

WATER LOGGED

FALL 2023



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEVADA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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Features

A Note from Our Executive Director.5
Flushing...It's Not Just For the Water System!!6-7
There Is An Exciting Life After Retirement. . . .8-9
Customer Service: What is Expected Vs. What is Delivered11, 13
Biden-Harris Administration Invests \$3.2 Million16

Advertisers

AquaNV.12
Heggen Lentz.9
Instrument Technology Corporation.17
Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group.15
RCI.10
Shaw Engineering.15
Techno Flo4
USA Bluebook18
Western Nevada Supply.2

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A Note from Our Executive Director:

By Michael Boney, NvRWA Executive Director

Here we are in the Fall season again. The 2023 Conference brought in the highest number of operators to the Conference. This was only accomplished by your faith in us Nevada. The delivery of high-quality vendors, classes, and training topics helped push attendance up.

Registration will be open in three steps this year. Early Bird, Regular, and Late Registration. Each level will have its own registration fees associated with it.

We are approaching time for our 2024 Annual Training and Technical Conference, March 5 – 7, with exams on the 8th. The Conference will be at the Nugget in Sparks. I hope that all of you who have been able to attend in the past, and those who are newer to the water and wastewater industry will be able to attend for the first time. As the Conference dates draw closer, look for updates on our website or in your email. If your email has changed recently, make sure to update the email to receive the training calendar, training hours reports, and other important information.

We will continue with our training – intensive schedule, and we are now planning the event. Our Associate Members, Regulatory Agencies, staff, and volunteers put on some great training last year. The Regulatory Agencies, both State and Federal, presented new changes to upcoming regulations. The Revised Lead and Copper Rule requires systems to have a system inventory on Lead solder, Lead service lines, Lead goosenecks, or any Lead pieces, i.e. couplers, adapters, etc., attached to galvanized pipe to be recorded on the inventory list by October 16, 2024. If the pipe is marked unknown, then it is considered as Lead pipe. Another item discussed was on PFAS. The sampling of the well water and the water after treatment is needed to determine if PFAS is in your system water. The testing results look for contamination in parts per trillion. Contact a NvRWA Circuit Rider for more information regarding PFAS.

The Conference will have a diversity of classes to offer this year from water and wastewater treatment to classes for board members and managers. We want your input on conference topics and training needs. The schedule will be set so that you can fully enjoy the focal point of the Conference, the Vendor Exposition.

The Annual Awards and the Best Tasting Water Contest will continue to be important events at the Conference. Make sure to bring your water in a properly sealed 2- quart or more container. Want to be a judge in the Best Tasting Water Contest? Please, let them know at the registration desk or by email to vernh@nvrwa.org or michaelb@nvrwa.org. Jeopardy and potentially Wastewater Horseshoes will be played this year. Put together your team of five people and email the list to one of the two above or at the registration desk. Jeopardy will be played Tuesday evening if there are at least two teams.

If there is a "Manager / Operator in Water / Operator in Wastewater/ Administrative Staff" that you would like to be noticed for all he or she does for the system, then please send a brief bio of the person and why he or she should be recognized. Don't forget to name a system delegate and alternate for the Annual Business Meeting. Remember, there is limited booking at the Nugget. Make sure to register your room at the Nugget before, during, or after Conference registration is completed.

WaterPAC

The WaterPAC supports our National affiliate in its efforts to keep program funding alive so that water and wastewater systems in Nevada and other states get the technical support and training they need. The WaterPAC also goes toward advocacy in Washington for the rural water system point of view. National has given each State Association a fundraising goal. We are asking each individual to contribute ten dollars or more each year, with a maximum contribution of one hundred each year. Please support Rural Water and its efforts!!!!



Flushing...It's Not Just For the Water System!!

By Danny Lofton, Water Circuit Rider

Flushing and the importance of it in your home or workplace. Do we ever stop to think about flushing our homes' plumbing system? Some of you may say Yes!! I flush my toilet a few times a day! That is true, but you should also flush your points of entry.

