



# Green Matters

Issue 7 | Jan 2015



Kerrie Romanow

## Director's Message

### New Year Ushers in Exciting Projects

The start of a new year is a great time to consider last year's milestones in ESD as well as the coming new challenges.

Looking in the rear view mirror and what's ahead of us, count down with me from three:

Three! Three is for the third year of implementation of our Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Ordinance. We know that the ordinance is reducing litter in our creeks. Between 2012 and 2014, plastic bag litter in our creeks has dropped 73 percent, while use of reusable bags in shopping has increased more than 50 percent. Our bag ban, data, and public education have helped pave the way to a state-wide plastic bag ban. Congratulations!

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- Green Hero



Delivering world-class utility services and programs to improve our health, environment and economy

## CIP Corner

### Biosolids Transition Update, New GIS Tool

By Ashwini Kantak

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I'd like to share some key highlights of the Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as we move into 2015. The team has been working hard on many large projects, including



Aerial view of the Regional Wastewater Facility.

Digester Rehabilitation, Headworks Improvements, and the Cogeneration Facility.

Ten projects are under construction and 11 projects are in various phases of feasibility and design. We're also working to complete 11 programmatic studies and develop a funding strategy for a 10-year CIP.

#### Biosolids Transition

Last November, we held a special Treatment Plant Advisory Committee

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## Water Resources Division

### New Recycled Water Truck Filling Stations Help Save Drinking Water

By Michele Young

RECENT STORMS ARE encouraging but have not erased the four-year severe drought in California. Since the declaration of local emergency drought conditions last August, our South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR) staff have been seeking ways to further offset the use of precious drinking water with expanded recycled water use.

The 12 recycled water access stations along SBWR distribution pipelines — typically reserved for emergency use — gave SBWR staff an idea: If trucks that use water for operations such as dust control at construction sites, street sweeping, or sewer cleanouts could retrofit with the appropriate equipment, they could pull up to these stations and fill up with recycled water.

A first step was to secure approval from the state Department of Drinking



One of seven recycled water filling stations in San José.

Water (DDW), which regulates the uses of recycled water. Permitted trucks can now fill their tanks with recycled water at the unstaffed access locations.

"Until now, DDW had not approved for the use of recycled water in this way, so we worked with them to develop the compliance measures for the unstaffed fill sites at our multiple locations," said SBWR project lead Eric Hansen.

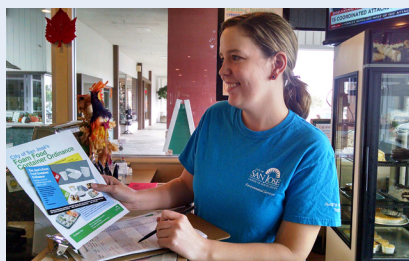
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## Watershed Protection

### Foam Food Ware: A Thing of the Past

The day has finally arrived; the 2013 City Council approved ban on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam food ware is now in effect for all San José restaurants, street vendors, and food trucks. The EPS outreach team, **Paul Ledesma, Liz Neves, Andrea Case, Carolina Camarena, and Emily Kurth**, continued outreach throughout 2014 to help educate restaurants of the impending change. \*

**We need your help:** Please let us know if you spot EPS food ware (also known as Styrofoam) at San José restaurants. Email [greentogo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:greentogo@sanjoseca.gov) or call (408) 975-2586.



Public information representative Emily Kurth provides information to restaurants.



Public information representative Carolina Camarena uses her multilingual skills to share information to restaurants with Spanish-speaking staff and owners.



Unacceptable and acceptable foam food ware.

## Integrated Waste Management

### San José's Commercial Waste Passes Test

By Abigail Shull

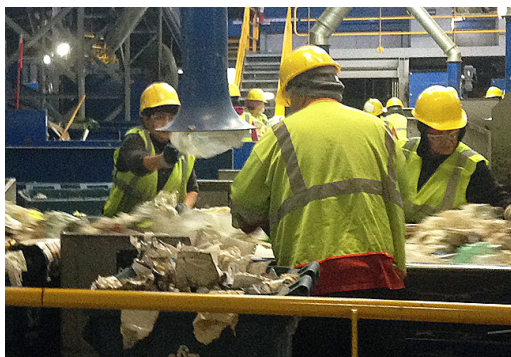
ON A TYPICAL day, commercial waste collected in San José is mixed with waste from Santa Clara County office facilities, VTA, and public schools, and then processed at Newby Island's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

With all that co-mingled waste, how does San José know how it's doing to reach its commercial waste

goals? With a test, of course! On November 15, Republic Services conducted its second biannual test to characterize San José's commercial wet/dry program materials. To ensure the test characterized San José businesses only, Republic rerouted all material from the County, VTA, and public schools.

