



“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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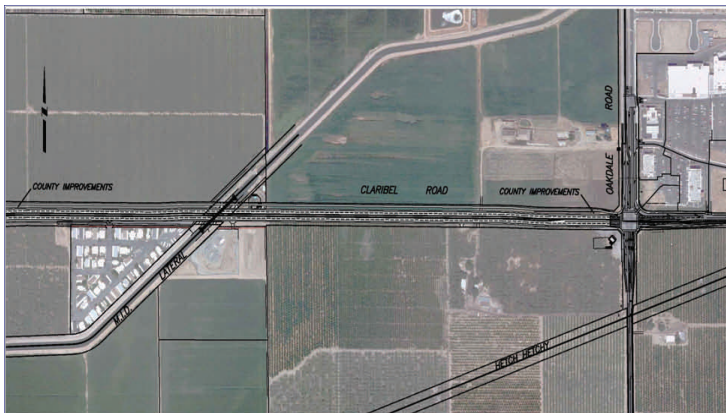
Claribel Road Improvement

Submitted by David Leamon

Stanislaus County proposes to improve 2.1 miles of Claribel Road between Oakdale Road and McHenry Avenue (SR 108) to better accommodate existing and projected vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic anticipated from implementation of planned housing and business development in the Salida Community, the cities of Riverbank, Modesto, and Oakdale. The current two lane configuration with a four way stop at Coffee Road will be widened to a four lane facility with a center median, 10-foot shoulders that will include Class I Bike Lanes and a signal at the Claribel/Coffee intersection. The project will also widen a canal bridge. The design incorporates drainage swales and Best Management Practices to manage storm water runoff and improve water quality. The new configuration will allow for implementation of a new bus route that will provide service to over 8,855 residents in the planning area.

This project is included in the 2010 Federal State-wide Transportation Improvement Program and in the Stanislaus Council of Government’s Regional Transportation Plan (approved July 2010). Funding is proposed from a variety of sources including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, and local Public Facility Fees generated by ongoing development. The total estimated construction cost of the project (including construction management) is \$11.2 million.

The current schedule has us ready to list by the end of March 2013, and be ready for allocations in the fall of 2013. This will mean that we anticipate being out to bid for construction in the winter of 2013-2014 with the first phase of work being the canal crossing over MID Lateral No. 6. We anticipate that this project will span two construction seasons, with work completed in the summer of 2015.



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Ethics Quotes

Khalil Gibran

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention.”

"Health & Safety Byte" Submitted by Laura Janovich

With the summer heat upon us, it is a good time to remind ourselves of just how hot our vehicles can get sitting in the direct sun. When you park your vehicle, try to find shade, crack a window or two, and before driving off, open the windows to exchange the stagnant air in your vehicle for fresh air, then roll up the windows and enjoy the air conditioner. **NEVER** leave children or pets in your parked vehicle. The temperature inside gets to be far greater than the outside temperature.

“Acknowledge Others” is the Choose Civility Principle for June

Acknowledgement comes in many forms: remembering someone’s name, paying a thoughtful compliment, summarizing what was just said for a newcomer to the conversation, holding a door open to let someone through, welcoming, thanking, and simply saying “Hello.” For more information, go to www.stancoe.org/civility



State Route 99/State Route 219 (Kiernan Avenue) Interchange Project

Submitted by Chris Brady

On June 27th, the California Transportation Commission allocated \$37 million in State Route 99 Bond money for the construction of the State Route 99/State Route 219 (Kiernan Avenue) Interchange project. The Stanislaus County Public Works Department, in cooperation with Caltrans, proposes to reconstruct the existing SR 99/SR 219 (Kiernan Avenue) interchange in the community of Salida. This project is necessary in order to accommodate existing and projected growth and to minimize traffic impacts to SR 99, in and near the vicinity of the interchange. SR 99 is the transportation backbone of the San Joaquin Valley and it plays a key role in the movement of goods and services throughout California. Increasing the efficiency of the interchange will allow traffic on SR 99 to flow at an acceptable level of service, thereby increasing the safety of travelers and the free flow of goods and services for the region and the State. Additionally, the project will leverage additional benefits from the State's investment in the current widening projects on SR 219.

The interchange improvements will include reconstructing the overcrossing structure, on and off-ramps, and certain roadway segments within the interchange limits. On and off-ramps will be widened to accommodate greater traffic volumes entering and exiting the mainline. The overcrossing will be widened and replaced to accommodate forecasted turning and through movements. The interchange improvements also include the construction of the SR 99 northbound and southbound auxiliary lanes between the Kiernan Avenue and Pelandale Avenue interchanges. The proposed improvements would also add four additional travel lanes (eight lanes total) to Kiernan Avenue/SR 219 between Salida Boulevard and Sisk Road.



