



## DWP Water Quality and Operations: Ensuring Your Glass of Water Is Great

by Martin Adams, Director, DWP Water Quality and Operations

The Water Quality and Operations Business Unit is one of four units that make up the "Water" part of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Its 370 employees ensure the continuous delivery of high quality drinking water to the residents and businesses of Los Angeles.

WQO employees operate and maintain one of the largest and most complex water distribution systems in the world. That system includes a 600-million-gallon-a-day filtration plant, a number of well fields, and a tremendous amount of real estate that is home to facilities throughout the city.

WQO is split into two camps. The Operations Group, headed by Assistant Business Unit Director Jim Yannotta, handles day-to-day operations, treatment, and maintenance. The Water Quality Compliance Group, directed by Dr. Pankaj Parekh, monitors and tests the city's water supply to ensure it meets all water quality regulations.

Operating the L.A. water system requires the efforts of a large staff to produce, treat and manage delivery of the city's water as it travels through an extensive network of major trunk lines, pump stations, tanks, reservoirs and pressure regulating stations. To assist in keeping an eye on the system, the LAWS-DAC water operations center is staffed around the clock, allowing the operators on duty to remotely monitor the status of the city's distribution system and make changes to flows and pressures or call out emergency crews.

The water quality compliance folks are equally on the spot as well. Collectors traveling throughout the city bring about 50

samples to our Water Quality Lab each day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. These samples will turn into more than 100 separate water quality tests performed daily to ensure that the water delivered to you meets all health standards. The unit also operates an Environmental Chemistry Lab that tests everything from transformer oil to construction discharge water and supports its environmental compliance group.

Even though the tap water served in Los Angeles has never been of higher quality, the unit is continually faced with the challenge of new and more stringent water quality regulations. Water

Quality Compliance is leading studies into new treatment techniques to deal with future standards and working with state and federal regulators to influence the decisions they make.

Of course, all of these facilities need a fair amount of attention, and in a system the size of Los Angeles's, mechanical breakdowns, electrical and communication failures, and just worn out equipment are a daily event. To keep the equipment running and the control signals sending, teams of mechanics, electricians, and instrument repairers spend their days all over the city repairing broken equipment and doing preventive maintenance to stay ahead of the curve.

The City's water system is a large and complex maze of facilities critical to the existence of Los Angeles. The employees of Water Quality and Operations are proud to play a vital role in the daily delivery of some of the nation's best drinking water to our customers. 🌊



Martin Adams



Bryan S. Tiu, Chemist, 16 years.



Marlyn C. Stasiak, Water Quality Laboratory Manager, 18 years.



Club Counselor Angel Gomez stops by the DWP's Tijuana Pumping Station to visit with Club members and other City employees.



Michael Bloch, Water Utility Operator, 29 years.



DWP sisters, from left: Maggie Murdock, Water Utility Operator, 9 years; and Virginia Murdock, Water Utility Operator, 9 years.



From left: Monica Chaney Bickerstaff, Management Assistant, 19 years; and Melinda A. Rho, Manager of Regulatory Affairs, 23 years.



From left: Kasey H. Chung, Chemist, 13 years; and Rene Olivina, Chemist, 11 years.



From left: Chia Yung Hwang, Chemist, 13 years; and Lety Sy, Lab Tech, 11 years.



From left: Cynthia Cruz, Chemist, 10 years; Tailer Wang, Chemist, 11 years; and Hourri Mandjikian, Chemist, 11 years.



From left: Roberto C. Vazquez, Sr. Water Utility Worker, 23 years; George Gallego, Water Utility Worker Supervisor, 19 years; Joseph Migliano, Sr. Water Utility Worker, 17 years; Michael M. McIntyre, Senior Supervisor Water Utility, 34 years; George Vieira, Sr. Water Utility Worker, 4.5 years; Michael Wall, Sr. Water Utility Worker, 19 years; and Bob Avila, Utility Worker, 17 years.



Back row, from left: Randall Shirk, Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 33 years; Brian King, Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 33 years; and William B. Blinn, Sr. Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 22 years. Front row: David Castillo, Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 16 years; Gerard Watson, Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 17 years; Ray Coronado Jr., Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 15 years; and Agustin Tan, Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 20 years.



