

Support from Water Agencies

Water infrastructure directly affects our public health. When it is working properly, it provides us with safe drinking water and limits the pollution of our local rivers and streams. These entities are responsible for providing safe and reliable water to their customers. SCPFJ feels that now more than ever, communication is vital. Therefore, we have



implemented weekly reach-outs to discuss work flow, projects, and any new measures that these organizations have adopted during this very critical time.

AGENCY UPDATE FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT APRIL 8, 2020

On April 2, 2020, I reached out to Sam Espinoza, Departmental Engineer for Los Angeles County Sanitation District, to let him know that Southern California Partnership for Jobs was interested in how COVID-19 has been affecting their Agency. Communication is KEY in times like this, and SCPFJ wants to ensure that our working relationships are not affected by this Pandemic. Staying connected and displaying affective communication will be how we all get through this together.

Sam was extremely happy to share how LACSD is staying focused through the tough days.

(Q). – How is your workflow, projects, and staffing being affected by the current state of our industry?

(A). - With regard to the Engineering Department at Los Angeles County Sanitation District, the workflow and projects have not been affected. We continue to remain on track with our designs, and our construction projects and are still in progress. Staff is working remotely and was well prepared to do so by having our project management software in the “cloud” along with having a very supportive IT Department. Steps were taken in the last few years to make working during this time possible. This is our first time trying it at a large scale, and it seems to be working very well for us.

(Q). – What does the future look like for the Los Angeles County Sanitation District post COVID-19?

(A). – The future remains bright for our Agency and we are likely going to allow staff to continue working remote provided we remain efficient and on task.

(Q). – How Can Southern California Partnership for Jobs be of help to you and your organization?

(A). – Agencies appreciate what SCPFJ is doing for our industry. Just continue to be our voice for infrastructure investment.

**AGENCY UPDATE FOR
SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
APRIL 8, 2020**

I have had the pleasure of working with San Diego County Water Authority in the past, advocating for their San Vicente Energy Storage Project.

When I reached out to *Gary Bousquet, Deputy Director of Engineering for San Diego County Water Authority*, to ask some questions on how their organization was managing during these trying times, Gary was very appreciative. He sent his well wishes for SCPFJ, and offered the following responses to my questions.

(Q). – How is your workflow, projects, and staffing being affected by the current state of our industry?

(A). – As an essential service provider, we have continued with the construction of five critical projects with private construction firms consistent with local and state regulations, directives, and safety recommendations. As far as our agency operations, staff who can work from home are doing so and other essential field and operational staff are continuing to perform their jobs, again consistent with local and state regulations, directives and safety recommendations.

(Q). – What does the future look like for the San Diego County Water Authority post COVID-19?

(A). – We are looking forward to resuming normal activities as soon as practicable and recommended by local, state and national leadership. In the meantime, we will continue using tele-work strategies to advance Water Authority goals and objectives.

(Q). – How can Southern California Partnership for Jobs be of help to you and your organization?

(A). – As we discussed in the past, we continue to look for opportunities to advance our San Vicente Energy Storage Facility project, which we anticipate will provide 400-500 craft labor jobs during its four-year construction period. The support of SCPFJ to our prior legislative efforts is much appreciated. We will reach out to you in the event new legislation is proposed that may advance this important job-creating project.

"Joint Powers Authority established for the Delta Conveyance Project, but another three years for EIR is probable"

- Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager Metropolitan Water District

More on this conversation with Jeff Kightlinger on Monday