

# NOMINATION FORM



## H. R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM

**AGENCY:** Helix Water District

OPS-MX  
ERGO-AP  
ERGO-FE

**Employee Nominated:**

**Name:** Kolton Gustafson

**Job Classification:** System Operator III

**Reason for Nomination:** Kolton recognized potential fall hazards, back injury exposures, and confined space safety issues with an existing vault at the District's R.M. Levy Water Treatment Plant. The vault is 15' feet deep and houses a butterfly valve, sump pump, and pump controls. The sump pump requires annual maintenance and testing via the controls. The valve is used to control the flow of water in the District's Treatment Plant. The butterfly valve normally stays in a closed position. However, during plant shutdowns, maintenance, and other activities, the valve must be opened.

Prior to modification, the vault lid had to be removed in order to access all the equipment in the vault. The lid measures 5 feet by 6 feet and weighs approximately 60 lbs. Removal of the lid required the removal of 21 bolts, it presented pinch and cut hazards when attempting to lift the lid (there are no handles), it set up the potential for a strain injury, and it posed a fall hazard due to two employees having to stand precariously over an open hole while holding a heavy object. Once the vault was open, staff had to set up a davit, winch, and self-retracting lifeline prior to making entry into the confined space. Additional confined space entry precautions were also necessary which included air monitoring, completion of a permit, and designating personnel to serve as attendant and stand-by rescue.

Kolton came up with the idea and design for cutting two access ports into the vault lid. They are specifically designed with covers which lay flat when in place so they don't pose a tripping hazard. Additionally, the port for the valve was designed with the ability to hold a lock. This is necessary because lockout/tagout is an integral part of the safe work procedures during plant shutdowns and associated activities. Kolton served as the "project manager" with the District's welding contractor and oversaw the work.

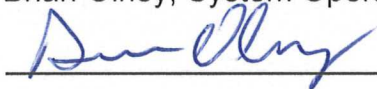
Once that work was complete, Kolton took the next steps to ensure the valve could be operated from above. He, himself, replaced the existing valve wheel with one which includes an operator nut. Therefore it can be turned with a gate valve key. He then designed a custom light-weight aluminum key long enough (13') to reach the new operator nut. He oversaw the key's fabrication to ensure it was made to exact specifications.

Kolton's suggestion and work have eliminated numerous safety hazards. This idea also streamlines our process and will ultimately save a great deal of staff time. Please see attached photos.