For instance, the water softener for the house or water fountain on the refrigerator. It is necessary to clean the plumbing components in your home or office often. This helps to prevent things like calcium or other mineral deposits from building up. The buildup could restrict the water flow, cause damage to fixtures, or even affect the water at the entry point.

When the lines have not been in service due to a repair or long term shut off, the lines must be flushed. I would like to share a few things with you all to assist you at home...maybe work. Here are a couple of instructions on how to do a flush of your faucets and other household fixtures that require the use of water:

- 1. After flushing all fixtures, replace any filters on appliances required to be changed.
- 2. Please refer to your owner's manual for proper fitting of devices when replacing filters.
- 3. Also, if you stay or work in a building with more than one floor you will start will the top floor first and then down to the next floor when opening and closing taps.

Start with the hot water taps in the home. First, open all the hot water taps, including bathtubs. Start with the lower floors and work your way up if you have a multi-story building. Open all hot water fixtures. Don't forget to open the fixtures on the wet bar, or a hot tub that may have a hot tap. Allow all to run for 15 minutes, After the time is up turn all hot water fixtures off starting with the top floors first and working your way down to the first. Now all hot water lines have been flushed and are ready for use.

In a single-story home, start with the fixture closest to the hot water heater and work away to the furthest fixture. After the 15 minutes have elapsed, close the fixtures from the furthest to the closest to the hot water heater.

The hot water heater can now be flushed. Please refer to your manufacturer's manual for correct procedures on draining the sediment from the hot water heater.

Next, open all cold-water taps, including

bathtubs. Start with the lower levels first and work your way up. The outside taps for a water hose or outdoor kitchen should be done later. Allow all cold-water taps to run for the allotted time of 10 minutes. Some discoloration may be noticed in the water or even air may be experienced in faucets that are rarely used. Shut all cold-water taps off after the 10 minutes have elapsed. Start closing the cold-water taps on the upper floors and work your way down to the lower levels. Items such as your ice maker on the refrigerator and water dispensers can be done later. Be sure to follow instructions supplied by your manufacturer's manual.

In a single-story home, start with the tap closest to the hot water heater and work away to the furthest fixture. After the 10 minutes have elapsed, close the fixtures from the furthest to the closest to the hot water heater.

Lastly, we will open any of the remaining fixtures like outside faucets for pets or gardening that would not be normally used for drinking water. Once all taps are open, flush for 10 minutes. If you see any discoloration or have a smell don't worry as it is not harmful, it's mostly a buildup of sediment from non-usage or recent repairs. Please read all steps carefully and follow when flushing. Remember we are only as good as our last FLUSH!



What is the Story with the Cross-Connection Control Program at Your PWS?

By NvRWA Staff

Those working in the drinking water industry know that by far, the majority of drinking water contamination incidents involve cross-connections. Most texts on the topic include a number of stories showing what can and will happen, whether by back-siphonage or back pressure. Yet some systems have not gone beyond having a written plan to fully implement a program. Why leave your system vulnerable when prevention is at-hand? Could you justify inaction against the background of known threats and available, standard solutions? Have you spoken with your insurance carrier about the situation?

In many, if not most cases, there is resistance from building owners because of the initial cost and sometimes also because of the ongoing assembly testing cost. You should know that project funding agencies will gladly entertain adding the cost of needed cross-connection control assembly installations to a larger project; your system could then be in compliance, and have the expenditure repaid over a period of time by each customer involved. This solution would tremendously decrease the initial cost impact, by spreading it over a period of perhaps a few years.

The ongoing cost of annual inspection and testing can be addressed by many routes, including getting your staff certified and properly equipped; by coordination among business owners to have out-of-town service provider schedule testing of several in a single trip; by encouraging local plumbing businesses to provide the service. Bottom line, the ongoing program will cost money, both for testing and for system administration duties. On the other hand, please consider that the daily penalty per violations is significant. Should a contamination incident occur, add the real possibility of costly civil suits and legal fees.