Candy Sanchez, Administrative Laboratory Assistant, 14.5 years.

# DWP Water Quality and Operations

# Department of the Month



William E. Cabreal, Gardener, 19 years.



Dan Jimenez, Water Treatment Operator, 18 years.



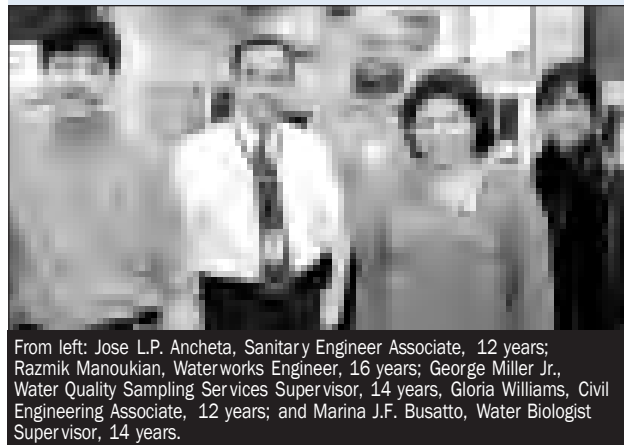
Tony Castro, Water Treatment Operator, 18 years.



From left: Bob Krivak, Environmental Specialist, 22 years; Pepa Esparrago, Environmental Specialist, 12 years; and Mark Bassett, Environmental Specialist, 14 years.



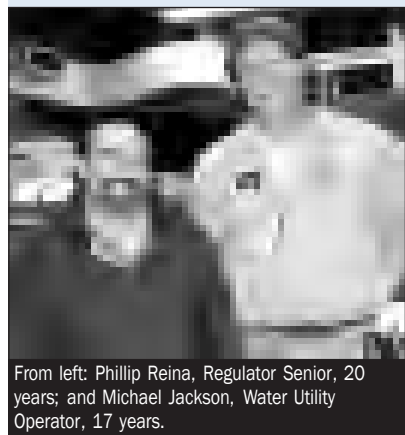
From left: Bob Carlson, Instrument Tech., 25 years; Louis Wood, Instrument Tech., 21 years; and Henry Wettl, Instrument Tech., 28 years.



From left: Jose L.P. Ancheta, Sanitary Engineer Associate, 12 years; Razmik Manoukian, Waterworks Engineer, 16 years; George Miller Jr., Water Quality Sampling Services Supervisor, 14 years; Gloria Williams, Civil Engineering Associate, 12 years; and Marina J.F. Busatto, Water Biologist Supervisor, 14 years.



From left: Stanley M. Kung, Laboratory Director, 26 years; and Lucas Wang, Assistant Laboratory Director, 22 years.



From left: Phillip Reina, Regulator Senior, 20 years; and Michael Jackson, Water Utility Operator, 17 years.



From left: Tom Renolds, Senior Lead Operator, 23 years; Jorge Pineda, Senior Lead Operator, 15 years; Eric Nena, Senior Lead Operator, 5 years; and Bill Hinton, Senior Lead Operator, 1 year.



Daniel Campos, Water Utility Operator, 21 years.



Jennifer M. Gee, Professional Student Worker, 6 months.



Bernard J. Heggem, Water Treatment Supervisor, 27.5 years.



Front row, from left: Leticia Daligdig, Lab Tech, 18 years; Beda Jardenil, Lab Tech, 22 years; and Xuqing Fu, Chemist, 1 year. Back row: Munir Kiriako, Lab Tech, 13 years; Pat McCaskill, Lab Tech, 10 years; and Ken Lossett, Lab Tech, 10 years.



From left: Fernando Bolanos, Lab Tech, 11 years; Cindy de la Valente, Lab Tech, 9 months; Pol Tolentino, Water Microbiologist, 14 years; Jason La, Water Microbiologist, 2 years; and Lyndon Ventura, Lab Tech, 14 years.



Seated: Leonard Patton, Lead Water Treatment Op., 32 years. Standing, from left: Don Christie, Process Engineer, 17 years; and Steve Torres, Water Treatment Supervisor, 17 years.

