



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Operations Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** Operations Efficiency Project  
**From:** Darren Machado, Operations Director  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2023

DM  
BH

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**TYPE OF ACTION:**                      Action              X              Information                      Review and Refer

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive a report from staff regarding the implementation of operational efficiency tool

**SUMMARY:** Staff is consistently looking for ways to improve efficiency with applied working techniques, maintenance and equipment. Staff purchased a tool from Wachs Utility Products called the Valve Nut Rx Kit for \$9,690. This tool is designed to replace rounded, missing or corroded valve nuts without excavation, contributing to significant cost savings and a net savings of water.

**DISCUSSION:** Operational efficiency improvements are a common goal throughout the District. Staff perform a variety of maintenance tasks, including water valve maintenance. The District’s water distribution system has more than 16,000 valves. Water valve maintenance tasks include identifying inoperable valves and replacing or repairing the valves. These valves are utilized in the distribution system to perform planned/emergency water system shutdowns and control water flow. An inoperable valve can impact operational needs and customer water supply.

The purchase of the Valve Nut Rx Kit is an example of operational maintenance efficiency and provides an option for a more cost effective valve maintenance techniques. The approximate cost of excavation with a crew is \$7,739 each. With the use of this tool, staff can perform this maintenance task at an approximate cost of \$312. Since June 2021 staff has repaired 25 valves with corroded or rounded valve nuts with the use of this tool, saving the District approximately \$75,000.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Approximately \$75,000 Savings Annually

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.