



# “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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## Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project

Submitted by Matt Machado

On May 29, 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board, Washington D.C. HQUSACE, approved our project to move to the next and final step to completing the Feasibility Study for the Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project. This final step is a Chief’s Report, expected now in October. With a Chief’s Report in hand, the project will be eligible for Federal funding for design and ultimately construction. This is a major milestone and success for our region. The Orestimba Flood Project has a long and challenging history.

The Orestimba Creek Watershed includes 134 square miles with a tributary area of Crow Creek of 27 square miles. This area spills onto an alluvial fan area of 45 square miles during high flow periods. Within this fan area is the City of Newman. The City of Newman has flooded 12 times since 1932, with significant flooding in 1995 and 1998. The 1995 flood event is the largest recorded event since 1932. The flood was described as a 1 in 60 year event. Resulting damages exceeded \$8 million. With continued risk of losses and risk of life and safety, Stanislaus County reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers for assistance. The current Feasibility (Federal Environmental Document) study was initiated in 1999. The anticipated Chief’s Report will complete this process.

The objectives of the proposed project is to provide 200 year protection to the City of Newman and vicinity area. Through the process, nine alternatives were considered and studied. The preferred and best alternative is a levee paralleling the Central California Irrigation District (CCID) Main Canal. This levee will be approximately five miles in length, providing lasting protection at a minimal annual operations and maintenance cost. The total anticipated cost of this project is \$48 million. The local match will be approximately \$22 million. It is anticipated that a land based assessment will finance the local share. The assessment will closely match current and future flood insurance costs. The project will remove the City of Newman from the flood plain eliminating the need for flood insurance.

For complete details, the final environmental document with appendices is available at: [http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/usace\\_project\\_public\\_notices/Orestimba\\_Draft\\_Feasibility\\_Report\\_wAppendices\\_Dec2012.pdf](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/usace_project_public_notices/Orestimba_Draft_Feasibility_Report_wAppendices_Dec2012.pdf)

Special thanks go out to the City of Newman for their financial and staff support for this critical project.



*Pictured from left to right are:*

Colonel William J. Leady, PE (U.S. Army District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Mayor Ed Katen (City of Newman), Michael Holland (City of Newman’s City Manager), and Matt Machado, PE, LS (Stanislaus County Public Works Director).

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### Ethics Quotes Bertrand Russell

“We have two kinds of morality side by side: one which we preach but do not practice, and another which we practice but seldom preach.”

### “Health & Safety Byte”

Submitted by Sherry Rowe

Safety is a team effort. Ensure that every member of the crew knows the safety requirements before the job is started.

Safety is no accident!

Civility Principle for  
June is  
“Acknowledge Others”



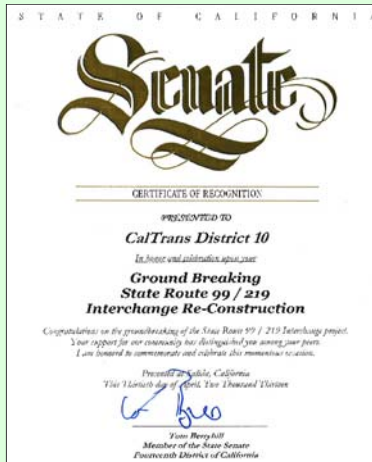
## SR 99/SR 219 (Kiernan Avenue) Interchange Project Update

Submitted by Chris Brady

On April 30th, Stanislaus County, Caltrans, and the community of Salida officially broke ground on the SR 99/SR 219 (Kiernan Avenue) Interchange project. The project contractor, O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc., is now well underway with work on the project. They are currently working on the southbound and northbound on-ramps, along with excavating for the proposed storm drain pump station. The pump station work will continue through the fall of 2013.