Overseeing the sorting and weighing of solid waste may not seem like an

**"It's so satisfying to see the strides we're making toward the City's 2020 Green Vision goal of 100 percent waste diverted from the landfill."**



MRF workers sort waste on dry processing line.

enjoyable Saturday activity, but you might be surprised. According to City staff members who attended the event, watching the MRF's seabird abatement team in action is exciting. Several dogs are part of the crew, and they do an adorable and admirable job keeping the birds at bay.

The test's end result is a treat as well. It's so satisfying to see the strides we're making toward the City's 2020 Green Vision goal of 100 percent waste diverted from the landfill. The November test resulted in 78.4 percent material recovery, and will factor into the 2014 diversion equation. What's the ultimate thrill? Seeing us move even closer to zero waste! \*

### Food Scraps Create Energy and Excitement

WHO KNEW food scraps could be such a draw? On November 25, 2014 EPA regional administrator Jared Blumenfeld and former mayor **Chuck Reed** joined **Kerrie Romanow** for a tour of the advanced composting and biogas facility located in San José. The state-of-the-art anaerobic digestion facility, operated by Zero Waste Energy Development (ZWED), is where all of San José's commercial food scraps are converted to renewable energy and compost for local farms. Instead of sending 90,000 tons of this precious material to the landfill, we can let the ZWED facility use it to produce 1.6 megawatts of energy! \*



ZWED staff showing EPA regional administrator Jared Blumenfeld (second from left) and ESD director Kerrie Romanow (fourth from left) compost from commercial food waste.



Tour participants looking into one of the digesters at the ZWED Facility.

## CIP Corner

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(TPAC) session on the Biosolids Transition project. The committee recommended implementing temperature-phased anaerobic digestion as part of the Digester and Thickener Facilities Upgrade project and deferring the Thermal Drying Facility and Greenhouse Demonstration projects. TPAC also recommended

postponing the Digested Sludge Dewatering Facility project until fall 2015, when the Odor and Corrosion Control Study will be completed. Our City Council agreed with a majority of the recommendations from TPAC, but asked staff to return in spring 2015, when odor and cost information specific to the Biosolids Transition project will be available.

### GIS Application on the CIP Portal

The CIP team now can access the Map Viewer geographical information system (GIS) application on the CIP Portal, as can users on the City network. This application gives team members direct, easy access to geographical information for answers to questions such as whether the project boundary is next to sensitive habitat or where utility lines are located. With geographical data at

their fingertips, the project team can make informed decisions in a timely manner.

**“Our City Council agreed with a majority of the recommendations from TPAC, but asked staff to return in spring 2015, when odor and cost information specific to the Biosolids Transition project will be available.”**

that are available include:

- Existing and proposed project boundaries
- Planned utilities and pipelines
- Environmental layers showing wetlands
  - City bombing range
  - Burrowing owl preserve
  - Process streams
  - Piping systems and their associated isolation valves
  - Manholes and fittings
  - Photos

Users may select the layers to display visually and then print the map as shown on the computer screen. The Map Viewer will be updated monthly to make sure that all of the data is current and relevant. Additional layers will be added in the future based on user feedback. ★

The CIP team developed the Map Viewer application in coordination with the RWF's GIS team, using GIS, database, and web technologies. The application contains an interactive map, similar to Google Earth, showing the GIS layers relevant to the CIP Program. Layers

*Rebuilding the Regional Wastewater Facility is among the largest public works construction project in the Bay Area; learn more at [www.sjenvironment.org/rwf](http://www.sjenvironment.org/rwf).*



Ashwini Kantak



Geographical Information System (GIS) Map Viewer.

## City Council Recognizes Local School for Recycling Excellence

By Carolina Camarena

In December, the Harker School in San José received a Council commendation for quadrupling their recycling rate from 15 percent to almost 70 percent after the implementation of the Wet/Dry Collection Program in 2012. The increase was largely due to the involvement of more than 2,500 students and school-wide staff. And how do you explain the Wet/Dry program to children? Harker's preschoolers say it best - "Things a snail can eat go in the wet," and "things a snail can't eat go in the dry." ★



Harker School students helping with the wet/dry recycling system.

## Out & About

### Safe and Green Halloween

By Diana Mullenix

**R**EDUCE, REUSE, AND recycle was the motto at the eighth annual Safe and Green Halloween event, held on October 24, 2014 at McKinley Elementary School in the Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace neighborhood of downtown San José.

