

Riel Johnson

Principal Consultant

Accomplished manager of solid waste operations with over 30 years of management experience in Los Angeles and Southern California. I began my career in the industry working as an environmental technician in 1990, progressing my career into Site Supervisor, Operations Manager and Site Manager. I took the position of Director of Operations for a water district in 2005. I later came to Athens services to become a General Manger in 2010 and eventually earned the position of VP of Resource Recovery. I have a great deal of experience working in many aspects of the business, including; MRF processing, landfilling, C&D processing and composting.

Skills

Executive Management

Worked in two national publicly traded companies, one public agency, and one private company in leadership position since 1992. Responsible for all aspects of the operations: customer service, employee and management development, P/L, operations, maintenance, capital expenditures, permitting, development of MRFs and landfills, equipment selection both mobile and stationary, and equipment installation.

Experience

D. Edwards, Inc. 2026-present

Principal Consultant working on material recovery facility design, recycling and separation equipment selection, organic processing and general solid waste and recycling operations support.

Athens Services, VP of Resource Recovery 2022- 2025

Installed a second Organic Separation Press OSP with organics fines and ferrous recovery system. Lead a team that built a facility with a permitted capacity of 6,000 tons a day in the City of Irwindale with almost 200,000 sq. ft. of buildings and a 70 tph high tech sorting system.

Service Areas

- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Organics Management

Education

- MS Environmental Health;
- BA Biology
California State University Northridge

Contact:

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Distinguishing Qualifications

- Solid waste operations leadership
- Multi-sector executive management
- Career-spanning industry expertise
- Large-scale facility development
- Organics processing innovation
- High-volume MRF management
- Landfill and transfer station oversight
- Diverse waste stream processing
- Full P&L and capital management
- Water district operations management
- Leadership and civic achievement

Athens Services, Director of Resource Recovery 2017- 2022

Helped design, install, and operate an organics processing system in the City of Industry utilizing the first of its kind Organic Separation Press (OSP). Helped design and install a curbside greenwaste processing system at the Victorville facility with a CASP composting system.

Athens Services, General Manager 2010 -2017

Manage P/L and operations of the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) in Sun Valley (1,500 TPD permitted capacity), the City of Industry (5,000 TPD permitted capacity) and a composting operation in the Victorville area (750 TPD permitted capacity). Built an 80,000 Sq. ft. steel building and installed a very advanced sorting system at the Sun Valley MRF facility. Assisted in the taking over of the operations of six landfills and nine transfer stations in San Bernardino County selected all of the mobile equipment and transition of over 100 staff members.

Director of Operations, Newhall County Water District 2005 - 2010

Manage P/L and operations of the field service and construction crews as well as water quality personnel with the District servicing nearly 44,000 customers.

Site Manager, Allied Waste Industries 2000 - 2005

Responsible for disposal activities, safety, and equipment maintenance at a large 12,100 TPD landfill (Sunshine Canyon) in the San Fernando Valley.

Environmental Technician/Site Supervisor/Operations Manager, WM Inc. 1990-2000

Environmental technician testing groundwater and air samples. Site supervisor in charge of 1,000 TPD greenwaste operation and 500 TPD C&D operation. Operations Manager overseeing greenwaste, C&D, and 10,000 TPD landfill