

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
REPORT**

PRESENTATION #: 36

Date Prepared: November 15, 2008

Council Meeting Date: December 2, 2008

TO: Carl Swenson, City Manager

FROM: Stephen Bontrager, Utilities Director



PREPARED BY: Linda Bezy-Botma, Utilities Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Arizona Water & Pollution Control Association Awards

SUMMARY:

Arizona Water & Pollution Control Association (AWPCA) is a nonprofit education organization with a membership of 3,200 water/wastewater professionals dedicated to preserving and enhancing Arizona's water environment. The purpose of the AWPCA's Safety Awards Program is to recognize the efforts accomplished by Arizona utilities toward safe operating practices employed in water treatment plants, wastewater treatment (water reclamation facilities), water distribution systems, or wastewater collection systems. Peoria Utilities Department submitted nine applications to be considered for awards. At the annual AWPCA conference on April 30, 2008, the City of Peoria Utilities was awarded nine AWPCA Safety Awards to include a Letter of Commendation and an Award of Merit. In addition, two City staff were awarded Supervisor of the Year and Operator of the Year.

A *Letter of Commendation* is achieved by utilities of 1-100 employees operating at least one calendar year without a disabling injury accident, but less than 200,000 consecutive man-hours. The following plant systems were awarded a *Letter of Commendation* in Water Treatment or Water Distribution System Operation:

- ▶ City of Peoria Quintero Water System Water Treatment
- ▶ City of Peoria Quintero Water System Water Distribution
- ▶ City of Peoria Greenway Water Treatment Plant
- ▶ City of Peoria Water Distribution System
- ▶ City of Peoria Vistancia Water Distribution System

An *Award of Merit* is accomplished when plants operate with less than the allowable "lost days" within a calendar year. This is calculated based on the number of hours worked and days lost. The following plant systems were awarded an *Award of Merit* in Wastewater Treatment or Wastewater Collection System Operation:

- ▶ City of Peoria Wastewater Collection System
- ▶ City of Peoria Vistancia Water System
- ▶ City of Peoria Jomax Water Reclamation Facility
- ▶ City of Peoria Beardsley Water Reclamation Facility

The honor of *Supervisor of the Year* was given to Raymond Trahan. Mr. Trahan, the Beardsley

and Butler Wastewater Reclamation Facilities Supervisor, was nominated for implementing several efficiency and optimization improvements to the Beardsley plant. Under Ray's leadership, the plant operators are now able to perform more in-house pump maintenance repairs, saving the city maintenance contract expense and equipment down time. He has also implemented regularly scheduled cleanings and preventative maintenance activities throughout the plant and uses the Hansen Computer Maintenance Management System to schedule and track those activities. Predictive maintenance infrared scans and vibration analyses are now performed on a routine basis at Beardsley, which allows the staff to detect a change in equipment operation and make repairs before there is an unplanned equipment failure, again saving labor and cost. Under Ray's direction, the indexing of filter backwashes has been programmed into the filter operation insuring that there is a more thorough filter cleaning maintenance routine established. Ray converted the 55-gal drum bleach system at Beardsley to bulk liquid sodium hypochlorite, which saved labor and cost. Ray has hosted a Regional Security conference at Beardsley as well as numerous other training events. He eagerly provides tours to citizens and resolves customer issues expeditiously. In addition, Ray hired the start-up crew for the new Butler Water Reclamation Facility; he successfully planned and brought the facility into operation without using outside contractual assistance, again saving the city expensive initial operation dollars.

Operator of the Year was awarded to Robert Garcia. Mr. Garcia was nominated for several process changes that he implemented at the Jomax Water Reclamation Facility as Plant Operations Specialist. These changes included the implementation of an air blow-off system that has resulted in the plant being able to maintain compliance with permit regulations. He was very instrumental in developing the change-over operational procedures that were needed at Jomax while it was under construction and still treating wastewater. Robert has improved and standardized the operator laboratory testing at all of our wastewater plants. He also performs microbiological testing at all of the plants and supplies regular micro reports to operations that provide useful process guidance information. His effort has saved tax dollars by not outsourcing this service. Robert is an acknowledged and well respected in-house training expert, and has added savings by training the new operators on the laboratory testing and wastewater process which was formerly outsourced.