



# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**DATE:** DECEMBER 4, 2015

**ITEM NO:** 1

File ID – 15-3847 – Presentation

**SUBJECT:**     **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS TO THE UTILITIES WATER UTILITY FIELD VALVE CREW**

**ISSUE:**

The issue for Board of Public Utilities consideration is recognition of the Water Utility Field Valve Crew.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Public Utilities recognize Riverside Public Utilities Water Utility Field Valve Crew.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Water Utility Field Valve Crew (Valve Crew) has had a goal of operating (turning) 500 valves a month. To “turn a valve” means that the crew uncovers a valve stem and operates the valve from open to shut and back to open. This exercise is an important maintenance activity that ensures that the valve is operable to redirect water or isolate a pipeline, as necessary.

From 2011 to March 2015, the average number of valves “turned” was about 302 valves per month with a peak of 536 valves. In order to increase productivity, the Supervisor and Superintendent had the crew watch the video “Our Iceberg is Melting” and challenged them to develop a business approach to their work. In April 2015, the Valve Crew responded by doubling its output. The average number of valves turned is now about 611 per month, with a peak of 746 in September 2015. The Valve Crew and its leadership are commended for this shift in mindset and the resulting increase to productivity.

Rick Small – Superintendent  
Miguel Perez – Supervisor  
Erick Shackelford – Pipefitter  
Andrew Ramos – Pipefitter  
Kevin Cherry – Pipefitter  
Michael Simpson – Pipefitter  
Joseph Daniel – Pipefitter  
Raymundo Macedo – Field Helper

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact related to Board action.

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Approved as to form:     Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney