

THE PIPELINE

Monthly Newsletter

February 2009

Pipeline, an Award-Winning Publication

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to protect the public health, safety, and the environment by providing quality service, environmental stewardship and renewable resources.

SCADA

by Lilian von Rago

In November 2005, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) implemented Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) regulations aimed at reducing the number of sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). Reducing the number of SSO incidents is vital to the protection of the public health and environment. SSOs are often caused by fats, oils and grease (FOG) poured down drains. An accumulation of FOG can eventually clog sewers and can cause raw sewage to backup into the environment. Some other causes of sewer back ups include tree roots, grit, and vandalism.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that approximately 40,000 SSO events occur each year in the United States. In Pima County, we experienced 245 SSOs in 1999. By the end of 2008, department efforts had reduced that number to 85.

In light of aging infrastructure and the risks associated with SSOs, CMOM regulations were developed to require wastewater agencies to examine and improve the operations and maintenance of their collection systems and management practices.

RWRD's mission statement reads: "It is the mission of the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department to protect the public health, safety, and the environment by providing quality service, environmental stewardship and

renewable resources." One of the tools that we use to fulfill this mission and comply with CMOM regulations is Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) software.

SCADA computer software technology supports nuclear, chemical, oil, gas, rail, broadcasting and water plant systems nationally and internationally. It is capable of automating

complex systems that require rapid responses that often cannot be performed quickly enough by available staff. SCADA (or SCADA-type) systems run our nation's critical infrastructure, ranging from the power grid to water treatment, to transportation, to chemical manufacturing. Security within these infrastructure systems is paramount to protecting the health and safety of our communities.

Every SCADA application is different, and tailored

to the specific needs of the industry using it. Wastewater agencies are charged with moving raw sewage in a service area to treatment facilities where sewage is treated to certain standards and returned to the environment. SCADA systems can facilitate these activities in a number of ways.

The way in which RWRD uses SCADA is multifold. RWRD uses SCADA to monitor flows in sewer lines, pipes, pump stations and treatment plants; to check tank levels; to activate alarms within the system; to check pipe pressure; to



Larry Sawicki, Senior Instrumentation Technician, Mans SCADA Station at Ina Road WRF

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start and stop equipment; to accumulate and dispense data to regulatory agencies (such as ADEQ); and to assist in the operation of treatment facilities.

SCADA technology is used by the Treatment Division at the Ina Road WRF, the Roger Road WRF, the Randolph WRF, the Green Valley WRF, the Avra Valley WRF, the Corona de Tucson WRF, and the Marana WRF. Currently, each SCADA system operates independently, however a new control room with high-speed fiber optic cable will soon be operational. This SCADA hub will eventually allow all of RWRD's SCADA systems to be controlled from one location. This room, affectionately known as the "fish bowl," is located at the Ina Road WRF.

The Ina Road facility will be the first area in the department to fully utilize the new SCADA control room. To this end, four Ina

Road RWRD principal operators are being trained to run the system, which will be staffed around the clock. A consultant has been hired to develop a SCADA master plan including Standard Operating Procedures. There are plans to eventually centralize all department SCADA systems in the control room.

Although the SCADA system was in operation when RWRD Director Michael Gritzuk came to Pima County, Mr. Gritzuk has been a strong proponent of expanding SCADA applications, including the centralized control system at the Ina Road facility. According to SCADA Manager, Rod Graupmann, "Pima County's IT department has been a particularly helpful partner in the integration of RWRD's SCADA system."

Cultural Resources at Ina Road WRF

by Bobby DeAngelo

The Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF), Cultural Resources, and Desert Archaeology are conducting Phase II work in preparation for the upcoming construction of the Ina Road Upgrade and Expansion project; a part of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).

Phase I work involved digging a series of trenches for archaeologists to examine the profile of the land. This allowed them to see certain features and determine how far they had to dig to find vestiges of earlier civilizations that lived in the area thousands of years ago. The archaeologists marked the sites with a series of flags and mapped the site in preparation for Phase II.

In Phase II, the archaeologists remove enough dirt to allow them to stand on the actual ground where these ancient cultures once thrived and screen the area for artifacts and to gather information.

The archaeological findings, which date back 3,000 to 4,000 years, have been extensive and interesting. There are approximately 30 archaeologists working at this site, daily.

