
LUIZA YORDANOVA
Water Management Leader

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Water Management Leader

A highly responsible results-oriented leader with extensive Management experience in Water Treatment and Wastewater utility Operations. Proven expertise in Administration and Financial Planning, with executive-level experience in capital project delivery (\$190M+). A track record of building strong work relationships and driving teams to success, adept at collaborating with internal and external stakeholders, including external agencies, to achieve strategic objectives. Possesses excellent communication skills and a deep understanding of Utility Functions, regulatory compliance, and the implementation of policies and procedures to ensure the delivery of safe, resilient water systems.

WORK EXPERIENCE

CITY OF YUMA | Yuma, AZ

06/2024 – Present

Water Treatment Plant Manager

Yuma, AZ

Directs Project Management and Facilities Planning for a complex water system, including modernizing aging infrastructure. Excels at coordinating diverse stakeholders, from city leaders to external agencies, to achieve strategic goals. Responsibilities include budgeting, staffing, directing and providing technical information for water treatment projects, ensuring alignment with the city's long-term strategy.

- **Strategic Water Planning:** Directing long-term water resource management for a region with complex water rights and industrial demands, aligning with focus on securing water supply.
- **Capital Project Delivery:** Overseeing a multi-million dollar CIP portfolio (\$15M+), including the upgrade of treatment facilities to improve efficiency and support industrial growth.
- **Operational Optimization:** Implementing advanced data analytics to optimize water distribution and treatment, resulting in reduced energy consumption and improved system reliability.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborating with agricultural and industrial stakeholders to develop sustainable water use strategies.
- **Increased TTHM removal by 40%** within one quarter by eliminating the use of chlorine dioxide and increasing PAC usage.
- **Mentored Neighboring Municipalities:** City of Welton, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, City of Somerton.

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE | Port St. Lucie, FL

05/2022 - 05/2024

Water Treatment Operations Manager

Port St. Lucie, FL

Managed operations for one of Florida's fastest-growing cities, overseeing both Water Treatment and Wastewater divisions. This role required strong organizational skills in coordinating with stakeholders on public information campaigns and managing disaster response. Developed financial strategy and managed large-scale projects, including sourcing equipment and securing loans like the State Revolving Fund (SRF) to ensure financial stability and meet revenue targets.

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Led the planning and execution of major water infrastructure projects (\$25M+) to support rapid population growth and industrial development.
- **Efficiency Improvements:** Implemented process improvements that increased treatment capacity while reducing chemical usage and operational costs.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensured full compliance with strict environmental regulations, managing complex permitting processes for water withdrawal and discharge.
- Spearheaded ceramic membrane pilot project, informing long-term regulatory engagement. Transitioning to this newer technology saved \$2 M/Yr.
- Increased septic to sewer conversions by 50%.
- Managed operations through natural disasters, including hurricanes Ian and Idalia.

APACHE JUNCTION WATER DISTRICT | Apache Junction, AZ
Superintendent of Water

11/2020 - 05/2022
Apache Junction, AZ

As Superintendent, role involved leading a comprehensive reorganization of the district, establishing new operational protocols, employee incentives and financial controls that restored stability and profitability, launching first structured workforce development program tied to succession planning.

- **Strategic Turnaround:** Championed extensive planning, budgeting, and the implementation of new policies and procedures. Built consensus among staff, HR, and management to drive the team to success and manage a significant expansion (23%) of the service area.
- **Innovation & Water Use Optimization:** Introduced / implemented a district-wide smart water meter program, resulting in a 35% reduction in total water usage costs within the first year.
- **Groundwater Management:** Managed groundwater recharge and recovery operations, directly relevant to aquifer protection and dewatering strategies.
- **Implementation of ACTIFLO** compact water clarifiers using microsand for arsenic removal at the 2MGD package water treatment plant.
- **Implemented smart water meters** throughout the district resulting in a 35% savings in total water usage costs.

CITY OF TEMPE | Tempe, AZ
Water Treatment Plant Supervisor

04/2010 - 03/2018
Tempe, AZ

Collaborated across teams to manage two 50-MGD conventional water treatment plants and associated infrastructure. This role included financial planning, accounting oversight for chemical expenditures, and delivering presentations to professional organizations.

- **Operational Excellence:** Led the JGM Water Treatment Plant to achieve national EPA/AWWA recognition for superior water quality through rigorous process optimization and maintenance excellence, demonstrating exceptional leadership.
- **Innovation:** Piloted and implemented novel water treatment technologies to improve water quality and operational efficiency, demonstrating a proactive approach to technical innovation.
- **Modernization & Technical Leadership:** Championed the implementation and commissioning of several key technology projects, including a SCADA Master Plan Upgrade, an Enhanced Coagulation System, and a new PAC system. These initiatives were critical to improving performance and establishing a framework for proactive operational monitoring.
- **Asset Management:** Implemented a comprehensive asset management program to extend the life of critical infrastructure and optimize capital planning.
- Reduced chemical usage by 25% while improving TTHM/TOC compliance.

HEAVY INDUSTRY & MINING EXPERIENCE (CEMENT SECTOR)

MARTIN MARIETTA MATERIALS | Midlothian, TX

09/2019 - 10/2020

Quality Control & Process Manager

Led quality, shipping, laboratory and process control for the largest cement plant in Texas (2.6M tons/year).

- **Large-Scale Operations:** Managed quality control for a massive industrial facility with 4-stage pre-heaters and 6 finish mills, ensuring 24/7 operational continuity.
- **Lab & Process Management:** Revamped the QC lab with state-of-the-art automation (robotics) and implemented rigorous sampling protocols for raw materials and fuels (coal, tires, waste).
- **Team Leadership:** Mentored and developed a technical team of chemists and technicians, fostering a culture of safety and precision in a high-hazard environment.
- Managed quality for a 1,400 acre limestone quarry moving 3,000T/day. Managed 1.4MGD industrial water balance.