In addressing the responsibilities of a supplier and customer, NAC 445A.66655, states, in part "A supplier of water and, where applicable, each customer of a public water system shall comply with the provisions of NAC 445A.65505 to 445A.6731 inclusive." Those parts cover all of design, construction, operation, and maintenance including cross-connection control. If impacted customers resist implementation efforts, you should inform them of the impacts the community would suffer if the impacted customers do not meet their responsibility to address known risks. Make the impacted customer aware that they share in these risks.



There Is An Exciting Life After Retirement

By Max Sosa, Work Force Development Manager

Hello, most of you know me from the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program and have talked with me regarding your water distribution or treatment certification renewals in years past. Some may also know me from the more recent wastewater certification training that I have provided at numerous wastewater facilities and small towns in Rural Nevada during the last 3 years. There is also a handful of you that are still in the water and wastewater field that know me from Southern Nevada when I started as a Grade 2 operator at the Clean Water Team in Clark County back in the mid 1990's. Do you remember Y2K?

I grew up in Pahokee, Florida and graduated from Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth, Florida. In 1975, I moved to Torrance, California and began working in the chemical industry manufacturing raw polyurethanes & polyethylene to produce poly pipe and other products until Union Carbide closed down. During that time, I attended El Camino College and Cal State University while working full time majoring in Environmental Science and Business.

In 1986, I returned to Florida and started in wastewater as a plant maintenance helper and became a Wastewater Certified Class C operator in 1988. From 1988 to 2011, I have operated and managed wastewater facilities in Florida, California, and Nevada. My career path came to fruition as I worked up from a Maintenance Helper to a Wastewater Grade 1 operator and on to Chief Operator and plant Operations Manager over a 23-year period. I currently hold Grade 4 Certifications in Nevada and Oregon, Grade 5 in California, and Class A Wastewater License in Florida.

In 2012, I finally put my college major to use when hired as an Environmental Scientist by the State of Nevada / NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water in Carson City. My primary function was to perform sanitary survey inspections and ended up retiring as Program Manager for the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program in September of 2020.

In February of 2021, I came out of retirement and joined Nevada Rural Water part-time.

At first, my duties were helping with technical assistance to correct Sanitary Survey deficiencies from NDEP task orders as assigned. After the 1st month, I was asked if I would like to work on a full-time basis and agreed. By June 2021, I became the Wastewater Training and Technical Assistance Specialist helping operators throughout the state of Nevada. In this position, I assisted operators with wastewater issues plus created and provided numerous wastewater training to help operators maintain their certifications.

At Nevada Rural Water, I recently decided to accept the Work Force Development Manager and Apprenticeship Coordinator position. *My retired friends are flabbergasted and are asking me, you did what?*

Why?

Why did I take on this Challenge? Because I felt a need to give back to a rewarding field that gave me the opportunity for a solid future. I never imagined that after having an established career in chemicals and plastics, to find myself unemployed when Union Carbide shut down. It was a time of high unemployment, my savings were running out and not being sure of what to do next, I took a job as a maintenance helper at a wastewater facility to bring in some money.

During the first month of employment, the staff at the wastewater plant attended a mandatory scheduled training from the Florida Rural Water Association. The training was on How to properly grease and maintain rotating bowl centrifuges. It was then that I learned about the Rural Water Association. Attending that training introduced me to Florida Rural Water and they offered a career field opportunity that I never knew existed.

The growing labor shortage in Water Careers is very concerning. There is a large number of operators that are retiring, and it is alarming how so many people, like I was at one time, are unaware of how many Water Careers are there.

On my first Work Force Development outreach at a school "Family Night" event, I was shocked at the answers I got from middle school graduating students when asking: **Do you know where the water in your sink comes from?**



Some of the students' answers were not what I was expecting:

- *I'm scared to find out.*
- *I don't want to know.*
- *I don't know.*
- *When it rains.*
- *Why do I need to know?*



As you can see there was only one close answer "when it rains". What was also alarming is that most of the parents did not know either and that "cities, counties or states are supposed to provide water to the residents".

