



# the PIPELINE

Volume 3 Issue 3

### Board of Directors

**Robert E. Alvarado**, Division 1

**Joe Estes**, Division 2

**Marco Henriquez**, Division 3

**Kathy Mac Laren**, Division 4

**Vincent Dino**, Division 5

### Executive Team

**Dennis D. LaMoreaux**  
General Manager, CEO

**Michael Williams**  
Finance Manager, CFO

The Pipeline is published by Palmdale Water District's Public Affairs Department.

EDITOR/WRITER  
**Judy Shay**, Public Affairs Director

WRITER/DESIGNER  
**Laura Gallegos**, Public Affairs Specialist

### Mission Statement

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on great customer service; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water conservation; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Now Available at PWD

The electric vehicle charging stations at Palmdale Water District are now operating and available for use during PWD business hours. As a trial period and in celebration of its 100th anniversary, PWD is offering FREE charging for electric vehicles through Dec. 5, 2018.



## Wind Turbine Repaired, Back Powering PWD Water Treatment Plant



The wind turbine that has provided power to the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant since 2004 is again generating energy after undergoing major maintenance and repairs. The turbine, which produces power when the wind is blowing at a minimum of nine miles per hour for about 10 minutes, can save PWD up to \$100,000 annually on its energy bill. Maintenance costs are also below projections for the turbine that is expected to last at least another 10 years.

The Vestas/NEG Micon NM54/950 wind turbine stands 237 feet tall and has three blades that are each 85 feet long. It has become an iconic landmark for people driving through Palmdale.



## Maintaining Our Infrastructure: Pipelines, Water Meters & More

Access to safe and reliable drinking water is essential to the well-being of any community. For Palmdale Water District (PWD), this responsibility comes with making sure that it stays on top of scheduled maintenance so that there are no lapses in service and water quality remains uncompromised.

The PWD Board of Directors – Robert E. Alvarado, Joe Estes, Marco Henriquez, Kathy Mac Laren and Vincent Dino – have unanimously agreed that maintaining the District's infrastructure is a priority. They have directed staff to identify needs and request funding for the upkeep of a complicated water network that was first assembled 100 years ago.

In the newly adopted \$24 million operating budget for 2018, the Board approved \$3.025 million for infrastructure and asset maintenance. This includes water main line and meter replacement; water well rehabilitation; and booster pump replacements.

"The Board has adopted a budget that will make it possible for the District to use its resources to maintain and replace our aging infrastructure," said Board Director Mac Laren. "In the long run, this will save ratepayers money."

PWD currently has 414 miles of main lines that transport millions of gallons of water every year to a population of more than 115,000 people. Since 2010, about 12 miles of aging pipes have been replaced with new ductile iron pipes that have been recognized as the industry standard for modern water systems. With proper maintenance, the new pipes have a life span of at least 50 years, thanks to its strength and durability. *(Continued on page 2)*

## Happy Holidays!

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

= As adopted in 2016 by the Board of Directors, there will be a 4.25% Rate Adjustment on your bill starting on Jan. 1, 2018.

= 'Tis' the season to adjust your lawn's irrigation system. During fall and winter months, our customers' water allocations are reduced based on the number of household residents, weather and other factors. If you have any questions, please contact PWD's Customer Care Department at 661-947-4111, option 2.

### 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:

#### Littlerock Dam & Water Treatment Plant Tours

January-June 2018  
Sign-ups Required:  
palmdalewater.org  
661-441-5944  
tours@palmdalewater.org

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Board Meetings

Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.  
January 10 & 24, 2018  
February 14 & 28, 2018  
March 14 & 28, 2018

#### Blood Drive

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018  
9am-3pm

#### PWD Town Hall Forum

Thursday, March 8, 2018  
6pm @ PWD Board Room

Attention: This publication is available in Spanish on our website at palmdalewater.org.

Atención: Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en palmdalewater.org.

### Centennial Celebration Continues!

## Exclusive Tours of Littlerock Dam & Water Treatment Plant

Have you ever wondered how water gets to your tap or what treatment process your water goes through to be safe? Now you can find out! As part of its 100-year celebration, Palmdale Water District invites you to take a behind-the-scenes tour of its facilities where your water questions can be answered.

The tours are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month from January to June 2018. They start at 9 a.m. at PWD, 2029 East Avenue Q, and end about noon. Transportation is provided. The tours are free, but you must sign up on the PWD website at palmdalewater.org. You can also call 661-441-5944 or email tours@palmdalewater.org to sign up.



## Your Guide to What's Happening in Palmdale

Stay in the know about Palmdale programs, events and news with Palmdale Magazine. Mailed three times a year to Palmdale residents, it's also available for viewing online at [www.CityofPalmdale.org](http://www.CityofPalmdale.org).

### Looking to grow your business?

Call 661/267-5120 today to discover how affordable advertising in Palmdale Magazine can be for your business and learn how you can save 25%.

CITY OF PALMDALE  
661/267-5120 • [www.cityofpalmdale.org](http://www.cityofpalmdale.org)

# Employee Spotlight

Tim Moore, Facilities Manager



Facilities Manager Tim Moore's career at Palmdale Water District spans nearly three decades and involves six different jobs. He started in 1989 as a meter reader, worked up the ranks and was promoted to his current management position 11 years ago.