## DWP Water Quality and Operations Business Unit

# PROFILE

**Director:** Martin Adams

**Assistant Director (Operations Group):** Jim Yannotta

**Assistant Director (Compliance Group):** Pankaj Parekh

**Service zones:** 102

**Pump stations:** 78

**Production wells:** 74

**Tanks/reservoirs:** 105

**Pressure regulating stations (under streets):** 3,500

**Miles of water mains:** 7,100

**Storage tank capacity:** Seven 10-million-gallon tanks

One 30-million-gallon tank, the second largest water tank in the world

**Water treatment facilities:** 30

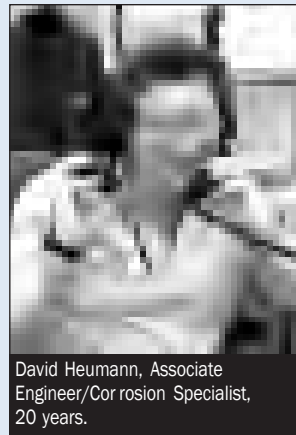
**Capacity, Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant:** 600 million gallons

**Testing samples collected:** 16,500/year

**Water tests completed:** 220,000/year

**Employees:** 370

**Annual budget:** \$254.4 million



David Heumann, Associate Engineer/Corrosion Specialist, 20 years.



Ron Hunnewell, Water Utility operator, 19 years.



Brian King, Water Utility Operator Supervisor, 33 years.



Quintin A. Micu, Chemist, 10 years.



Mr. Hat, Visual Motivator (Ferraro Office Bldg, 14th Floor), 30 years.



Jo Ann Newman, Clerk Typist, 14 years.



From left: Cheryl L. Jenkins, Water Service Rep, 29 years; Pete Westdol, C.E. Associate, 18 years; Luis E. Castillo, Water Service Rep, 29 years; (seated) Jane T. Gee, Water Quality Sr. Administrator, 25 years; Cesar Vitangcol, Chemist, 25 years; Walter Orzechowski, Mechanical Engineer Associate III, 14 years; and Robert Freeman, Environmental Supervisor, 10 years.



From left: Morley Male, Sanitary Engineer Assistant IV, 25 years; and Roberto Ruiz, Civil Engineering Assistant II, 12 years.



# Department of the Month

# DWP Water Quality and Operations



**Steve Torres, Water Treatment Supervisor, 17 years.**

## Special Thanks to DWP's Steve Torres

Club Counselor Angel Gomez would like to thank Steve Torres, who called him and hosted the Club team on its final visit to the DWP water filtration plant in Sylmar in production of this Department of the Month feature.

Steve started March 9, 1987, as a Water Treatment Trainee at the filtration plant. In six months, he was promoted to Water Treatment Operator. In 1995 he was promoted again to Lead Water Treatment Operator on the night shift.

In 2000 he became Oxygen Ozone Coordinator, and was promoted nine months later to Water Treatment Supervisor.

Good going, Steve, and thanks for all your help! 🙏



Eddie Corral, Security Officer, 3 years.



From left: Michael Odom, Water Quality and Creations Safety, 20 years; Jamal H. Safa, Mechanical Engineering Associate, 14 years; Jose C.E. Martinez, Associate Water Control Engineer, 15 years; Greg Van, Civil Engineering Associate, 15 years; and Anita Frazier, Office Manager, 18 years.



Don A. Stone, Water Treatment Operator, 27 years.



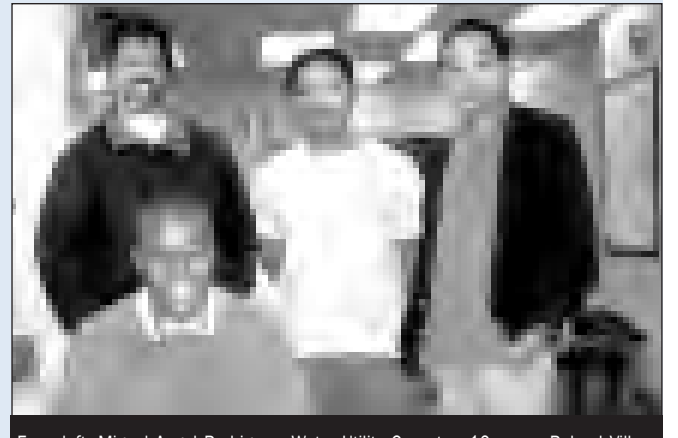
Tony Reyes, Water Treatment Operator, 4 years.