Work Force Development is essential to bring awareness to the public by conducting outreach activities to educate the public. By educating the public, recruiting potential candidates, and mentoring them through the Apprenticeship Program Nevada Rural Water plans to produce the new water system operators. The opportunities, challenges, and benefits of a career in public water system operations, maintenance, and management are endless. It is also essential to coordinate and

work with drinking water and clean water systems that are willing to participate by providing a structured on the job training program managed by Nevada Rural Water. We need the assistance from water and clean water systems to provide hands on training with the possibility of partial funding for apprentices to bring new operators into the Water Industry.

As Apprenticeship Coordinator, my main goal is to recruit candidates for Water and Clean Water Careers. This is done by promoting the Nevada Rural Water apprenticeship program to potential participating employers, community organizations, and applicants. The Nevada Rural Water Association Apprenticeship Program is diligently working to appeal to a wider audience who wouldn't initially approach the water industry. From veterans to new high school graduates outreach needs to be done to create an awareness of Careers in Water.

Currently I am working with National Rural Water and the Department of Labor in developing and establishing a registered Nevada Rural Water Apprenticeship Program in the State of Nevada. Once the program is registered, I will be reaching out to create partnerships with Drinking Water and Clean Water systems to establish training programs that will bring much needed operators into the field.

I enjoy my time off work with my wife and my dog. We love the desert sunrises, the starry nights, music, fishing, and rock hunting while exploring the dusty unpaved back roads of Nevada.



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Customer Service: What is Expected Vs. What is Delivered

By Joe Mathein, Technical Assistance and Training Specialist

The Statement Itself Should Be Self-Explanatory:

While it is a recognized practice in all business ventures, it is widely interpreted by the managers and operators of the business as well as the customers themselves. Has the concept become so diluted that just getting the basics done is enough? Why wouldn't a business, and we'll talk about Public Water Systems, want to deliver gold standard customer service to its customers? There are several factors that affect the decision to provide the best possible customer service. Some of these are economic, some are the dynamics of water system and its staffing abilities, while other factors are not readily recognized.

Customer Service is Quality Measurement:

The idea is that the value of the service based on the results is the benchmark. Too many times I have seen this discarded for the sake of quantity. If there are 20 service orders and only 1 or 2 techs available, the natural behavior is to get as many done with as little time and effort spent on the individual service order. This tends to the desire to meet "goals" or quotas. While goals are good to have in place, the definition of the result should be centered on the quality of the service performed, the completeness and fulfillment to that customer. Who does that? Not many organizations do anymore. But the ones that do are the ones that last and are held with great respect. The real value for attending to the customer's request fully and professionally is realized in a reduction of duplication of requests. As an example, customer X has called because they felt they could not have used that much water during that billing period, so the office staff request a check of the water meter. The normal response is to send Charlie out and get a read. Charlie never talks with the customer, pulls up. Gets out and grabs a read and climbs back in the truck and is gone. Mrs. X saw Charlie pull up in the district truck and was putting on her shoes getting ready to go out and talk to Charlie, but he left before she could even crack the door open. Why is this not the desired way of responding to the customer request? Will the customer feel like they have been treated fairly and respectfully? I doubt it. So, the next phone call from customer X will be more demanding and less trusting. We have created a pathway for an unhappy customer by not taking a few minutes to knock on the door and ask them some questions, that may reveal a possible reason for their water bill being higher than they expected.

What Is It That Gets in the Way: What I mean is why can't the customer's requests be attended to with the professionalism that we expect? Shouldn't it be the same as those we do business with within the industry? If NDEP asked for an explanation of one of your processes do you think it would be okay to send them an outline of the information needed. Probably not. So, why would you do this with the most important people in the water system? I think there is a



disconnect between the value of our customers' needs and the way these tasks are performed in a water system.

