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# H. R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM



**Agency:** Sweetwater Authority

**Employee Nominated:**

**Name:** Irvin Ortiz

**Job Classification:** Equipment Mechanic

**Reason for Nomination:** On July 28th, the equipment mechanics were working on the VacTruck (Unit 06-75) for routine maintenance when Irvin suggested to his supervisor and senior mechanic that they install easy access air tank drains. The VacTruck was purchase in 2006 and it was equipped with a manually operated pull cable system to drain the air brake system tanks. The cable system required the Class A driver assigned to this vehicle to pull the cable and stand in place as the air brake system tanks drained every day to remove water that collects in the air tanks.

Although regular draining of the airbrakes is required, the operators of this truck switched daily due to the crew's needs, so there were multiple truck drivers. Vehicle Maintenance staff found that daily emptying of the tanks was a challenge, and when they performed this task during emergency and routine maintenance they would sometimes find water in the bottom of the air tanks.

To ensure full compliance with California Department of Motor Vehicles, Section 5 Air Brakes, Subsection 5.1.4 Air Tank Drains; Irvin recommended a modification to the existing air brake system that had been used by the Authority for over 9-years.

The recommendation was to install easy-access air tank drain valves that could be left open while the assigned driver completes the vehicle walk around. This new valve system is directly tapped off the original air tank valves that required the driver to pull and hold the valves open while draining water, delaying the truck inspection. This new system allows the driver easy access with easy inspection of the system and back up valves if the system fails. This system was installed during routine maintenance at minimal cost and will provide the drivers and mechanics safe, efficient and productive access to this system. On August 3, 2015, Irvin assisted with training the Class A drivers about the proper procedures.

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Nominated by: Sweetwater Authority

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

General Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

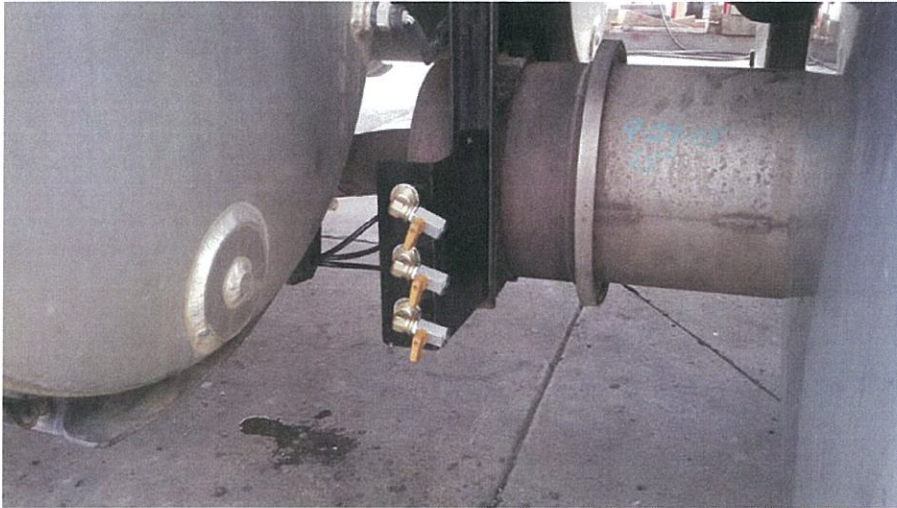
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach supporting documents and/or digital photos and email to:

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Air Tank Drain