



# pipeline

**NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER 2021**

**YOUR SOURCE FOR OC SAN NEWS AND INFORMATION**

*As we approach the end of 2021, we have the opportunity to reflect on OC San's accomplishments over the past year in light of the challenges that we faced.*

*Together, we achieved a great deal during this past year, continuing to provide a high level of service to our community. During 2021, we once again maintained 100 percent compliance with our ocean discharge permit. Orange County had 10 beaches listed on Heal the Bay's beach report card Honor Roll—the most by any county. This is a clear indicator that our collection, treatment and monitoring efforts, and our dry weather urban runoff diversion program continue to protect our beaches.*

*We have also maintained our AAA credit rating (the highest possible) from all three major rating firms and have earned 17 different industry awards—a testament to the commitment and professionalism of our staff.*

*Building for the future, our agency has moved forward with important projects during Fiscal Year 2020-21, awarding over \$475 million in construction contracts for more than 20 capital improvement projects and making significant progress on projects in construction. These are just a few of our accomplishments—there are too many to list here.*

*I am optimistic that our success will continue in 2022 as we are a resilient, hardworking, passionate, and dedicated team, and I look forward to the day we are all back together and can celebrate our accomplishments. On behalf of our Executive Management Team, I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 2022.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Herberg".

*Jim Herberg, General Manager*



# Thank You For All You Do!

Even though the holiday season looks a little different and many of us are separated from our friends, family and loved ones, we would like to take this moment and thank our OC San family members who work over the holidays to ensure that we give our best to the community we serve.

While we may miss a name or two at times, we still believe it's important to recognize you during this time.

## Plant No. 1 Operations Staff

Jennifer Alexander  
Asterios Anagnostou  
John Bellitti  
Tony Briseno  
Frank Camarillo  
Greg Chesebro  
David Collett  
Ron Cortez  
Keith Criscuolo  
David Gulley  
Dereck Hooks  
Michael Huls  
Eduardo Jimenez  
Stephen Markus  
Enrique Pantoja  
Cory Riley

Erika Rizk  
Shaun Siddiqui  
Aaron Suarez  
Adam Woods  
Enrique Zapien

## Plant No. 2 Operations Staff

David Andrews  
James Arthur  
Mike Barrett  
Megan Brown  
Cliff Casanova  
Sergio Chairez  
Chris Cole  
John Fladrich  
Jonathan Lay  
John Lopez  
Bill Moline

Paul Moore  
Mike Morey  
Tracey Murphy  
Mike Oruna  
Elvira Preciado  
Kurt Rathert  
Matt Rebai  
Gregg Scott  
Keith Stahl  
Kwen Tjen  
Tim Tran  
Paula Zeller

## Lab Staff

I.V. Arambula  
Absalon Diaz  
Emily Tam



## There is always a reason to be Thankful

The only thing that could've made these holidays better for us, would've been to be able to celebrate with our OC San Family. This just means that when we can all be together again, we're going to have one more thing to be thankful for.

- **Dionne Kardos** (Div. 250) — I'm thankful that I work for OC San, an essential workplace staying open during the pandemic and providing safe working conditions for its employees. It has allowed me to keep my health by working from home, maintain my home and help me provide support for family and friends during this trying time, and to buy chocolate when needed!
- **William Gilbert** (Div. 770) — Faith, Family, Freedom.
- **Bob Bell** (Div. 822) — When I'm at the beach, I think of all this agency does to make sure the beach, and where we live, are protected, clean, and ready for us. Very thankful for that.
- **Kelly Newell** (Div. 140) — I'm thankful for my health and my family. This year has been a challenging one, but I'm super thankful that OC San has allowed me to continue working while making sure that we are all still safe.

- **Louis Pazo** (Div. 820) — Having an awesome family at work to enjoy work and laughs all day long.
- **Rachel Van Exel** (Div. 630) — The time that I've had with the people that I love.
- **Monica Sanchez** (Div. 230) — I am thankful that God did grace me with the blessing of having my mother in my life. She was and will always be my biggest blessing. As chaotic as the year has been, I am thankful that I have the support of my husband, my family and my friends.



