



“In the Works”

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

Stanislaus County
Public Works

Volume 4, Issue 1
March 2012

Farewell or What a Long Strange (Interesting) Trip It's Been!

Submitted by Brad Christian

“Hey driver, this is my stop. I'm getting off here...” It's time for me to get off the bus and go on to other things. On April 2nd, Transit will have a new manager, Eunice Lovi. She comes to Public Works Transit from Sunline Transit in southern California. She has extensive experience in the transit industry and should fit in well with what we have been doing. Good luck, Eunice!

As I leave, I would like to give thanks to some of you. First and foremost, my thanks to Doralee, Annette and Stacie, the hardest working Transit staff around! For such a small group, I'd like to think we have accomplished many projects and tasks and increased our services and outreach well beyond what larger staffs have done. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the great work and for putting up with me all these years!

To Mel and his crew, you all have been wonderful at getting the backup compressor installed and keeping the CNG station running. Because you have done such a great job on maintenance, we haven't had many issues over the years. Thank you for making those few late night/early morning trips to restart the system so our buses could be fueled. Thank you also to Olivia for keeping on top of the fuel costs for us.

To Gary and the road crew, even though we didn't use you guys much, you were a key part of our countywide shelter project years ago and you have always responded quickly to our needs, from removing a damaged shelter, installing a new shelter or fixing/installing a bus stop sign. Thanks for all your help!

Letisia, Sharon, Sylvia, and Jayne, thank you for all the support work you have done for Transit throughout the years. We couldn't have kept going without you! (Thank you for being such a good sport, Letisia!) Keimi, thank you for being you! You are always so positive! We should all have your outlook on life! Congratulations on the degree!

Diane and Matt, thank you for the support. It's been interesting times lately. Hopefully, it will calm down and go back to pre-2011 times!

I apologize if I've forgotten to thank anyone in this article. The hardest part about leaving is not leaving the work but leaving all of you with whom I have worked for many years. You will all be missed (yes, even you Dave).

Well, as Laura would say, “Stay Safe” and you all take care of yourselves! See ya!!!!!!



Brad Christian retired with over 16 years of County service.

Inside this issue:

<i>Life at Roads & Bridges</i>	2
<i>Safety Word Search</i>	2
<i>2012 National Public Works Week</i>	3
<i>Meet Eunice Lovi</i>	4
<i>1st Annual Popsicle Bridge Contest</i>	4
<i>Public Works Staff Updates</i>	4

Ethics Quotes

Author Unknown

“There is nothing right about doing something wrong.”

"Health & Safety Byte" Submitted by Laura Janovich

Almost all of us who have cell phones have lost them at least once. This is just another reason to program "ICE" into your contact numbers. "ICE" is actually a universal contact for "In Case of Emergency." If you are ever in an accident/incident where you are injured, someone can be contacted quickly. Hopefully you have selected a person who is knowledgeable of your medical information as that contact.

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

“Don't Shift Responsibility & Blame” is the Choose Civility Principle for March

Civility is a core value of a well functioning community and one of its defining components. This initiative is inspired by work of Dr. P. M. Forni, author of *Choosing Civility: the 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct*. Through a broad-based collaborate effort, we plan to transform Dr. Forni's concepts into a concrete road map for Stanislaus County.



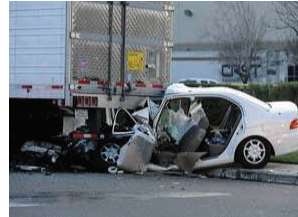
Life at Roads & Bridges

Submitted by Gary Hayward, Road Superintendent

Wild, wild, wild man. And as I am writing this I'm not talking about today's wind. That is yet to be seen but with 40 to 50 mph gusts we are expecting a lot of branches and palm fronds in the road. I am talking about the last few weeks in the Road and Bridge Division. Let me see if I can remember everything...

We responded one day to the Sheriffs request to close 9th Street in Modesto about 4:00 p.m. There had been a shooting at one of the motels and law enforcement was chasing an armed perp. We closed the road as fast as we could. This created a traffic nightmare for the rush hour crowd using South 9th Street. Before we could finish with the detour signs they caught the fella.

About the time that was closing down a small vehicle swerved to the right supposedly to go around a southbound truck on Morgan Road and ran under the rear of a trailer of another truck parked along the curb. This happened across from the Morgan Yard's south gate. Road Maintenance Workers Bob Rocha and Rodrigo Rodriguez ran across the street to lend assistance before the emergency units arrived. It wasn't a good ending for the two individuals in the vehicle. We closed the road for the emergency crews to work. This added to the gridlock in the area that still wasn't flowing from the 9th Street closure. Adding to the traffic confusion was the railroad had the road closed at 7th Street and Pecos to replace the crossing.



All of the Roads personnel that responded did a great job in getting it done. There can be a lot of stress and confusion at moments like these. The responders have to deal with the unhappy drivers that are inconvenienced and aren't shy in letting our guys know it. And at the same time our response teams do their job with their own and the public's safety in mind. Our on-call employee responded to another road closure on Keyes Road. It was for a hit and run fatality.

The CHP reported they were standing by at a low hanging 4-way flashing beacon. When our team responded they saw that a truck had cut a corner and hit the pole the beacon hung from. The CHP was having a time directing traffic around the low hanging beacon as the drivers still wanted to drive under it although there was only 5 feet of clearance between the road and the beacon.

And a chicken grower locked up the hen house, as he evidently couldn't afford to feed them. The problem was there were at least 50,000 hens still in the place. Adding to that was the weather had been extremely warm that week. A lot of agencies were involved in disposing of the birds. The Roads team participated by driving the trucks.

