

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

pipeline

MARCH
APRIL 2022

YOUR SOURCE FOR OC SAN NEWS AND INFORMATION

*Hello
Spring*



Meet Riaz Moinuddin

THE NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Congratulations are in order for Riaz Moinuddin who has been promoted to Director of Operations and Maintenance. He has been a part of the OC San family for over 18 years. Riaz holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Control System Engineer professional license from the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

Riaz is proud to lead the maintenance teams that have been instrumental in improving the reliability and resilience of the treatment plants. This has been accomplished through improved maintenance practices, innovative leadership in process controls, and commitment to promoting professionalism at OC San. Now let's learn a little more about our new O&M Director.

1. How did you end up working in Operations/Maintenance?
I was initially hired back in 2003 as part of the Process Controls Integration (PCI) group which was responsible for the process controls and automation software. The PCI group was transferred to the O&M Department back in 2006.
2. Tell us the path that got you to be Director of Operations and Maintenance.
Prior to OC San, I started my career as a design engineer working on control systems for power plants and later as a design consultant for water and wastewater treatment systems. The years of design and commissioning experience provided me with a great foundation and knowledge base of treatment systems, process equipment, controls and SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition)

systems, instrumentation and other important aspects of what is important for reliable plant operations and maintenance.

3. Having been at OC San for over 18 years, how has that experience prepared you for your new position?

I am always thankful for the collaborative and supportive culture at OC San. Members of the various departments at OC San freely share their experiences and expertise, they are always ready to help and answer any questions and teach.

4. What do you enjoy most about working at OC San?

I really enjoy the challenges, the dynamic environment, and working with many of the subject matter experts at OC San.

5. What are you most excited about in your new position?

I am most excited about having greater involvement in the many initiatives taking place at OC San.

6. What did you want to be when you were younger, career wise?

I was always attracted to complex things and the underlying principles of how they worked.

7. As Director of Operations and Maintenance, how will your workday be different in comparison to your previous position?

I believe the difference will be in the breadth of topics that will require careful attention and analysis; to arrive at workable solutions.

8. What has been your most rewarding experience thus far at OC San?

I have had many great experiences

at OC San, participating in many projects, being responsible for the SCADA systems, but the most rewarding experience is working with a group of professionals helping to improve the resiliency of our assets and wastewater treatment systems.

9. What have you learned working in O&M (or in previous roles), that you will take into your new position?

I think it is very important to be goal oriented, seek input from multiple viewpoints and remain flexible in approach.

10. Anything else we should know about you or that you would like to share?

My wife and I have recently become proud grandparents of our first granddaughter. 🌊



CONSTRUCTION CORNER

Sunflower and Red Hill Interceptor Repair Project No. 7-66

Interceptors are major sewer lines that receive flows from other trunk sewer lines. There is a current project that will make repairs “to over one mile of sewer lines” to the Sunflower and Red Hill Interceptors, Project No. 7-66. The interceptors range in size from 63-inches to 78-inches in diameter and extend along Sunflower Avenue and Bristol Avenue to Red Hill Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard through the cities of Irvine, Costa Mesa, and bordering Santa Ana. The lines are 270-degree PVC-lined reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) installed between 1969 and 1971.

The PVC liner provides protection of the RCP from hydrogen sulfide gases from wastewater. A 270-degree liner protects the top portion of the pipe that is exposed to air and gases, whereas the bottom portion of the

pipe should typically be filled with wastewater and not be exposed to corrosive gases. The PVC liner is connected together at pipe sections with weld strips.

