

CELEBRATING WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S WATER PROFESSIONALS

West Valley Water District (WVWD) celebrated Water Professionals Appreciation Week during October 1 - 9, taking the opportunity to recognize and highlight the important role of water industry professionals in ensuring safe and reliable water for communities. In honor of the important work done by WVWD's water professionals, we'd like to highlight a few of the agency's staff members whose hard work is critical to the organization's operations.

Sergio Granda, Chief Water Systems Operator



As the chief water systems operator for the WVWD Water Treatment Division, Sergio works to ensure that the water WVWD provides is safe and clean. Prior to working for WVWD full-time, Sergio served as an intern which provided him with invaluable professional work experience. 24 years later and he still uses that experience every day. As both a WVWD staff member and a ratepayer, Sergio takes pride in his work, knowing that his family uses the water at the other end of the pipeline.

“As a ratepayer of West Valley Water District, I trust the tap for not only myself, but for my children. As an employee of the district, I feel honored knowing that the work I do makes a difference and provides a critical resource for the communities we serve.”

Rosa Gutierrez, Senior Engineer



Though the water and engineering industries are dominated by men, Rosa has steadily risen through the ranks due to her talent, skills, dedication and the support and respect from her colleagues. Today, Rosa serves as a senior engineer with WVWD, who is responsible for the development of our essential water infrastructure. As an advocate for improving our communities and water infrastructure, Rosa is a staunch advocate for smart water use and conservation.

“I encourage everyone to explore the water industry, whether that be to learn more about what they can do to conserve and protect their water sources or to become the next generation of water professionals. Water is our earth's most valuable resource and we all must do our part to make it last.”

Miguel Cervantes, Customer Service



Miguel has a passion for listening to and communicating with others. He serves as WVWD's customer service lead and is studying for a master's degree in counseling psychology at California Baptist University. Combining what he's learned in the classroom and his years of customer service experience, Miguel takes pride in his ability to keep customers happy and informed. Miguel also credits his relentless pursuit of education and knowledge for his success in the water industry.

“For those who want to excel in their work, I see great value in refining your social skills and patience. Education is a great asset when it comes to the water industry and customer service – so keep educating yourself and pursuing degrees until you get where you want to be.”

Gilbert Olivares, Water Systems Operator III



Almost 20 years ago, WVWD hired Gilbert as a facility maintenance intern. As he helped to maintain the organization's buildings and grounds, he noticed a growing demand for water professionals and decided to pursue a career in the industry. While interning he focused on his education to complete the certificates necessary to advance in his career. Today, Gilbert is a water systems operator III for the WVWD Cross-Connection and Backflow Division.

"Water is the most powerful element on earth. It carved the Grand Canyon and is fundamental to all life on our planet. When people ask why I do what I do, it's for that reason. I get to do my part to ensure that the people in the communities where we live and work have reliable and safe drinking water."

Al Robles, Purchasing Supervisor



WVWD Purchasing Supervisor Al Robles ensures that staff members in the office and field have the necessary tools and materials to do their job efficiently. Every day, Al works with WVWD departments and vendors to obtain the best equipment and services for the best price. Most importantly, Al works to deliver these tools utilizing a transparent and accountable bidding process that puts ratepayers first.

"I have always been fascinated by what it takes to ensure water reliability in our communities and for future generations. When I started in the water industry and began to understand how we provide water, I gained a greater appreciation for the work my colleagues do. There's nothing more satisfying than providing them with the tools, services and equipment they need to succeed in their jobs."

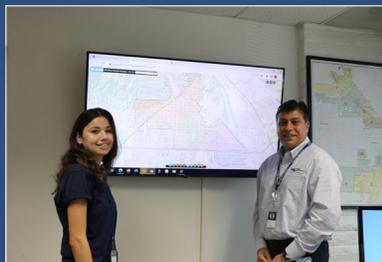
Dimitrius Glass, Assistant Water Systems Operator



Dimitrius is one of the first graduates of the IEWorks program, a regional workforce development program spearheaded by WVWD that provides training and career opportunities to future water and wastewater industry professionals. Now an Assistant Water Systems Operator at WVWD, Dimitrius encourages others to pursue a career in the water industry.

"The IEWorks program helped prepare me for a career in the water industry by allowing me to have hands-on experience as well as mentorship from seasoned water professionals. Now, I'm part of the next generation of the water industry workforce and I'm working to manage and maintain our water supply to ensure that our ratepayers have safe, clean water."

To see our full recognition of WVWD's water professionals, follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @MyWVWD



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Channing Hawkins
President, Division 4

Greg Young
Vice President, Division 5

Angela Garcia
Director, Division 1

Dan Jenkins
Director, Division 2

Kelvin Moore
Director, Division 3

Visit us online at www.wvwd.org and check out our social media     @MyWVWD

909.875.1804 • 855 W. Baseline Rd. • Rialto, CA 92376