



“In the Works”

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

**Stanislaus County
Public Works**

**Volume 5, Issue 3
September 2013**

Projects ~ Completed, In Progress, and Planned Submitted by Matt Machado

As the summer comes to a close it is an opportunity to reflect on projects completed this season or that are still under construction. We are taking focus on projects for next year and dreaming of those projects in the year after. Our construction season in the valley is roughly from May through November. Below is a brief summary of projects for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 seasons.

Calendar Year 2013 – Projects to start construction and / or be completed

- Kiernan Interchange Reconstruction (Construction began April 2013)
- Parklawn Sewer – Phase 1 (Construction was completed June 2013)
- RSTP E – Overlay (Construction was completed July 2013)
- Urban Slurry – October (Construction is expected to begin in September 2013)
- Hatch / Carpenter Traffic Signal—(Construction is expected to begin in October 2013)
- CSA 10 Sidewalk Reconstruction—(Construction is expected to begin in October 2013)
- Phase 1 Frank Raines—(Construction is expected to begin in October 2013)
- Claribel Widening—(Construction is expected to begin in December 2013)
- Geer Road Bridge Retrofit - (Construction is expected to begin in winter 2013)
- Las Palmas Tree Removal – To be completed by the end of the year.
- Bonita Park / Empire Park – (Construction is expected to begin in winter 2013)

Calendar Year 2014 – Projects to start construction and / or be completed

- Kiernan Interchange Reconstruction
- Claribel Widening
- RSTP F – Westley Interchange - Construction is expected in early spring
- Geer Road Bridge Retrofit
- West Main / Crows Landing Traffic Signal – Summer award
- Santa Fe / Hatch Traffic Signal – Summer award
- Geer Road / Whitmore Traffic Signal – Summer award
- RSTP – Overlay – Spring award
- Urban Slurry – Spring award
- Pete Miller Seismic Retrofit – Spring award
- Parklawn Sewer – Phase 2 Final – Spring award

Calendar Year 2015 – Projects to start construction and / or be completed

- Kiernan Interchange Reconstruction
- Central / Taylor Realignment
- Crows Landing / Grayson Traffic Signal
- Claribel / Terminal Traffic Signal
- Broadway / UP Sidewalk Project
- RSTP Overlay
- Urban Slurry
- Geer Road / Santa Fe Traffic Signal

Inside this issue:

Road Maintenance Division Update	2
Effective Partnerships for a Stronger Community Award	2
Excerpts from Stan Risen, Interim Chief Executive Officer	3
September is National Preparedness Month	3
North County Corridor (NCC) Project	4
County Volunteer Program	5
New StaRT Buses	5
Parklawn Update	6
Staff Updates & Kudos	6

Ethics Quotes Price Pritchett

“You can’t put someone else in charge of your morals. Ethics is a personal discipline.”

"Health & Safety Byte"

Submitted by Julie Serrano
Safety isn't a hobby,
it's a living.
Safety is no accident!

Civility Principle:

“Respect Others’
Opinions”



Road Maintenance Division Update

Submitted by Chris Brady

It's been a busy spring, summer, and fall for the Road Maintenance Division. Crews spent several weeks in the spring performing maintenance preparation work for the department's annual Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Overlay and Urban Slurry projects. Preparation work included pothole repairs, crack sealing, pavement grinding, and blade patching. Preparation work was also completed on all the road segments in the annual chip seal project completed by the division. This year, County crews placed chip seal on approximately **75 miles** of road. In addition to completing the chip seal project, the Roads Division striping crew completed upwards of **550 miles** of centerline striping, including the roads that received chip seal this fall.

The Division completed several notable projects this spring, summer, and fall.

- In April, approximately half a mile of Pirrone Road near Hammett Road interchange was overlaid, shouldered and striped.
- In July and August, in partnership with a regional PG&E gas improvement project, crews placed asphalt concrete overlays, performed shoulder grading, placed shoulder backing, and laid down pavement striping and markings on several roads that served as a detour route for the PG&E gas project. The roads receiving improvements included:
 - Faith Home Road (0.5 mile) from Whitmore Avenue to Roeding Road,
 - Roeding Road (3 miles) from Faith Home Road to Tully Road,
 - Tully Road (0.5 mile) from Roeding Road to Service Road, and
 - Service Road (1 mile) from Tully Road to Santa Fe Avenue.

