

# THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

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## From the Director's Desk

Jeff Pratt,  
Public Works  
Agency Director



Dear Friends,

This month we pay tribute to Mr. Reddy Pakala who, after 34 years of service to the VCPWA, is announcing his retirement. Mr. Pakala has been Director of the Water and Sanitation Department since 2004 and, in that time, has managed many projects that made a huge difference to our community in terms of improving water quality, raising energy efficiency, and keeping costs to ratepayers as low as possible. We're proud to have had Reddy on staff, and he will be dearly missed.

We would also like to tell you about a collaboration between the Water & Sanitation team and Southern California Edison that is helping everyone — electric consumers, utility ratepayers, and the environment too.

Finally, let me remind you about the upcoming VCPWA Annual Picnic, to be held on September 27 at Soule Park. The theme is the 1950s, so we will have '50s-style food, entertainment, and even a car show! There are rumors that yours truly may be sporting a cool '50s hairstyle... could it be true? It's an event you don't want to miss.

All the Best,

Jeff Pratt  
Director



## BRIGHT Savings

### VCPWA Earns Rebate from SoCal Edison

Would you shut down your electric power during periods of peak demand if you were paid to do so? Most people would, and in effect that's what the Water & Sanitation Department of the Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) is doing within the Waterworks Districts Nos. 1 and 19. Southern California Edison (SCE) launched a program called Auto-Demand Response (ADR), which offered rebates of \$300/kWh to allow approved participants to make control improvements to their facilities. This will allow them to immediately comply with requests made by SCE the day prior to, or even the same day of, an event — a time when demand on the electric grid might exceed capacity. It also allows them to reduce power consumption, thereby preventing brownouts and other issues caused by peak demand.

A study by an independent third party verified that the Districts could turn off four well pumps during peak demand and reduce demand by 980 kW. The Districts were therefore approved for a rebate of up to \$294,000 from SCE. The Districts used this funding to install hardware and various other improvements that

improve monitoring and operator control of the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system which will allow them to automatically fill water reservoirs and then shut down the wells when requested without interrupting service to consumers. The project improvements at all four well sites and the Districts' SCADA system have been completed. Final system verification is now being performed and will be followed by receipt of the \$294,000 rebate.

As individual well sites were completed as part of the project, the Districts were able to actively participate in SCE's ADR events during the past two years. Participation in SCE's ADR events with just one well earned a District \$16,500 in incentive money during fiscal year 2013. This year, power savings as of July, 2014, have earned approximately \$39,000 in incentive money. Thanks to this program, the VCPWA can continue to make improvements to equipment and keep utility payments low for ratepayers. Congratulations to the team at Water & Sanitation!

# Over 34 Years of Inspiration & Leadership...

Over the past three decades, Reddy Pakala has been inspiring others within the County of Ventura with his hard work, dedication, outstanding engineering, and strong leadership. This year, after 34 years of service, Mr. Pakala will be retiring, beginning a new (and wonderful, we hope!) phase of his life — but his legacy will carry on for many years into the future.

With three college degrees — a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, Master's in Hydraulics and Water Resources, and a Master's in Environmental Engineering, Mr. Pakala's qualifications are impressive. His career with the County began in 1980, when he worked as a Design Engineer with the Flood Control District. He progressed to a Project Manager for the Engineering Services Department in 1984. In 1988, he was transferred to the Moorpark office as a Senior Engineer. He was subsequently promoted to serve as the Director of the Water and Sanitation Department in 2004.

Mr. Pakala's time with the County has been marked with substantial growth. The number of water and sewer systems he manages has increased from

four to twelve, and the Department now includes the Integrated Waste Management Division. The budget has increased by 300% and customer accounts have grown by 170%. Thanks to his superb management, all budgets have been healthy and customer service is excellent. He has maintained effective relationships with the Citizens' Advisory Committees, City of Moorpark, Board of Supervisors, and other agencies.

