

THE EMPLOYEE BUZZ



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August/September 2025

Director Vincent Dino Mourned and Honored at Board Meeting

One week after his shocking passing, Director Vincent Dino's seat at the PWD dais overflowed with flowers, cards and gifts as he was remembered for his kindness, loyalty, humor, support and contributions to the community.

The Board started their July 28 meeting with a moment of silence in Director Dino's honor and memory. It was followed by public sentiments from Board Directors, Assemblymember Tom Lackey and community members. Debbie Dino thanked the crowd of nearly 30 people for their outpouring of love for her husband. She hugged everyone in attendance.

Director Dino, 82, unexpectedly passed away on July 20 at his home in Palmdale. He was elected to the Board in 2013 and was serving his third term. He was well liked by staff and was often seen walking through the main office greeting people and stopping to chat.

The Board will discuss the vacancy at its Aug. 11 meeting.



Director Dino and his wife, Debbie, attended the 2022 PWD Holiday Party.



After his swearing in December 2022, Director Dino started his third term on the Board.

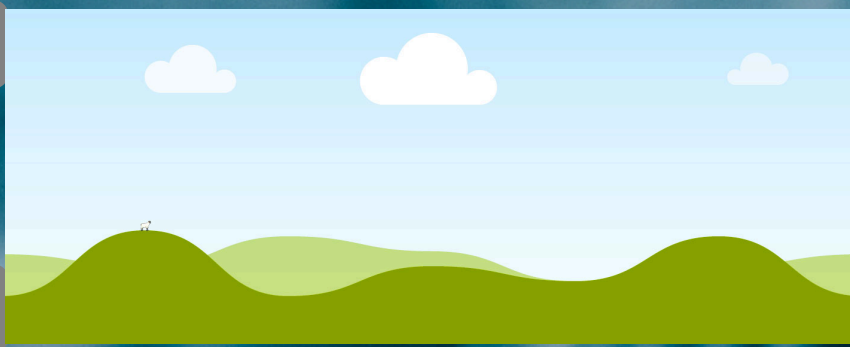


CELEBRATION OF LIFE
2 P.M. SEPT. 6, 2025
A.V. FAIRGROUNDS
H.W. HUNTER PAVILION
2551 W. AVENUE H, LANCASTER



Director Dino's seat was adorned with flowers, cards and mementos at the July 28 Board meeting.

Introducing Three New Members of the Crew



ARTHUR "ART" VELADOR

Service Worker Arthur "Art" Velador brought years of experience in construction and utility work when he joined PWD late last year. He likes to joke that his career began at 4 years old when he helped his parents pass out flyers and then tagged along on construction job sites with his father. At 16, he worked his first job vacuuming cars at a carwash and later entered the trades full-time after graduating from high school.

Art's experience also includes working at J. McLaughlin Engineering as an apprentice and a lead at C.A. Rasmussen, overseeing freeway projects across California.

Looking for stability and more time with his family, Art started at PWD, where he's now pursuing his Water Distribution 2 certification and continues to deepen his knowledge of water systems.

"Compared to my prior job, I'm enjoying this journey at PWD," says Art. "I'm not sure where exactly it'll take me, but I know it'll be great."

Outside of work, Art keeps busy supporting his 12-year-old son's travel baseball games and spending time with his wife and 3-year-old daughter.



JESUS RIOS

A California City native, Service Worker Jesus Rios comes to PWD with a strong utility background and a drive to contribute to public service. His first job was landscaping, followed by years of hands-on work in plumbing, painting, and general maintenance.

In 2021, he was hired by the city of Cal City as a water distribution worker. After three years, he earned his way up to wastewater operator in training, gaining a strong foundation in both water and wastewater operations.

Jesus has a Water Distribution 1 certification and is actively pursuing his Class A and Water Distribution 2 certification. He joined PWD last November to continue advancing in the water industry.

"PWD is very diverse," says Jesus. "I'm thankful to work somewhere that supports and encourages me to further my education and keep moving forward."

Off the clock, Jesus is a newlywed, an outdoor enthusiast, and a big fan of thrill rides and weekend hikes.



JACOB SNOW

Jacob Snow officially joined PWD full time in November 2024 after working about a year as a temporary Service Worker. His path to PWD has been anything but ordinary.

Jacob's career blends technical trades, cross-country travel, and public service. He began his career as a plumbing apprentice at Residential Plumbing in Redlands before becoming a welder for Holland's Railroad Contractor, a role that took him to the Midwest.