# New Core Values — read them, know them, embrace them

These newly updated Core Values were developed with input and feedback from staff to better align with our current culture and philosophy. They represent our commitment to ourselves and each other. They were recently approved by the OC San Board of Directors at the November Board Meeting. Over the next 12 months we will see them incorporated into various areas of what we do. Want to take a look and start finding ways to incorporate into all aspects of what we do? Then see below or visit The San Box and the About Us tab. We hope you enjoy learning about our newly updated Core Values as much as we did creating them!

## **Integrity, Inclusion, Honesty, and Respect**

We aspire to the highest degree of integrity, inclusion, honesty, and respect in our interaction with each other, our suppliers, our customers, and our community. We strive to demonstrate these values in our actions, commitments, and service.

## **Leadership, Teamwork, and Problem Solving**

We lead by example, acknowledging the value of our resources and using them wisely to achieve our mission. We strive to reach OC San goals through cooperative efforts and collaboration with each other and our constituencies. We work to solve problems in a creative, cost-effective, and safe manner, and we acknowledge team and individual efforts.

## **Customer Service, Transparency, and Accountability**

We are committed to acting in a timely, accurate, accessible, and transparent manner through excellent customer service. We are committed to act in the best interest of our internal and external stakeholders.

## **Resiliency, Innovation, and Learning**

We continuously develop ourselves, enhancing our talents, skills, and abilities. We recognize that only through personal growth and development will we progress as an agency and as individuals.

## **Safety**

We are committed to providing a safe work environment. We will demonstrate leadership, promote individual accountability, and participate actively in the advancement of our health and safety practices. 💧

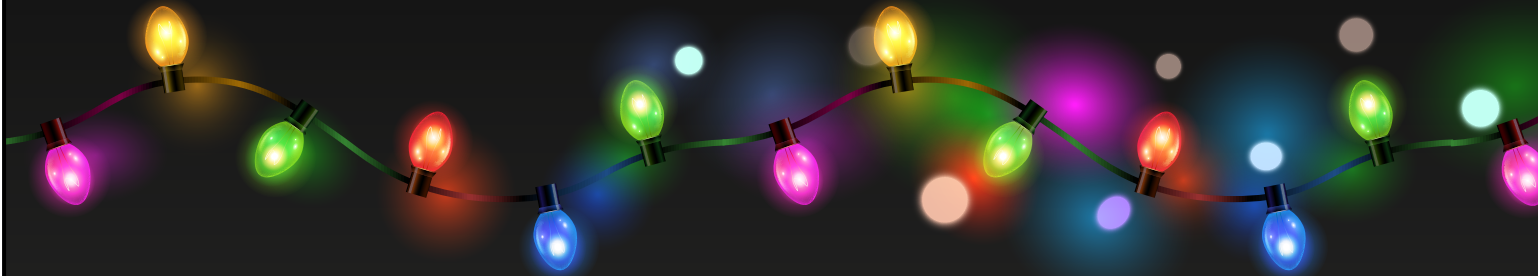
# DO YOUR PART TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A SUCCESS!

Each year during the holiday season, we take the opportunity to share the educational message about fats, oil, and grease (FOG). Pouring FOG down the drain can lead to backups and sewer spills. Please help us spread the word during this holiday season that the drain is not a dump. FOG should be properly disposed of by securing it into a container and then placed in the trash.

Also, for those with septic systems, please remember to inspect annually and service these on a routine basis. A failed septic system is the last thing you will want to deal with as you are preparing that special meal with family and friends. Make sure to avoid any possible mishaps this holiday season by having a professional inspect your septic system, use water efficiently, and maintain any drainage fields.