"I have been privileged to work for Reddy Pakala for almost eight years. Reddy has worked tirelessly to continually ensure that his customers from the five water districts and seven sanitation districts receive the best customer service for the lowest service cost," said Eric Keller, Deputy Director of the Water and Sanitation Department. "Reddy leads by example in his work ethic, and has strived to be fair in all his dealings with customers, private developers, contractors, and employees. He has repeatedly promoted the work of his employees, sharing the credit for our many successful projects. Reddy provided the vision and direction for many new cutting-edge projects for the Districts' water supply and wastewater treatment facilities."

## Here are just three of the most important highlights of his career:

- **Piru Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade/Expansion**

This project, located in an economically disadvantaged community, saved over \$4 million in construction costs by adapting the treatment process while still meeting effluent requirements. It was the first design-build project for the County of Ventura — which enabled it to be completed 12 months earlier and meet the required permit schedule.

Mr. Pakala secured \$8.5 million in ARRA grant funding, which kept Piru customers' sewer rates low. This project received the APWA Project of the Year Award for 2010.

- **El Rio Sewer Collection System**

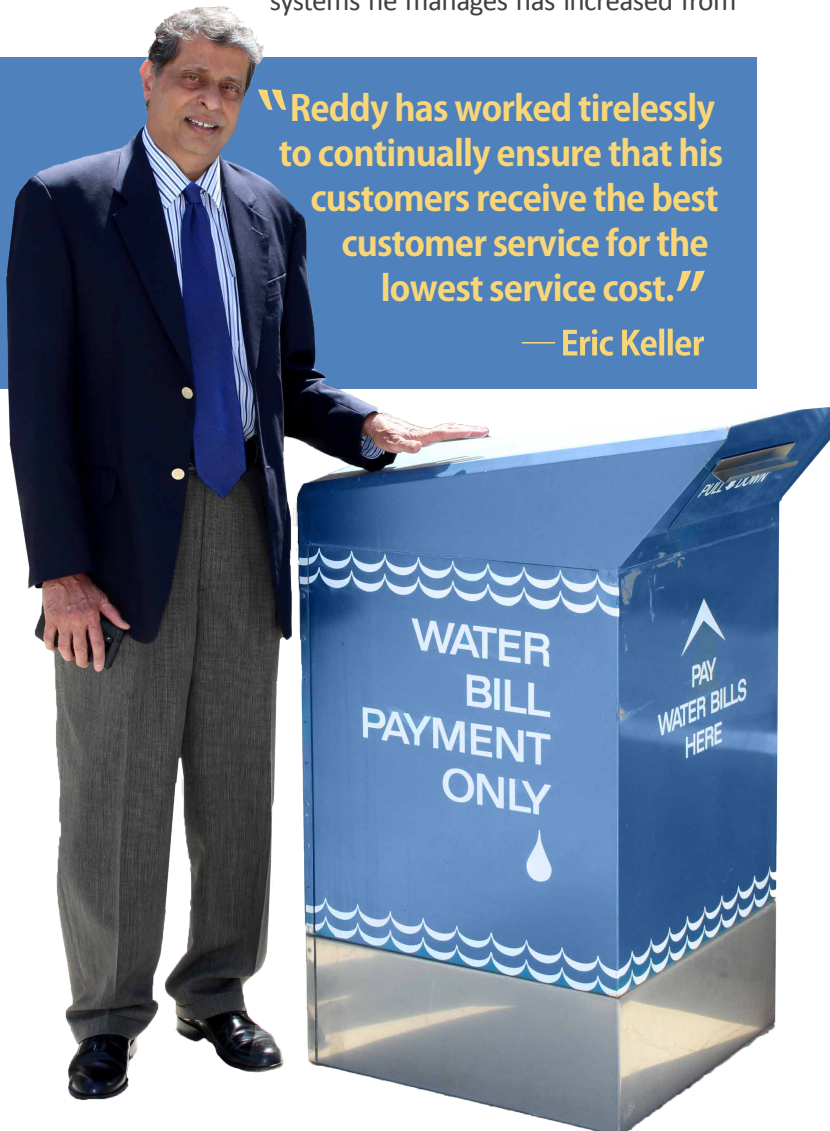
Another project within a disadvantaged community, this project converted El Rio residences from septic tanks to sewer-system connections. \$26 million in local, state, and federal grants helped fund this \$35 million project, and it was awarded the APWA Project of the Year Award for 2011.

