



# RGW Construction, Inc.

## RGW Builds Deuel Vocational Institute Wastewater Treatment Plant from the ground water up

In 2005, RGW Construction expanded its operations to include a wastewater treatment plant division, and hired Steve Haslam as operations manager. Steve came to RGW with more than 20 years of experience in water/wastewater treatment plant construction.

This November, after several projects modifying existing plants, Steve and his team will be putting the finishing touches on what is RGW's first complete wastewater treatment construction project.

An engineering feat of high-tech design, the new Deuel Vocational Institute Wastewater Treatment Plant in Tracy, promises to improve the quality of the facility's treated water, which discharges into a neighboring irrigation canal and eventually the Central Valley Delta, and increase the capacity of the flow.

The Deuel Vocational Institute, established by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in 1953, processes prisoners from 19 Northern California



**Ultraviolet disinfection piping.**

county jails and has general population housing for more than 3,700 inmates.

Treated wastewater, "effluent," is regulated by state laws. In 2005, because DVI's existing wastewater treatment plant was not meeting California's discharge standards, the CDCR was ordered to build a new plant.

In July 2007, the CDCR awarded RGW Construction

the contract, valued at \$28 million, to build a new wastewater treatment plant. Directing RGW's first entirely new plant project are Operations Manager for Plant Division Steve Haslam and Project Manager Fraser Bradford.

Unlike most of the heavy civil engineering construction projects RGW is so well known for, wastewater treatment plant work

involves constructing, installing, and piecing together a complicated mechanical system of hundreds of movable parts that must all work together to treat wastewater more effectively and efficiently, and within state guidelines.

"This is an entirely new plant," says Steve. "We're tapping into the existing sewer pipes that come

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# Deuel Vocational Institute

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE** out of the prison, but everything beyond that connection is brand new.”

Designed by Carollo Engineers, a Portland-based environmental engineering firm specializing in the planning, design, and construction of water and wastewater facilities, the DVI Wastewater Treatment Plant project is a major accomplishment for RGW, expanding its scope of construction services and positioning the company firmly and favorably on the waterworks construction landscape.

Joining Steve and Fraser at the DVI job are Assistant Manager Phillip Bertsch; Superintendent Robert Nelson; Mechanical Engi-

neer Rick Basubas; Project Engineer Jeff Marland; Office Manager Annette Perez, Mechanical Foreman Tim Nelson, Structural Foreman Phil Hill, and between 25 and 30 hard-working crew members.

## Recovering from delays

“The biggest challenges we’ve faced have been the delays by the state,” says Steve. The delays include a four-month shut down due to the state’s budget crisis and another four-month delay dealing with ground water.

Crews began the job by excavating 20 feet below grade for the foundation. Ground water in that location is at five feet below grade, “so we set up an elaborate dewatering



**Underslab piping at membrane building slab with the aeration basin in the background.**

system, pumping an average of one million gallons of water a day into the storm drain system, per the contract.” The state would not allow the prison to pump the ground water into the canal, requiring the CDCR to direct RGW to install a \$1.5 million temporary treatment and disposal system.

The delay lasted four months, but crews quickly recovered and got back to the task at hand.

The new plant is located in a 100-year flood zone, so crews hauled in 61,000 cubic yards of imported fill material to compact into a 20-foot hill upon which the plant sits. “Now, if there is a catastrophic flood, the treatment plant will continue to operate,” says Steve.

## Complex engineering

Wastewater from the prison first flows into a new headworks pump station. Built 18 feet below existing grade, this is a complicated structure with multiple levels including a deep sump, main slab,

upper deck, and a plastic lining to protect the concrete from the highly caustic gases naturally released from raw sewage. The wastewater then flows through bar screens and finer mesh screens to remove any solids.

Next is the aeration basin, then a membrane treatment system inside stainless steel tanks, the size of shipping containers.

