

James Gumpel appointed General Manager of the Vallecitos Water District starting January 1, 2024

James Gumpel is the new General Manager of Vallecitos Water District. He began his new duties on January 1, 2024.

James was born in 1973 in Uijeongbu, South Korea (same location as the fictional 4077th hospital on the television show *M*A*S*H*) at the army base where his father was stationed. During his childhood he lived in Korea, Japan, the Bronx, Yonkers, and finally in California where he lived in Los Angeles and then Camarillo, where he attended middle and high school.

James graduated from San Diego State University with a Civil Engineering degree. After college, he worked in the private sector for five years focusing on water, wastewater, and recycled water projects.

He joined the Otay Water District in 2000 and worked there for about five years before joining Vallecitos on May 16, 2005. James was initially the Capital Facilities/Construction Engineer before being promoted to Principal Engineer, District Engineer and more recently to Assistant General Manager.



One of the larger projects that James oversaw during his career at Vallecitos was the design and construction of the 40-million-gallon Twin Oaks Reservoir #2 (TOR2). At the time of its completion, TOR2 was the largest prestressed concrete tank in the world.

James is an avid skier, sailor, mountain biker, and coaches' youth baseball. He is married to his wife Melissa, and they live with their three children in San Marcos.

Vallecitos Videos Win National EPA WaterSense Award



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has honored the Vallecitos Water District with a WaterSense Partner of the Year Award for its video series promoting WaterSense and water efficiency in 2022.

WaterSense partners contribute to the program's success by enhancing the market for water-efficient products, practices, and services. Each year WaterSense recognizes those partners who have gone above and beyond in supporting WaterSense.

Vallecitos was one of nine Partner of the Year Award winners across the U.S. Awards were presented at the American Water Works Association Water Smart Innovations event in Las Vegas on October 5, 2023.

WaterSense is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the EPA. It identifies and labels water-efficient products, programs, and homes to help consumers learn ways to save water. More than 2,100 manufacturers, builders, retailers, utilities, government, and nonprofit organizations partner with WaterSense to promote water-efficient products, homes, and programs.

Vallecitos produced twelve videos released monthly in 2022, based on the EPA's monthly feature topics. Each video focused on educating consumers about creating a WaterSense home. Among the topics covered by the 12 videos in

the series are bathroom water consumption, efficient energy use, and one of the favorites, the "Shower With Power" video released in September 2022. A link to that video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfR_jiZp7FU

Vallecitos began using video in 2019 to document the district's workforce and infrastructure improvements on its social media platforms and has also engaged the public with discussions of critically important water management issues.



Glenn Pruim Retires from the Vallecitos Water District

General Manager Glenn Pruim recently retired from the Vallecitos Water District. He was initially hired by the Vallecitos Board of Directors on November 21, 2016. Glenn was selected as part of a nationwide search. During his time as General Manager the District achieved the following awards:

2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association

2018 and 2021 District of Distinction and District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation

2021 National Award for Excellence in Action from the WaterReuse Association

2021 State award for Innovation and Resiliency from California Association of Sewerage Agencies

2023 Collection System of the Year awards from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA)

2021 Tertiary Recycled Water Plant of the Year from the (CWEA)

2023 WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year from the EPA

2023 First Place award from the San Diego Press Club for Television/Online Video

2020 Public Communications Achievement Award from the American Water Works Association

2022 and 2023 Award for Achievement from the Municipal Information Systems Association



Glenn successfully managed the District through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Glenn oversaw the dedication of the Meadowlark office as “The McDougale Building” named after retired plant supervisor Dawn McDougale. Glenn also approved the naming of the District’s 1946 Jeep after former Board Member Margaret “Betty” Ferguson.

The opening of South Lake Park and the installation of solar panels on the Twin Oaks Reservoirs Solar Project also took place during Glenn’s watch.

Glenn Pruim and his wife Jeanne still live in San Marcos. They are parents to five sons. The Vallecitos Board of Directors and Vallecitos staff wish him a happy retirement.



201 Vallecitos de Oro
 San Marcos, CA 92069
 (760) 744-0460
www.vwd.org



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

James Gumpel, General Manager
 Ed Pedrazzi, Operations and Maintenance Manager
 Wes Owen, Chief Financial Officer
 Jason Hubbard, District Engineer
 Denise Aviles, Human Resources and Risk Manager

The public is welcome to attend the Vallecitos Board Meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Administration building—201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos.

To provide public comments prior to the meeting, submit comments via e-mail at 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 watch or listen to the live meeting, go to www.vwd.org/meetings.

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Speakers Bureau

The wet and wonderful world of water can be slippery to understand, but it doesn't have to be. Get a firm grasp on water, wastewater, and issues related to their services through Vallecitos Water District's Speakers Bureau.

Let a member from the District's knowledgeable staff or Board of Directors enlighten your group, class, club or association on a wide variety of topics. Call (760) 744-0460 Ext. 314 to schedule an event.