The event drew nearly 800 attendees, the largest Safe and Green Halloween event yet. Children from local schools joined in a recycled costume contest and parade, showing off costumes made from materials such as newsprint, magazines,

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# Water Truck Filling Stations

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In order to comply with state permit requirements, SBWR staff will coordinate with the retailers to implement their truck fill plans, including certification for

water trucks, drivers, and site managers to use recycled water.

All of the 12 SBWR truck fill sites are now permitted, with seven in San Jose ready for operation. Five sites are available in Milpitas, and the City of Santa Clara is considering adding a site to their retail service area this year.

SBWR, is San José's recycled water

wholesaler, serving the cities of San José, Santa Clara and Milpitas, through retailers who deliver recycled water for approved uses including commercial and civic irrigation; industrial cooling towers; flushing toilets in dual-plumbed commercial buildings; and now, water truck uses. ★

## Integrated Waste Management

# San José hosts successful Renewable Energy from Waste Conference

By Stephanie Molloy

**M**OST PEOPLE THINK of waste as something to be thrown away. But there's a hidden value in the waste stream, and that's renewable energy. Converting waste into energy and fuel was the focus of a three-day conference in November 2014, hosted by the City of San José.

San José was chosen as the conference location because of the City's approach to integrated waste management, which has helped triple its commercial recycling rate, and incorporates dry-fermentation anaerobic digestion to generate electricity. "San José's Environmental Services Department was both honored and excited to serve as the host community for the conference," said IWM deputy director **Jo Zientek**. "The Renewable Energy from Waste (REW) Conference facilitates the information exchange that

helps the waste management community learn from each other and become more successful in our endeavors."

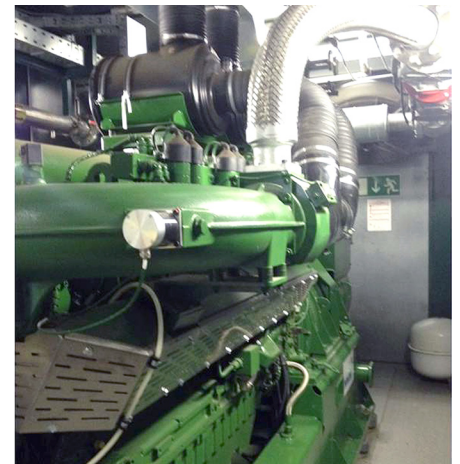
During the session "A City with a Vision: How San José Made Waste to Energy a Reality," supervising

environmental services specialist **Stephanie Molloy** described the transition to San José's new commercial waste system and explained how the

City successfully brought the world's largest anaerobic digestion facility here.

In the future, REW technology could play a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and U.S. dependence on fossil fuels. It also has the potential to create local jobs and bring economic benefits. American cities and towns currently send about 248 million tons of

**"Every ton of municipal solid waste processed into energy avoids the equivalent energy production of mining one-third ton of coal or importing one barrel of oil."**



Combined heat & power unit at the ZWED AD Facility, which generates heat and electricity from biogas.

waste to landfills each year, so there is significant potential to increase energy production from waste throughout the country. Every ton of municipal solid waste processed into energy avoids the equivalent energy production of mining one-third ton of coal or importing one barrel of oil.

The intimate size of the conference (about 200 attendees) allowed for dynamic strategic panel discussions.

Topics included understanding financial avenues for waste conversion projects, strategies for gaining public and political support, utilizing public/private partnerships, corporate achievements in waste conversion, and leading-edge research projects. Attendees also had the opportunity to tour Newby Island Resource Recovery Park and the ZWED anaerobic digestion facility. ★

## Safety Winners

### NOVEMBER WINNERS

Joann Douglas, Victoria Ribbs, Alfonso Cisneros (not pictured)

Do you know a co-worker who exemplifies safety awareness? Go to the ESD intranet for a nomination form. One winner is chosen monthly for each ESD location (Muni, City Hall and Regional Wastewater Facility).

Got safety questions or comments? Contact an ESD Safety Officer:

City Hall / Muni: Kaci Wong, 408-975-2593  
Facility: Richard Whaley, 408-945-5131

### DECEMBER WINNERS

#### CITY HALL



Steven Hildebrand

#### RWF



Jimmy Collishaw

#### MUNI



Darwin Lasat

# Forging New Partnerships with Local Universities

By Lauren Romanazzi

**E**SD STAFF MEMBERS are expanding their leadership abilities and sharing their passion for the environment with the university community. In December 2014, staff from the Integrated Waste Management (IWM) and Watershed divisions attended final student presentations for San José State University's Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISE) Senior Design Projects. The presentations were the culmination



IWM staff collaborates with staff and students from the SJSU ISE projects.

of a semester-long partnership between ISE students and ESD.