The project is scheduled to be advertised in the fall of 2012, awarded in early winter 2012, and under construction in the spring of 2013.

Earth Day in the Park: Highlighting the Tuolumne River & Water

Submitted by Paul Saini

On April 21, 2012, the City of Modesto sponsored its annual Earth Day in Graceada Park in Modesto. The Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) and Stanislaus County Public Works participated in this highly-attended event in a big way by offering a variety of opportunities for all ages of the public to learn about the river, water, and the creatures that inhabit it.

Analisa Freitas from the TRT and Public Works have forged a valuable partnership, spurred on by Civil Engineer Paul Saini, to educate the public about water quality protection and its use in the Central Valley. As both agencies are highly interested in the health of the water available for the community, events such as Earth Day are valuable opportunities to do public outreach about all that the river can offer and to communicate that all citizens depend on water and must maintain its cleanliness.

TRT hosted a booth where volunteers from West Modesto were on hand to provide kids an exciting chance to experience a simulated river trip in a canoe (photo at right). With a large canoe in the grass, volunteers helped children put on life vests and safely enter the canoe. As volunteers rocked the canoe back and forth, the children practiced paddling and were educated on how the Tuolumne River flows from Yosemite through Modesto, and into the San Francisco Bay. They also learned that the river serves the community by providing water for agriculture, drinking, and home use. Afterwards, they and their families were directed to Meg Gonzalez, Central Valley Education Director of TRT, who stayed busy showing off different types of live water organisms through small magnified viewers.

To top it all off, these participants walked away with "I ♥ Tuolumne Water" stickers and literature provided by Public Works. Families were able to choose from a comic book centered around the adventures of a water conservation hero, an activity book with interactive information on how storm water and the river are connected and how to keep them clean, and a storybook on the waterworks in California. What an exciting day! These takeaways were hot items and greatly appreciated by the families. The day was a success and enjoyed by all!



River Clean-Up Project

Submitted by Paul Saini

Stanislaus County Department of Public Works coordinated a river clean-up project with the County Sheriff's Department, County's Department of Environmental Resources, Stanislaus River Trust agency, and the City of Modesto's Water Quality Control Division. Inmates assigned to this work program were busy this day cleaning up trash along the Tuolumne River beneath the Seventh Street Bridge in Modesto. Based on the 'before-and-after' photos shown, it is clear that this site had started to look more like a riverbank tributary area once again rather than a landfill area.

On Thursday, March 29, inmates from the Alternative Work Program (AWP) were brought to the underpass of the famous Modesto's Lion Bridge located at 7th Street Road at the Tuolumne River. The AWP inmates spent most of the day removing trash and litter from the banks along the river's waterway. A trained Stanislaus Sheriff's Office deputy supervised the inmates throughout the day. Deputy Sheriff Ken Barringer from the County's Crime Reduction Team unit supervised the inmates who took part in the project. Lieutenant Philip McKay from the State of California Department of Fish and Game was also on-site monitoring the river clean-up efforts.

Paul Saini, County's Storm Water Civil Engineer, discussed the benefits of the AWP program and of the river clean-up project. "The Community Work Program (AWP) provides free labor via non-violent inmates to public entities or non-profit organizations. AWP inmates learn the value of a hard day's work, give back to the community, and save taxpayer dollars," says Saini.

The AWP clean-up crew found grocery store carts, mattresses, trash, and items deemed hazardous (such as syringes) near the waterway. The County's Crime Reduction Team and County Public Works is reaching out to the local residents to help report future illegal dumping, which can contaminate the river. "River contamination can lead to violation of the Clean Water Act and penalties imposed by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board," says Saini. To help avoid contamination and violations, citizens are encouraged to report illegal dumping by contacting the [Sheriff's Department at 209-525-7114](mailto:sheriff@stanislauscounty.gov) or the [Department of Environmental Resources at 209-525-6700](mailto:environmental@stanislauscounty.gov). Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling [Crime Stoppers at 209-521-4636](tel:209-521-4636).

Tipsters can also e-mail tips at www.modestopolice.com/CrimeStoppers, or text them to [CRIMES \(274637\)](tel:209-521-4636) by typing "Tip704" plus the message and be eligible for a cash reward.

A special thank you goes out to the Pepsi Bottling Group who donated free cold beverages to the inmates and other workers who participated in this clean up effort.



What's New in the World of Safety?