- **One-Mega-Watt Solar Photovoltaic System at Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility**

One-third of the cost of this \$4.3 million project was paid by a grant from Southern California Edison's Solar Initiative Program. The system provides 80% of the facility's electric needs, reducing costs dramatically.

**"Reddy has worked tirelessly to continually ensure that his customers receive the best customer service for the lowest service cost."**

**— Eric Keller**





# Reddy Pakala – In his own words

Another brilliant legacy project on Reddy's department agenda is the Moorpark Desalination Plant, which will make use of the local water supply and reduce dependency on expensive imported water. This project will not only give the County high-quality water in a cost-effective manner, it will also be environmentally sustainable. The Department plans to invest in one additional solar photovoltaic system to help power the Moorpark Desalination Plant, which will increase the less expensive local water supply and improve water quality in the local groundwater basin.

The groundwater basin in the Moorpark area is currently full, but most of the groundwater is too salty to use without treatment. The desalination process saves money as it will utilize the less expensive local water sources rather than import the water from Northern California. Other strong water conservation efforts include expanding recycled water systems to local agriculture, which are underway. The desalter project may be considered Mr. Pakala's legacy to the County of Ventura — not only the project itself, but the inspiration and drive to improve water quality, increase efficiency, and reduce costs to ratepayers.

We are grateful for Mr. Pakala's contribution and achievements through the years, and he will be greatly missed. Best wishes for a long, happy retirement!

"The customer pays your bills, which can mean your salaries and your taxes, so I always treat them as I would want to be treated, and most important, I listen to what they have to say. Then we work to make it right."

"I am very proud of many of the projects we have completed, such as the El Rio Sewer System, and of course our Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City of Moorpark grew in the past 30 years from 8,000 people to 35,000; however, we were able to plan ahead, make the needed upgrades, and still keep customers' costs down. We have the lowest sewer rates among 17 sewer agencies! We've always tried to have foresight on all of our citizens' needs."

"Ventura County residents should know how dedicated and hard working our staff is, they have a great attitude toward their work and community — in fact, those that I have been blessed to work with through the years work diligently to finish the job, even if that job requires fixing something at 2:30am. It has been an honor to work with them and it is what I will miss the most."



## Reddy's coworker Susan Pan sums it up:

“Even though Reddy is notorious for trying to save money for the water and sewer customers, he is very generous with his own money and pays for the PWA picnic for the Department employees and families and takes employees to lunches on special occasions. He epitomizes a good public servant who is prudent with public funding, and yet demonstrates his caring for his employees not only with his personal resources but more so by having deep compassion for his employees and their families.”



## 29th Annual Public Works Picnic

# Nostalgic 1950s Fun!

September 27, 2014

### Doo-Wop at the VCPWA Picnic

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming 1950s-themed VCPWA Annual Picnic on September 27 at Soule Park. We're serving up '50s-style fare, with a taco bar, a delicious Tri-Tip and chicken BBQ, a classic '50s auto display (Got one? Bring it!), an old-time candy shack, and classic, old-fashioned games like tug o' war, hula hooping, and more. Sock-Hop attire not required, but definitely encouraged!

#### Games!

##### For the Kids:

Gunny Sack Race  
3-Legged Race  
Water Balloon Toss  
1950s Treats  
After lunch: Squirt Guns

##### For the Grown-Ups:

Tug o' War  
Volleyball  
Horse Shoe Toss  
AND Much More!

#### Cruzin' Classics Contest!



Golf is by prior arrangement. Early tee time. See Phil Raba for details. For picnic tickets, see your department representative. Picnic is sponsored by the Management of PWA.

For more details visit [www.vcpwa.org](http://www.vcpwa.org)