
The district was upgrading its infrastructure from dialup to digital, and they wanted a similar upgrade for its HVAC. The old system saw frequent failures, some for up to two weeks. Without the ability to see what was happening, they were forced to bring in outside service technicians and pulling in-house technicians away from other work.

Their old system also presented challenges with remote buildings, where connecting them to their controls system would have required running wire under concrete across fairly large gaps between buildings.

Since using Pelican, they have stopped using old analog lines, instead using a wireless network to reach across wide gaps between buildings and connect devices in remote sites. “Even in small areas where we don’t have a full package unit, we’ve now been able to work with Pelican to put those on controllable schedules,” said Ricardo Solis of the district.

Once Pelican was installed, the district immediately found the system gave the more versatile control than they had with their prior system. “The system allows us to remotely schedule buildings, turn things on and off, and limit the day to whatever our school hours are,” said Solis, also noting the ease of scheduling vacations and holidays. Once the system was controlling the heating and cooling needs of the buildings, the district also found additional uses for Pelican. “It’s so straightforward. Pelican gives you a lot of flexibility to explore, and push the lines on how to turn things on and off. We’ve since used it in a building that has chillers, lighting, splits, and recently installed it on pool pumps. The system gives you some room for creativity and monitoring at a very affordable price.”

Since using Pelican, the district has saved energy as well. The legacy system hadn’t been configured correctly and they chose to pair Pelican thermostats with the PEARL economizer controls to use outside air to help meet its cooling demands. Since, they have reported energy savings of more than 80% of gas and more than 30% of electricity.

“As of now, any replacement that happens, Pelican is our go-to, whether it’s new construction or a remodel,” said Solis, adding, “Honestly, I wish I would have known about it sooner.”