**Nominated by:**

Brian Olney, System Operations Manager

**Signature:**



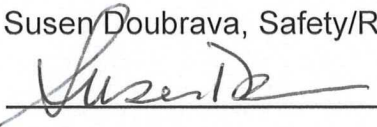
**Date:**

3/3/15

**Reviewed by:**

Susen Doubrava, Safety/Risk Administrator

**Signature:**



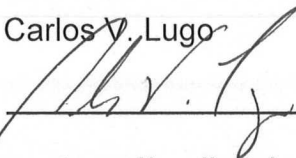
**Date:**

3/3/15

**General Manager:**

Carlos V. Lugo

**Signature:**

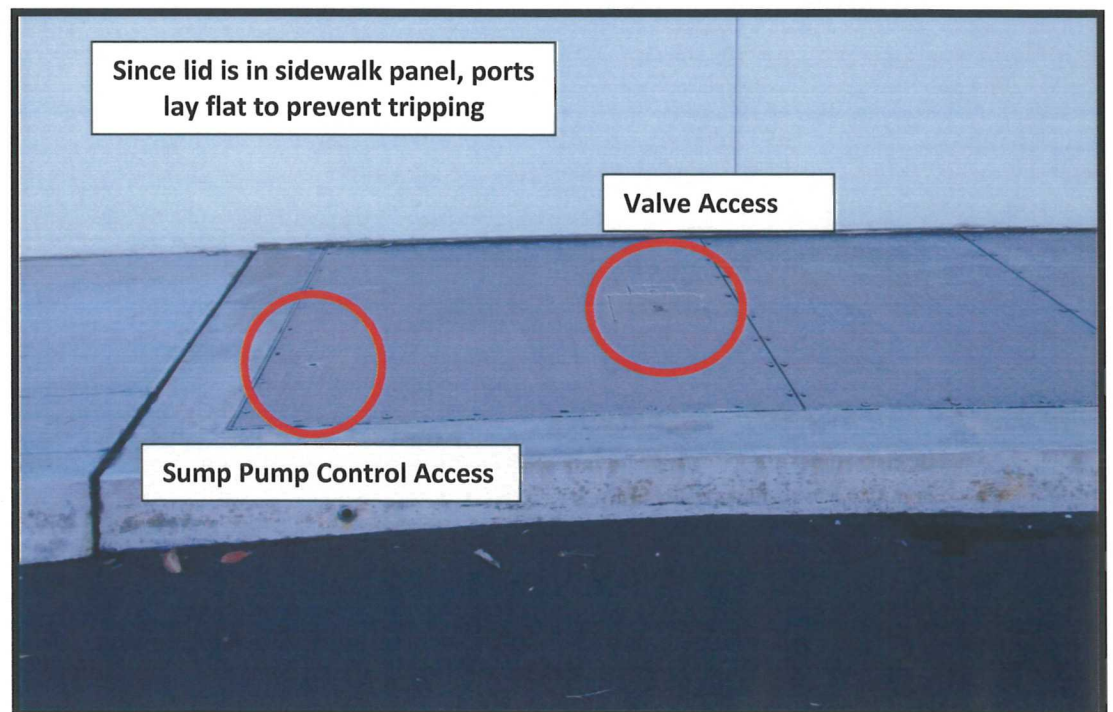
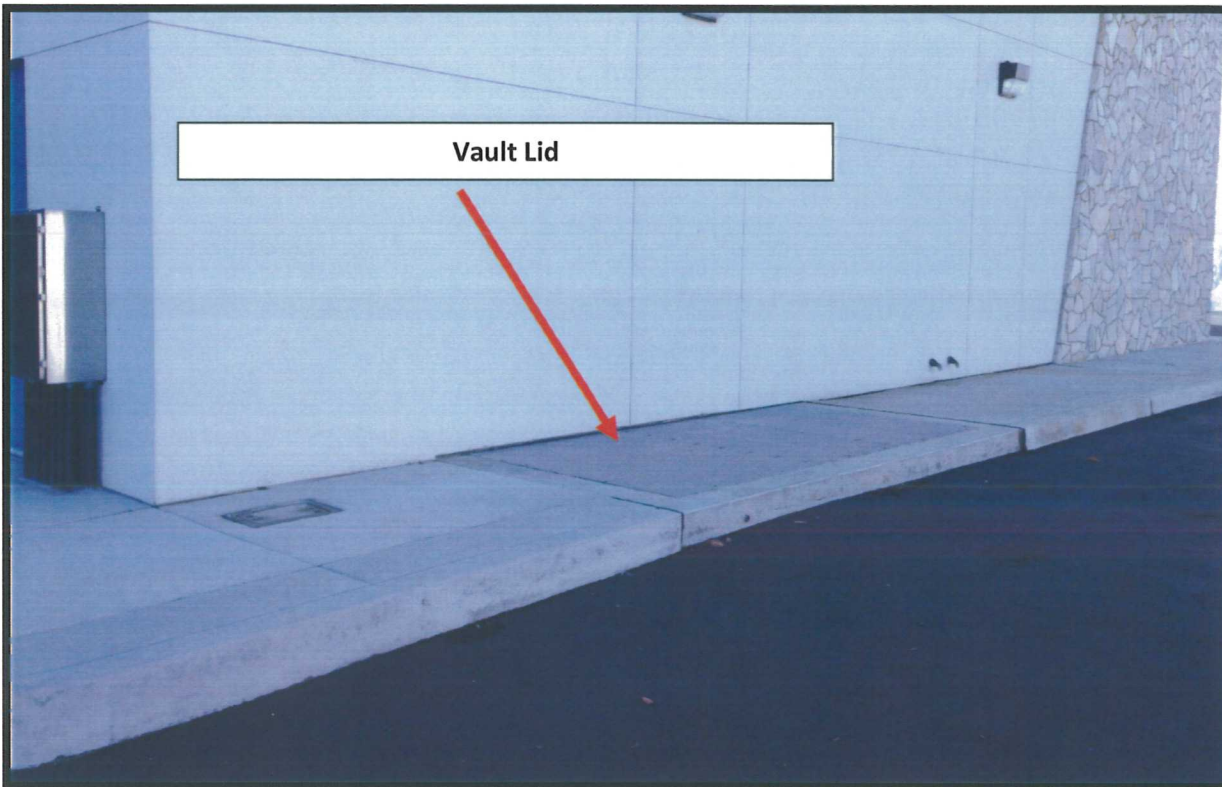