In place of conventional bleach or chlorine, the new DVI plant uses high-intensity ultra-violet rays, UV disinfection, to kill the remaining harmful pollutants and bacteria. Though it consumes a great deal of electricity, UV disinfection is environmentally friendly and is the final step in the treatment process. Steve estimates 18 to 24 hours for the flow to make its way through the process.

“The whole plant is extremely sophisticated and high-tech, by Carollo’s design,” says Steve.

Crews poured a total of 5,100 cubic yards of

## WAY TO GO RGW!

**By Bill Stewart  
President**

Two of our projects and project teams distinguished themselves by winning the coveted American Public Works Association, South Bay Chapter, 2009 Project of the Year, and the 2009 California Transportation Foundation Interchange of the Year awards.

Congratulations to all of you: the estimators who bid and secured the work; the project teams who planned, managed, and built the projects; the equipment department and yard for service and support; accounting for keeping track of the finances; dispatch for coordinating deployment of our resources; and our collective safety effort.

Together we create synergy. We are greater than the sum of our parts. These awards reflect that. Keep up the great work!

### Award projects:

**Grant Line Road/Highway 99 Interchange, City of Elk Grove:** 2009 California Transportation Foundation Interchange of the Year.

**Route 152/156 Interchange, SCVTA, Hollister:** American Public Works Association South Bay Chapter, 2009 Project of the Year.



# RGW On Location

## State Route 65/Sunset Boulevard Interchange Rocklin

**Owner:** County of Placer  
**Area Manager:** Noah Lowry  
**Project Manager:** Jake Lewon  
**Superintendents:** Dave Anderson/Todd Jorgensen  
**Project Engineer:** Chris Boniface/Ron Hicks  
**Office Manager:** Rhonda Bandemer  
**Job Cost Manager:** Angie Melnikoff  
**Start Date:** January 2009  
**Estimated Completion Date:** 300 working days

The project is replacing the current at-grade signalized intersection with a grade-separated partial cloverleaf interchange with a six-lane over-crossing at Sunset Boulevard and Route 65. This project will eliminate the last signalized intersection on State Route 65 between Interstate 80 and the city of Lincoln. The project will also allow for the future expansion of Route 65 to eight lanes with auxiliary lanes.

## Route 280 from Cypress Over-crossing to Tantau Over-crossing

**San Jose/Cupertino, Santa Clara County**  
**Owner:** Caltrans  
**Area Manager:** Johnathon Sim  
**Superintendent:** Tom Minghetti  
**Project Engineer:** Brian Ashford  
**Office Manager:** Michele Martinez  
**Job Cost Manager:** Nancy Yates  
**Start Date:** June 2009  
**Estimated Completion Date:** 50 working days

The project consists of existing concrete slab and approach slab replacement, ramp widening, minor structure improvements (joint seal/clean bridge deck), drainage modifications and PCC grinding.

The first phase of this highway work was from Route 87 to Cypress (a project we completed last year) — approximately five miles long. This phase is approximately two miles.

## Deuel Vocational Institute

structural concrete, and laid 10,500 lineal feet of underground ductile iron, welded steel, plastic, double-contained chemical piping, and high density polyethylene pipe. Additionally, crews installed above ground pipe used throughout the plant for various portions of the treatment process, including carbon steel, stainless steel, ductile iron, galvanized steel, and copper.

With teamwork, ingenuity, and expert guidance, the DVI Wastewater Treatment Plant, RGW's first entirely new wastewater treatment project, is due to go online the end of November 2009.



Lower level of headworks with aeration basin in background.



**Brian Jorgensen**   **Bob McCraley**   **Jennifer Mojica**   **Mark Nesbitt**

## New employees

**Brian Jorgensen** recently returned to RGW and has been promoted to Superintendent. Brian enjoys fishing, golf, and four-wheeling.