Work completed thus far on both on-ramps include rough grading and storm drainage piping and structures. Work on a large retaining wall structure is also underway on the southbound on-ramp. Miscellaneous roadway widening and storm drain improvements are forthcoming this summer at the Salida Boulevard/Broadway Avenue and Sisk Road/Kiernan Avenue intersections. The project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2016.

See Congressional and Senatorial certificates of recognition for this project.



## Regional Flood Management Program

Submitted by David Leamon

More than one million Californians live and work in the floodplains of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley where flood risks are among the highest in the nation. In response to this threat to people, property and the environment, the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to prepare the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) for Central Valley Flood Protection Board adoption. The CVFPP is the most comprehensive flood management planning effort ever undertaken in California, addressing flood risks in an integrated manner while concurrently improving ecosystem functions, operations and maintenance practices, and institutional support for flood management.

Each region in the CVFPP is developing their own Regional Flood Management Program (RFMP) which will develop future projects eligible for Federal and State grants. Stanislaus County and River Partners are co-leads and partners on the next step for us in the CVFPP, which is developing the RFMP for the Mid-San Joaquin River Segment, which runs from the confluence of the Merced River in the South to Vernalis in the north at the confluence of the Stanislaus River and the San Joaquin River.

The RFMP is a plan for improving public safety, environmental stewardship, and long-term economic stability.

**Primary goal:**  
Improve Flood Risk Management

**Supporting goals:**

- ◆ Improve Operations & Maintenance
- ◆ Promote Ecosystem Functions
- ◆ Improve Institutional Support
- ◆ Promote Multi-Benefit Projects

Currently, we are holding public meetings and outreach in order to holistically and collaboratively prepare the RFMP that multiple stakeholders can approve. We are meeting with agriculture interests, the Reclamation Districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the irrigation districts, cities, Office of Emergency Services, utilities, and other interested parties.



Crows Landing Road Bridge over the San Joaquin River during the 1997 Flood



View of River Road by Hills Ferry also during the 1997 Flood

## “Because of Public Works...” National Public Works Week, May 19-25, 2013

Since 1960, American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across North America, our more than 28,000 members in the US and Canada 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 “Because of Public Works...” as its theme for 2013’s National Public Works Week, which will be celebrated May 19-25. The theme is about the quality of life brought to communities around the world. We are able to have clean water, safe streets and neighborhoods, efficient traffic and safe clean communities “Because of Public Works...”

Taken from APWA’s announcement  
[www.apwa.net/npww](http://www.apwa.net/npww)

Public Works celebrated this event by having our Employee Appreciation Luncheon on May 22nd. It was a blustery day, but we managed to enjoy ourselves. We had barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers, green salad, nachos, cold soft drinks, and cake. Raffle prizes were provided by management. Our current 2013 volunteers were recognized; thank you to Eileen Brasuell, Ross Campbell, Angelica Corona, and Michael Wilson. Lastly, service certificates were handed out to the employees listed below.

<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>	<b>15 Years</b>	<b>20 Years</b>
Mario Acosta	Keimi Espinoza	Luke Blades	Tim Morris
Laurie Barton	Michael Wilson	Philip Harley	Calvin Xavier
Denis Bazyuk		Rodrigo Rodriguez	
Chris Brady		Julie Serrano	
Joseph Duarte			
Wesley Eslinger			
Marty Harper			
Steuart Holt			
Brett Johnsen			
David Leamon			
Andrew Malizia			
Sheila Nemeth			
Robert Rocha			



- ♦ The artwork above is by artist Jannie Ho depicting the many facets of public works in a whimsical and bright illustration.
- ♦ On the right is the Board of Supervisors Resolution proclaiming May 19—25 as Stanislaus County Public Works Week.





