



“In the Works”

Striving to be the Leading Public Works
Department Through Innovative Stewardship of
Infrastructure and Environment

**Stanislaus County
Public Works**

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Voter’s Decisions May Result in a Transportation Funding Disaster!

Submitted by Matt Machado

With the passage of Prop 26 the legislature has 12 months to take action to protect transportation funding. The preferred action would be to retroactively pass the gas tax swap, which created an additional 17.3 cent excise tax on fuel in lieu of Prop 42, a sales tax on fuel. The *Gas Tax Swap* is a combination of lowering the sales tax rate applicable to sales of motor vehicle fuel and simultaneously raising the state excise motor vehicle fuel tax, effective **July 1, 2010**. Additionally, the *Gas Tax Swap* also included raising the sales tax rate applicable to sales of diesel fuel and simultaneously lowering the state excise diesel fuel tax effective **July 1, 2011**.

The Implementation of Proposition 26 in essence creates a \$1 billion hole in the State Budget and provides no motivation for State Legislators to work toward the 2/3 vote required to keep the gas tax swap in place.

Should this legislative action not take place, counties across the state will suffer greatly. Unfortunately, the Prop 26 language did not include language to re-instate Prop 42 (6% sales tax), should the 17.3 cent tax not be approved. Without re-enactment of the replacement tax provisions of the swap, \$2.5 billion generated annually from these revenue sources will be in jeopardy beginning in November 2011. This revenue would otherwise be distributed annually as follows:

- Approximately \$1 billion for General Fund Relief (although Proposition 22 prohibits this expenditure into the future)
- 12% for the State Highway Maintenance, Safety and Protection or SHOPP
- 44% for the State Transportation Improvement Program or STIP
- 44% for local streets and roads allocated equally to counties and cities
- \$120 million for transit from the sales tax on diesel increase. This equates to approximately \$3 million for the Stanislaus Region.

This is approximately **\$4.8 million dollars annually** to Stanislaus County, representing about 40% of Public Works budget, plus an additional **\$3 million** to transit in our region. Considering the current condition of our roads, this would be devastating to our program, and devastating to public works departments across the State.

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Ethics Quotes

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.:

“Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you.”

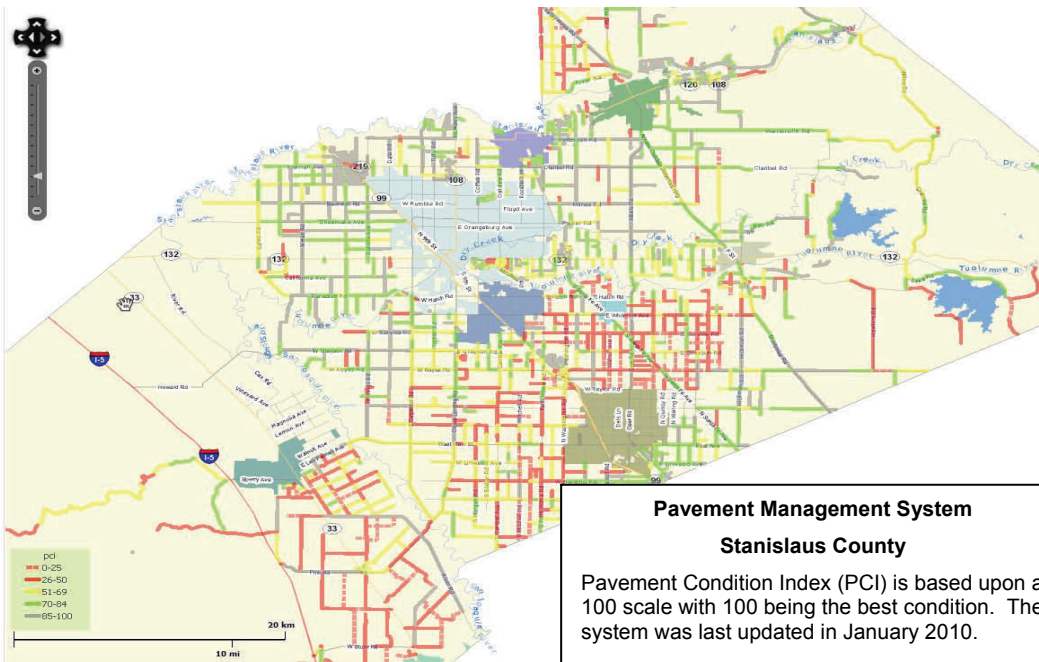
"Health & Safety Byte"

Submitted by Laura Janovich

Did you know that....