Later, Jacob moved to Texas to pursue a career in the water industry. At the city of Amarillo, he started as a wastewater operator then transitioned to drinking water, where he helped treat over 70 million gallons of water daily.

When his grandfather's health began to decline, Jacob returned to California to care for him and worked at several water agencies before finding PWD. Here, he discovered a passion for water distribution.

"I enjoy working with the people," Jacob said. "PWD is very unique."

Outside of work, Jacob is a husband, proud girl dad, and a Freemason. He's a history enthusiast and avid collector of war relics and fossils, interests passed down by his late grandfather, a paleontologist who inspired much of Jacob's curiosity.



A Message From GM Dennis LaMoreaux



The respect you've shown for Director Vincent Dino and his service to our customers has been wonderful and is greatly appreciated. His loss reminds us how quickly things can change. Unfortunately, we've seen this happen before. We've lost a past director and staff members who were here one day and not the next.

Whether it's pictures we keep close, the values we show others, or how we do things, each of us remembers those we've lost differently. Director Dino, for instance, will always be a part of the District and hold a special place in the hearts of those of us who knew him. For me, he naturally exemplified our values in the way he treated people and conducted the District's business. A great example of this is when I took him to Dr. Bill Mathis' funeral service in Napa. It was a multi-day trip on our own dime. It was important for Director Dino to attend because of his appreciation of the work Dr. Mathis did with the Board and him individually. Director Dino's sense of values drove him to be there to show his respect.

We all know our time together is not guaranteed. Please appreciate the people you work with and the time you spend with them.

Sincerely,

Lobby Buzzed with Activity at Customer Appreciation Day

Thanks to staff's teamwork and positive energy, this year's Customer Appreciation Day was a success! Held in the main lobby on July 22, more than 60 customers visited the various booths staffed by the Customer Care, Engineering, IT, Resource and Analytics, Operations and HR departments. Facilities had a display of a truck, pipes and a fire hydrant in the parking lot.

At the booths, attendees enjoyed refreshments and received water-saving tools, giveaway bags and informational flyers.

It was great connecting with the community and sharing our appreciation for our ratepayers on the day of PWD's 107th anniversary.



Celebrating the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Groundbreaking



The PWD Board of Directors and a DWR official pose to commemorate the Palmdale Ditch Conversion groundbreaking.

PWD broke ground on the *Palmdale Ditch Conversion: Upgrading the Flow* project with a celebratory event at Lake Palmdale on June 26. More than 60 people, including a California Department of Water Resources official, Palmdale City Council members, elected officials' representatives, staff and community members, gathered to mark the start of converting the open ditch to an enclosed pipeline.

The first phase to convert 2.5 miles will take about 12 months and cost \$22.58 million due to greater environmental and inflationary costs than initially estimated. An additional \$24.5 million will be needed to complete the remainder of the 1880s ditch that is 8.5 miles long, running from Littlerock Dam to Lake Palmdale.

Once completely upgraded, the ditch's flow will increase from 18 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 60 cfs and is projected to save 1,500 acre-feet of water annually by reducing seepage and evaporation.

"The Palmdale Ditch continues to serve the District after more than 140 years and several iterations," said GM Dennis D. LaMoreaux. "By making this investment to turn it into a pipeline, it will be a critical part of the infrastructure for many decades ahead."

CALENDAR

T1/T2 Review
August 20 & 21
@ 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Main Board Room

Managers and Supervisors'
Leadership Training
August 26 & 27

Q3 New Hire Tour
September 11

Supervisor Training
Sept. 22

9/23: Manager Training
Sept. 23

Q3 All Hands
Sept. 25

Holiday Closure
Labor Day
September 1st

Projectors in Mathis Board Room Replaced by Screens

Three large Samsung professional displays (two 98-inch screens and one 85-inch screen) that bring vivid color and clarity to presentations have been installed in the Mathis Board Room and the Small Board Room.

In addition to the displays, the Board Directors and support staff now have individual 13-inch monitors for easier viewing. There is also a monitor at the podium.

"This is modernizing the board room, and it was more cost-effective than projectors," said IT Manager Jim Stanton. "These enhancements make meetings more engaging and improve the overall viewing experience for everyone in the room."

Jim said the \$41,000 for the displays, which includes two other screens not installed in the board rooms, was \$10,000 less than buying a new projector.