As your homes fill with holiday cheer, always remember to only flush the three Ps: pee, poop, and (toilet) paper. For more information on how to get the most out of your septic tank, please visit [www.epa.gov/septic](http://www.epa.gov/septic). 💧





# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



*Deirdre Bingman (Div. 630) and Brian Bingman (Div. 770)*



*Josh Martinez (Div. 250)*



*Kelly Newell (Div. 140)*



*Adam Montoya (Div. 160)*



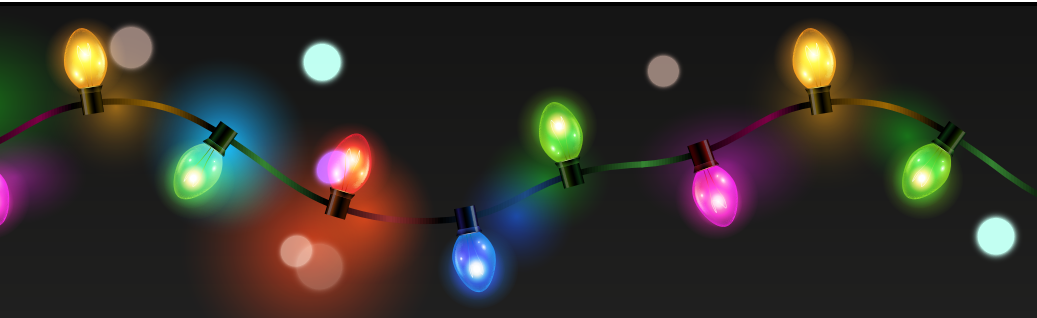
*Contracts (Div. 230)*



*Brittany Baugher (Div. 620)*



*Rebecca Long (Div. 140)*



Paul Paredes (Div. 830)



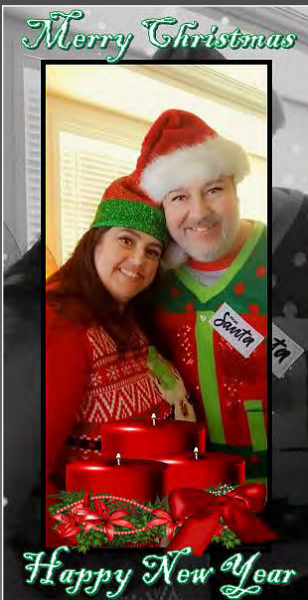
Anthony Pham (Div. 770)



Brad Hamilton (Div. 250)



Larry Roberson (Div. 230)



Monica Sanchez (Div. 230)



Kelly Lore (Div. 120)

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



**Lori McKinley, (Div.620)** *"When I started my ascent at OC San many moons ago, my base camp was the lab, located in the current HR building, in a place known as CSDOC. My desk was a drawer beneath one of the four organic chemistry fume hoods; the secretary deployed her IBM Selectric II to create printed memos; my phone was a common one used by all lab employees, and I was paged over the "loudspeaker" when I received that rare call which was usually for Technical Services Director and future GM, Blake Anderson...my maiden name was Anderson so the mistake was common; the Christmas party meal was cooked mostly by talented employees, and we gathered in the cart barn; and base camp was devoid of computers and emails.*

*Thirty years, a husband, 2 children, 4 positions, and 10 offices later, I marvel at how many wonderful people I have met along the trail to the peak. As mountaineer Conrad Anker once said, "The summit is what drives us, but the climb itself is what matters." Thank you, all of my awesome coworkers, for this incredible trek...let the hike continue!*

# Taking the Next Step to OC San

As part of our new logo rollout program, we have started to change out the manhole covers in the city of Los Alamitos as part of the Los Alamitos Trunk Sewer Project (3-64B) from OCSD to OC San. The newly updated manhole covers accurately represent our organization, who we are, and what we do. This is the next step in our new logo rollout program and will continue gradually throughout our collections system. Want to see what they look like but don't want to run out to the middle of the street? You are in luck, we have included a photo to the right. Take a look and we hope you find them as cool as we do. 💧



The manhole covers are not the only thing getting a little sprucing up. OC San vehicles are gradually being updated with the new logo. When using one of the vehicles take a look at the new vehicle signage. Your OC San vehicle doesn't have the new OC San logo? Do not fear, we are getting to all the vehicles and expect them to be fully changed out throughout the next year. 💧



## IDEA | Incentives for District Employee Achievements

Great IDEAS save OC San money. The Incentives for District Employee Achievements (IDEA) committee recently approved an IDEA granting the creators a cash prize.