The archaeologists would like to share their excitement with RWRD employees by conducting weekly archaeology site tours, which will be held every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00



a.m., through the end of March. Check with your supervisor if you are interested in attending. The tour size will be limited to approximately fifteen people. Cultural Resources has reserved the option to invite five people, which leaves ten openings, each week, for RWRD staff who are interested in learning about what these archaeologists have found and about the prehistoric culture that once thrived on this site.

This schedule may change to every other Friday in March depending on the level of interest shown. Anyone interested can contact me (Bobby DeAngelo) at 443-6080 or rdeangelo@wwm.pima.gov; or Riz Olsen at 443-6079 or Rizzalyn.olsen@wwn.pima.gov.

Wastewater Technology Classes

by Dale Karnatz

Classes on wastewater technology began February 4 and will be held the first Wednesday of each month. The next set of classes is scheduled for March 4. The Safety Training and Development Section is offering these classes, which will provide professional development hours (PDHs) and certification training.

The department held a 30-hour OSHA Safety Card Class in February. Participants in the OSHA Safety Card Class received 30 hours of PDHs and two-credit hours from Pima Community College.

The next scheduled 30-hour OSHA Safety Class will take place one day per week over a four-week period. Class dates and times are April 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The featured class times and topics are listed below:

February 4	7:30 a.m.	Disinfection
	9:45 a.m.	Digesters

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	12:30 p.m.	Basic Math	April 1	7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Microscope/ Microorganism
February 24	7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	CPR/First Aid			
March 4	7:30 a.m.	Preliminary and Primary Treatment			
	11:30 a.m.	Biosolids			
	1:30 p.m.	Nitrification/ Denitrification			

This schedule allows managers the ability to flex their personnel from midnight and swing shifts for a full or partial day of training.

For additional information, please contact Dale Karnatz, Staff Training and Development, at 443-6454.

To register for these classes, please call Karin Garrison at 443-6425 or email her at: karin.garrison@wwm.pima.gov.

Security Seconds

by Shaun Pfund

The employees and management of the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) are looking forward to the further development and implementation of improved security standards at our facilities.

During the last series of “Dialogue with the Executive Team” meetings, important discussions about security raised concerns and provided insights into the security needs of our offices and facilities.

To date, we have scheduled security improvements addressing the flow of personnel on the fifth floor at the Public Works Building and the reception area at the Mission Road Field Engineering facility. These improvements consist of a gate with an electrical buzzer system that will allow our employees to better monitor personnel traffic at these locations.

There has been a marked improvement of our “Security Culture” within our organization. We will continue to measure these marks

through personal observation and reports generated within and outside our organization. A second “Security Scorecard” audit is underway.

All RWRD employees should remember these security basics: stop, query, request identification and when possible, escort visitors. Escorting visitors is based on your supervisor’s instructions and common sense. Escort visitors when the demand on your time is reasonable and in accordance with your supervisor’s instructions. When time does not allow you to escort visitors, direct them to their destination. Notify supervisors and security personnel when visitors blatantly disregard protocols and are found to be in unauthorized or sensitive areas.

RWRD is recognized for innovative security measures locally and nationally. Our continued improvement will reflect our intent to achieve a superior level in both service and security.

RWRD Supports Annual ECAP Fundraising Campaign

by Lorraine Simon

The 2008-09 Annual Pima County Employees Combined Appeal Program (ECAP) Fundraising Campaign was a huge success. Pima County employees contributed \$492,294.42 to this year’s campaign, an increase of \$2,794.42 from last year’s total of \$489,499.70. In light of the recent economic downturn, these are impressive results. It is during such difficult times that local nonprofit agencies need more support than ever to meet the needs of more people who require their services and assistance.

RWRD employees donated \$34,779.74 to the 2008/09 campaign. That number represents an increase of \$1,849.50 from last year’s department contribution of \$32,930.24. RWRD raised an average of \$65.01 per contributing employee, for an average per capita participation rate of 34.4%. The amount of per capita dollars collected and our rate of participation once again qualified the department for a bronze ECAP award.

The Annual ECAP Solicitor Recognition and Awards Presentation event was held on January 15, at the Kino Community Recreation

Center to honor and express appreciation to Pima County department volunteers for a successful campaign. Our many thanks to RWRD ECAP Department Coordinator, Mona Orozco, and her team of ECAP Solicitors: Karen Beck, Marla Berry, Aracely Camelot, Liz Flores, Denice Gamboa, Mary Khan, Terry Powelson, Liza Pulliam, Mary Ann Riesgo and Melody Sooter.