- 1. You can call [1-800-427-ROAD \(7623\)](tel:1-800-427-ROAD) to get information on Road conditions**
- 2. You can get [LIVE](http://www.video.dot.ca.gov) traffic information from www.video.dot.ca.gov**
- 3. Caltrans has a Freeway Service Patrol that will help you [FREE OF CHARGE](#) if your car breaks down on a congested urban freeway?**

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Pavement Management System Stanislaus County

Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is based upon a 100 scale with 100 being the best condition. The system was last updated in January 2010.

**Public Works is now
193 days without a
reportable
accident/injury!**

YES, ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-Waste) RECYCLING EFFORTS CAN HELP PROTECT OUR WATER SUPPLY

Submitted by Paul Saini

Each year in California hundreds of thousands of computers, monitors, copiers, fax machines, printers, televisions, and other electronic items become "obsolete" in the eyes of consumers. Rapid advances in technology and an expanding demand for new features accelerate the generation of "old" electronic equipment ("E-Waste"). The result is a growing challenge for businesses, residents, and local governments as they search for ways to reuse, recycle, or properly dispose of this equipment.



There are a number of reasons why we choose not to reuse or refurbish certain electronic products. The rapid rate of technology means that equipment continues to become cheap and outdated at a faster pace. Other than shipping refurbished electronic equipment overseas to developing countries, some of product that is nearing the end of its useful life may soon require some form of disposal.

To help protect our natural water resources, don't throw away that old computer, monitor, or batteries into your garbage can. Most likely, your old items could be considered hazardous components and are not allowed in the landfill. E-waste may include products made with Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT's), which contain high levels of lead.



The new electronic waste recycling laws make it a crime to throw away old computers and other electronics. Some components of old electronic equipment can be hazardous to our environment. The toxicity is due in part to lead, mercury, beryllium, cadmium, lithium, bromine, phosphor, antimony and barium, and a number of other metallic substances. When discarded improperly, these substances and chemicals are extremely harmful to the environment. Lead is a toxic substance of particular concern, as lead poisoning can especially be harmful to young children. A typical 17-inch computer monitor contains approximately 2 pounds of lead while a 27-inch color television contains up to 8 pounds of lead. It was estimated 500 million computers would become obsolete between 1997 and 2007 and would contribute nearly 1.6 billion pounds of lead to the environment if not handled correctly.

If electronic waste ends up in the County's landfill, it may release these harmful substances into the local ground water table, surrounding aquatic body of water and other sensitive ecosystems. We can all help prevent health and environmental problems by simply preventing e-waste contaminants from reaching our water supply and resources. The prevention begins with recycling and not disposing of used electronic products in garbage bins that are located at home and your office workplace.

Why should we be concerned about E-Waste? Because E-Waste is one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream. E-Waste now makes up 5 percent of all municipal waste worldwide. According to the International Association of Electronics Recyclers, Americans dispose of 2 million tons of electronic products a year including 50 million computers and 130 million cell phones. By 2010, it was estimated that the United States would discard 400 million electronic units annually.

Electronic equipment waste collections services are available through the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Household Hazardous Waste Division at 1716 Morgan Road in Modesto, CA. The collection facility is open Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., excluding major holidays. For up-to-date information on dates the facility is open, please call the Waste Information Hotline at 209-525-6789. E-Waste is collected free of charge to the residents of Stanislaus County. For a non-profit or business to use the collection service, the non-profit or business must be able to fall under the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Universal Waste Generator (CESQUWG) Regulations, which includes the generation of no more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month, 20 fluorescent tubes a month and/or five CRT's per year. Non-profit agencies or businesses that do meet the CESQG regulations need to document all waste brought in on company letterhead.

To help protect e-waste from being disposed of at our landfill, many recycling companies have started to provide pickup and hauling arrangements for collection, often for free or at a minimal cost. Once these items are collected they are often taken to a deconstruction site where these electronic items are stripped of all contaminants and then sent to various hazardous waste processing plant or centers to be properly disposed of or recycled.

