



Hoop It Up! Club to Start Hoops League

Attention, all you Kobes, Shaqs and Yaos – the Club is starting a basketball league!



THE CLUB — Last summer's inaugural Club Softball League got the ball rolling, so to speak. With that unqualified success, the Club builds upon that with the Club Basketball League.

Robert Larios, the Club Sports Dude

"We are having so much fun with the Club Sports League, that we decided to extend it right through the winter," said the Club's Sports Dude, Robert Larios. "Have fun, get in shape ... and sign up!"

For now, the league is for men only. A minimum of five teams is needed for the league to form.

The 2009-2010 season would begin Nov. 15 and run through January.

"C'mon all you players – sign up, and let's have a great season!" Larios said.

Get all the details on page 17!

Five Honored By Finance for Excellent Service

Finance hands out its seventh annual Outstanding Service Awards.

FINANCE — On July 16, the Office of Finance honored five employees for their outstanding service as part of the department's seventh annual Outstanding Service Awards. Antoinette Christovale, Director of Finance, presented the awards, saying, "It gives me great pleasure to recognize some of our most dedicated, talented and innovative staff that have contributed to the Office of Finance and to the City of Los Angeles." Honored at the event were:

- **Victor Salaiza**, Tax Compliance Officer II, for his dedication to duty;
- **S. Jeametta Gates**, Customer Service Specialist, for her exceptional service to the public;
- **Eveyln Saw**, Tax Auditor II, for her outstanding dedication to her work;
- **Michael Gomez**, Systems Analyst II, for his dedication to duty; and
- **Bradley Moe**, Senior Management Analyst I, for his outstanding accomplishments.

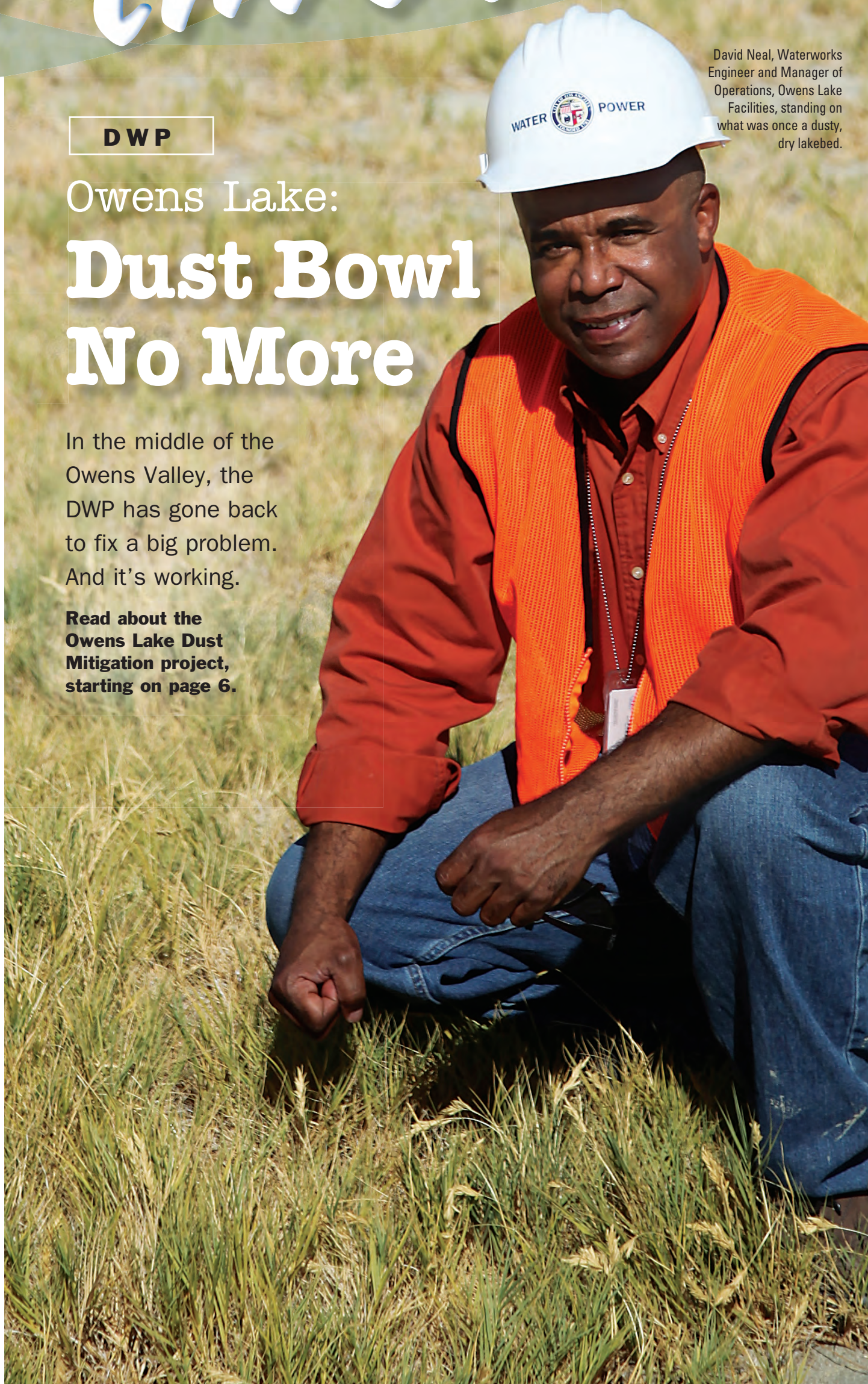
Congratulations to the honorees.
Read all about them on page 36.