Submitted by Laura Janovich

The alphabet soup of acronyms just got new ingredients: GHS, HCS, and SDS. OSHA has adopted the **Globally Harmonized System** to replace the **Material Safety Data Sheets** with the specified 16-section **Safety Data Sheets**, which means we will also be required to revise our **Hazard Communication Standard**. The new label elements consist of nine pictograms and two key "Signal" words. The pictograms will be symbolic of the new hazard classifications and will always be a diamond shape that is red, black and white in color. The two signal words are **DANGER** and **WARNING**. The new **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** will be the same no matter where you receive the chemicals from and all will have the same 16 section format. Sounds pretty simple –yes?

Also new is the implementation of the "High-Heat" requirements to the Heat Stress Policy, also known as CCR Title 8 Section 3395. When the outside temperature meets or exceeds 95° F, the new regulation requires additional efforts from the employees and supervisors. It also states that an employer *should* supply ice for the water when the outside temperature meets or exceeds 90° F. Thank goodness we work for an organization that doesn't wait for the minimum standards to be set before taking action.

Risks will continually be analyzed and regulations will be added and amended. One element will never change. Your safety and quality of life are first and foremost!

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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>

Let There Be (LED) Light! Submitted by Sharon Andrews

In a joint effort between the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Public Works, 350 streetlights were replaced with high-efficiency LED Induction lamps. The LED lights are brighter at a lower wattage than traditional lights, they are less polluting, and have a longer life span without losing brightness.



This will save approximately 97,542 kWh per year, which will translate to lower energy bills for street lighting.

This project was funded mostly by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), so there was no cost to the constituents of the county for the street-lamps.

Many thanks go out to Randy Avants, Mike Tackett, Keith Wilcox, and Brett Johnson for all their hard work in making this project happen in an amazing five weeks!



Transit Division's website is:

www.srt.org

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

Kudos to our Road Maintenance Workers

John Gerling, Event Director, 2012 Turlock Lake Road Race wanted to give a "huge thank-you to the road maintenance crew at Stanislaus County Department of Public Works." He also wrote in his letter to the *Modesto Bee* (Letters to the Editor section on 5/9/12), "By the way, the local residents thank you as well. On behalf of our bike race club, Ciclistas del Valle, and all who ride our county roads frequently, **you guys are awesome!**"

<http://www.modbee.com/2012/05/09/2193873/bicyclists-like-turlock-road-repairs.html>

Ridership Increases & Service Improvements Submitted by Eunice Lovi

This year has been a phenomenal one for transit usage on the Stanislaus Regional Transit [StaRT] as ridership continues to increase on most routes. Ridership on the fixed route and deviated fixed route services has grown substantially. For example, ridership on Route 70 which serves Modesto, Turlock, and Merced grew by 62% over the same period last year. Other notable gains includes a 13% ridership increase on both Routes 10 and 15, a 15% growth in ridership on Routes 45 and 60, as well as a 7% rise in transit usage on Route 40. In addition to these increases, ridership on the Waterford Dial-a-Ride is up by 15% and also up by 8% on the Turlock-Modesto Shuttle.



The Transit Division is anticipating delivery of a new 32-foot bus by the end of July which is intended to help ease capacity on the Medi-van bus taking County residents to medical appointments at various medical facilities in the Bay Area. The joint project undertaken with the City of Patterson to improve the Transfer Facility has been completed. Improvements to the facility include restrooms for use by the public and Storer operators. Other completed projects include installation of security cameras on the buses for the safety and comfort of the passengers and operators. Doralee Boles has done a great job managing these projects to ensure they are completed on-time and within budget.

Thanks to everyone in the Transit Division for their hard work during preparations for the August 2012 service change. We made a few changes to enhance existing transit services offered throughout the County. Some of the changes include adding trips on routes with increased usage as well as adjusting time on some routes to improve on-time performance. Both Annette Borrelli and Stacie Morales worked diligently to ensure public timetables are completed and printed on time. I would like to thank staff in the Transit Division as well as everyone in the Public Works Department for making my first four months on the job a great one.

Staff Updates

Leaving County Service:

Angela Brooks (Engineering Aid, Design Engineering) departed on 3/22. James Burnham, Doug Hemingway, and Danny Silveira (Road Maintenance Worker I, Roads Division) departed in June.
Best wishes and thank you for your service!

New Grandson:

Greg Guerra (Senior Road Maintenance Worker) has a new grandson named Jayden born on 4/23.
Congratulations!

Achievement:

Keimi Espinoza (Confidential Assistant) graduated in May with a BA degree in Communication Studies from CSU Stanislaus. What a journey!