A Quick Little Story: A long time ago in a faraway land there was a new extra help meter reader. His job was more than just meter reading, he performed many of the functions of operating a public water system while learning with the lead operator. One of those functions was customer service orders. The lead operator had been working for this water system for quite some time and was a little put off by having to do these customer service orders. As a result there were a number of repeat requests for the same type of service that had been requested the first time. You know, neighbors talk to each other and word gets around. When it came time for rate reviews at public meetings the public was not supportive of any level of rate increase. In fact, the public usually wanted to reduce costs to keep the rates from being increased. The first place they would point was at salaries.

While it's too late to make a long story short, the extra help meter reader was sent out to do these customer service orders on his own. Instead of viewing this task as a waste of time he put in a genuine effort to investigate the service request and provide the customer with the best answer possible. Sometimes there was an answer and then as many of us know there wasn't a clear answer. But he did the best he could. The repeat service requests dropped substantially, and he noticed that he wasn't being single finger saluted quite as much.

The moral of the story was that the extra help meter reader realized that if he treated the customer request as if his mother was the one making the request, he would want the service tech to do the best possible job to help his mother with her request. Remember they are usually your friends and neighbors if not family asking for your help.

Work Force Development

By Max Sosa, Workforce Development Manager and Apprenticeship Coordinator

I am sure that you have regularly heard on the news how important it is to rebuild our infrastructure. What does that mean to you?

For most people the power grid or electric car charging stations or even rebuilding highways comes to mind. I'm sure by now you are probably wondering what this has to do with Workforce Development in a water industry magazine. We have all heard that water and electricity do not mix!



What about **the other** infrastructure?

..... **Water.**

Whether it be rivers and lakes or pumps and sewers, water systems are in urgent need of repair and restoration all around the country. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, by 2019, utilities were replacing between 1% and 4.8% of their pipelines per year on average.

So you think this is bad? What else could be worse, right? Rebuild the water infrastructure and not have qualified certified operators to run the water and wastewater facilities.

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the water infrastructure workforce is aging across the country, and almost 3 million workers will need to be replaced over the next decade due to retirements and other employment shifts. In many ways, the water workforce reflects these broader trends, given its slightly older demographics.

Water utilities employ a variety of workers, but multiple other industries and establishments, including engineering firms and construction contractors, are essential to the water sector, too. Collectively, the water workforce fills 212 different occupations—from positions in the skilled trades like electricians and technicians to financial, administrative and management positions—that are found everywhere, from large municipalities to our smaller rural areas.



CAREERS IN WATER

Drinking Water Operator

Knowledge of:

- Operation and maintenance of water treatment plants
- Mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic principles
- Principles and practices of standardized water quality tests
- State and federal regulations governing the operation of a water treatment plant
- Uses and principles of computerized electronic equipment in the collection, storage and interpretation of operational data, and
- Inventory control of water treatment chemicals, fuel and supplies

Skill in:

- Operating water treatment system equipment including automatic control devices and plant equipment.
- Maintaining safe and reliable water supply to customers
- Servicing, repairing and calibrating plant equipment.

Ability to:

- Recognize unusual, inefficient, or dangerous operating conditions and take action.
- Accurately read, interpret, and record data from gauges, meters and a SCADA system, and learn advanced SCADA system techniques.
- Read and interpret schematic drawings showing plant piping, alarms, mechanical, electrical controls, valves, and related instrumentation,
- Compile, evaluate and analyze operational data and information and recommend or take appropriate actions.