Sources:

<http://www.stancounty.com/ER/e-waste-recycle.shtm>

<http://www.ci.turlock.ca.us/citydepartments/municipalservices/gogreen/ewaste.asp>

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/itfacts/americans-throw-away-50-mln-computers-and-130-mln-cell-phones-annually/6942>

Geographic Information System (GIS) - Interactive Mapping Website

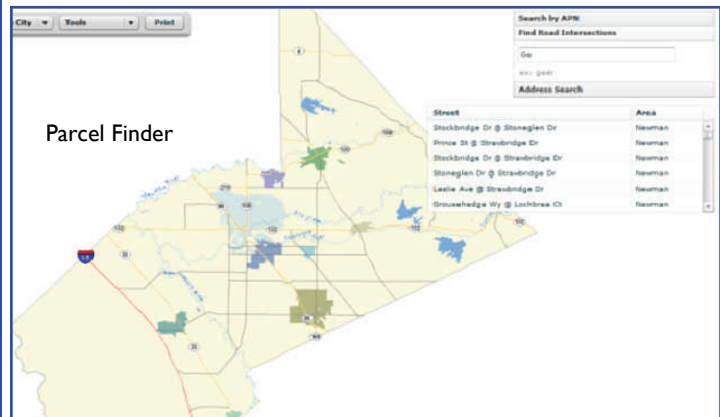
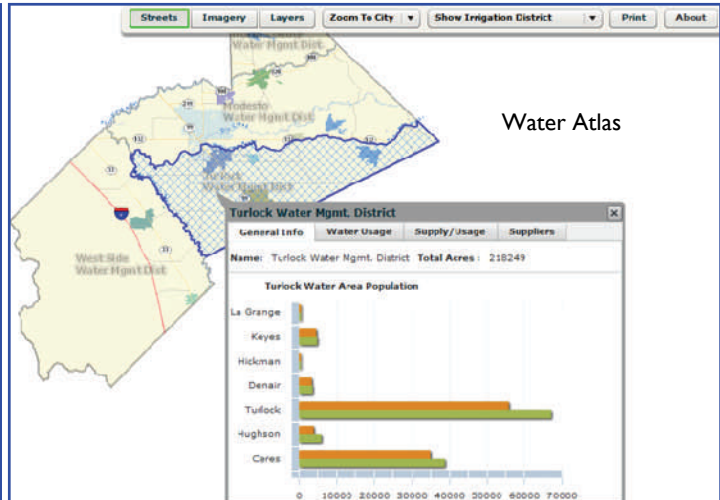
Submitted by Aron Harris

GIS is composed of both hardware and software that is utilized to capture, manage, analyze, and display data that references geographical information. GIS helps us to interpret, understand, visualize, and question the data in numerous ways. It can show trends, relationships between layers, patterns and trends in many different forms. You can create maps, reports, charts and graphs.

Our GIS web applications, <http://gis.stancounty.com/giscentral/public/index.jsp?main=1> such as the [GIS Parcel Inquiry Map](#), were built in house by GIS Central staff. These web applications, Parcel Inquiry, County Water Atlas, Children and Families Commission and Polling Place Locator, provide you with a variety of information about Stanislaus County.

GIS Central also offers free downloads of many of our layers. *“The County of Stanislaus assumes no liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of how caused or any decision made or action taken or not taken by the user in reliance upon any information or data furnished hereunder. By using these files the user accepts and agrees to the conditions of use listed above.”*

If you have any additional questions you can contact us by e-mail via the GIS website under the “About Us” tab.



Milton Creek Bridge

Submitted by David Leamon

On Wednesday December 8th, 2010 a pothole was reported at Milton Creek Bridge over Rock Creek (38C-0231). This bridge was originally built in 1918 as a concrete T-beam slab bridge. A widening was built in 1967, which added approximate 7 feet to either side of the bridge.

Larry McCormick and Bill Martins responded to the call, which originated from Calaveras County Public Works. Upon arrival at the bridge it was discovered that it was not a pothole in the asphalt deck on the bridge, but was a hole (2' x 2') all the way through the concrete deck. Larry then called Engineering and I went on a field trip to the north end of the County to inspect the bridge. We looked at the underside of the bridge and inspected the hole in the deck from below. There was significant cracking visible from below.

As it was still lightly raining and there was more than one place that water was coming through the concrete slab the decision was made to shut the bridge and close Milton

Road from Rock Creek Road in Calaveras County to State Route 4. The detour length for a bridge out in this portion of the County is significant and involves going to either the Escalon-Bellota Road or up to Rock Creek Road out of Copperopolis, a 33 -mile detour. Calaveras County assisted Stanislaus County in signing and placing the changeable message boards. The hole was covered with a large trench plate to protect the traveling public that ignored the bridge and road closure.

