

Brian Nakamura was Director of Public Works when the spill occurred Siobhan Foster was Deputy Director. Steve Schultz and Dion Castro colluded to create documentation necessary to show the plant had protocols in place that were ignored by the Streets employees. They used a safety manual Dion created from a previous employer (I think it was the City of Glendale) where he was the Safety Officer and Xeroxed Riverside letterhead over the original, then submitted it as evidence. Dion Castro bragged to me how that binder had saved his life, he had given it to me to use to create a safety manual because when I came over they still didn't have one in place. I had it in my office until I was transferred to Forestry and Landscape. I left it behind and it still might be on sight. I don't believe Dion realized he was talking about throwing men I worked with under the bus to save his own skin and that of Steve's.

If you can find out Dion's work history, he was in charge of safety at this City job, get a copy of their manual and compare it to whatever Dion filed with whatever agencies he filed documents with that day you will see they are identical except for the header. Also our IT department should be able to pull up the emergency manual documents I created while I was working for the Sewer department and emails assigning me to create NOT UPDATE an emergency manual. The following is from my resume which is on file with the City for multiple positions I have applied for:

July 2004 to August 10, 2007: Administrative Analyst, City of Riverside, Public Works – Water Quality Control Plant, Riverside, CA.

Budget support activities included auditing, establishing, reporting and corrections activities. Prepared 07/08 Personnel, Revenue and O & M Budget sections. I was a SPL Department Administrator and Trainer for the Synergen (SPL) System. I worked with various departments to resolve "go-live issues". I wrote the Synergen (SPL) lesson plans and user guides. Created customized reports in Crystal Reports XI; extracted information from SPL and IFAS; tracked SPL Authorization and Requests for Authorization and tracked requests for Annual PO's and the issued Annual PO's. Worked on RWQCP core team creating an Asset Management System to manage assets and establish a preventative maintenance program. Created and maintained Access databases to track safety training, record retention, plant access, plant based carpool vehicles etc. Created a transparent reconciliation process for Community Service Districts; facilitating the rapid adoption of rate changes. Created and implemented an Emergency Response Plan for the plant.

Stephanie Stolzenberg and/or Karen Conner might be a good resource for you as they were there at the sewer plant at the time of the spill and Stephanie got messed over by both Steve Schultz and Greg Priamos. John Claus or Klaus might also have information, he didn't leave the City under good terms; he hated Steve. Rodney Cruz worked there at the time as well as Richard Pallante, Richard was one of the

... might or might not be a good resource.
Kathleen Wates' daughter Amy (don't remember the last name) called her mom the day we were notified of the spill (in Streets) and told her she would get to "suit up" for the first time because she was going out to the site to take samples. When the men saw her in full hazmat dress they asked if there was something they should be worried about and they were told no this was just routine. They were told by Dave Asam to keep working. When they got back to the office they came in and talked about it to Kathleen because they knew Amy was her daughter.

Nothing is done in the Street department without work orders and those work orders usually have handwritten comments on them. Each is assigned its own number and charge account strings. Get those documents and see what the men wrote at the time.

Dave Asam and Siobhan Foster demanded the men's shoes, pants and shirts from the site. The men were upset because they only had a specific allotment for shoes, and wanted to know if they would get replacements. Others felt there was a cover up and they weren't being told everything. They talked about getting the union involved and then turning in their things wasn't mandatory, it was recommended "for their protection". They negotiated to be tested, but all of this took months to "hash out". These men were treated with extreme prejudice by Dave Asam and others. But at the time, it wasn't considered "out of the ordinary". The men had made a habit out of screaming wolf and refusing to work. They made life miserable for management so management rode them all really hard. It started with Dick Clelland. I did not work there when he was manager but I saw the results of whatever went on. Dick was moved to City Hall until he retired; the men balked at everything and everyone and management treated them all like little babies. So when this event occurred, nobody really took it seriously. I didn't realize the seriousness of the situation until Dion bragged to me that day and it made me sick to my stomach to think these men were "disposable" because they "were problem children".

Larry Schnore walked off the job shortly before his retirement because of things that went on with Brian and Siobhan. He had to be talked into coming back to finish his time. He might be a good resource.

Vince Kerr was the man who wrote up the work orders for sending the streets crews out to do their work assignments. He might remember something that could be of use. He was my direct boss and as my office had no door, I heard parts of conversations, but was not responsible for or in a position to do anything about the

sweeper and vector control paperwork.

It was only after all of this went down that Public Works decided they needed trained specialist in hazmat clean up and they took volunteers to crew the hazmat team.

While Coleen Weeks worked at the Sewer Plant around the time of the spill, she now works for Streets. She and Jerry Mendoza might be a good resource for getting at both sides of the story if you haven't already talked to them. Jerry has been with Streets for a very long time and knew a lot about what was going on around there, but I don't know if he is willing to talk about it. Coleen is another woman who has been stepped on by the City because she tries to do her job to the best of her ability and rubs people the wrong way. I don't know what if anything she knows about the spill, I just know she worked there around that time and may know something more about it. Frank Correll worked with the field crews and knew the men well, he might have more information as well. He's a good man.

I don't know who was sitting council rep at the time because I stayed out of it all back then, but I know it was not Steve Adams. Back then, all the councilmember had to do was open their mouth about something (best interest of the City or not didn't matter) and it was done. This would have been a HUGE blight on their career record, I am certain there was a suggestion of "getting a handle on things" and knowing Siobhan as I do, she would have taken that banner and run with it to the nth degree. There was no black and white ONLY shades of gray. The only reason I am telling you this is because the wrong people are being blamed for this. Siobhan may have "carried it out" but it was only because she was directly or indirectly told to do so. She would never disobey what she would consider an order. Please believe me when I tell you, she messed with me more than once so I am not defending her or what she may have done, I am merely explaining that she wouldn't have done it without being told to do so. She was not a kingdom builder. Just a very misguided general and terrified of those in power above her.

Cathleen R Baswell, Administrative Analyst
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City of Riverside

Also HR had to be involved or these men would have gone to them. They (some of them) always filed complaints with HR.