Work Force Development (continued)

CAREERS IN WATER

Wastewater Treatment Operator

Knowledge of:

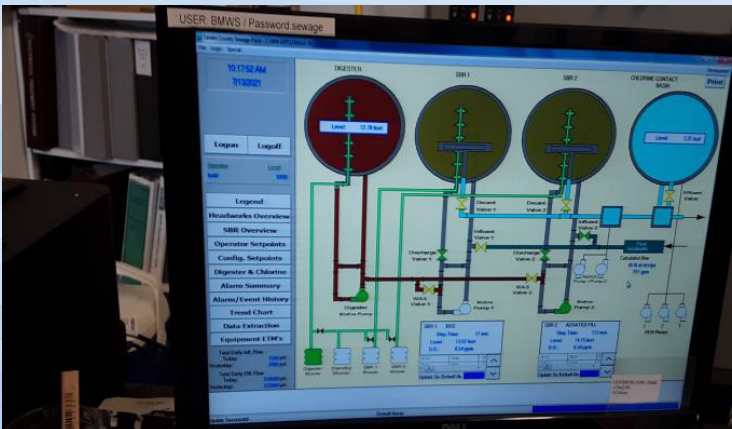
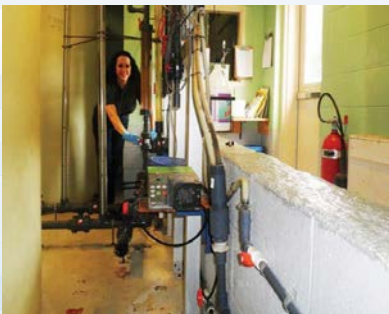
- Operation, maintenance and cleaning of primary and secondary wastewater treatment equipment and facilities, wastewater treatment principles, safety rules, first aid, chemical handling, wastewater sampling and process control tests.

Skill in:

- Operating wastewater treatment plant equipment, including automatic control devices performing routine maintenance and making operating adjustments to wastewater treatment equipment
- Cleaning and painting facilities and equipment

Ability to:

- Instruct and direct lower-level operators.
- Accurately read and record data from gauges and meters
- Maintain plant equipment in connection with the operation of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Ensure water contamination is removed during the wastewater treatment process, through testing samples, cleaning tanks and other machinery, and keeping the process up to date on safety guidelines



CAREERS IN WATER

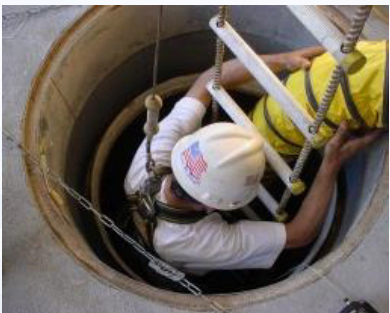
Water Maintenance Worker

Knowledge of:

- Uses and purposes of common construction and maintenance tools and equipment,
- Basic equipment operation, maintenance, and repair principles and practices,
- Water distribution facilities including mains, meters, hydrants, and valves,
- Principles and methods of pipe laying, fitting, welding, and concrete work.

Ability to:

- Perform entry level unskilled/skilled responsible water system maintenance duties,
- Learn to repair, install, and maintain water mains, services, hydrants and meters and valves,
- Maintain basic accurate records of work performed,
- Learn to lay and fit pipe; mix, pour and finish cement.
- Install valves and meters,
- Learn to operate power-driven equipment, and welder used in water service work,
- Learn to read water meters and turn-on and off service,
- Learn to read and interpret plans, drawings, maps, and specifications,
- Observe proper safety precautions, and
- Operate a vehicle observing legal and defensive driving practices



Work Force Development (continued)

CAREERS IN WATER

Water Engineer

Knowledge of:

- Uses and purposes of common construction and maintenance tools and equipment,
- Basic equipment operation, maintenance, and repair principles and practices for use in wastewater processing to ensure compliance with government standards
- Water supply systems, runoff collection networks, water and wastewater treatment plants, or wastewater collection systems.
- Efficiency of water delivery structures, such as dams, tainter gates, canals, pipes, penstocks, or cofferdams.

Ability to:

- Design sewer improvement plans or flood defense programs, and associated structures, such as pumping stations, pipework, and earthwork.
- Keep up to date with environmental matters; being aware of policy and developments.
- Present technical data or project results; both technical and non-technical
- Keep track of the progress of projects from beginning to end - from feasibility, to design through to construction and handover (or handling just one section of a large project)
- Control budgets at the project level
- Use computer simulations to analyze, for example, potential dam failure monitor flood levels at times of high risk.



