Case Study

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



About Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

More than 27,000 students in 32 schools throughout the Placentia-Yorba Linda district are early adopters of waterfree urinal technology. The impact of waterfree urinals include:

Water and sewer savings

= 10+ million gallons per year

Maintenance reduction

- = 400+ flush valves eliminated
- = \$30,000 annual valve maintenance reduction (\$75 per flush urinal)
- Elimination of urinal plumbing emergencies including clogs, floods, and leaks

Early Adopter of Waterfree Urinal Technology Continuing to Find Benefits

In sunny Southern California, water conservation has been a priority for many years. In fact, many of the strategic water conservation plans and policies being implemented today across U.S. cities are based on those developed in California more than a decade ago. In addition, several of the early, innovative water conservation product technologies available in the marketplace today had already been put to the test in Southern California years ago.

One of the earliest adopters of the Falcon Waterfree Technologies urinal was the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Located southeast of Los Angeles, the school system is home to more than 27,000 students through 23 elementary, five middle and four high schools.

Eight years ago, Assistant
Director of Maintenance
Steve Marani was contacted by
a Falcon Waterfree Technologies
sales representative. Marani said he
was immediately intrigued because of

the obvious water savings opportunity. "Water conservation affects our daily lives at work and at home," he explained.

"At the time, the concept of a waterfree urinal was pretty new and there were some questions at first. But I wanted to check them out, and I agreed to try the product in one of our elementary schools. I was eager to see the water savings and how the product would stand up to the 'kid test' – when kids throw things into the urinal plugging the drain and causing stoppage."

Seven years later, those original few waterfree urinals are

still there "and working perfectly," Marani said. Passing the high expectations for both water conservation and the kid test, that initial installation has since led Marani and his team to request additional waterfree urinals. Today, there are more than 400 Falcon Waterfree urinals installed in each of the 32 schools within the district.



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"I'm proud to say that nearly a decade since our first installation, the Falcon urinals have become the standard for our restroom renovation and new construction projects."

Steve Marani Assistant Director of Maintenance





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"If you do the math, we're saving more than 10 million gallons of water per year. Of course as we add more urinals, the water savings will continue to increase," Marani said. "We were one of the first major schools systems in the country to try the technology, and every year we install more urinals. I'm proud to say that nearly a decade since our first installation, the Falcon urinals have become the standard for our restroom renovation and new construction projects."

Saving Maintenance Costs... and Headaches Too

In addition to reducing water use, Marani and members of the school system's janitorial staff say the waterfree urinals also help reduce unwanted headaches that typically come with the maintenance time and costs associated with traditional flush system urinals. In fact, according to Marani, the school system has not had a single stoppage with any of the Falcon Waterfree urinals. "This is one of the biggest benefits for us: we no longer have urinal emergencies; no leaks, plugs or floods."

Plant Coordinator Jorge Fierro agrees. "The thing I like about the waterfree urinals is that they are maintenance free. There are no flush valves, so you've eliminated all the work that goes with that."

In addition to the elimination of urinal emergencies, the routine maintenance of a waterfree urinal is easier too. "Regular maintenance is quite simple," says Marani. "The urinal bowls are cleaned every day, the same frequency as you would have for a flush urinal. If there's any debris in the urinal, it's simply wiped out, which is far better than having to unplug a urinal drain."

Each Falcon Waterfree urinal comes with a cartridge that is replaced after

approximately 7,000 uses – about twice a year in schools. This process is "real simple," said Fierro. "It only takes a few minutes."

Better Hygiene

Beyond the reduced maintenance emergencies, the water savings and cost benefits, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is also reaping another important benefit which directly impacts schools: increased public restroom hygiene. Independent studies have shown that restrooms with flush type urinals are far more likely to be colonized by bacteria because of the greater presence of moisture. What's more, restrooms with flush urinals cause widespread dissemination of microorganisms from the generation of aerosols during flushing.

Elementary, middle and senior high schools can often be a place where illnesses pass from one child to another quickly. With a touch-free and waterless urinal, this risk is diminished.

"The flush systems have high bacterial issues, that's why you find a lot of people not flushing, or in some case, using something other than their bare hands to flush urinals or toilets," Marani said.

Summing up the value and importance of the Falcon Waterfree urinals in his school system, Marani said, "For me, waterfree urinals are absolutely the right thing. And the point that really wins me over is the elimination of urinal emergencies related to maintenance and clogging issues. But it's also great that we're doing our part to conserve water. There's never any question about whether or not to try something new to conserve water, especially if it doesn't add to your costs."

Spoken like a true innovator and early adopter.