Additional thanks go to RWRD ECAP Steering Committee members Angelita Flores, Rita Mercer, and Lorraine Simon for planning this year’s ECAP Solicitor Kickoff and Recognition events.

The outstanding results of the Annual ECAP Fundraising Campaign would not be possible without the continued support of so many Pima County employees. Thank you so much for your generosity. You are the key to ECAP’s continued success in helping those less fortunate in our community.

For those who have worked on ECAP over the years, this year’s campaign was bittersweet. Rosie Joe has been the Pima County ECAP Steering Committee Board Chair for the past 15 years. With

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her retirement this month, Rosie leaves behind a legacy of leadership and inspiration to those who have worked with her on the annual ECAP campaigns. During Rosie's tenure, Pima County employees have contributed almost \$5 million to worthy causes and programs through ECAP. Our community is a better place because of Rosie's dedication and efforts to this annual campaign.

ADP HR/Benefits Solution Payroll Implementation

by Dan Brown

Effective January 31, the new ADP® HR / Benefits Solution (Employeease) system has created changes to benefits payroll deductions that will be reflected in county paychecks.

- 1) Life insurance premiums have now been broken down by individual plan, so employees who have elected these plans will see two new line items: Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) and Dependent Life (DEP LIFE). Under the new system, calculation of life insurance premiums is more precise than the previous system's calculations; therefore, employees may see slight changes in deduction amounts. Some employees with Dependent Life were charged \$.60 twice this pay period (once under DEP LIFE and once under SUPPL LIFE). This error will be corrected and the \$.60 will be refunded automatically on the next paycheck with no action needed from the employee.
- 2) The Health Savings Account (HAS) Over-55 Catch up provision has been broken into a separate category (HSA 55+).
- 3) The HSA Domestic Partner imputed income (\$38.46) has also been split into a separate category (DOM PART HSA) for those employees enrolled in the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) who are insuring a Domestic Partner with none of the employee's children.

If you have any questions on payroll deductions, please email HRBenefits@Pima.Gov

Personnel Update

by Annie Szalay

RWRD Employee Services has received questions on personnel and payroll issues that require clarification.

End of Probation Appraisals No Longer Required

The end of probation appraisal is no longer a requirement. According to Merit System Rule 15, probationary employees must receive an appraisal at the mid-point of the probationary period. Merit System Rule 15 states that all employees, except those exempted by the County Administrator, shall thereafter receive an appraisal at least annually. Under the new appraisal system, a performance plan needs to be in place (for at least 90 days) in order for an employee to receive an appraisal. A performance appraisal cannot be completed unless there is a performance plan in place that covers the rating cycle. If you have questions pertaining to performance plans or appraisals, please contact Anna Chavarria at 740-6382.

Transfer of Annual Leave to Sick Leave is Permanent

There appears to be some confusion regarding the transfer of annual leave to sick leave. Some employees are under the impression that they can freely transfer their annual leave to

sick leave and then transfer it back again to their annual leave. Unfortunately this is not the case. According to Personnel Policy 7-105 H, employees can transfer their annual leave to their sick leave to prevent the loss of their annual leave in excess of two hundred forty (240) hours. This must be accomplished within thirty (30) calendar days of their anniversary date. Once an employee has authorized this transfer, there is no provision for the transfer of that sick leave hours back to annual leave hours.

There is one potential option to allow employees to preserve annual leave in excess of the two hundred and forty (240) hours. Pursuant to Personnel Policy 7-105 C. 1 "At the discretion of the Appointing Authority and with the specific approval of the County Administrator, an employee may retain annual leave in excess of two hundred forty (240) hours." This option is utilized in cases of extenuating circumstances and approvals from both the Department Director (Appointing Authority) and the County Administrator are required for an employee to carry more than 240 vacation hours.



Bob "Batman" Buecher, Civil Engineer

Bob Buecher "Batman" Flies the Coop

by Lorraine Simon

Bob Buecher "Batman" said goodbye to RWRD on January 16, after a 13-year career with the department. Bob worked as a Civil Engineer for the Planning, Engineering, and CIP Division.

During his time with the department, Bob worked on several projects. Bob reviewed the Santa Cruz Interceptor project at all design stages for engineering accuracy and proper use of design standards and methods. He managed various sewer system wash crossing projects in an effort to develop proper wash crossing criteria and standards for our sewer system.