### IDEA: Seepax Pump Puller and Pusher

Submitted by: **Minh Nguyen** (Div. 870), **Adam McMurdy** (Div. 870), **Doug Rech** (Div. 870), **Gilbert Padilla** (Div. 880)

Amount Awarded: **\$1,000**

#### Summary:

We got another great IDEA that helps our maintenance team to replace the rotors on the Seepex pumps in the Thickening and Dewatering Building. This IDEA revised the tool and method to efficiently remove the rubber boot, the most hindrance part of the job. Risk management observed the replacement while using this new tool and has approved utilizing it in the future. Implementation of the IDEA saves OC San nearly \$10,000 in labor over a year. Congratulations to Minh, Adam, Doug and Gilbert for their amazing IDEA! 💧

## CORE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Core Award recipients (October 12 through December 6, 2021).

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Shawn Carman         | Samir Patel        |
| Pragathi Chandupatla | George Robertson   |
| Gary Conklin         | Ken Sakamoto       |
| Rudy Davila          | Danny Tang         |
| Matthew Hirsch       | Laura Terriquez    |
| Mark Kibby           | Christopher Tucker |
| Mike O'Reilly        |                    |
| Jagadish Oruganti    |                    |

# CONSTRUCTION CORNER

## Making Improvements One Manhole at a Time

Over \$5.8 billion of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) spending is projected over the next 20 years to maintain OC San’s regional wastewater infrastructure. As many of OC San’s existing facilities near the end of their useful life, the main driver for many of the CIP projects today focus on rehabilitation and replacement to ensure reliable service.

One of the rehabilitation projects in the CIP is the Los Alamitos Trunk Sewer Project. This \$20 million project is taking place in the cities of Los Alamitos and Seal Beach and the surrounding Rossmoor community.

There are two trunk sewer pipelines that will be the focus of this project. There is a pipeline that runs along Katella Avenue and two pipelines that run parallel to one another along Los Alamitos Blvd./Seal Beach Blvd. The main goal of this project is to rehabilitate these aging pipelines which were constructed in 1959 and 1975 and range in diameter from 30 to 39 inches. Over the years, calcium deposits

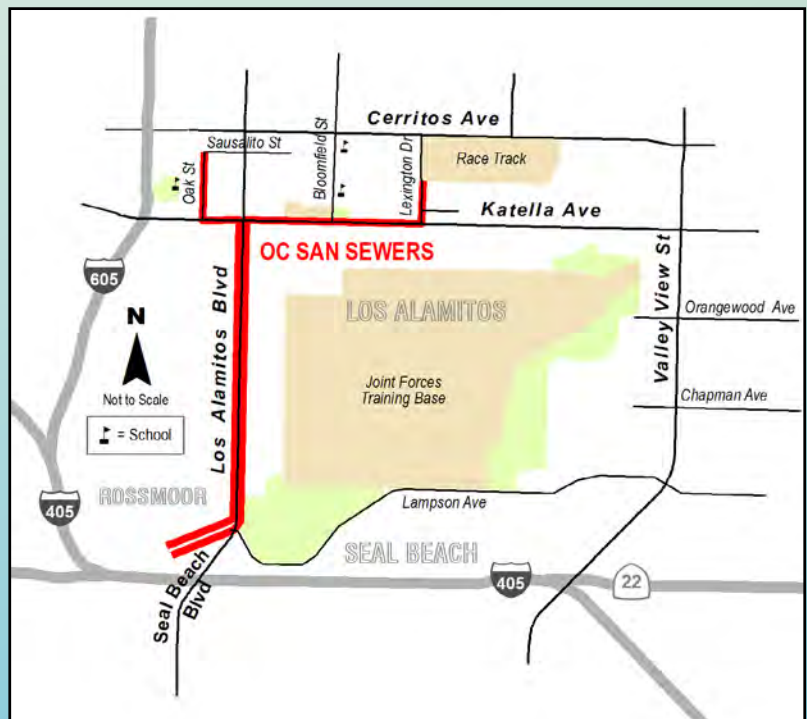
and leaks along the pipe joints have formed. By injecting chemical grout at the joints, the life of the pipe will be extended for another 30-40 years. Additionally, there are approximately 70 manholes that will either be rehabilitated or replaced.