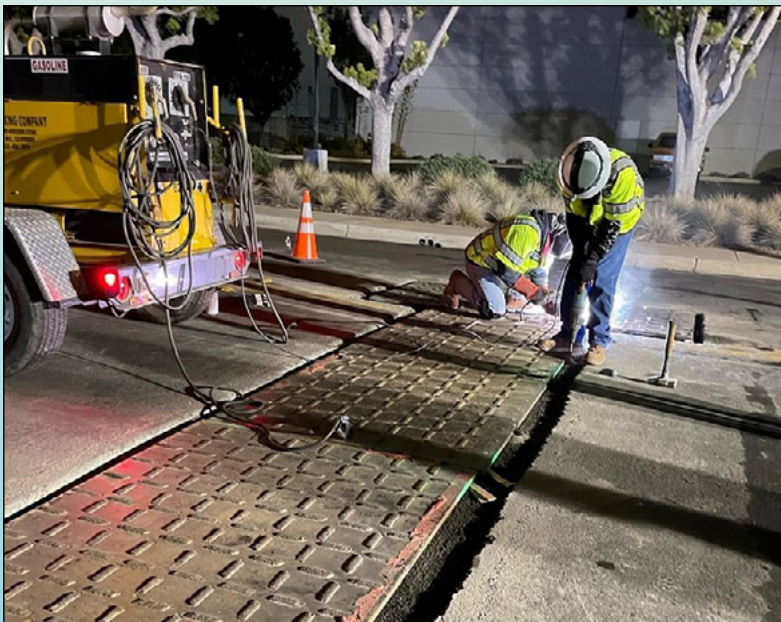
During an assessment of the pipe, many weld strip failures were observed, causing the upper portion of the pipe to be susceptible to corrosion. It was also observed that wastewater levels were below the PVC lining, exposing unprotected concrete during low flows.

The project will make PVC liner repairs and add concrete to form a flat bottom inside the pipe to artificially keep low flows above the area of exposed concrete throughout more than one mile of pipe. This work will reduce the risk of a sewage spill, pipeline failure, and extend the useful life of our asset.

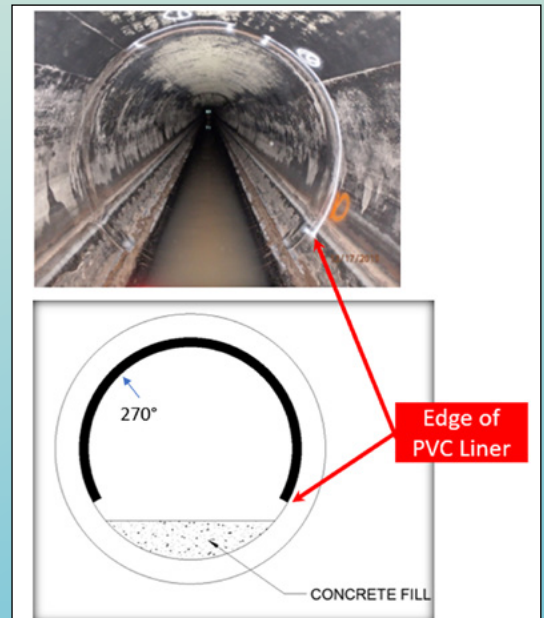
The work will include physical entry of active sewers, temporary diversions, and bypass pumping. Wastewater cannot be in the pipe while the work is being done, the wastewater will need to be bypassed around each pipe segment area being worked on.

Each bypass operation will require above ground pipes, some buried pipes across streets, and daily traffic control set ups with each work shift. These tasks will occur at night during low flow periods to minimize risk of a sewer spill. Night work will also minimize impacts to the traveling public since traffic control will only be up during the nighttime work hours.

The project construction which has already begun is estimated to cost nearly \$5 million and is expected to be complete by September 2022. 💧



Underground bypass trench installation.



Inside view of PVC liner.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

April Frost

Congrats are in order for our New Chief Plant Operator!

As you've heard, April Frost is OC San's Plant No. 1 new Chief Plant Operator! April has been a part of the OC San family since 2014 when she joined as a Senior Plant Operator. Now that she is Plant Chief, we felt it was time we got to know April a little better so we asked her to share a little bit about herself.