Project Engineer **Bob McCraley**, has worked in the industry 17+ years on projects such as mass excavation, underground, paving, bridges, and treatment plants. Bob enjoys playing softball, riding his motorcycle, fishing, and camping.

Office Manager **Jennifer Mojica** is a member of a women's triathlon club and recently ran her first marathon, the San Francisco Marathon, on October 18. She enjoys reading, traveling, and visiting with family and friends.

Project Engineer **Mark Nesbitt** is in his second stint with RGW, having worked for us from 1991-94.

Mark enjoys surfing, snowmobiling and Enduro motorcycling. He is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, and is a Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Accredited Professional.

Project Manager **Kevin Triplett** has more than 20 years experience in the industry. In his spare time he's a sprint-car and midget-car mechanic.



**Kevin Triplett**



## Fishy story

**W**e recently had our annual fishing trip and it was quite successful. We had more than 22 participants, employees, wives and kids out on the bay. The group caught 30 halibut and one white sea bass.

The sea bass, caught by Ron Littlefield's son, Ron, was a boat record at 35 pounds (photo above left). Bill Stewart, RGW president and organizer of the trip, shows off one of the halibut caught (photo above right). Everyone enjoyed the day, in and out of the thunder, lightening, and sunshine, and everyone came home with a fish. This was one of the most successful trips in recent memory.



## Anniversaries

### 30 YEARS

**Geronimo Rodriguez**, September 21, 1979.

### 25 YEARS

**George Nunes**, May 15, 1984.

### 20 YEARS

**Terra Grace**, April 28, 1989; **Janis Ragone**, June 15, 1989; **Michael Keith**, September 11, 1989; **Mary Wieckowski**, September 25, 1989.

### 15 YEARS

**Karl Diehl**, May 2, 1994; **Mike Imhoff**, May 20, 1994.

### 10 YEARS

**Carlos Barahona Jr.**, June 1, 1999; **Mickey Leonard**, July 28, 1999; **Julio Tejeda**, August 6, 1999; **Jose Pena**, August 18, 1999; **Rafael Pena**, August 18, 1999.

### 5 YEARS

**Bill Moody**, May 11, 2004; **Rebecca Duran**, May 23, 2004; **Ricardo Mendoza**, June 8, 2004; **Dave Hearn**, June 16, 2004; **William Weldon**, August 30, 2004.



**Mckayla Bertsch**



**Reno Bolyard**



**Coral Anderson**



**Joseph Inman**

## Babies on board

**Coral Louise Anderson**, daughter of Conrad Anderson and his wife, born May 21; **Joseph Allen Inman**, son of Nate Inman and his wife, Nicole, born June 3; **Reno Vincent Bolyard**, son of Seth Bolyard and his wife, Stacey, born September 17; **Mckayla Ann Bertsch**, daughter of Philip Bertsch and his wife, Krista, born October 28.

# Employee News

## Meet Cindy Delumen

**T**welve years ago, when her son and only child had graduated high school and was heading off to college, Cindy Delumen, executive secretary to RGW President Bill Stewart and Operations Support Manager Bob Purdy, took up quilting to fill her time.

It has become her passion.

"I like the process of quilting — I like the small handwork, the needle in my fingers, the feel of the fabric," and, she adds, the close friends she has in the quilting community, many of whom are a part of the RGW family.

As executive secretary to Bill and Bob, Cindy also provides administrative assistance and support to people and departments within RGW. She supervises the front office, works closely with the safety department, coordinates paperwork between the main and field offices, plans parties and company picnics, handles board meeting hospitality needs, and, when asked, even runs bids for the estimating department.

What's her job at RGW? Cindy says enthusiastically, "What needs to be done?"

Cindy began her career with Gradeway Construction in 1987, as a field secretary in the main office working with project managers, superintendents, and foremen who needed administrative help.

In 1995, when RGW President Dan Lowry's previous secretary retired,

Cindy moved into the executive secretary position, and worked with Dan until he retired three years ago.