Each ISE project provides an opportunity for a small team of senior bachelor's degree students to study, evaluate, and recommend strategies to reduce costs, improve quality, and provide improved information and control of ESD operations. Previous ESD projects with this class have included evaluating Watershed's laboratory inventorying processes and plastic bag monitoring methodology and data.

These partnerships benefit both the students and ESD. "The students do great work that helps us," said IWM deputy director **Jo Zientek**. "At the same time, they have a meaningful service-learning opportunity and a chance to consider future careers in public service."

"These partnerships benefit both the students and ESD. The students do great work that helps us. At the same time, they have a meaningful service-learning opportunity and a chance to consider future careers in public service."

~ Jo Zientek, IWM deputy director

Throughout the fall 2014 semester, ESD employees **Lauren Romanazzi** (assistant environmental services specialist, or ESS), **Jerry Nelson** (associate ESS), **Cecilia Rios** (supervising ESS), **Andrea Case** (ESS), and **Liz Neves** (ESS) served as sponsors for two ISE student teams performing data analysis, one on the Residential Street Sweeping program, and the other on trash hot spots along creeks. The street sweeping project team used advanced Excel functionality to deduce a mismatch rate of 8 percent, and recommended that staff conduct an annual acceptance sample to determine whether the dataset should be rejected and updated. ISE teaching staff appreciates ESD's involvement in their program and encourages additional project ideas for upcoming semesters.

In a separate university-related project in November 2014, Jo and **Abigail Shull**, (associate ESS), presented and teleconferenced with Stanford University's International Urbanism course participants, including professors and students in Beijing, China. They introduced San José's Zero Waste goals and projects for a requested presentation on municipal waste. IWM is partnering again with

Stanford in winter 2015 as part of the Sustainable Cities course. **Alana Rivadeneira**, associate ESS, prepared a proposal that was accepted for student assistance examining the HHW program and creating community engagement strategies to increase

participation in underserved San José neighborhoods. The impact of this university partnership is expected to increase HHW appointments and reduce household hazardous waste (HHW) pollutants in the environment. ★



Abigail Shull (first from left) and Jo Zientek (second from left) share waste management strides and strategies with Stanford University's International Urbanism class with Beijing, China by teleconferencing.

## Helping Out

### #Stormageddon Response

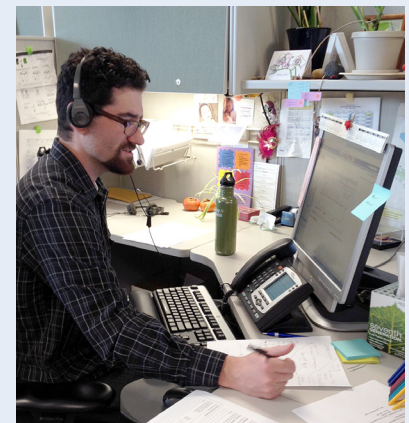
**T**he Bay Area storm on December 11 wreaked havoc and caused flooding and downed trees. Alviso — near sea level — experienced mild flooding. In response to this and the threat of severe flooding, the City Manager's Office activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). **Cheryl Wessling** and **Emily Kurth** from ESD's Communications Division, reported to the EOC to assist with emergency public information efforts. Citywide, communication staff are members of the City's Emergency Public Information Officials team, and participate in emergency communication trainings and drills throughout the year. ★



Lenka Wright (left), assistant director of communications, leads the City's EOC Communications team during #stormageddon.

### Call Center Coverage

**I**ntegrated Waste Management staff gave City Hall call center staff a much needed reprieve to attend an IT Department team-building event during the afternoon of December 12th. The IWM staff used their expertise to answer garbage and recycling related calls. Thanks to **Junko Vroman**, **Hahuy Trinh**, **Jon Gire**, **Cecilia Rios**, **Teresa Curiel**, **Diana Mullenieux**, **Harjinder Mavi**, and **Tony Cravens** for helping out! ★



Jon Gire, residential services specialist, takes a call.

## A Bright Idea – Proper Disposal of Fluorescent and CFL Light Bulbs

By Jennifer Seguin

**B**ECAUSE YOU WORK for ESD, friends and family may ask you about proper handling and disposal of various items. Do you know what to tell them about broken fluorescent light bulbs?