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3/4/2015

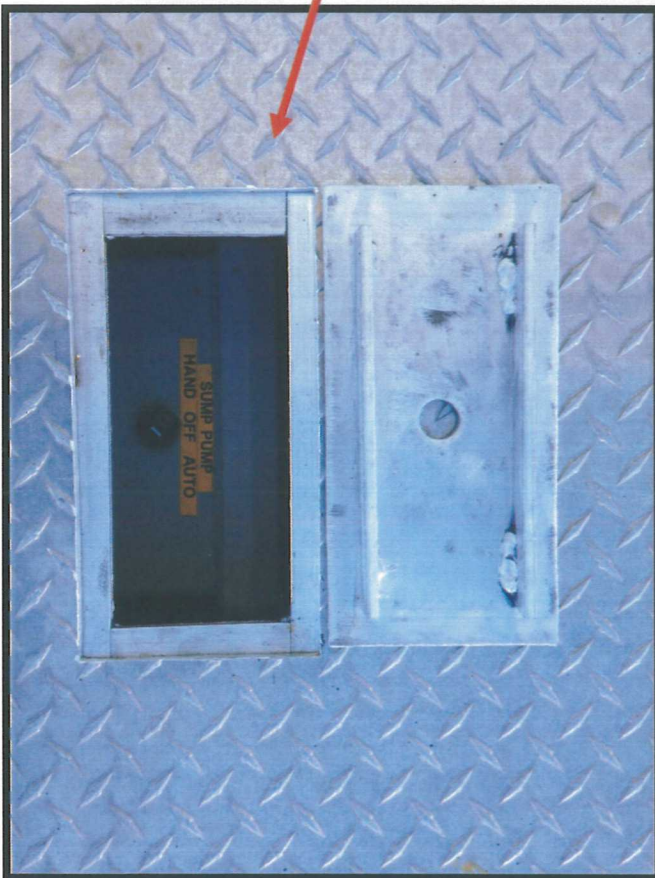
Please attach supporting documents and/or digital photos and E-mail to: [tlofing@acwajpia.com](mailto:tlofing@acwajpia.com)

**KOLTON GUSTAFSON - HELIX WATER DISTRICT  
VAULT ACCESS PORTS AND VALVE KEY**

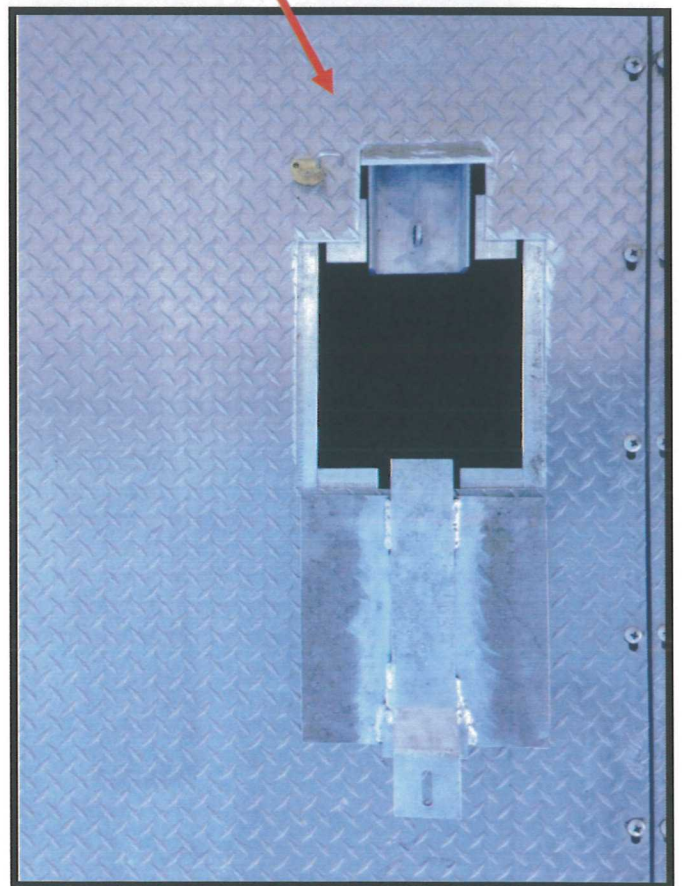




**KOLTON GUSTAFSON - HELIX WATER DISTRICT  
VAULT ACCESS PORTS AND VALVE KEY**



**Sump Pump Control Access**



**Valve Access - Note ability to  
receive a lock**

**KOLTON GUSTAFSON - HELIX WATER DISTRICT  
VAULT ACCESS PORTS AND VALVE KEY**



**New key fabricated to access new  
operator nut**