Cindy and her husband moved to Livermore a few years ago to be closer to her wide circle of friends

and the community life she and her husband developed as a result of her work at RGW. "The people who work here are like family — with values that I admire. They are wonderful people who have become friends — lifelong friends."



**Cindy Delumen**

## Meet Noah Lowry

**N**oah Lowry, RGW Area Manager for the Central Valley, intended to be a writer.

Though he grew up spending childhood summers with his dad, Dan Lowry, working in the field, learning the industry, and gaining valuable hands-on field experience, he hadn't planned to make construction a career.

Noah graduated from UC-Santa Barbara in 1998 with a BA in English. "I wanted to write for sports magazines and National Geographic," he says.

But the construction industry drew him in.

When he was asked in 1998 to come to the aid of the RGW dispatchers who needed an extra hand, he was happy to do so.

"While I was there, both dispatchers moved on, creating a void in management," he says. "Within six months of graduating from college, I found myself managing dispatch on my own."

Noah's journey from dispatch to Central Valley area manager has been full and varied, and he's drawn on the experience and knowledge he gained as a child



**Noah Lowry**

and young man working all those summers in the field.

After 18 months in dispatch, and a stretch in estimating, Noah became a paving engineer, project engineer, superintendent on the Highway 237 project, project manager out of Tracy, project manager on the Grant Line Interchange out of Elk Grove, and finally area manager, Central Valley, where he is now, overseeing multiple projects, managers, and superintendents from Livermore to Sacramento.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with the company, and have the utmost respect and admiration for our management and our ownership," says Noah. "They have allowed me to grow with the company.

And that's what so great — they give opportunities to their own people when it comes to growth. They're very supportive and are always looking to promote from within."

Noah finds construction work highly rewarding because it's good for the country and integral to the fabric of society.

"We build things, big things, outside, that strengthen our society. And we build with a great group of people — talented, smart people."

Noah lives in Wilton, about 15 miles east of his field office in Elk Grove, and shares his life and love of the outdoors with his wife, Tanya, and two children, Noelle 5, and Wyatt, 1. He enjoys golfing, snow skiing, and visiting the family ranch up in Alturas in Modoc County, at the Oregon border, where his dad, now retired, ranches cattle. The path from English major to Central Valley area manager has been full of surprises, hard work, and rewards. You never know, he might write about it someday.

# Safety Update

## Got ideas? Get cash

**W**e had some excellent examples of enhanced SAFETY thinking over the last six months. Contributions were made by the following individuals, who were rewarded with a \$50

SAFETY PAYS debit card for their efforts:

- **Doug Albright:** developed a "Critical Pick" check-off list for crane activities, which has now been incorporated into the RGW standard check off lists.

- **Joe Ortiz:** took extra care in an excavation and found an incorrectly marked fiber optics line, averting what could have been a serious accident.

- **Gary O'Neil:** took the extra steps necessary to ensure the safe delivery of a piece of equipment after hours.

- **Eloy Perez:** designed a skid pan for use on the bridge decks that will minimize back injuries while hauling small tools across the rebar mat.

- **Jeff Johnson:** made an extra trip through the project after the end of his shift, noticed a safety situation that could be improved, and implemented those improvements before leaving the site.

- **Eloy Perez:**

remained onsite while repairs were being made on his crane to ensure the mechanic was not left alone without assistance. Using the buddy system!

- **Paul Ambrosini:** while on a night crew and working next to live traffic, he went beyond the RGW-required policy to wear reflective vests and procured white TYVEX suits for all the crew to ensure maximum visibility from the traveling public.

Next time you see them, thank them for their efforts because their ideas and extra effort benefit everyone at RGW.

Doug Albright and Jose Ortiz were further recognized for their contributions as quarterly winners and were each awarded a \$500 SAFETY PAYS debit card.

Have you got ideas? Have you seen someone step up his or her safety game? If so, let us know so we can recognize their efforts.



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