Construction will be done in two phases. Phase 1 started in early October on Lexington Drive. It continues along Katella Avenue and heads south on the northbound lanes of Los Alamitos Blvd. We anticipate this first phase to conclude in winter 2022. Phase 2 of construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2022 on Oak Street make its way east on Katella Avenue and then head south on the southbound lanes of Los Alamitos Blvd. This phase should conclude by winter 2023.

Stay up to date on progress of this project by visiting [www.ocsan.gov/LosAlamitos](http://www.ocsan.gov/LosAlamitos) to sign up for email and text alerts. 💧



Contractor lowers the chemical grout injection packer into the manhole.



# New Faces Welcome to OC San



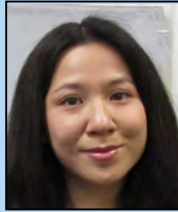
**David Alvarado**  
Division 770  
Construction Inspector



**Maria Arango**  
Division 140  
Student Intern



**Cara Chan**  
Division 630  
Environmental Technician



**Julia Ha**  
Division 820  
Associate Engineer



**Kelly Hebenton**  
Division 770  
Construction Inspector



**Jessie Sierra**  
Division 840  
Operator In Training



**Israel Vasquez**  
Division 161  
Safety and Health Rep

## Wishing the best to...

**Wanda Hagerty**, Contract/  
Purchasing Assistant retired on  
November 18, 2021 after 26 years  
of service.

## Service Awards

### —30 YEARS—

Gail Cain  
Lori McKinley  
Sai Lee  
Jim Spears

### —20 YEARS—

Enrique Pantoja  
Ernest Savedra

### —15 YEARS—

Aurelio Jaime  
Mathew Rebai  
Larry Roberson

### —10 YEARS—

Sam Choi  
Suzanne Crider

### —5 YEARS—

Jason Daniel  
Mike Maldonado  
Henry Ng  
Arthur Ongkingco  
Reza Sobhani  
Eti Taula



## HOOT AND HOLLER!

**Tina Knapp** (Div. 120) — Congrats to Tina for obtaining her certificate for Essentials of Records Information Management Certificate Program.



**Rebecca Long** (Div. 140) — A Flag for Every Hero. Rebecca went out to Riverside National Cemetery to place flags for Veterans Day.

Arizona Treasure Hunt – This year **Randy Inouye** (Div. 870), **Matt Killion** (Div. 760), **David Halverson** (Div. 760) and **Ian Curry** (Div. 760) participated in the 70th Annual Arizona Treasure Hunt. The hunt is an evening filled with puzzle-solving, teamwork, desert-searching, map-navigating and creative driving. The clues require knowledge of engineering principles, math, science, current events, pop culture and general knowledge. This year's team finished 22nd out of 90 teams.



*Randy*



*Matt*



*David*



*Ian*

## ON THE MOVE

**Kiranpreet Kaur**, from Engineer to Senior Engineer

**Rick Mirolla**, from Instrumentation Tech II to Lead Instrumentation Tech

**Anthony Phan**, from Associate Engineer to Engineer

**Michael Huls**, from Lead Plant Operator to Operations Supervisor