1. How did you end up working in wastewater?

My family has had a huge impact on my career. My father is a contractor in the wastewater industry and I learned a lot of the maintenance side of the business from him. Working for the company, I traveled to numerous wastewater treatment plants across the country performing maintenance, installations, start-ups and inspections. Eventually, I got the opportunity to branch out and become an Operator in Training at a reclamation plant in Burbank, CA. I had wonderful mentors that encouraged me to focus on getting my grade certifications and to apply to OC San. Once I passed the Grade V, I started applying. As a contractor, I had worked at OC San, and I knew that someday, this is where I wanted to build my career. Between the people, the facility and the vision, I knew this is something I wanted to be a part of.

2. Tell us the trajectory that got you to be Chief Plant Operator?

My trajectory at OC San has been fast paced and I am very grateful to all those who have helped, mentored, and collaborated along the way. I still remember my first day walking into the passdown meeting. It was overwhelming hearing all the OC San jargon and acronyms for the first time. Then walking the Plant and thinking "this place is huge, I'll never remember it all." But, little by little and with the help of an incredible team I was able to learn the Plant and become more involved with the complicated tasks. I got to work with our incredible maintenance teams, Engineering, the Lab, and Compliance. I started meeting people from Public Affairs, Collections, Resource Protection, Human Resources, Orange County Water District, contractors, and the list kept growing. I started to realize what a huge machine OC San is and that it takes all of us working together to make it work. It's not just Operations, but all of us supporting each other. When I was promoted to Lead Plant Operator, I rotated to Plant No. 2. I really enjoyed that position. It was my first time on the Process Team and a chance to try to optimize and be innovative — really take ownership of a process



area. I promoted to Supervisor in 2019 and eventually came back to Plant No. 1. We developed the Training Team, a robust program combining hands on learning with detailed training materials and comprehensive standard operating procedures and emergency operating procedures. It was a big decision to go for the Chief Plant Operator position. It comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility to protect our staff, our neighbors, the environment, our assets, and help carry out our vision. I am honored to be entrusted with that.

3. What do you enjoy most about working at OC San?

Without question I enjoy the people the most at OC San. I love the trouble shooting and collaboration. It is very satisfying to come to work with a challenge and leave having found new innovative solutions together.

(Continued on page 5)

Interns are Integral to the Team

Teamwork makes the dream work, and an essential part of that team are our interns!

They come from all sorts of educational backgrounds and schools. It felt right to highlight them during **National Internship Awareness Month**.

From all of us here at OC San, thank you for being a part of our team and choosing to intern with us. 💧



Interns shown opted for their information to be included in the graphic.



IDEA

Incentives for District Employee Achievements

The IDEA committee recently awarded Tony Hernandez (Div. 870) on his IDEA. The IDEA is about designing an in-house tool that would be used to facilitate maintenance activities like replacing the flight wear strips in the clarifiers that are essential in the movement of sludge collector arms.

This custom tool is called the “Flight Lifter/Stand” and has been approved by the Risk Management team. It is currently being used at Plant No. 1 to improve safety and efficiency during the replacement process. This IDEA will save OC San labor hours by increasing the efficiency and productivity of staff in a shorter time period. Congratulations Tony for his amazing IDEA and receiving a \$500 award! 💧

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

April Frost

(Continued from page 4)

4. **What are you most excited about in your new position?** *Recently Jim Herberg gave a presentation on OC San History 101 and it was incredible to see how OC San has changed over the years. Now in this position, I am most excited to be part of how OC San changes and grows during the course of my career.*
5. **What did you want to be when you were younger, career wise?** *Like most people, my career trajectory did not have a linear path. I always thought I would be a veterinarian growing up. My first job was as a horse groomer. I then became an assistant for a physical therapist for disabled children on*

horseback, gave riding lessons, and eventually became a veterinary technician. Unfortunately, the business side of things just wasn't for me. I pursued a career in law enforcement, but did not settle there. Oddly enough, the common thread was a desire to make a difference; to make a positive impact on my community and environment, and to get to work outside with positive people in the process. Wastewater ended up being that for me. I love being able to start with just an idea or concept and watch it go through the design process all the way through construction; be able to start it up and say, "we built that!"