The next day the Roads crews responded in force with the asphalt grinding machine, the sign crew and bridge crew. The crews ground 2 to 5 inches of asphalt overlay off the bridge, which exposed the original concrete bridge deck. Locations were picked on the deck to core for concrete testing. During this, someone (Dave “Sure-Footed” Leamon, all photos lost) took a swim in the waters of Rock Creek. Photos of this adventure are not available, as Brian England did not snap any photos to incriminate the person who took a bath in Rock Creek.

The concrete tests ranged from 1500 to 2200 psi, which are low tests. The Caltrans Bridge Load rating group is going to re-analyze our bridge for load capacity and assign a new rating to the bridge. The bridge crew is going to chip away the old weak concrete and repair the spots that need repair. Engineering is discussing more long-term solutions which may include: Concrete topping to protect the old deck and an epoxy coating to keep the water out of the concrete.



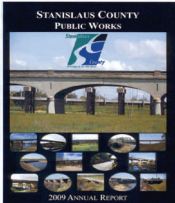
Road crews grinding asphaltic concrete off the deck.

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www.stancounty.com/publicworks



To access our Public Works
2009 Annual Report, go to:

<http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/pdf/annual-report.pdf>



Transit Division

Submitted by Brad Christian

The Transit Division has been very busy working on projects that will be coming to fruition in the new year. Doralee Boles, Annette Borrelli, and Stacie Morales (Transit Division) have been working hard with our contractor, Storer Transit Systems, on the installation of electronic fareboxes in all of the County's StaRT buses. This has involved extensive training, review of ticketing policies and creating new brochures, updating our Ride Guide and our website. Switching to the electronic fareboxes will make the loading of passengers quicker and more convenient, lighten the workload for our drivers and will also provide more accurate tallying of passengers and fare revenues. It will also allow us to offer a new 31-day pass!

We are also busy at work on updating the regional Countywide Transportation Guide. This has proven to be an invaluable tool to social service agencies in providing transportation service to their clients. Our other projects are the Phase II Patterson Transfer Facility project mentioned in the last newsletter and the procurement and installation of security cameras in all the StaRT buses.

We will also be unveiling a new StaRT web site in February. We hope the changes will make using our web site even easier for our customers. Look for the changes at www.srt.org!

Transit Division's website is: www.srt.org
Passengers may call StaRT at 1-800-262-1516 for route information.



United Way of Stanislaus County... Living United

Submitted by Sylvia Jones

Public Works employees donated \$1,104 to the 2010 Stanislaus County United Way Campaign. This is an increase of \$200 over last year's donations. **Great job!!** Approximately 99% of all dollars stay in Stanislaus County and 84% of dollars go directly to services/programs.

Part of the total Public Works donation came from our first "Best Salsa" contest. Nachos and cheese were furnished and for a minimum of a \$2 donation employees could vote for the "Best Salsa" entry and enjoy some great nachos. All proceeds from this fundraiser went to United Way of Stanislaus County in the name of the contest winner to the charity of their choice. This year's winners were:



- 1st Place – Matt Machado (Charity: Boys Scouts of America)
- 2nd Place – Keimi Espinoza
- 3rd Place – Sharon Andrews

Employees pledging or participating in the "Best Salsa" contest either as a contestant or a judge were automatically entered into a drawing for a chance to win some great prizes.

Thank you Public Works Team Members for doing your part to Live United!!

2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

Submitted by Aja Verburg

On December 9, 2010, Public Works held the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off. Six chili's were entered into the competition, and participants included: Matt Machado, Dave Leamon, Aja Verburg, Rich Brown, Julie Serrano, and Andrew Malizia. The chili was judged by a panel of chili experts based on specific criteria for the 'Best Chili' and 'Best Hot Chili'. Public Works employees tasted and voted for their favorite chili, and the chili that received the most votes was determined as the 'People's Choice Chili'.

And the winners are:

- Best Chili - Aja Verburg
- Best Hot Chili - Rich Brown
- People's Choice Chili - Aja Verburg



A special thanks goes out to the judges: Matt Machado, Don Hicks, and Tiffany Chadwick, and to Dave Leamon for supplying the winners' trophies!

Staff Updates

Staff Addition:

Tiffany Chadwick (Senior Engineering Technician) in Design Engineering Division.

Welcome to our team!

New Baby:

Chuck Kincaid (Plan Check Surveyor) in the Survey Division has a new grandchild. Jack Wimberley was born on 12/22/10.

Best wishes and congratulations!