Let's hope for some quiet days.

* * *

N	L	O	T	R	E	P	R	P
E	F	L	O	O	D	L	E	E
V	M	G	I	X	I	A	A	L
A	R	E	S	P	O	N	D	T
C	E	G	R	E	S	S	I	R
U	A	F	H	G	X	X	F	O
A	C	L	S	V	E	Y	L	P
T	I	P	A	C	F	N	M	E
E	R	I	F	R	Y	A	C	R
C	E	R	T	O	M	L	T	Y

Safety Word Search

Submitted by Laura Janovich

Circle the following emergency action terms. The words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backwards.

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| ALARM | FLOOD |
| EGRESS | PLAN |
| EMERGENCY | REPORT |
| EVACUATE | RESPOND |
| EXIT | SPILL |
| FIRE | CERT |

2012 National Public Works Week: Creating a Lasting Impression Week of May 20-26, 2012



"Since 1960, the American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across the nation, our more than 28,000 members use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating the heart of our local communities and building the quality of life.

APWA has selected 'Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression' as its theme for the 2012's National Public Works Week, which will be celebrated **May 20-26**. The theme speaks to the never-ending effort of public works professionals to use sustainable solutions to bring their communities the highest possible quality of life within a framework of environmental, social, and economic responsibility."

Source: (American Public Works Association, 2012) <http://apwa.net/>

Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression

National Public Works Week,
May 20-26, 2012

*Inspiration comes from many
places in our lives. In public works,
inspiration is all around us.*

*This year, as the Golden Gate Bridge
celebrates its 75th anniversary,
we celebrate the inspiration
and lasting impression it has
provided to many generations.*



American Public Works Association
Proudly sponsoring National Public Works Week since 1960



Public Works


1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358-5805

Phone: 209-525-4130
Fax: 209-541-2505

1010 10th Street, Suite 4204
Modesto, CA 95354-0870

www.stancounty.com/publicworks

Articles by Public Works Writers

Published by Keimi Espinoza 



**Our Public Works
2010 Annual Report is
available at:**
<http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/pdf/2010-annual-report.pdf>

1st Annual Popsicle Bridge Contest Submitted by Laurie Barton

The 1st Annual Popsicle Bridge Contest, held on November 15, 2011 was a huge success! Seven teams entered the contest and six finished. All team members donated \$5 each for prize money for the first and second place teams. Popsicle sticks and Elmer's glue were furnished per the rules. These are the only structural items that may be used! Markers were allowed for aesthetic purposes only. Work on the bridges were performed during non-work hours. The bridge dimensions were very specific:

The height of the bridge must be less than 10-inches measured from the top of the support. The total bridge width cannot exceed 5-inches. The bridge length must be at least 30-inches but not more than 34-inches. The clearspan between supports must be exactly 29-inches. AND The bridge cannot weigh more than 13.23 ounces (375 grams)!

The bridges were first judged on aesthetic qualities - does it look nice? Then, the fun part - they were judged by how much weight they could take to the breaking point! These scores were weighted - 60% loading and 40% aesthetics.

Our loading equipment was rather crude this year, with hopes of improvement for next year. A bucket loaded with aggregate with a weight measuring pulley was used to measure the breaking point of each bridge. Team members loaded the buckets themselves. The anticipation of each break was almost unbearable as some broke rather quickly while others stayed the course. The most surprising was the bridge built by the



Bridges before the "test"



Welcome to Eunice Lovi Manager, Transit Division

In February 2012, Eunice Lovi joined the Transit Division in the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works as the new Transit Manager. Eunice has over 18 years of experience working in the transit industry and has worked at a number of transit agencies throughout the nation. She began her transit career as an intern at Tri-met in Portland, Oregon after completing graduate studies. Prior to completing her internship at Tri-Met, Eunice accepted her first job as a Planner with the Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area [C-TRAN] in Vancouver, Washington where she worked on service planning, bus stop planning, and grants management. As Senior Project Planner at C-TRAN, she worked on a number of capital projects, including completion of an environmental assessment for a park and ride facility.



In addition to working at C-TRAN, Eunice also worked with the Maryland Transit Administration as one of four Regional Planners overseeing Locally Operated Transit Systems in the State of Maryland. In 2003, Eunice accepted a position as the Planning and Scheduling Manager with the San Joaquin Regional Transit District in charge of service development and planning, and other related planning projects. In 2005, she began working as the position of Director of Planning at SunLine Transit Agency where she held various responsibilities, including service development and planning, capital planning, grants development, management, and administration, as well as worked on the Agency's short and long range transit planning.

Eunice has graduate degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Public Affairs, and a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from the University of Oregon. She enjoys working in transit and likes the fact she makes a difference in people's life through her work in the many facets of transit. Eunice enjoys reading, traveling, and listening to music.

Bridge Rangers, which never did break - even at 312 pounds (we ran out of bucket!). The Bridge Rangers were the first place winners and took the grand prize of an awesome trophy and \$100. Three Geeks and a Nerd took second and \$35.



The day ended with congratulatory expletives and condolences with promises of stronger, better looking bridges next year!

Bridge Rangers won first place: (l to r) Stuart Holt, Kevin Thatcher, Larry McCormick, James Sanchez, and Darren Teeples

Staff Updates

New Staff:

Eunice Lovi (Manager III) joined our Transit Division on February 21st.

Welcome to our team!

Leaving County Service:

Brad Christian (Manager III, Transit Division) retired with 16 years of service. Lex Snow (Road Maintenance Worker III) retired with 26 years of service.

Congratulations and thank you for your service!



Transit Division's website is: www.srt.org

Passengers may call StART at 1-800-262-1516
for route information.