Eddie Weber, Building Repair, 16 years.



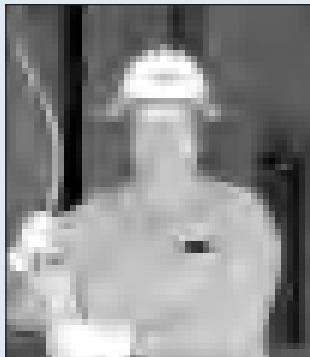
Robert S. Peterson, Chemist, 4 years.



From left: Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Water Utility Operator, 10 years; Roland Villa, Water Utility Operator, 17 years; (seated) John Rashada, Water Utility Operator, 10 years; and Hisa Zempo, Water Utility Operator, 17 years.



Sgt. J. Bueno, Security Supervisor (Van Norman Reservoir), 17 years.



Dan R. Davies, Water Treatment Operator, 25 years.



Eddie Glade, Driver, 16 years.



Cliff C. Smith, Water Utility Operator, 14 years.



George Pence, Instrument Tech. Supervisor, 27.5 years.



Rosemary Nunez, Senior Clerk Typist, 18 years.



From left: Efrayem B. Soliman, Civil Engineer Associate II, 23 years; Ali A. Karimi, Supervisory Specialist, 20 years; Walter Orzechowski, Mechanical Engineer Associate III, 14 years; Brian White, Biologist, 18 years; and Gary Stolarik, Engineering Manager, 28 years.



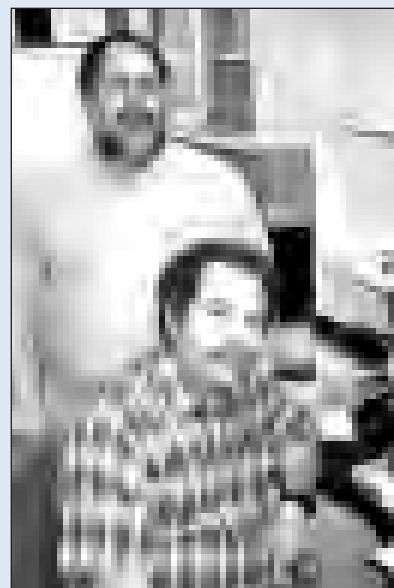
From left: Michael Renwick, Water Quality Inspector, 17 years; Joyce Chemp, Water Quality Inspector, 5 years; Charles R. Lembke, Water Quality Inspector, 14 years; and Michael Greenamyre, Water Quality Inspector, 22 years.



From left: Tommie Walker, Waterworks Mech., 22 years; Shaw Chapman, Waterworks Mech., 14 years; Rick Tuttle, Waterworks Mech., 16 years; Chris Troutman, Waterworks Mech., 24 years; and Jorge L. Pineda, Oxygen/Ozone Coordinator, 15 years.

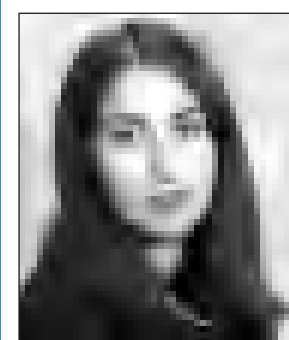


From left: Vivian Yang, Microbiologist, 3 years; Ronald Dergriggoran, Microbiologist, Supervisor, 17 years; Tsui-yan Kwan, Lab Tech, 1 year; and Leslie Peng, Microbiologist, 3 years.



Standing: Jay Negrin, Water Quality Biologist, 25 years; and (sitting) Mark Osokow, Water Quality Biologist, 14 years.

### Hey, DWP Water Quality and Operations: I'm Your Counselor!



Beverly Haro  
Member Services Counselor

Hi, I'm **Beverly Haro**, your Club Member Services Counselor. I can help you with insurance products ... advice ... ticket discounts ... and all your Club benefits. It's my job!

I'm over at the DWP all the time. Call or e-mail me to schedule an appointment: (800) 464-0452, or [bharo@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:bharo@cityemployeesclub.com)