

PolEvator™ Installation for Long Beach CA Water Department

The War on Terrorism has emphasized the need for protection of America's infrastructure. And one area that has been of major concern is the water supply. The Office of Homeland Security has mandated that water departments across the country strengthen the security of their facilities. In Long Beach, California, the PolEvator™ has become a prime component in one security system.



The PolEvator™ stands guard at the top of the tank stairway. This is the only way anyone can gain access to the precious water stored inside.



The Long Beach Water Department, one of the most innovative in the country, asked Com-Sec Incorporated of southern California to design a system for their large water storage facilities. "Long Beach has a total of 25 water reservoirs in two locations," said Bret Hart, president of Com-Sec. "Each tank is about thirty-three feet high and one-hundred feet in diameter." Obviously that makes for a substantial area of coverage. Hart had seen a PolEvator™ advertisement in one of the trades and knew it would be the perfect solution.

"The water department had initially thought of installing cameras on top of fifty foot poles," Hart said, "and that would have been a nightmare to service." Instead, Com-Sec installed poles the top of the stairway leading up the tanks. Anyone intent on tampering with the tank would have to climb to the top of the tank to gain access. "We can track anyone coming up the stairs, as well as get a great view of the whole facility," added Hart. A total of twelve PolEvaluators, purchased through ADI in San Diego, were installed, four at the smaller site and eight at the larger.

Each storage facility is surrounded by tall fences topped with razor wire. Sensors are attached to the fence which, when tripped, signal the nearest camera to immediately turn to that location. Monitoring of the entire system is done at the Long Beach Water Treatment Facility in another location. That facility itself may soon have PolEvaluators installed. There are a lot of chemicals at the facility, such as ammonia and chlorine, which are potentially dangerous. This type of system would help guard the site.



Sitting atop the 33 foot tall tanks, the PV16 allows the camera to have a clear view of other tanks and the rest of the property. Access for servicing is easy using the tank stairway.



Each of the two water storage facilities is surrounded by razor wire topped fencing. Sensors alert the monitoring system to turn cameras to the location of any disturbances.

Com-Sec, with offices in San Diego and Los Angeles, is one of the premier system integrators in southern California. Their focus has been on integration of video and related components. "We incorporate the best components in the systems we design," Hart said. "We selected the PolEvator™ because of its ease of use, its versatility and serviceability. There's nothing like it in the industry. I've used other products in the past, but I can't imagine going back to them now that I've seen the PolEvator™ in action."