Tim is responsible for a 27-crew team whose primary job is maintaining PWD's infrastructure so that there are no interruptions to the water-delivery system. They fix pipelines, wells, reservoirs, booster stations, pressure-regulating stations and PWD's 80-vehicle fleet. One top priority for Tim's department is keeping PWD's 414 miles of pipes that service about 27,000 businesses and residences in prime shape. To date, only five miles of double-dipped and wrapped pipes dating back to more than 60 years have not been replaced with new pipelines.

Although the upkeep can be challenging due to an infrastructure that had its beginnings 100 years ago, Tim is encouraged by his skilled team and by the support the Board of Directors has given to the Facilities Department.

"I would like our customers to understand that we have a staff that is highly skilled," said Tim. "They go out there and complete each job with quality workmanship while getting the work done quickly. Our goal is to create minimum disruptions to our customers."

Before joining PWD, Tim worked for General Motors in Van Nuys for about 10 years. He took a 50 percent pay cut and found a profession that he loves but will bid farewell to in 2018 when he retires.

"It is great having a job with a purpose," he said. "I enjoy the camaraderie with everyone at PWD – sharing all our experiences and working together to accomplish the goal of a dependable water system."

Tim and his wife, Kimberly, who have two grown children and two grandchildren, will move to their new home in Prescott, Arizona, when he retires. He plans to spend retirement golfing and enjoying more time with his family.

# Maintaining our Infrastructure

(Continued from page 1)

Aside from pipes, maintaining the infrastructure also involves the upkeep of large meters, air vacs, valves, compound meters, pressure-reducing valves and vehicles. PWD has 88 compound meters, located below ground in vaults, that need to be tested annually to ensure proper recording and measuring of water flow. Corrosion on the vaults can cause leaks and failures. In addition, PWD has 8,436 valves that need to be exercised and turned. This year, 4,000 valves were exercised. Currently, work has started on the replacement of 567 old steel air vacs.

## Infrastructure At-A-Glance



One infrastructure maintenance activity that is most widely noticed by the public is water main flushing where water is released from fire hydrants. Crews use high velocity water flow in the opposite direction of the natural flow to flush out sediments to improve water quality in the system. PWD has 340 flushing sites that need to be flushed regularly.

Much of the maintenance is aimed at reducing leaks in the miles of pipeline. In the past seven years, PWD has reduced its incidents of leaks from 866 to 70, or about 80 percent. Reduced leaks translate to more staff resources to maintain other infrastructure needs and less loss of water, according to Facilities Manager Tim Moore.

To keep up with the aging infrastructure, the District needs to budget at least \$4.7 million each year for maintenance. However, in the past only limited funds were available, making it difficult to keep up with the necessary replacements.

"Staff has helped reduce the overall costs of operating the distribution system by utilizing proactive maintenance," said PWD Engineering Analyst Kelly Jeters. "But there are some instances of reactive maintenance or emergency repairs, and this is from an aging infrastructure."

With Board support, staff has taken it a step further and is working on a five-year plan for infrastructure revitalization. Planning and assessing the needs of the distribution system is vital to ensure that PWD is in position to keep up with the community's projected growth.



## WHAT IS CALIFORNIA WATERFIX & HOW WILL IT AFFECT YOU?

California WaterFix is part of Gov. Jerry Brown's California Water Action Plan that calls for constructing twin, underground tunnels to transport water from the Sacramento River to the south as part of the State Water Project (SWP), which provides fresh water to 25 million Californians.

The SWP, built in the 1960s, is a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, lakes, aqueducts, power and pumping plants, tunnels and pipelines. The system captures, stores and moves water to 27 water agencies, including Palmdale Water District. It is the nation's largest state-built water and power system.

The governor proposes to build three new intakes in the north Delta and the 35-mile long double tunnels. Supporters of the plan, which is estimated to cost \$17 billion, maintain that the state must modernize and invest in its water system infrastructure to ensure enough water continues to flow south. Opponents, however, question the cost and the negative effects to the environment.

As a state water contractor since 1963, PWD is automatically obligated to be part of the project and required to pay its fair share of all costs associated with it. However, if WaterFix is approved, water rates for PWD customers will not be increased. PWD's share would be paid through a special water tax assessment levied on property owners within the water agency's boundaries.

Jon Pernula, PWD Water and Energy Resources Director, describes WaterFix as two-pronged – one is to modernize and complete the SWP and the other is the governor's California Water Action Plan to reinforce regional self-sufficiency in water supplies; reduce reliance on the Delta; recover native fish populations; and bring reliability, restoration and resilience to the state's water systems.

Like many water agencies in Southern California, PWD is reliant on water from the SWP to supplement its water supply. PWD receives about 50 percent of its water supply from the SWP. The underground wells and the Littlerock Reservoir provide the other half of the water that is needed each year to service 115,000 residents.

"Palmdale Water District customers will need the California WaterFix to help shore up the long-term reliability of State Water Project supplies and to effectively stem the current decline in availability of imported water," Pernula said.



### Palmdale Water District's Rate Assistance Program

## Now Accepting Applications!



The Rate Assistance Program is set to begin in January 2018 for households that qualify for a 50 percent reduction in the monthly service fee on their water bills. Applicants must reapply yearly or any time they move. For 2018, senior citizens currently on the program do not need to reapply. Low-income families and veterans are welcome to apply. Aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional information on program requirements can be found on PWD's website at [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org).

### 2018 Water Wise Landscape Conversion Program

## New Program Coming in 2018



PWD is offering property owners cash rebates to remove any grass and/or convert their front yard to a water-wise, drought friendly, xeriscape landscape. Funding is limited, and applications will be processed in the order they are received.

For more information, please call 661-456-1001.