Watershed pollution prevention manager **Jennifer Seguin** learned the proper procedure recently as she was replacing a broken compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) in her bathroom. “I knew that the bulbs contained mercury, but did not know exactly what to do when one breaks,” said Jennifer.

Mercury, which is present in both fluorescent and CFL bulbs, is a potent nerve toxin and persistent pollutant. When mercury escapes into the environment, it is transported by air, rain, or runoff and is deposited in our creeks and bay.

That’s why, in addition to disposing of the bulb and its broken pieces as household hazardous waste, you also need to make sure the mercury does not

become vaporized into the air where people and pets can breathe it.

Take this little quiz:

When a CFL breaks in your home, the most important thing to do is:

- A. Vacuum the broken glass and debris.
- B. Air out the room for five to 10 minutes.
- C. Both A and B

The answer is B, and do not vacuum!

Instead, use tape to clean up small glass shards. Then, put the tape and all other parts of the bulb into a glass jar with a metal lid, or a sealable plastic bag. Dispose of the bag or jar and its contents as household hazardous waste.

Most hardware stores accept bulbs for recycling, broken or not. Find a complete list of locations on the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Recycling and Disposal web site:

Municipal Utility District’s training center. That’s where BAYWORK, a collaborative of Bay Area water and wastewater utilities, offered a menu of 11 different training classes to nearly 100 water and wastewater employees from different agencies. Classes were taught by industry professionals as part of BAYWORK’s mission to ensure workforce reliability.

Class topics included regulations, workers’ compensation, Myers-Briggs® personality assessments, customized technical training, succession planning, safety and stress management in the workplace, and more. RWF compliance manager **Jim Ervin** taught a class on compliance, and was acknowledged for his significant contributions to BAYWORK’S staff preparedness efforts.

For more information about BAYWORK and future trainings, visit <http://www.baywork.org>. ★



Jennifer Seguin with CFL Light Bulbs.

[www.sccgov.org](http://www.sccgov.org). You can also make an appointment to take the bulbs to your local HHW Recycling and Disposal site by visiting [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org) or calling 408-299-3700. ★

## Regional Wastewater Facility

### BAYWORK’s Training Buffet

**W**E’VE HEARD OF all-you-can-eat buffets, but what’s a “training buffet?” Several Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF) employees found out on November 19 at East Bay



Jim Ervin, compliance manager in the Sustainability & Compliance Division, teaches a compliance class at the BAYWORK Training Buffet.

## ESD’s “Santa Visits Alviso” Tradition Continues

By Carolina Camarena

**E**SD employees donated nearly 80 new books to our RWF neighbors in Alviso. In addition to the books, bookmarks were distributed to encourage families to learn what is and is not recyclable at the Santa Visits Alviso event, staff promote environmental stewardship. Staff technician **Monica Perras** says about the event, “One of my favorite things is encouraging future generations to learn about the environment.” ★



Monica Perras, staff technician, handing out bookmarks during the “Santa Visits Alviso” event.

## Holiday

# Second Annual Environmental Alley Shows the Way to Santa's Good List

By Amanda Orozco

**B**UILDING ON ITS inaugural success last year, the Environmental Alley made a second appearance at Christmas in the Park (CITP) in downtown San José in December 2014. A partnership between ESD, GreenTeam, Green Waste, and California Waste Solutions, the alley featured exhibits of Santa's elves and children from around the world saving resources and reducing waste during the holidays. The simple steps shown –



Doll exhibit shows children from around the world taking simple steps to save resources and reduce waste during the holidays.

steps that get people onto Santa's Good List— hit the mark with visitors of all ages.

Adding to the fun, guests who participated in the Santa Goes Green contest were entered into a drawing to win bicycles, Downtown Ice passes, Winter Wonderland tickets, or an invitation to a San Jose Sharks game, courtesy of the San Jose Downtown Association, Butler Amusements, and SAP Arena. The contest encouraged people to be environmentally friendly during the holidays, and asked them to follow SJEnvironment Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

**“The bike giveaway is our gift to the community, and ensures kids have new bikes for Christmas.”**

~Weslie McConkey, GreenTeam

San José's Environmental Alley Bike Giveaway awarded children new bicycles and safety helmets for pledging to take green actions during the holidays. The event coordinated by ESD communications staff **Ed Bautista, Amanda Orozco, Carolina Camarena, Eloisa Tan, and Janet Hayes**, and presented by GreenTeam of San José, featured more than 50 bicycles donated by GreenTeam



A girl and her grandmother celebrate their new bike and safety helmet at the San José Environmental Alley Bike Giveaway.

as part of its annual holiday giving campaign.