6. **What has been your most rewarding experience thus far at OC San?** *I have been very fortunate in my career to have had wonderful mentors. Now, to have the opportunity to help those starting off in their career is very rewarding.*
7. **What have you learned as Operations Supervisor (or in previous roles), that you will take into your new position?** *Everyone has something to teach you. It doesn't matter what position they hold or how long they have been in the industry. Always take the opportunity to learn from those around you and show them respect. 💧*

HAPPY RETIREMENT

We bid farewell to the following employees who have recently retired.



Gail Cain
30 years of service



Jie Chang
29 years of service



Greg Chesbro
30 years of service



George Crawford
20 years of service



Shamshad Hyder
31 years of service



Michael Kobzoff
10 years of service



Ed Kovanda
25 years of service



Dustin Le
32 years of service



Kenny Nicks
13 years of service



Canh Nguyen
30 years of service



Chung Nguyen
26 years of service



Hai Nguyen
28 years of service



Tony Acayan
5 years of service



Rosa Aguilar
32 years of service



Eddie Baker
16 years of service



Mike Barrett
33 years of service



John Bellitti
14 years of service



Brian Bingman
24 years of service



Greg Blakeley
14 years of service



Pinky Burke
20 years of service



Keith Criscuolo
19 years of service



Dean Fisher
30 years of service



Tyler Hoang
30 years of service



Lina Hsiao
17 years of service



John Lin
22 years of service



Debbie Marchegiano
26 years of service



Luis Marta
32 years of service



Todd May
30 years of service



Trung Nguyen
33 years of service



Madan Patel
20 years of service



Sejal Patel
29 years of service



Marco Polo Velasco
28 years of service

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Gary Conklin, (Div. 750)

I can't believe that 20 years has gone by so quickly. My oldest son was just one month old when I started, and now he's in college.

I feel very fortunate for my time here. I have been able to support my family, be a part of their lives, and still have a rewarding career in a very positive and professional organization.

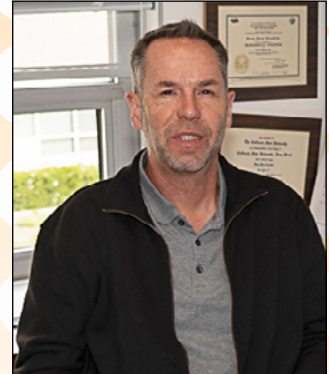
OC San has great opportunities for young engineers to gain exposure to the various aspects of our field. I've been able to work in all phases of engineering (Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance). That has given me a great foundation. With that experience, I'm able to focus on the areas that I feel the most effective, and do things that outside engineers only dream about. It's very satisfying for an engineer to do what I get to do every day.

I know the rate payers probably don't see what we do day-to-day, but I know we are taking care of something very important to them, and keeping their rates affordable at the same time.

I truly appreciate what I have at OC San, and look forward to many more years in a rewarding career.

Thank You,

Gary Conklin



Michelle Spengler, (Div. 770)

"Time flies when you are having fun" Where did the time go? I can honestly say that the last 20 years I have spent at OC San have been filled with lots of fun and I can honestly say that I cannot believe it has been 20 years already.

When hard work is combined with great people, great projects, and a great environment, I guess the years are bound to slip by quickly. I could not ask for a better place to work and I am truly grateful for the last 20 years.

Michelle Spengler

Roy Reynolds, (Div. 880)

Twenty years have gone by very fast. What I find truly amazing is how much change there has been in the way we do business and in the industry. Safety has improved a great deal, specifically in areas of Lock Out Tag Out and Confine Spaces.

OC San's move to the Core Values has made this a much better place to work. The recognition of our staff and divisions has improved morale and productivity in ways I would have never imagined. I feel blessed to have a job at OC San and look forward to more years ahead.



Roy Reynolds 

Spring Break



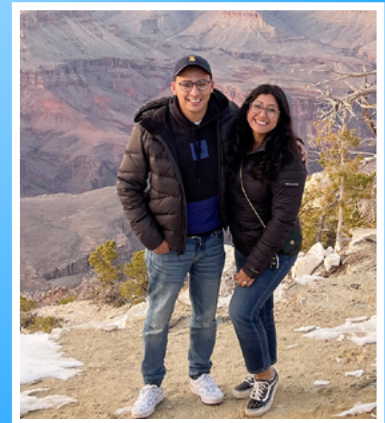
Jennifer Cabral, (Div. 110) and **James Cabral**, (Div. 820) — Grand Canyon University.