SUWANNEE AMERICAN CEMENT | Sumterville, FL

03/2018 - 09/2019

Quality Control & Process Manager

Managed quality, shipping and quarry operations for a 1.2M ton/year dry kiln plant.

- **Commissioning & Start-up:** Played a key role in the commissioning and optimization of new plant systems, ensuring they met performance guarantees.
- **Cost Reduction:** Improved plant quality metrics by 60%, resulting in \$3.45M/year in savings through rigorous process control and staff training.
- **Quarry Management:** Oversaw raw material extraction and blending strategies to maximize resource utilization and minimize waste. Managed 1.4MGD industrial water balance.
- Managed quality for a 250 acre limestone quarry moving 10,000T/day.

BUZZI UNICEM USA | Oglesby, IL

11/2007 - 08/2009

Quality Control & Process Manager

Managed quality, laboratory, shipping and quarry operations for 1.3M tons/year cement manufacturer.

- **Quarry & Raw Material Management:** Directed quarry operations, including block-model Quarry exploration and raw material testing using Cross-Belt Analyzers and XRF/XRD. Optimized raw mix designs to ensure kiln stability and product quality.
- **Industrial Water Management:** Managed the plant's water balance and compliance, including EPA background field water testing and monitoring of runoff/infiltration to prevent contamination.
- **Process Optimization:** Led a \$1.3M project to eliminate algae growth in process water by installing a hypochlorination system, completing it 15% under budget.
- **Environmental Compliance:** Ensured compliance with EPA regulations regarding leaching water and industrial wastewater discharge, managing a \$250K water sampling program.
- Managed 1.4MGD industrial water balance.
- Managed quality for a 1,200 acre limestone quarry moving 3,000T/day.

ESSROC ITALCEMENTI GROUP | Devnya, Bulgaria

1995 - 2005

Plant Supervisor / Operations Shift Manager | 2002 – 2013

Managed operations for the largest cement plant in Eastern Europe (6 kilns; 1.5M tons/year).

- **Operational Leadership:** Directed all aspects of production, from quarry to shipping, managing a workforce of up to 100 employees in a unionized environment. Managed both the chemical and water quality laboratories, ensuring precise control over process water and effluent quality.
- **Industrial Waste Management:** Accountable for the handling and disposal of hazardous waste and alternative fuels (tires, biological waste), ensuring strict environmental compliance.
- **ISO Certification:** Served on the committee that successfully certified the plant to ISO 9001 (Quality) and ISO 14001 (Environmental) standards.
- Successfully managed water content of slurry to achieve a 25% reduction on grinding equipment maintenance and a fuel savings of 20%.
- Managed 1.4MGD industrial water balance. Managed quality for a 321 acre limestone quarry moving 6,000T/day.

EDUCATION	
M.S. Chemical Engineering & Water Technology Prof. Asen Zlatarov University	Bulgaria
M.S. Education Minor in Economics, Varna Economic University	Bulgaria
Cert. - Motors & Reverse Osmosis Systems Nikola Yonkov Vapsarov Naval Academy	Bulgaria

CERTIFICATIONS	
Class A Water Treatment	Florida
Grade 4 Water Treatment & Distribution	Arizona
Grade 2 Wastewater	Arizona

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Software: SCADA, LIMS, SAP, Hansen, MS Office, SharePoint, InteleX, RAMOS, WaterGEMS.
- Root Cause Analysis.
- Six Sigma Methodologies.
- Languages: English (Fluent), Bulgarian (Native), Russian (Proficient).

REGULATORY EXPERIENCE

- EPA, CWA, NDPES, ADEQ, FDEP, OSHA, Confined Space, HAZWOPER / Supervisory HAZWOPER
- MSHA, OSHA, CCRL, ASHTO, ASTM, EPA, RCRA, EPCRA, DOT, NDPES, ISO 9001, ISO 14001

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

- Best AWWA Presentation**..... FSAWWA Florida Section
- National Directors Award**..... EPA & AWWA Partnership for Safe Water
- Papago Certificate of Appreciation..** City of Tempe, AZ

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & LEADERSHIP

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| AWWA Florida Region 8 , Chairperson | Arizona Water Association – Water Treatment Committee , Member |
| Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association , Treasurer | Arizona Women Leading Government , Member |
| South East Desalting Association , Member | American Society For Quality , Member |
| American Chemical Society , Chairperson for Technical Division Committees on Biological, Organic, & Physical Chemistry | |

OTHER CORE COMPETENCIES

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT	PROJECT & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	TECHNICAL EXPERTISE & INNOVATION
Strategic Planning	Project Management	Process Optimization
Leadership	CIP (Capital Improvement Program)	Advanced Water Treatment Systems
Team Building & Leadership	Project Planning	RO & Microfiltration
Change Management	Budgeting	Water Production & Treatment
Operations Management	Financial Analysis	Enhanced Coagulation
Water Resource Management	Contract Management	UV Disinfection

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE	REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION
Water Quality Monitoring	Fed & State Regulatory Compliance	Communication Skills
Performance Tracking	Regulatory Compliance	Collaboration
Continuous Improvement	AWIA Risk & Resilience Assessments (RRA)	Problem-Solving
Root Cause Analysis	Emergency Response Plans (ERP)	
Quality Control	Consumer Confidence Reporting (CCR)	
Predictive Maintenance		