DWP

Owens Lake: Dust Bowl No More

In the middle of the Owens Valley, the DWP has gone back to fix a big problem. And it's working.

Read about the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation project, starting on page 6.



David Neal, Waterworks Engineer and Manager of Operations, Owens Lake Facilities, standing on what was once a dusty, dry lakebed.

Club photo by Tom Hawkins



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D W P

Owens Lake's dry lakebed, before the DWP began its dust mitigation program.

Owens Lake: **Dust Bowl**



BEFORE

Alive! Feature

AFTER

No More

The Owens Lake Dust Mitigation project is reducing the air pollution caused by fierce winds over a lake drained dry by diversions.



David Neal, Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Project's Operations Manager (right), explains the managed vegetation method of dust mitigation to Club CEO John Hawkins.

Right photo by Tom Hawkins, Club Photographer

D W P

Settling the Dust

In the middle of the Owens Valley, the DWP has gone back to fix a big problem. And it's working.

Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club Photographer

“Back in 2001, Owens Lake was on the EPA’s top 10 list of worst dust polluters in the nation,” explained David Neal, Waterworks Engineer and Manager of Operations at the DWP’s Owens Lake facility, just south of tiny Keeler, Calif.

“We were right at the top of that worst-list,” added Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor. “The dust storms used to be so bad that you couldn’t see the [Eastern Sierra] mountains from here.

“But now, in less than 10 years, the community of Lone Pine, our neighbor, is independently rated in the top 10 clean sites in terms of air quality,” David Neal continues. “That’s a major turnaround, in less than 10 years.”

Indeed it is. But it has not come without hard efforts – and a cost of more than \$500 million so far.

Owens Lake, which stretches across 110 square miles of the Owens Valley just south of Lone Pine, is the site of one of the nation’s largest dust mitigation projects. Historically, the Owens River flowed into Owens Lake, but human diversions, first by Owens Valley settlers and later the City of Los Angeles, exposed the saline lakebed.

High winds funneling through Owens Valley kicked up huge dust storms that blew particulates – known as PM10, particulate matter the size of 10 microns – more than 50 miles away.

The particulates consist mainly of naturally saline minerals found in the area, and the dust pollution that came from the drying of Owens Lake. The lake started drying up in the 1910s and was completely dry by 1915 or so, and the dry lake began emitting PG-10 dust pollution.

In 1998, after many years of discussion with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, the DWP accepted responsibility for reducing the dust emissions to meet federal requirements of the Clean Air Act. Not all of the dry lakebed’s 110 square miles are part of this dust mitigation project. Under the agreement with Great Basin, the DWP has installed more than 25 square miles of shallow flooding and planted 3.5 square miles of managed vegetation to control dust. And, the department

is starting work on another 13.2 square miles identified as needing dust control. This next 13.2 square miles is known as Phase 7, to be completed in April 2010.