Yolanda Herrera, (Div. 120) — Big Bear Lake.



Charles Falzone, (Div. 760) — Living Desert, Palm Springs.



Belen Carrillo, (Div. 140) — Grand Canyon.



Brad Hamilton, (Div. 250) — Snowboarding trip.



Monica Sanchez, (Div. 230) — Moved to her new home.



Lori McKinley, (Div. 620) — Washington D.C.



Kim Cardenas, (Div. 220) — New York City.



Kevin Escobar, (Div. 620) — Family's maternity photo shoot.



Gregg Deterding, (Div. 140) — Maui, Hawaii.

Division profile Taking Care of Us

Division 880: Plant No. 2 Facilities Maintenance

Group Size: 6

OC San Plant No. 2 Maintenance (Div. 880) is made up of a team of six individuals who are responsible for addressing any maintenance needs related to the facilities and structures.

The Facilities group of the Maintenance Division strives to provide world class customer service by using their technical expertise and work ethic to ensure asset reliability. Some of their responsibilities include: ensuring the integrity and compliance of our potable water distribution system, overseeing fire suppression

systems, oversight for contractors and service contracts, and animal rescue and relocation.

On a regular basis, the team works on everything from tunnel maintenance, testing of the backflow assemblies and even refurbishing offices. Every day brings new challenges and tasks for this team. Even though this team is only made up of six members, they work collaboratively with just about every division at Plant No. 2. They are the definition of team players.

How does a typical day go for this team? Each day they execute and complete scheduled work orders while also juggling high priority service and

customer requests. Even though work orders all come from one system, they all vary in the level of service and urgency they require.

Now you know which group is responsible for all the new signs, items getting fixed quickly, and just the general upkeep of Plant No. 2. Basically, the Facilities Maintenance team is part of the A-Team.

Fun Fact: Some of the animal rescue missions this team has been on includes rescuing a humming bird from the truck loading bay, relocating stray ducks that have wandered into the process area and kittens from the tunnels. 💧



Eti Taula
Maintenance Supervisor



Jesse Freeman
Maintenance Specialist



Damein Frabizio
Lead Facilities Worker



Jose Rocha
Facilities Worker/Painter



Eric Rakutt
Facilities Worker/Builder



Brandon Barents
Facilities Worker/Builder

Wastewater 101 Citizens Academy

Wastewater is simple. It's water that comes from waste. What isn't simple is explaining who is OC San, and that's because we have so much going on inside and outside our walls. Our solution to this problem — create an Academy that helps people understand the value and importance of what we do.

Wastewater 101 Citizens Academy is a new program that features four workshops over the course of two months that will be hosted/

presented by OC San staff and will focus on: Who We Are and What We Do, OC San in a Nutshell, Capital Improvement Program, and Environmental Services. It will be available to community members who are 18 years and older.

Help us spread the word with your friends and family. The academy will take place in the months of May and June. The registration link and more information can be found on ocsan.gov/wastewater101.