“The bike giveaway is our gift to the community, and ensures kids have new bikes for Christmas,” said GreenTeam's **Weslie McConkey**. All children who attended the event received a toy from CITP, so there were holiday smiles for everyone.

According to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), American households generate about one million extra tons of waste each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. ESD and its partners created the Environmental Alley in 2013 to raise awareness of this fact, gaining international attention for a holiday display that changes behavior— with fun. ★

## Holidays Go Green at the Libraries

By Lauren Romanazzi

**G**REEN WAS THE primary holiday color in November and December 2014 as ESD staff members and Recycle Plus haulers participated in San José Public Library's Green Gift Workshops. Twelve workshops were held at libraries throughout San José, helping community members use recycled materials to make green gifts and get on the “good” list for being green during the holidays. Recycle Plus residential haulers enthusiastically participated and helped spread zero waste messaging for the holidays. ★



GreenWaste and GreenTeam hauler representatives show a resident how to create green holiday gifts using recycled paper and fabrics.

## Turkey Pardon



City staff sitting down for a vegetarian Thanksgiving lunch.

**T**his year, City staff had their own version of the Presidential Turkey Pardon. Staff shared a delicious potluck lunch during the 16th Annual Vegetarian Thanksgiving! Traditional fare such as stuffing and mashed potatoes made an appearance, along with new, festive dishes including kabocha squash soup and vegan quinoa salad. Yum! ★

## ESD + SJSU Football Partnership = Green

Spartan Stadium turned green and Spartan football fans became zero waste tailgaters during this year's football season. ESD partnered with Spartan Athletics to bring the Spartan Up Your Environment campaign to San Jose State



Watershed protection deputy director Napp Fukuda (second from right) receives a certificate of appreciation from SJSU.

University football. It was an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage environmental behaviors that ultimately reduce waste and prevent pollution.

A huge component of the program was the Zero Waste Tailgate. Utilizing resources in Integrated Waste Management and developing an innovative partnership with SJSU Athletics and the SJSU Environmental Resource Center, a student ambassador program was developed. During the home games, students roamed the tailgate area encouraging tailgaters to adopt zero waste practices and providing other green tips.

In the end, the partnership reached more than 75,000 fans in the stadium, 380 tailgaters, and diverted about 65 percent of trash (utilizing SJSU's existing two-stream process in place), an increase of more than 20 percent from previous years! ★

## On the Move

November 8, 2014 - January 17, 2015

### Movin' In

Welcome!

#### RWF

- **Eric Hovland**, Wastewater Attendant
- **Jaime Garcia**, Wastewater Attendant
- **Joaquin Garcia**, Wastewater Attendant
- **John Layman**, Air Conditioning Mechanic
- **Richard Torres**, Industrial Electrician
- **Scott Katric**, Associate Engineer

#### SCD

- **Nicholas Davis**, Graduate Student Intern

### Movin' Up

Congrats!

#### ASD

- **Elsie Irahata**, Analyst I

#### WSP

- **TinTin Myint**, Environmental Inspector II

### Movin' Around

- **Andrew Lehan**, Senior Construction Inspector
- **Cheryl Wessling**, Senior Public Information Representative
- **Eileen Beaudry**, Environmental Services Specialist

### Movin' On

#### Retiring

- **Clark Machamer**, Senior Engineering Technician
- **Lisa Turner**, Analyst II
- **Roberto Gutierrez**, Wastewater Senior Mechanic

#### Heading to New Endeavors

- **Gregory Missman**, Wastewater Attendant
- **Kristen Yasukawa**, Public Information Representative II
- **Neli Avramova**, Graduate Student Intern

Thank you and good luck!

#### ESD's Alphabet Soup

ASD - Administrative Services Division  
CommDiv - Communications Division  
IWM - Integrated Waste Management  
SCD - Sustainability & Compliance Division  
RWF - Regional Wastewater Facility  
WRD - Water Resources Division  
WSP - Watershed Protection Division  
ESS - Environmental Services Specialist

## Getting New Staff on the Network

By Scott Martin

How do you get a new employee set up on the City network?