The DWP is also investigating waterless dust control measures, including solar panels configured to protect the lakebed surface.

“Each of our phases is just a little different than the last one,” Larry says. “We’re working to find the best ways to mitigate the dust.”



A sample of the kind of saline rampant on the Owens Lake dry lakebed.



David Neal, Operations Manager (left-hand photo, right side) and Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor (middle photo) explain the dust mitigation methods to John Hawkins, Club CEO (left).

Alive! Feature

Methods

Here's an overview of what methods the DWP is using to calm the dust on the dry Owens Lake Bed:

Managed vegetation:

The DWP is planting native vegetation on the dry lakebed to hold down the dust. Pipes are laid underground every five feet or so to water the plants. (This white pipe is for an extra test; most pipes are underground.)



David Neal, Operations Manager.

Shallow flood:

Parts of the lakebed are flooded with a thin but continuous blanket of water. The depth is less than a half-inch. But even at that, the amount of water after Phase 7 will equal some 95,000 acre-feet per year, according to David Neal, who pointed out that that's the same amount as used by the entire cities of Long Beach and Burbank combined each year.

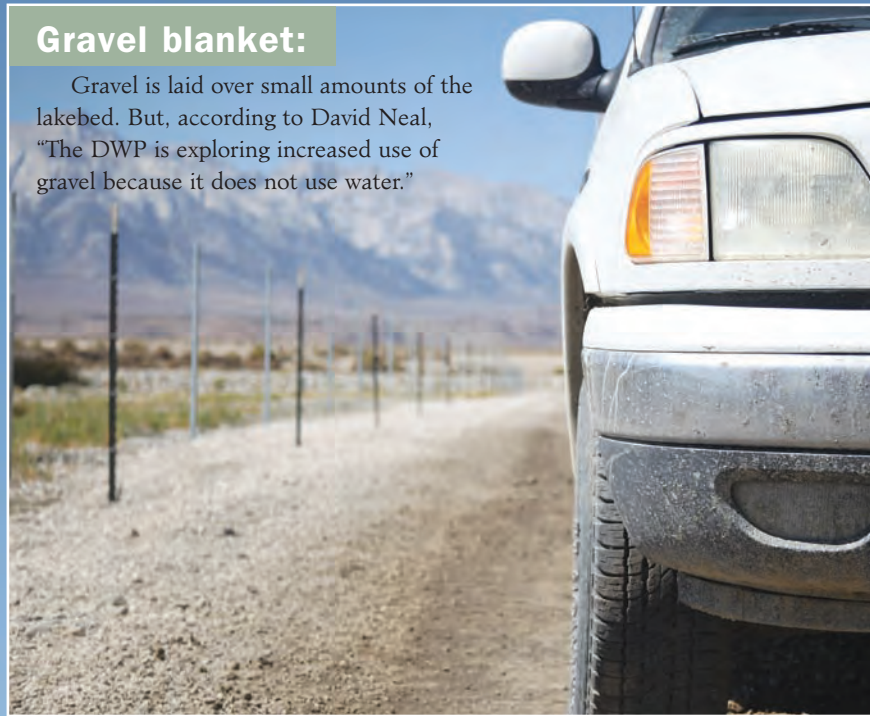
The water is pumped into the dry lakebed from the Lower Owens River and the aqueduct that supplies Los Angeles.



A dozer clears a flood channel (left), the pumping station at the end of the Lower Owens River (middle); a bubbler is used to distribute the water (right).

Gravel blanket:

Gravel is laid over small amounts of the lakebed. But, according to David Neal, "The DWP is exploring increased use of gravel because it does not use water."



Gravel like on this roadbed is used to hold down the dust.

Moat and row:

A new waterless dust control method, called "moat and row," which will conserve significant amounts of precious water, is now being evaluated for that area. It features the digging of trenches and mounding the excavated material into rows, blocking wind and settling dust. This method is being researched and tested, and the DWP is pursuing approval for implementation. "We're in a drought," David Neal points out. "This experimental method is all about asking: How do we meet our environmental compliance, while conserving water?" The DWP hopes to get approval and start implementing this method in December.



David Neal, Operations Manager.

D W P

Settling the Dust, *continued*

The People Behind the Project



Michael Lee, Electrical Engineering Associate, 25 years of City service.



