

## Vallecitos goes BIG on Renewable Energy

The Vallecitos Water District's Board of Directors has long expressed interest in renewable energy. Some of these ongoing plans are reaching fruition. The District is installing new photovoltaic systems at our Twin Oaks Reservoirs 1 and 2 as well as at our Lift Station #1 (LS1) location along San Marcos Boulevard.

The combined systems are designed to produce over 3.5 million kWh in the first year. The District approved an agreement with the solar provider that maintains a price per kWh for all energy produced (7.79 cents/kWh) and the price never increases over the life of the system, unlike local energy utility rates, which increase at about 3% every year and range from 15 to 80 cents/kWh.

Vallecitos' first year energy savings are estimated at approximately \$105,000. There were also no upfront costs for Vallecitos. Over a 25-year period, because of escalating energy costs, Vallecitos' estimates a savings of \$8,300,000. These energy savings will assist the District in keeping our water and sewer rates as low as possible moving forward.



The system at LS1 will offset approximately 90% of the energy demand at that location. The larger system at Twin Oaks Reservoirs will offset approximately 57% of the remainder of our system electricity demand.

Vallecitos initially installed a solar carport project back in 2006 at our Administrative, Operations and Maintenance Facility located at 201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos. The solar carport project is still operational and provides approximately 90% of the energy costs at the facility each year.

While the cost savings of the solar projects make financial sense, we think you will agree that reducing the production of Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide, and Sulphur Dioxide also makes a better world. Video about this project can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhEqGMI7n0Q>.

# Vallecitos Receives Award for Financial Reporting



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Vallecitos Water District for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. This is the first CAFR the District has ever produced.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and

motivate potential users and user groups to read the 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.

## Fitch Ratings

Prudent financial planning and reasonable assumptions in an uncertain global environment result in Fitch Ratings recently reaffirming Vallecitos Water District’s credit rating of ‘AA+’, with a “Stable Outlook” into the foreseeable future.

Fitch’s analysis determined the factors for the favorable rating to be:

- Very strong revenue defensibility
- Low operating risk profile
- Favorable service area
- Affordable rates
- Sound debt coverage and liquidity levels

Vallecitos’ rating was bolstered by an informed forecast pointing to continued solid performance. The AA+ rating is a testament to the actions taken by the Vallecitos Board to ensure that Vallecitos is properly run financially.



# Vallecitos Recognized for Best Safety Practices

Vallecitos Water District was among 16 California water agencies honored by the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) with the H.R. LaBounty Safety Award.

Vallecitos won its award for its Confined Space Rescue Training coordinated with several regional fire agencies in November 2019. Vallecitos Water District wanted to heighten safety awareness and improve procedures in its confined space entry and rescue during real-world situations. It took a high level of coordination to bring in fire department personnel to conduct 12 days of joint training.

As a result of training, personnel were able to reduce potential hazards conducting entry into confined spaces, perform personnel rescues, and better manage hazardous materials present (gaseous chlorine).

Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Dawn McDougle, Senior Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Matt Wiese, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators II Chris Deering, Ivan Murguia, Arturo Sanchez, and Marc Smith, Safety Technician Anette Longville, and Public Information Officer Alicia Yerman were recognized for their roles in organizing and conducting the training.

Further, Vallecitos' Wastewater Collections Crew, which serves as the District's Confined Spaces Rescue Team, participated in this training alongside fire crews. Fire department crews were from the cities of Carlsbad, San Marcos, Del Mar, Vista, Escondido, Oceanside, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Valley Center, and crews from North County Fire (Fallbrook), San Pasqual, Rincon, and Camp Pendleton.

The H.R. LaBounty Safety Award Program is designed for all JPIA members as a way to promote safe workplace behavior and operations practices while rewarding those employees who demonstrate safe behavior, take part in recognizable proactive activities, or participate in risk-reducing actions. It gives members another way to foster a safety culture that reduces the potential for losses. The Ramona Municipal Water District and the Sweetwater Authority were also recognized among state water agencies for their safety initiatives.

Video of the confined spaces training can be found here: <https://youtu.be/dV-7TuQmT7s>





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*Between the Pipes is a publication of information and interest to Vallecitos water and sewer customers. If you receive water or sewer services from another district, please disregard any information that does not apply to you.*

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**Management Staff**

Glenn Pruiam, General Manager  
 Rhondi Emmanuel, Administrative Services Manager  
 Ed Pedrazzi, Operations and Maintenance Manager  
 James Gumpel, District Engineer  
 Wes Owen, Finance Manager

Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus and Executive Order N-29-20, VWD will hold future meetings via teleconferencing. The public is encouraged to watch or listen to the meeting from their homes and observe the meeting electronically or listen in by phone. The District’s Board meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

To provide public comments prior to the meeting, submit comments via e-mail at [PublicComment@VWD.org](mailto:PublicComment@VWD.org) up to 90 minutes in advance of the meeting. Comments received are handled by the Clerk of the Board of Directors as if submitted in person. All written comments that are received at least 90 minutes before the meeting will be provided to the Board, and a record of the receipt of comment will be noted during the meeting. To comment during the meeting or to watch or listen to the live meeting, go to [www.vwd.org/meetings](http://www.vwd.org/meetings).

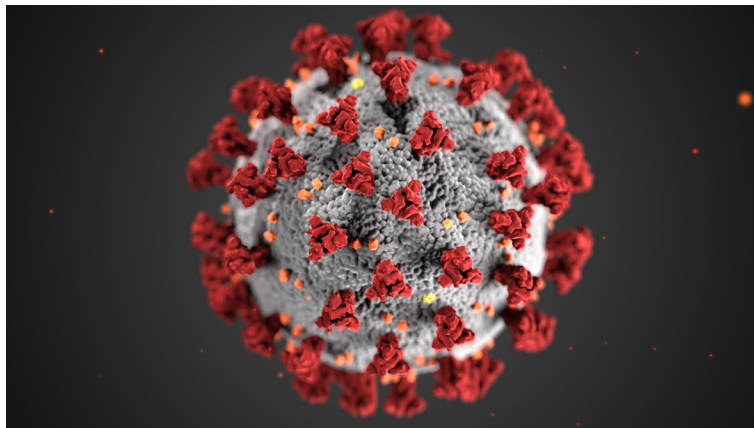
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 @vallecitoswater

# Coronavirus Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vallecitos Water District will be unable to host our annual autumn “Water Academy.” To learn more about Vallecitos, you can watch videos of the “Work We Do” on this link <http://www.vwd.org/WorkWeDo> or on San Marcos TV.

At Vallecitos, the health and safety of our community is our top priority. In order to minimize exposure and slow the spread of COVID-19, the District’s lobby is closed to the public. Customers may still interact with Vallecitos staff via phone at (760) 744-0460 or by email at [vwd@vwd.org](mailto:vwd@vwd.org).



Water Quality Reports can be found at [www.vwd.org/waterquality](http://www.vwd.org/waterquality).  
 Tested water from the Vallecitos Water District consistently meets or exceeds drinking water standards.