### Bring Your Child to Work Day at Public Works

April 25th was National Bring Your Child to Work Day. Chris Brady (Construction Engineering and Road Division Manager) brought his two children Rory and Finn. Letisia Corona (Confidential Assistant in Administration) brought her younger daughter Tina to work. (Letisia's older daughter, Angie, is already a volunteer at Public Works.) Julie Serrano (Accountant III in Finance) brought her two daughters, Jenessa and Ally. The youngsters spent a few hours at the office getting a glimpse at some of the things their parents do during the day. They helped with some office duties such as stocking of office supplies, putting labels on file folders, sorting, alphabetizing, and filing. There were plenty of smiles...



Rory and Finn Brady



Tina Corona



Ally and Jenessa Serrano

### Aerial Lift Operators Training

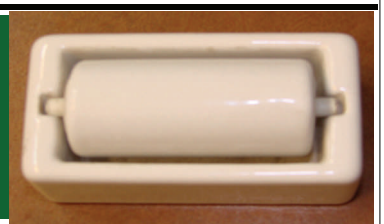
On June 14th, Keith Wilcox (Road Maintenance Worker III) and Jeff Gentlemen (Road Maintenance Worker III) from our Public Works Road Division provided instruction and training to a crew from the County's Department of Environmental Resources Landfill Division. In order to operate this equipment (the boom lift), you must be certified, which needs to be renewed every three years. This was Keith and Jeff's first time teaching this class. Good inter-departmental cooperation!



From left to right: Marco Valadez, Gabriel Avila, Jonny Gutierrez, Jeff Gentleman, David Rayonez, Donald Shapely, and Keith Wilcox



Do you know what this is? If you do, then you probably know how to use it too. The answer will be in next quarter's "In the Works" newsletter.



## Aloha...

Submitted by Gary Hayward



I have loved it here at Public Works. Where else can you do a job where the quality of work means so much to so many people? Most people don't notice the work that is done by the Road Division, but when a wheel is bent by driving through a pothole, a street isn't swept, the street-light is out, or a missing traffic sign results in an accident, the focus is on the lack of maintenance.

The department receives calls at (209) 525-4130 every day from constituents informing us of various deficiencies that need attention. These calls are very important to us as we don't see everything that needs repair throughout the County. The field supervisors respond to the calls by driving to the location to verify and prioritize the type of repair. Some are fixed immediately. Others require a field meeting with the constituent for resolution, and the work to be scheduled.

Road maintenance requires the use of a lot of equipment. There are paving machines, rollers, graders, loaders, power brooms, trucks that require a Class A drivers license, hi-lift trucks, and backhoes to name a few. There are also a variety of hand tools our teams use. There are rakes, push brooms, jackhammers, and the "shovel." Every road worker has been kidded about leaning on the shovel watching someone else do the work. To set the record straight, often times that someone is operating a piece of machinery. For safety reasons, the one standing with the shovel could be a spotter for the operator, or he could be staying out of the way until he could work safely with the shovel or rake. There isn't a need for someone to get run over just trying to look busy.

What other type of job is there where you can assist emergency personnel during traffic accidents, flooding, fires, and other police actions needing the Road Division's assistance?

Yeah, I have loved it here... But hey, that's just me.

*Gary Hayward is retiring on July 11th after 33 years of service. Congratulations and happy retirement!*

## Meet Colt Esenwein— Our New Public Works Deputy Director

Colt Esenwein served in the United States Navy from 1990 to 1994 in the Nuclear Power Program (submarines). After being honorably discharged as a Petty Officer 2nd Class, Colt worked towards and gained admittance to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering. He then returned to the Department of the Navy, as a civilian, cleaning up Marine and Navy installations in Southern California and Arizona.



At the end of 1999, Colt was hired by the City of Stockton as a Junior Engineer working in the Intermediate Design group working on some Development and Intermediate Capital Improvement projects. He worked his way steadily through the ranks of Assistant Engineer, Associate Civil Engineer, and Senior Civil Engineer, from design to construction and project management.

In 2010, Colt transferred to the Operations and Maintenance division where he was responsible for Parks, Trees, Streets, Traffic Devices, and Traffic Devices. In the mid-summer of 2012, Colt assumed all duties, including Facilities and Fleet Maintenance, of the Operations and Maintenance division as the acting Deputy Director of Public Works.