It's easy! At least five days before the employee's first day at work, simply provide the following information to Management Information Systems (MIS) via ESD's 11 helpdesk (<http://mis-helpdesk>):

- Full name
- Workgroup
- Start Date
- Viscode (if an email account is needed)
- Employment Status. If the employee is

NOT full-time, provide the estimated end date of service/contract/internship

- Any special groups/mailling lists of which the new staff should be a member (let

us know if the new hire should be set up like an existing staff person)

If a new computer is needed, please allow 10-20 business days for the purchasing process; otherwise, let us know which existing computer will be assigned.

If your new hire will require remote access, a completed Remote Access Authorization form (<http://www.sjcity.net/DocumentCenter/View/131>) must be submitted to MIS. Please allow five to 10 business days for the IT Department to process this form.

Questions? Please email MIS and we'll be happy to help! ★

## Safe and Green Halloween

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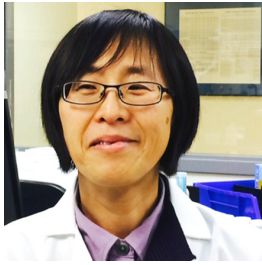
and cardboard. Additional popular attractions included Garden City Sanitation's residential garbage truck and two Green Heroes, "Watershed Warrior" and California Waste Solution's "Curby."

Cecilia Rios, Lauren Romanazzi, Diana Mullenix, Jeff Sinclair, Paul J. Gonzalez, Bryan Apple, and Matthew Vu from ESD were on hand to educate participants about the benefits of recycling, watershed protection, sustainability and Zero Waste. ★



Watershed Warrior (Paul J. Gonzales) poses with Teresa Montgomery and mascot, "Curby" from Garden City Sanitation.

# Employee Spotlights



**Yanru Yang, Microbiologist, Watershed Protection Division, Laboratory**

Yanru joined the ESD Laboratory in fall 2014, coming from the East Bay Municipal Utility District, where she had worked since 2008 as a research microbiologist. Yanru holds a doctorate in Environmental Engineering from

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, with an additional three years of postdoctoral training in Environmental Engineering from Stanford University. At the ESD Laboratory, she supports the Wastewater Facility's operations as a microbiologist, trains new staff, and maintains the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certification. In her free time, Yanru enjoys reading, baking desserts, and spending time with her daughter.

*Favorite Spot to hang out?* "Barnes and Nobles Bookstore."



**Lily Zhu, Senior Engineer, Regional Wastewater Facility – CIP Team**

Lily has been with ESD since August 2014. Prior to joining the City, Lily worked for Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. Currently, she is working as a project manager for the Biosolids Feasibility Study and Iron Salt Feed Station projects at the Wastewater

Facility. Lily received a master's degree in Civil Engineering from Cleveland State University and is a Registered Professional Engineer (Civil) in the states of California and Washington. When she's not working, Lily enjoys hiking, gardening, and playing piano.

*Favorite spot to hang out?* "My back yard, because it's fun to work in the garden and plant something new."

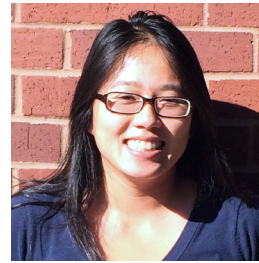


**Anne Hansen, Environmental Services Specialist, Integrated Waste Management Division**

Anne started with ESD in September 2014, after moving to San José from the Washington, D.C. area. Before moving here, she worked as a federal contractor for Versar, Inc., performing stormwater inspections, peer reviews, and working

on remediation projects. In her current role, she conducts outreach for the City's Zero Waste Initiative. Anne received a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy, as well as a bachelor's degree in Biology from George Mason University. During her research, Anne was also certified as a scientific diver. Away from the office, Anne enjoys hiking, biking, swimming, music, eating, drinking coffee, reading, and playing board games.

*Favorite spot to hang out?* "Lately, the Alviso salt flats because it is convenient to bike to from my apartment; it's also peaceful and scenic."



**Tina Pham, P.E. Associate Engineer, Water Resources Division**

Tina began her position with ESD in January 2014. Previously, she worked as an environmental engineer/consultant for CDM Smith, Inc., and CRA (now GHD). Her projects at ESD focus on long-term water supply planning, hydraulic

modeling, asset management systems, and assistance to the Operations and Maintenance Unit on technology enhancements. Tina received a master's degree in Environmental Engineering at Stanford University. In her free time Tina enjoys hiking, watching football, volunteering for Engineers without Borders, listening to podcasts, and "trying" to cook.

*My favorite spot to hang out?* "Anywhere I can share good food with friends/family because I have an insatiable tummy."