Kook Dean, Mechanical Engineering Associate, 30 years of City service.



Ray Ramirez, Environmental Specialist, 2 years of City service.



Erica Blyther, Environmental Supervisor, 11 years of City service..



David Orasa, Materials Testing Technician, 5 years of City service..



Keith Leon, Environmental Specialist, 7 months of City service..



Wayne Hanley, Painter, 23 years of City service.



Dave Daughtry, Maintenance Construction Helper, 3 years of City service.

For the Birds

There's a different and largely unexpected effect of the dust mitigation project – those parts of the lakebed that have been treated have become a stopover site for many shorebirds and waterfowl species coming through the Intermountain Flyway.

"We have more than 47,000 ducks on the lake now, and 30 to 40 bird species," says Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor.

This development has piqued the interest of bird conservation societies and animal refuge agencies, which is fine with the project managers. But it does cause complications.

"We are supposed to be a dust project, not a migratory bird habitat," Larry says. "But we're working to sustain habitat values that have been indirectly created."



Migrating birds have returned in large numbers to the flooded portions of the Owens Lake bed.



From left: Equipment Handlers (from left) Gus Bass, 2 years of City service, and Bob Harvey, 1 year.



From left: J.D. Biros, Acting Labor Supervisor; John Burnes, *Alive!* editor; Kirk Wilson, Maintenance Construction Helper, 1 year of City service; and Rick Schadler, Maintenance Construction Helper, 5 years.



Aarne Coats, Maintenance Construction Helper, 6 months of City service, with his 10-yard dump truck.



From left: Jeff Goss, Maintenance Construction Helper, 6 months of City service, and Brandon Dixon, Maintenance Construction Helper, 6 months, with the Kubota "mudder."



Andy Maxey, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, 3 years of City service, with his 35-ton/24-yard heavy haul truck.



David Lopez, Warehouse Supervisor, 23 years.

Alive! Feature

Leaders, by Choice

Approximately 75 people work in the Owens Valley Dust Mitigation office. "Most employees working on this project are here by choice," Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor, says. "They are here because they want to make a difference."

"We started out as strictly a research facility. But now we're much more than that. We were the first project in the world to be testing and implementing these methods of controlling dust. We're a world leader."

"The people working on the Salton Sea project [*the Salton Sea is shrinking and drying up - Ed.*] are keeping track of what we're doing here. This is an expensive project, and they want to see what it is that's working for us."

But it is working.
 "Just up the road, Lone Pine has clean air now," Larry says. "That's what this is all about."



The administration team, standing, from left: Neale Gordon, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor, 29 years of City service; David Neal, Operations Manager; Ray Ramirez, Environmental Specialist, 2 years; Nancy Fullingham, Senior Clerk Typist, 27 years; Kook Dean, Mechanical Engineering Associate, 30 years; David Orasa, Materials Testing Technician, 5 years; Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor, 40 years; and Erica Blyther, Environmental Supervisor, 11 years. Kneeling: Keith Leon, Environmental Specialist, 7 months; and Michael Lee, Electrical Engineering Associate, 25 years.



From left: Ernesto Nava, Maintenance Laborer, 4 years of City service, and Mark Berry, Maintenance Construction Helper, 1 year.



Jason Thomson, Maintenance Construction Helper, 6 months of City service.



From left: J.D. Biros, Acting Labor Supervisor, 5 years, and Bob Strub, Civil Engineering Associate, 2 years.

"Most employees working on this project are here by choice. They are here because they want to make a difference."

— Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor



From left: Aaron Bishop, Equipment Mechanic, 2 years; Gary Clift, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 5 years; Rene Diaz, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 17 years; and Irv Moore, Sr. Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 24 years.



From left: Larry Patrich, Labor Supervisor; David Neal, Operations Manager; and Michael Lee, Electrical Engineering Associate, in the under-construction SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) room, where many of the dust mitigation systems are monitored. By custom-building this room using their own staff's expertise, the Owens Lake team saved the DWP \$90,000.



From left: Gary Reiser, Aqueduct and Reservoir Keeper; David Neal, Operations Manager; and Larry Benbrook, Aqueduct and Reservoir Supervisor, in the current SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) room.



Michael Lee, Electrical Engineering Associate, demonstrates the sever room.