PWD Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following employees on their promotions:

Curtis Anderson – Electrician III
Evelyn Cazares – Customer Care Representative II
Mike Childs – Operations Technician II
Mariksa Marin – Assistant Engineer
Michelle Trejo – Public Affairs Specialist II

Touring Ancient Water Systems in Rome & Pompeii

In March, my wife and I lived out one of her childhood dreams by traveling to Italy where we spent two weeks in Rome and the Amalfi Coast. Of course, the water nerd in me booked a tour of the ancient Roman aqueduct. We saw how they understood and valued the importance of water and the availability of it for ALL their citizens. The tour took us to see one portion that is no longer in use and another that is functional and feeds the famous Trevi Fountain.

The first portion is inside a high-end shopping mall where a section of the aqueduct from the first century B.C. is preserved. The second portion is the underground Virgin Aqueduct that still functions today, providing water to fountains in the city's historic center. On the sidewalks in Rome, they have drinking water fountains called "noses" that resemble small hydrants with ¼-inch copper spouts. The water tasted great!

The other meaningful part of the trip was visiting Pompeii. On the tour I was surprised to see lead isolation valves still intact and lead service lines that fed the homes and fountains.

It was impactful to personally see such an important civilization and learn about its vital water system. It made me appreciate our role as water professionals and the effect we all have on our community.

– Operations Supervisor Curtis Cobb

(The above is an excerpt. If you would like to read the full article or hear details about the ancient water system and see more photos, feel free to contact Curtis.)



Curtis drinking water from a "nose" in Rome.



This distribution tank stores water for the Virgin Aqueduct.



An empty canal from the first century B.C. is preserved.

DENNIS HOFFMEYER'S RETIREMENT PARTY



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN DENNIS FOR LUNCH AS WE THANK HIM FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO PWD AND ITS CUSTOMERS.

Date: September 3, 2025

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: Mathis Board Room



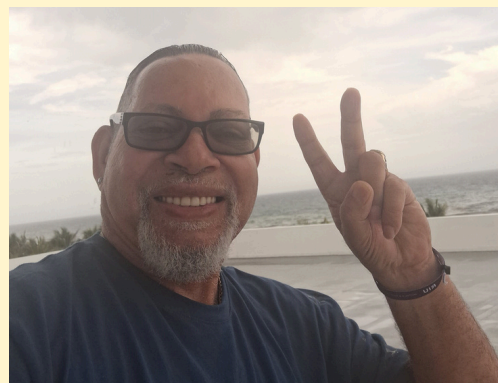
Share With Us



"My husband, Jeremy, and I renewed our 20th wedding anniversary vows in Ireland!"
-**Management Analyst Tina Kosick**



"Took a summer girls' trip to Hawaii with my daughter, Aubrielle. We had the best time!"
-**Public Affairs Specialist Michelle Trejo**



"Enjoyed my summer vacation in Cancun!"
-**Facilities Manager Wendell Wall**

Birthdays

Erik Gustafson, August 1
Michelle Trejo, August 3
Kevin Payne, August 5
Daniel Maldonado, August 14
Lani Radovic, August 15
Anthony Myrick, August 17
Dustin Adams, August 17
Lance Brough, September 2
Rosa Rodriguez, September 5
Dennis LaMoreaux, September 5
Curtis Cobb, September 14
Jaime Martinez, September 17
Eric Morris, September 19
Pam Clark, September 23
Amanda Thompson, September 29

Anniversaries

Peter Henrie, August 6 (18 yrs.)
Judith Hernandez, August 7 (30 yrs.)
Mark Borland, August 7 (2 yrs.)
Ryan Oates, August 10 (15 yrs.)
Scott Hulsebus, August 12 (15 yrs.)
Bob Wallace, August 18 (17 yrs.)
Jaime Martinez, August 24 (15 yrs.)
Dylan Doll, August 30 (4 yrs.)
Dustin Adams, August 31 (4 yrs.)
Maria Avelar, September 13 (15 yrs.)
Scott Rogers, September 11 (6 yrs.)
Caleb Henderson, September 12 (3 yrs.)
David Mitchell, September 14 (3 yrs.)
Dajah Thomas, September 23 (1 yr.)

Two Lies and One

TRUTH

Can you guess Tara Rosati's truth?

A speaks 5 languages

B used to be a court reporter

C hates red salsas

*Email your answer to pio@palmdalewater.org by Thursday, August 14. Correct answers will be entered in a raffle.



Board of Directors

W. Scott Kellerman, Division 1
Don Wilson, Division 2
Cynthia Sanchez, Division 3
Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Division 4
Vincent Dino, Division 5

Executive Team

Dennis D. LaMoreaux
General Manager/CEO
Scott Rogers
Assistant General Manager/COO
Viridiana Iguaran
Finance Manager/CFO

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

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DESIGNER/WRITER
Michelle Trejo, 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 care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency.