

City of Stockton

Delta Water Treatment Plant

Stockton, California

I. Respondent and Presenter:

Eric Houston, Chief Plant Operator

II. Treatment Plant Characteristics:

- Water Treatment Plant
- 20 employees
- 150,000 customers served
- Membrane Drinking Water Treatment

III. Innovation:

A. Description

Advanced Automation and programming leading to a more standard operational approach

B. Type of Innovations

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

C. Motivation for Innovations

The need for future growth and reliability of its own drinking water treatment process. Solidify existing water rights.

D. Barriers/Challenges

- Economic downturn and a large-scale project.
- Regulatory requirements and employee hiring and longevity.
- Public perception and buy-in for an expensive project.

E. What are the Benefits?

Staff motivation – highly-skilled larger pool of staff to cover shifts at each plant.

F. Effect on Staff Training

Control over the finished water quality. Improved ability to meet regulatory requirements, improved taste and odor, and the ability to work for the future with contracted water providers in a manner that best represents the community.

G. Staff Training Needs

The staff turnover led to a complete retraining of new individuals. The training plans and documents were helpful in getting good training and building to a more successful future.

H. Lessons Learned

The importance of seeing a project as more than a start and finish. Planning what will be needed following project completion for long term success.

DROUGHT-RESPONSE

Currently the agency has done outreach programs to teach about conservation and utilized surface water while holding groundwater in reserve. Additionally, groundwater recharge has been practiced between Woodbridge Irrigation District and the City of Stockton.