very tight timeline in such high summer temps. Cheers to the crew who got it done!

 **John Melson** Thanks for making the deadline!!  1  
Like · Reply · 22w



# Vallecitos partners with CSUSM to host the Iraq Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP)



Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) students toured Vallecitos to learn about water conservation. The IYLEP program works to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen the connections between the people of the U.S. and Iraq. It has created a team of young Iraqi leaders who are inspiring and impacting their communities in Iraq since IYLEP's creation in 2007.

The 2018 program participants are hosted at four universities throughout the United States, including California State University San Marcos, and focus on one of four themes: Science and Technology; Public Administration; Environmental and Historical Preservation; and, Public Health. Vallecitos' Sustainable Demonstration Garden was selected as a field trip to help students learn about environmental preservation and sustainability.

It was such a joy to have these students visit Vallecitos. We could see their dedication to creating a sustainable future back in Iraq and we wish them well.





# Vallecitos is using Trenchless Technology for Capital Improvement Maintenance and Repair

Vallecitos finds innovative technologies to ensure pipelines are designed, built, and operated to be safe, reliable, and sustainable to achieve pipe integrity. This means ensuring a pipeline and all its related components are running properly. Pipe integrity can be lost due to a combination of many factors such as missing pieces, cracks, pinholes, offsets at joints, and root intrusion.

There are many methods, technologies and practices to ensure pipeline integrity. Recently, Vallecitos' Engineering Department utilized a Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) Liner and Spiral Wound Liner to maintain District pipes.



The CIPP Liners are epoxy saturated felt tubes which are inserted into the existing pipe, then cured and hardened by steam. There are no joints or seams. Spiral Wound Liners use an above ground winding machine to feed interlocking PVC profile into an old pipe. Both methods result in a new “pipe within a pipe.”

Instead of digging the pipeline up to replace it, the sewer line is rehabilitated from inside the pipe. This trenchless technology method increases the efficiency and the service life of the pipe without having to replace it; eliminating paving, reducing traffic interruptions, as well as saving the District, and in turn the rate payers, money.

This technology is very effective in hard to reach areas, such as easements. In addition, for projects in the streets, the trenchless method reduces disruptions and impacts to businesses and neighborhoods.

As a result of using this technology, the District recently rehabilitated 1,595 feet of sewer pipe and is scheduled to rehabilitate another 2,300 feet next year. Sections of critical infrastructure were rehabilitated at an affordable price due to the CIPP and Spiral Wound Liner options.

Overall, the project was a success. No sewer laterals were cut and work was done without a sewer bypass. Further, the project was \$37,000 under budget. The lining part of the operation took less than three hours. This is the first time Vallecitos has used Spiral Wound technology.

# Vallecitos' Special District Leadership Foundation Awards in 2018

In 2018, the Vallecitos Water District received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. To receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

Also in 2018, Vallecitos was again honored for achieving re-accreditation as a "District of Distinction" by the Special District Leadership Foundation. This accreditation is designed as a way for districts to highlight their prudent fiscal practices along with other areas important to effectively operate and govern a special district. This is the second time Vallecitos has received this biannual accreditation.

To receive this recognition, Vallecitos' website must include posting of transparency requirements, including: election procedures and deadlines, posted board meeting schedules and agendas, current District budget, most recent financial audit, and a list of compensation of Board members and staff or a link to the State Controller's web-page with the data. Vallecitos' Board of Directors and executive staff must also show proof of educational training in public governance, as well as compliance with ethics and harassment prevention training.




# Employee Spotlight



## EPIC Award Winner Excellence in Public Information and Communication

Vallecitos was recently honored with the “Excellence in Public Information and Communications” award from the California Association of Public Information Officials for the District’s “Employee Spotlight” Video Program. The Spotlight videos are used internally to highlight long-term employee’s careers to share their institutional knowledge with the District’s next generation of water and wastewater specialists.





# VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT

*Water and Wastewater Specialists since 1955*



[WWW.VWD.ORG](http://WWW.VWD.ORG)