"Due to his vast design expertise, Bob also served as our in-house engineering and design resource which greatly assisted various divisions of RWRD for our facilities' planning, pre-design and design efforts," said Bob's supervisor, Francisco Duchicela.

One of the activities Bob and his wife pursue is the rescue and care of bats. Bob came by his interest in bats through another interest, spelunking (caving). Bob has been exploring caves since 1967. In 1988 he oversaw the baseline studies for Kartchner Caverns. One such study was on bats. Bob and his wife keep and care for a number of bats at home.

A retirement party for Bob was held on Friday, January 16, at the Wildcat House. Bob "Batman" will be missed by all. We wish him the best in his retirement.

ERAP on the Spot Awards

by Thom Nielsen

Mark Vargas, Wastewater Treatment Plant Mechanic, of the Roger Road Treatment Division is a popular guy! He was nominated for an "Employee on the Spot" Award for "Creative Thinking" by—not one—but by seven—of his appreciative co-workers! Todd Mailloux, Mike Major, Ron Leverty, Marc Mares, Jerry Stambaugh, Fred Bass and Scott Burke want Mark to know that his solution for improving broken, worn-out and misaligned equipment was ingenious! Mark recommended installing magnetic couplings on improperly functioning meters and pumps, and since that installation, all equipment has functioned flawlessly! Mark's co-workers want him to know that even though there are elaborate and large-scale projects going on within RWRD, big ideas for small improvements do not go unnoticed!

Pamela Braun, OSL III in RWRD's Planning and Engineering Division, was nominated by Senior Program Manager Karen Ramage for "Leadership & Employee Recognition". Karen says: "Ms. Braun is the unofficial 'Ambassador of Good Will' for the third

floor of the Public Works Building." Using her own, and donated funds, she purchases birthday, sympathy and other life event greeting cards and ensures that staff has an opportunity to sign them prior to the recipient receiving them. Her kind and thoughtful actions have brought many a smile and heartfelt thanks to her friends at work.

Annette Duarte, Sr. Administrative Specialist at the Downtown office, has been nominated for the second month in a row. In January, she was nominated for her leadership and fundraising skills in the Food Bank Challenge. This month, she was nominated by Community Relations Manager Laura Fairbanks for "Outstanding Customer Service". Laura said "Annette recently helped me with a scanning project that I could not do myself. This is only one example of a multitude of small tasks and assistance Annette willingly lends to coworkers who need her help. Annette has an incredible knowledge of county policies and procedures; she is also very good with technology. Whenever Annette lends a helping hand, she does so in a cheerful and positive manner."



Employee Birthdays

by Maggie Alvarez

Listed below are employees who have birthdays for the month of March:

Touseef Ahmad, Sandra Albert, Joseph Amendola, Roger Artz, Ira Bellinger, Jimmy Berndt, Chantal Blissett, Daniel Brown, Anthon Ellert, Brian Dean, Joseph Doranski, Francisco Duchicela, Verna Galvan, David Goodyear, Mathew Grant, Jens Thomas Hill, Don Irvin, William Lease, John Lesnewski, Albert Lopez, Carlos Lopez, Luellen Lynch, John Makar, Manuel Medina, Shawneen Michaud, Jerry Miller, John Mongelli, Sherri Mullins, Robert O'Neil, Patricia Padilla, Byron Porretta, Joe Reale, Steven Richey, Eddie Robles, Mario Robles, Gilbert Rojas, Tim Rowe, Karen Sanson, Ricardo Silva, Gregory Spence, Jerry Stumbaugh, Robert Teece, Thomas Tomchak, Kathleen Underwood, Krisna Valenzuela, Richard Vender, Gerald Villalobos, Thomas Willett, Linda Wright, Justin Zeigler

Deadline for Pipeline Submission

Please submit your stories for the March edition to Lorraine.Simon@wwm.pima.gov by Monday, March 2. If you will be submitting a photo, please send as a separate .jpg attachment.