ON THE MOVE

Paul Raya, from Environmental Technician to Environmental Specialist

Michael Childers, from Senior Mechanic to Power Plant Operator I

Robert Flores, from Senior Mechanic to Power Plant Operator I

Lawrence Gabriel, from Plant Operator to Senior Plant Operator

Sambourn Pok, from Mechanic to Senior Mechanic

Tim Tran, from Plant Operator to Senior Plant Operator

Anthony Chang, from Lead Plant Operator to Operations Supervisor

Roger Geraldo, from Senior Mechanic to Maintenance Specialist

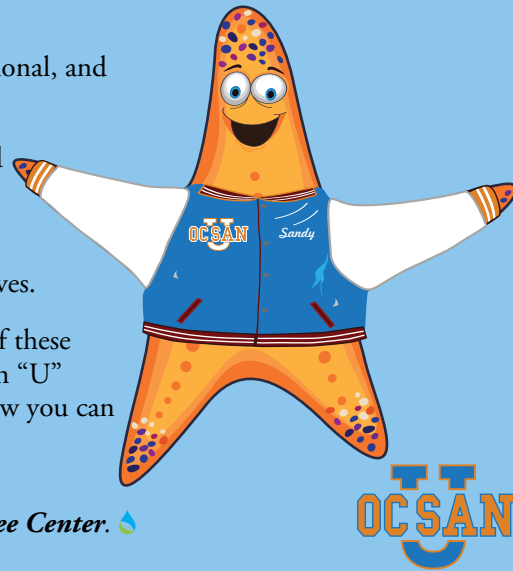
Duncan McGraw, from Instrumentation Tech II to Lead Instrumentation Tech

OC San "U" is for You!

If you want to:

- Enhance your personal, professional, and organizational skills.
- Take advantage of dynamic and wide-ranging opportunities.
- Optimize your performance to drive OC San goals and objectives.

If you answered yes to even one of these areas, you should visit the OC San "U" page on The San Box* to learn how you can get involved.



*Page can be found under *Employee Center*.

Service Awards

—30 YEARS—
Kevin Hadden

—20 YEARS—
Robert Amaro
Michelle Spengler

—15 YEARS—
Hemal Dhodia
Adam Newsom
Aharon Rosenhamer

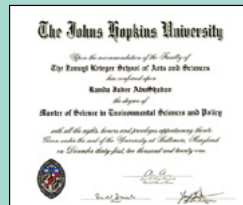
—10 YEARS—
Dickie Fernandez
Louis Pasoz
Robert Whitney
Eros Yong

—5 YEARS—
Stephen Duarte
Jesse Freeman
Jed Gonzales



HOOT AND HOLLER!

Randa Abushaban, (Div. 610) — Congrats grad! Randa received her Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Policy from John Hopkins University.



New Faces Welcome to OC San



Aryan Arshi
Division 760
Engineer



Brian Swenson
Division 620
Engineer



Eric Halverson
Division 770
Associate Engineer

CORE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Core Award recipients (February 22, through April 12, 2022).

- Chad Crow
- Bob Bell
- Angel Hernandez
- Duncan McGraw
- Dawn Myers
- Mark Pauperas
- Charles Falzone

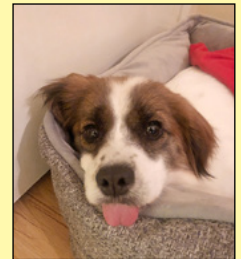


OC SAN PETS

MEET Murphy, he is a Golden Retriever that just turned one-year old. He likes chewing on his toys and the loves the attention of ladies.
Gregg Deterding, (Div. 140)



MEET Waffles, she is my rescue dog from South Korea, she flew over 11 hours to join our family. She is scared of everything and everyone but she's getting better.
Hye Oh, (Div. 750)



MEET Anubis, he loves attention and the warm weather. Good thing he calls California home and Jackie mom.
Jackie Tao, (Div. 840)

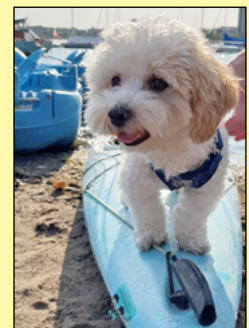


MEET Yuriko, aka Dragon, along with her team, she is ready to defend the universe.
April Weinberg, (Div. 250)

MEET Walt, he a loyal and loving one year old chocolate English Labrador Retriever.
Kevin Schuler, (Div. 880)



MEET Poppy, an adventurous Dog. She likes kayaking, walks on the beach, sunbathing, car rides and so much more.
Paul Paredes, (Div. 830)



MEET Olivia and Reese, who know more keyboard shortcuts than I do. They are lovely, sleepy creatures who have grown accustomed to extra daytime with me working from home.
Marianne Kleine, (Div. 770)