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- 💧 AquaNV provides services throughout the State of Nevada.

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Customer Service: What is Expected Vs. What is Delivered (continued)

What Do the Customers Think: This is a different world we live in versus the one 20 or 30 years ago. The average customer can pull up all types of information from the Internet and social media. They are well equipped to challenge your answer if they don't feel they have been given a credible answer or the service they were expecting. And the ability to vent their frustration across the width and breadth of social media can put a negative perception on your water system, even if it's not true. Perception is a powerful tool that can be as good as it is bad.

Perception is a Customer Service Tool: Remember that extra help meter reader. He built on his success with customer service by improving the customer's perception of their water system. Did you catch that? It is their water system. We are only hired to operate it. If they don't like the way it is being operated, they have the ability to replace us. So, back to the perception building. Since the meter reader was generally the only tech working in these small districts, he recognized that if he kept his uniform clean and in good repair the customers treated him with more respect, they accepted his reporting of their requests as honest and reliable. He did one more thing. It was a monumental effort, but he decided to dig out, clear away, raise and paint every fire hydrant in the districts he operated. Suddenly, with the increased visibility and new paint the same customers were now talking about how much better the water was, the professional manner in which their water system was operated and actually supported their water system staff. No, they weren't willing to raise the rates with singing and dancing, but they would concede to incremental adjustments based on an index they could relate to.

Lesson Learned: there was a water district in California that had a great manager and staff. They worked hard to deliver the best service and keep the costs of delivering the water low. But there was this one customer, he had nothing to do and all day to do it. He was a challenge for the manager, but this manager was a consummate professional and worked very hard with this customer. The field staff had other ideas. They did not respect this customer and the level of service became unacceptable to this customer. The customer campaigned to replace all the staff and the board successfully. After that this customer became involved in local affairs and eventually had a law put into place that restricts water systems to setting rates based on current costs. It is statewide in California and it is known as Prop 218. One unhappy customer with a negative perception driven by poor customer service did this.

"Proposition 218 (1996) expanded restrictions on local government revenue-raising by adding Article XIII C and XIII D to the Constitution, which allow the voters to repeal or reduce taxes, assessments, fees, and charges through the initiative process; reiterates the requirement for voter approval for both "special taxes" and "general taxes," and imposes procedural and substantive limitations on assessments of real property and on certain types of fees."

19 | Water Logged | Fall 2023



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What About the "Silent Majority": Do you know who they are? These are the customers you never hear from; they pay their bill month in and month out, rarely ask for anything and as long as clean affordable water comes out of the faucet they are never heard from. So, when they ask for some type of customer service do you think they are wasting your time. I hope not. I hope you adopt a gold standard of customer service for all your customers and especially these. These are the ones that pay the bills, bear the burden of the rate increases and usually wave nicely at you when you drive by. These are the people that we want to serve, the ones who support the town, the local businesses, and hopefully the water district. We spend little or no time with these customers so when they call for service remember to treat them the way you would want your mother treated; professionally, courteously, and respectfully.

And While You're at It: Think about the way your water system handles customer service requests. Is there a way of documenting the service order when it is completed? Is there a review of the quality of service provided? Do you have a way of categorizing or defining the different types of service requests? These are important features that enable management to focus on areas that are more frequent or of greater concern. How many customers disputed their bill? Why does it take more than a day to respond to a customer request? Does NDEP want to know how many calls you receive about color, taste, or odor?

At the last place I worked, if I was aware of a customer request, I would call my field crew and ask them to stop by and check it out that day. If I had time, I would go out myself and perform the request. It is a better feeling when the customer is happily surprised that you came out within hours of their call rather than customers asking if someone will ever show up. Happy customers have a better perception of the water system as a whole than ones with negative perceptions. It doesn't take rocket science to figure that out. Which side of perception do you want to be on? It all starts with great customer service and builds from there.

