



H. R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM



Agency: Vista Irrigation District

Employees Nominated: Manny Macias, Jose Ramirez, Joel Gullingsrud and Steve Wuerth

Reason for Nomination: Valve Lid Removal Tool

Background:

As the District switched specifications from a non-slotted valve lid to a slotted valve lid, it was apparent that a new valve lid lifting tool would be required. Traditionally, a rock pick style hammer was used to pry and lift the non-slotted lids from the valve well. This required the person to be bent at the waist and usually left score marks in the asphalt. With little available other than manhole hooks to lift the slotted valve lids, the District's Engineering Inspector, Manny Macias, worked with the valve maintenance crew of Jose Ramirez and Joel Gullingsrud to design a key that would work with the slotted valve lids. After trials with an initial design, it was determined that a slide mechanism would aid in lifting as it would allow the user to take advantage of linear momentum to lift a stuck lid.

The Solution:

The valve crew employed Steve Wuerth, System Controls Supervisor, to assist with a new design and fabrication of a revised valve lifting tool. Looking at the wearable components of the tool, Steve fashioned the slide mechanism to be replaceable. In order to reduce labor and fabrication work, Steve designed the slide mechanism on AutoCAD and had the stainless steel material water jet cut to ensure precise tolerances. The tool's triangular tipped slide easily fits inside the valve lid's 1/2" by 2" slot, and once rotated, mechanically locks inside the lid and allows for easy removal from the valve sleeve. The tee handle combined with the travel of the slide, allows the user's back to be straight and minimizes strain on shoulders during the lifting process.

Nominated by: Frank Wolinski, Operations & Field Services Manager

Signature: 

Date: 8/26/15

General Manager: 

Date: 8/31/15

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

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Rock pick hammer, final and initial lifting tool design



Traditional valve lid removal method – non slotted



Tool inserted in slotted valve lid



Slide fully extended removing valve lid