

Delta Diablo Antioch, California

I. Respondent:

Amanda Roa, Environmental Compliance Engineer

II. Treatment Plant Characteristics:

- Wastewater Collections, treatment, and recycling
- 200,000 people served
- 69 employees

III. Innovation:

A. Description

Delta Diablo is undergoing efforts to become a water resources utility of the future and continue the industry paradigm shift from treating wastewater to managing valuable resources.

B. Type of Innovations

- Increased use of Information Technology
- New treatment process
- Optimization of existing resources
- Inter-agency agreements or other administrative changes
- New approach to documentation, technical training, staff development, or knowledge management
- Optimization of existing resources

C. Motivation for Innovations

Management directive and new mission and vision statements

D. Barriers/Challenges

Challenges included staff buy-in, resource issues, and workload prioritization

E. Benefits

It is still early in the process, but potential benefits include renewed energy and creativity from staff, energy savings, increased revenues, lower greenhouse gas emissions, cost-savings, and other community and environmental benefits.

F. Effect on Staff Training

In order to successfully transition to a utility of the future, staff will have to be trained on the triple bottom line and learn how to factor in non-monetary benefits into decision-making.

G. Lessons Learned

This is a continuous process so there is no strict beginning or end, but as with almost everything, clear communication of goals and expectations is paramount.

IV. Drought Response:

Delta Diablo is always looking to expand recycled water usage, even before the drought. The drought has made additional low-cost money available for projects, but hasn't changed our pursuit of recycled water projects per se.

V. Information Sharing:

- Willing to host on-site tour
- Willing for staff member from other utility to conduct a follow-up visit to learn more about innovations
- Willing for staff member from another water/wastewater utility to conduct a follow-up visit
- Interested in learning more about on-line forums

Contact:

Amanda Roa

For tour and follow-up information, contact Amanda Roa or Dean Eckerson,