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Biden-Harris Administration Invests \$3.2 Million to Strengthen Rural Nevada Infrastructure

USDA Rural Development sent this bulletin at 08/28/2023 07:13 PM EDT

News Release

U.S. Department of Agriculture
2730 N. Deer Run Road, Suite 1
Carson City, NV 89701
www.usda.gov/nv
Contact: Teja.Dusanapudi@usda.gov

CARSON CITY, Nev., August 28, 2023 -- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Director Lucas Ingvaldstad today announced that USDA is investing \$3.2 million to help improve rural wastewater infrastructure in Carlin, Nevada. This funding will help provide reliable and sanitary wastewater removal for years to come.

"This project is an investment in the future of Carlin," said Ingvaldstad. "Improvements in rural infrastructure impact the daily lives of rural Nevadans for the better, from well-paying jobs to healthy bodies. We look forward to continuing to partner with the City of Carlin over the next phase of this investment to ensure that its residents have the resources they need to keep thriving."

The City of Carlin will use the \$3.2 million loan to make essential repairs to its wastewater treatment operation. The repairs will focus on collection mains, leakages from pipes and treatment ponds, and aging lift station equipment. The investment will work towards supporting monitoring within the wastewater system as well as reducing pipe leakage and levels of contaminants in the sewage. These improvements are among the first significant improvements in nearly 30 years to the system and are the second of eight phases to modernize it.

Today's announcement is part of a national release in which Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced over \$800 million to strengthen rural infrastructure and create jobs in 36 states and two U.S. territories. The funding announced today advances President Biden's Investing in America agenda, a key pillar of Bidenomics, to grow the American economy from the middle-out and bottom up

– from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, to driving over \$500 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating good-paying jobs and building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient.

Today's announcement further advances the groundbreaking Biden-Harris Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan with \$78 million in new awards for lead pipe remediation. With up to 10 million American households connecting to water through lead pipes and service lines, the Administration is working aggressively to replace all lead service lines in America in the next decade. USDA is partnering with communities to address this challenge through its various programs.

To learn more about investment resources for rural Nevada, visit www.rd.usda.gov/nv or contact the nearest USDA Rural Development state office.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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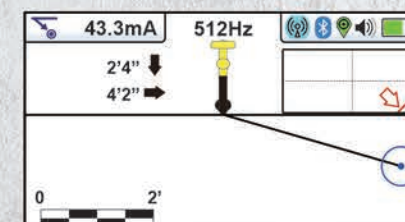
vLoc3-Pro Receiver

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- Optional receiver/transmitter link
- Cloud-based data warehousing
- Internal data logging
- Optional Bluetooth connectivity



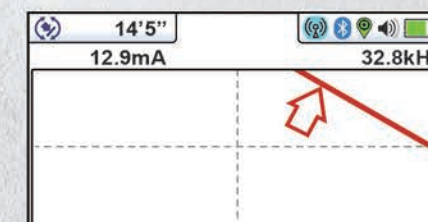
vLoc3-5000 Receiver

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- Cloud-based data warehousing

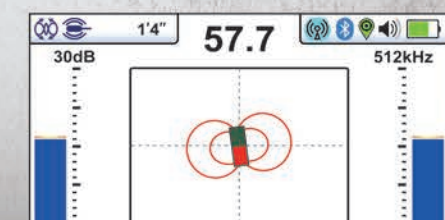
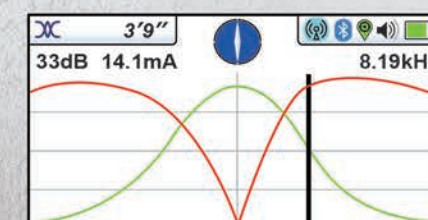


△ **Vector Locate** - shows orientation, line position, and distance relative to the locator in 3D

> **Transverse Plot Screen** - is used to display the peak and null to compare distortion shape



< **Plan View Screen** - displays the theoretical line in 2D from above ground in omnidirectional mode



▽ **Sonde Screen** - arrow guidance showing direction to the sonde and depth of cover

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