



The



Joshua Tree

July 21, 2026

VVWRA'S ONE WATER VISION

Most people don't spend much time thinking about what happens after they flush a toilet. But according to Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VVWRA) General Manager **Darron Poulsen**, perhaps we should.

Poulsen was the featured speaker at this week's Rotary Club of Victorville meeting, where he shared VVWRA's ambitious Strategic Vision and introduced members to the concept of "One Water", a regional philosophy that could shape how the High Desert manages one of its most valuable resources for generations to come.

Before looking ahead, Poulsen took Rotarians back nearly 50 years. Construction of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority began in 1978 on what was then the Culbertson Ranch, an alfalfa farm. The facility began treating wastewater in December 1981 as part of the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 and originally operated under the Mojave Water Agency.

Today, the plant quietly treats millions of gallons of wastewater every day, water that begins its journey in our



homes through toilets, sinks, showers, bathtubs, washing machines and other household drains.

Rather than viewing wastewater as something to simply dispose of, Poulsen challenged the audience to see it as one of the region's greatest untapped resources.

That philosophy forms the foundation of the "One Water" initiative.

Rather than treating drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and recycled water as separate systems, One Water views them as one interconnected resource. The goal is to maximize every drop by improving groundwater recharge, increasing recycled water use, strengthening long-term reliability and creating a more resilient water supply for future generations.

One of the biggest challenges facing the Authority is that much of the regional infrastructure planning is now more than a decade old. With continued population growth expected throughout the Victor Valley, Poulsen believes now is the time for member agencies to begin thinking together instead of independently.

His vision calls for developing a shared 50-year strategic plan that aligns wastewater collection systems, recycled water projects and future infrastructure investments across the entire region. By coordinating planning efforts, agencies can reduce duplicate projects, spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently and become far more competitive when applying for state and federal grants.

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Brad Letner

Flag Salute: Jon Hove

4-Way Test: Mike Page

Fine Master: -



LETNER'S LETTER

Rotary should be fun...

We all have enough obligations already.

Rotary should never feel like just another obligation. It should be a place we look forward to because of the people, the conversations, and the chance to make a difference together.

Today's conversation with our speaker, Darron Poulsen, about the VVWRA's strategic vision was engaging from the opening slide to the final question. During the Q&A, one of our members closed the meeting by asking, "What can we do to help?" That's a Rotarian response if I've ever heard one.

Fun isn't the foundation of our club. It's the fuel. When people enjoy being together, they come back. They bring guests. They volunteer. And that's how we become the Rotary Club Victorville deserves.

Our 76th Anniversary is coming up on Saturday, October 17th and we will once again sell tickets for \$250 each, with a chance of winning \$10,000. Only 100 are being sold and you can pay by cash, check and new this year, online! Please click the QR Code below to pay digitally!



Brad

Darron Poulsen

Continued from page 1

Poulsen noted that grant agencies increasingly favor regional collaborations over individual city projects because they provide broader public benefits.

VVWRA currently processes approximately 13 million gallons of wastewater each day, while existing facilities can handle roughly 18 million gallons daily—and with relatively modest improvements, capacity could increase to approximately 22 million gallons per day.

Current projections estimate regional flows will reach approximately 18 million gallons per day by 2045 and 19 million gallons by 2050. Because of those available improvements, Poulsen said construction of an entirely new regional treatment plant likely won't be necessary until sometime after 2050.

A recent siting study identified an area east of the railroad tracks near Mojave Narrows Regional Park as the preferred location for the next regional wastewater treatment facility. As wastewater flows naturally converge in that area, a future plant could produce an additional six to eight million gallons of recycled water each day, benefiting both groundwater recharge efforts and Mojave Narrows Park.

One interesting fact Poulsen shared is that recycled water eventually becomes part of the region's groundwater basin. Water recharged today could eventually make its way underground to communities such as Helendale and Barstow, but because groundwater moves so slowly beneath the desert, that journey could take decades.

Throughout his presentation, one message remained constant: water does not recognize city boundaries.

By working together instead of independently, High Desert communities can better protect groundwater resources, secure outside funding, improve recycled water systems and leave future generations with a stronger, more sustainable water supply.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Big Blue Poker Chip



Jim Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved it for another next week.

We will continue next week with 3 chips and \$475 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed guests **Stephen and Jhonte Freewill**, who were guests of **Brad Letner**. Our Stand-in this week was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

Raffle



This week, **Chris Ackerman** gave away a VVTA canvas bag that was taken home by **Don Lager**, and a stadium bag that will be used by **Jim Murray**. Don and Jim also left with a 70th annual Hi-Grade hat and koozie, courtesy of **Jon Hove**. Jon then won a Rotary memento, and **Brad Letner** took home a wine trivet, both courtesy of **Jim Murray**.



ROTARY CLUB OF VICTORVILLE



ROTARY'S 76TH ANNIVERSARY GALA & FUNDRAISING EVENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

DINNER FOR TWO AT 6:00 PM

DRAWING STARTS AT 7:15 PM

**SPRING VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
12975 ROLLING RIDGE, SPRING VALLEY LAKE**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CURRENT AND FUTURE SUCCESS OF OUR PROJECTS



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2026 - 2028	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary	Pam Murray
Treasurer	Darron Poulsen
Foundation.....	Jon Hove
Membership	Bryan Gillespie
Club Service	Arsalee Morales
Community Service	Craig Garrick
Vocational Service	Angel Espino
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Directors/Members-at-Large.....	Bob Basen & Dr. Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree/Marketing	Chris Ackerman
Recording Secretary.....	Pam Murray

Positions & Committee Chairs

Scholarships.....	Kirsten Acosta
Billing	Pam Murray & Darron Poulsen
Public Service Awards.....	Arsalee Morales
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Read B4K	Brad Letner
Grants.....	Please Volunteer
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Brad Letner
S.T.A.R. Students	Chris Ackerman
Club Learning Facilitator.....	Please Volunteer

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship
at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley
Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

July 25

Movie Night at the Hove's

Movie: Pretty Woman (1990)

Time: 6:30pm

18970 Appaloosa Rd, Apple Valley

Aug 3

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30pm Board Meeting

Coldwell Banker

12138 Industrial Blvd., Suite102

Victorville, CA 92395

Upcoming Programs

July 28

Ryan McEachron, CEO, ISU ARMAC
Insurance **Title: "Insurance Industry
Update"** (Page)

Aug 4

OPEN

Aug 11

**2nd Tuesday Fun: Town's End
5:00pm**

22020 Hwy 18, Apple Valley, CA

Aug 18

OPEN

Aug 25

OPEN

Sept 1

OPEN

Sept 8

**2nd Tuesday Fun: Pick Your Pleasure
Wine, Whiskey & Cigar Night**

Letner Lakeside Lounge

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