Trivia

by Lorraine Simon

1. Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. What other significant historical event occurred on February 14?
 - a. Father Eusebio Kino established the Mission San Xavier del Bac in 1699
 - b. Hugo O'Connor established the Tucson Presidio, which marks the official birth date of the City of Tucson in 1775
 - c. Arizona became the 48th state to join the Union in 1912
2. What does the acronym SCADA stand for?
 - a. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
 - b. Systems Coordinator and Database Analyst
 - c. Synergen Contract and Distribution Account
3. RWRD uses SCADA for which of the following?
 - a. To monitor flows in sewer pipes, pump stations and treatment plants
 - b. To check water tank levels
 - c. To activate alarms within the system, check pipe pressure, start and stop equipment
4. The Safety Training and Development Section offers wastewater certification classes for which of the following reasons?
 - a. Allow managers the ability to flex their personnel from midnight and swing shifts for the full or partial day of training
 - b. Provide professional development hours (PDHs) and certification training
 - c. Provide training for newly hired wastewater treatment plant operators
5. What are the basics of the Security Scorecard?
 - a. A gate with an electrical buzzer system
 - b. Stop, query, request identification, and when possible escort visitors
 - c. Notify supervisors and security personnel when visitors approach the facilities or call 911
6. How much did RWRD employees donate to 2008's ECAP Campaign?
 - a. \$32,930.24
 - b. \$34,779.74
 - c. \$492,294.42

Comings and Goings

by Daniel Brown

New Hires

Aaron Archuleta

Utility Locator
Mission Field Engineering

Brian Brown

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Ina WRF

Rene Gastelum

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Ina WRF

Jose Mondragon

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Roger WRF

Promotions

Roger Artz

Principal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Roger WRF

Michael Bravo

Senior Wastewater Conveyance System Monitor
Outlying Facilities

Adrian De la Ossa

Principal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Ina WRF

Sylvia Gonzales

Loss Prevention Officer
Ina WRF

Carlos Kamber

Trades Maintenance Foreman
Ina WRF

William Lease

Public Works Supervisor
Mission Field Engineering

Shawneen Michaud

Wastewater Lab Chemist Specialist
Ina WRF

Miguel Yanez

Trades Maintenance Specialist
Richey Conveyance Division

Justin Zeigler

Principal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
Ina WRF

***Reappointment**

Luis Burruel*

Equipment Operator Landfill/WWTP
Outlying Facilities
Reappointed from Department of Environmental Quality

Gregory Hitt*

Principal Planner
Planning and Engineering
Reappointed from Development Services Department

Lee Smith*

Equipment Operator Landfill/WWTP
Outlying Facilities
Reappointed from Department of Environmental Quality

Retirements

Robert Buecher

Civil Engineer
Planning and Engineering

Julian Gomez

Equipment Operator Landfill/WWTP
Outlying Facilities

Answer Key

1. c – Arizona became the 48th state to join the Union in 1912
2. a – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
3. a,b,c – All are correct
4. b – Assist department personnel receive professional development hours (PDHs) and certification
5. b –Stop, query, request identification, and when possible escort visitors
6. b –\$34,779.74



**PIMA COUNTY
REGIONAL WASTEWATER
RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT**

Live a Healthier and Happier Life

submitted by Cecilia Vindiola

source: Pima County Employee Wellness: www.pima.gov/hr/health

How are you doing on your new year's resolution? Have you lost that weight, have you stopped smoking or cut back on alcohol consumption? Have you increased your water consumption or made any other changes that you swore you would do? Well, if you are like many other Americans, your New Year's resolution may be a fading memory.

Perhaps, it is time for a new perspective on resolutions. Perhaps instead of concentrating on difficult changes, we should make smaller adjustments in our lives that are easier to incorporate into our hectic lives. Instead of resolving to shed 40 pounds, maybe we should consider adding more fruit to our diet. Instead of resolving to working out at the gym for an hour each day, perhaps we should consider taking the stairs instead of the elevator or taking a walk during our lunch break.

If you are successfully implementing your new year's resolutions, more power to you! However, if you are like million's of other Americans, perhaps you should implement some of the gentler changes included in the article below.

- Nurture your relationships. Maintaining healthy love relationships and friendships can be a challenge. But those challenges, and the emotional development that inevitably come with them, can promote happiness.
- Move! Studies show that aerobic exercise is an antidote for mild depression and anxiety.
- Act happy. When people simply act extroverted, they feel happier than when they acted introverted. Even introverts, said the researchers, can act extroverted and feel happier.
- Nurture your spiritual side. Faith not only provides valuable support, but it's a way to focus on something other than you. Study after study finds that actively religious people are happier, and that they cope better with crises.
- Create a Gratitude Journal. People who pause each day to focus on the positive aspects of their lives (for example, their health, friends, family, education, freedom) are more likely to experience heightened well-being. Write down five things each day that you are grateful for.