Colt and his wife Shannon recently celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. They have three boys and two girls who keep them very busy at home in the evenings and weekends. The boys play club water polo and the girls are into performing arts. All five children are competitive swimmers.

Colt joined our Public Works Department on April 29th as our Deputy Director. If you have not already met him, please stop by and introduce yourself. **Welcome aboard Colt!**



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Articles by Public Works Writers

Published by Keimi Espinoza 

Transit Division's website is:

[www.srt.org](http://www.srt.org)

For route info call StaRT at 1-800-262-1516



*"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow."*

*~ Author Unknown*

**Charles "Chuck" Myer**

Chuck unexpectedly passed away on Wednesday, May 15th. He had 14 years of County and Public Works service. He was a Senior Road Maintenance Worker. His two greatest passions were his young granddaughter and riding his Harley. Chuck was always happy and never had a bad word to say about anything.

## Encouragement

Submitted by Charles Carpenter, Road Maintenance Worker

What is encouragement? Encouragement covers many facets of life. It can range from something as simple as saying, "Good job," to helping someone through the grieving process with the loss of a loved one.

We all live with different levels of sensitivity. Some are outspoken and find it easy to speak words of affirmation while others find themselves more reluctant to speak due to shyness or a general quiet disposition.

Some people give encouragement without even saying a word. A warm smile is one way. Opening a door, waving someone ahead at a four way stop even when it is not their turn, some men appreciate a firm handshake and being looked in the eye when they are being spoken to. A pat on the shoulder is another way. Mowing a neighbor's lawn, doing a household chore without being asked. There are many ways to lift spirits without saying a word.

People who are more sensitive and outgoing usually are good at speaking words that people find helpful. People go through tough things in life and sometimes the good that come out of them are having true life experience to give the right words to say. People and their life situations are very different. Some situations work best with a soft tender approach while others in some cases need a tougher approach and tough words work best.

Life is full of surprises and not all of them are good. Living intentional lives and seizing the opportunity to help your fellow man is a good way to live your life. A good way to make friends is to first show yourself friendly. So on that note start encouraging people!!

\* \* \*

## Staff Updates and News

### New Employees:

**Colt Esenwein** (Deputy Director) has joined our Department on April 29th.

**Matthew Lester** (Road Maintenance Worker) joined our Road & Bridge Division on June 24th.

**Stacie Morales** (Staff Services Analyst) became full-time with our Transit Division on February 23rd.

*Welcome aboard!*

### New Children & Grandchildren:

**Judy Linday** (Senior Engineering Tech in Traffic) has a granddaughter named Ellory born January 23rd.

**Jeff Rufo** (Senior Road Maintenance Worker) has a grandson named Dirk born on April 1st.

**Keimi Espinoza** (Confidential Assistant) has a granddaughter named Katherine born on April 18th.

**Brett Johnsen** (Road Maintenance Worker III) has a grandson named Liam born on April 20th.

**Elliott Lea** (Road Maintenance Worker III) has a daughter named Kaitlyn born on April 30th.

**Andrew Malizia** (Associate Civil Engineer in Traffic) has a daughter named Harper Rose born on June 1st.

*Congratulations and best wishes!*

### News:

**Brian England** (Road Supervisor) has a daughter named Brittney England. She was recently named Ceres Police Officer of the Year! In addition to her regular duties, she also helps oversee the Explorers' Program.

**Aron Harris** (Software Developer/Analyst III in GIS) has a son named Jared. He became an Eagle Scout with Troop 21 before his 14th birthday. His Eagle Scout Project provided a sitting area for the public in front of our Stanislaus County Animal Shelter, and a sheltered picnic table on the side of the building too.

**Matt Machado** (Public Works Director) passed his exam and is now a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor!

*Nice work!*