## Green Hero

### Arleen, Green Hero of the Year

Meet **Arleen Arimura**. She did not drive her car to work once in all of 2014—that's green commitment! Instead, the outreach representative improved her own health and the health of the environment by riding her bike or taking public transportation. "I don't worry about trying to squeeze an extra 15 minutes into my day," said Arleen. "It seems like there is so much traffic, and I like being one less car on the road, so people who

do need to drive can get where they need to go more quickly." Most days she rides her bike for the five-mile, 30-minute commute to City Hall. On rainy days, she takes the bus and enjoys not having to drive in the rain. Arleen is extending her carless streak into 2015, and hopes other people might join her and consider alternative modes of transport. Thanks for leading the way, Arleen!

What kind of environmental actions have you taken this year? Let us know so we can feature your Green Hero story on ESD's social media pages. Contact Emily Kurth at [Emily.kurth@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Emily.kurth@sanjoseca.gov). ★



Arleen Arimura rides on one of the city's bike lanes.

## Director's Message

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Two! Two is for the second year of the Foam Food Container Ordinance. January marked the start of the ordinance going into effect for small restaurants and street vendors; implemented last year, this ordinance affected only multi-state restaurants, now it's all restaurants and food vendors in San José.

One! One is for the recently launched recycled water filling station program. Inspired to conserve precious drinking water, staff in South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR) implemented a program that expands the use of recycled water—without building more pipe. Thinking “outside the box,” they looked at how to make recycled water available from a dozen or so recycled water filling stations. This program will save a lot of drinking water.

With the new year we have a new mayor. One of Mayor Sam Liccardo's priorities is securing a more stable water supply for San José, as the severe drought has threatened our quality of life, economy, and environment. The Santa Clara Valley Water District's Silicon Valley Water Purification Center uses tertiary water treated by the Regional Wastewater Facility, then cleans it further. This year, we'll continue our partnership with the Water District to explore next steps that can be taken with the very clean water produced by the Water

Purification Center demonstration project.

This year also ushers in the transition to paying for garbage and recycling services in San José on the county property tax bill. I commend the stellar interdepartmental team that has been working on this transition. Streamlining from a six bi-monthly city-run billing system to two payments on the property tax billing saves money and simplifies payments for our customers.

Another committed group to customer service is our Water Resources Division

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**“This year, we'll continue our partnership with the Water District to explore next steps that can be taken with the very clean water produced by the Water Purification Center demonstration project.”**

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team. When a water main broke open near the Villages community in November, our Muni Water crew sprung into action. I was at the site and saw excellent teamwork; they quickly fixed the broken main and ensured that Muni Water customers did not have interrupted service. Good work Muni Water team!

Your commitment to excellence and the positive environment that you all create is why we are seeing a higher retention rate. ESD had a 5 percent decrease in its vacancy rate, from 19 percent in 2013 to 14 percent in 2014. Thank you for contributing to and continually improving our workplace!

Satisfaction in the workplace and employee engagement is a high priority for our city. I'm delighted to be part of the Workforce Engagement project. Hopefully, you participated in the Workforce Engagement survey sent out by Gallup. The information derived from the survey will help us create strategies for improving teams and work environments. We can expect that an enhanced workplace will also lead to better customer experiences and successful projects.

It's an exciting time, so let's roll up our sleeves, and start the new year with a bang!

*Kerrie*

*My new year's resolution is to slow it down at home, and savor precious moments with my family. What's yours? Follow me on Twitter @sjenvironment*

## Award

### ASD Star Award



*Corsina Trevias (left) gives Lillian Nguyen the ASD Star Award.*

OBSERVING THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES division's (ASD) quarterly tradition, senior accountant **Corsina Trevias** presented senior accountant **Lillian Nguyen** with the ASD peer-to-peer Shining Star Award during ASD's holiday gathering in December. As Corsina said in her speech, “Lillian is recognized for her focus on upholding the strong work ethic that is vital to achieving the goals of the organization. Lillian is a great resource and is always willing to answer questions and share historical information related to the Facility. Her strong sense of responsibility is always demonstrated in her best effort to complete projects to the best of her ability.

She displays a high level of dedication to the organization, always ensuring she delivers quality work.” Congratulations, Lillian! ✨

### Got articles? Photos? We want them!

We welcome authors of articles, correspondents who cover events, and photographers who capture fun or newsworthy pictures.

Next deadline: **March 13, 2015**  
Submit to [jennie.loft@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:jennie.loft@sanjoseca.gov)



### Newsletter Team

Eloisa Tan, Jennie Loft, and Emily Kurth