While all the great roadway surface maintenance work was being completed, the bridge crew was busy completing several culvert crossing projects and performing emergency scour repair work on the Del Puerto Canyon Bridge. This work included dewatering the creek, clearing debris and loose material from the arch culvert abutment footing, and placing a concrete fillet at the base of the foundation wall to mitigate major scouring and undermining of the abutment footing.

The division also had a couple notable promotions. **Randy Avants** was promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent, and **Keith Wilcox** was promoted to Senior Road Maintenance Worker. **Congratulations to Randy and Keith!**

A big "JOB WELL DONE" goes out to the entire Road Maintenance Division! Keep up the good work!

"Effective Partnerships for a Stronger Community"

Andrew Carnegie once said that *"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."*

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors (BOS) is committed to building strong relationships with local, regional and federal partners. To best serve the community, Stanislaus County departments have found innovative ways to utilize partnerships to leverage resources and expand services to the public.



Each year, the BOS recognizes two outstanding departmental partnerships chosen by the Effective Partnership Recognition Committee. This committee is comprised of Stanislaus County Supervisor Dick Monteith, Keyes Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) member Jeff Reed, Tish Foley from the City of Modesto, and Bill Zoslocki, Business/community member.

The Public Works—Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program has been chosen in the inter-governmental partnership category. The formation of GIS Central was approved by the BOS in March 2008. The vision was to develop the County's GIS system into a dynamic tool that would provide useful information to other County departments, cities, and the general public. By providing access to a single system, redundancy is eliminated and efficiency and customer satisfaction are increased. GIS Central provides services to the cities of Modesto, Newman, Turlock, Ceres, and Oakdale. The availability of GIS e-government services extends to citizens outside of government operations as well. The GIS internet site provides a wealth of information on land parcels, recorded maps, bridge weight loads and more. GIS Central strives to be the best by collaborating with County departments and other agencies in terms of data acquisition, data maintenance, support, data sharing and the provision of a central location for all GIS needs in this County.

Congratulations to our Public Works'GIS team

Peou Khiek, Manager and Aron Harris, Software Developer



Pictured from left to right: Peou Khiek, Diane Haugh (Assistant Director) & Aron Harris

**Excerpts from a letter dated September 10, 2013 to our Board of Supervisors from
Stan Risen, Interim Chief Executive Officer**

Dear Supervisors,

***“...a county that is respected for its service in the
community and is known as the best in America”***

Stanislaus County Vision Statement

Committed to a Purpose

It has been the tradition for several years now to weave meaningful quotes into the County’s Budget Message. As I sat down to draft this message, the quote that kept coming to mind is our County vision statement. Many of our current County employees may not even be aware of this vision statement that was established over a decade ago, although many may be familiar with our closely related motto, “Striving to be the best.”

Our vision is one of the things I’ve held onto tightly through all the changes we have experienced over the past five years. We have lost great leaders in Chief Executive Officers Monica Nino, and Richard Robinson before her, but our County leadership team is stable, focused and extremely talented. We are fortunate to have a Board of Supervisors who work well together and are committed to the success of the organization and service to our community.

Our vision has substance. I encourage each of our employees to look at this vision in a fresh way every day. Together, let’s ask ourselves what we can do to help our County to be the best in America. Sometimes you’ll find that answer in innovation, and sometimes you’ll find that answer in a small, random act of kindness provided to a client or fellow employee. And as we pursue this ideal, not only does our organization become greater, but our personal satisfaction grows as well.

This is what I see in the work of our employees every day. I see a commitment and passion for the organization which cannot be manufactured. And while “Striving to be the best” is an ideal we may never reach, it causes us to stretch toward something greater. It’s about the journey we take through life.

I am genuinely humbled to take the helm as Interim Chief Executive Officer. While I do not know what the future holds, I do know this—our County has weathered a tremendous storm and the ship is steady and getting stronger every day. This is due in great part to the tremendous employees of this organization. Their dedication, focus and commitment through these challenging times have revealed the strength of their character. Together, we will continue our journey toward being “respected for our service in the community” as we strive to become one of the best counties in America.

Conclusion

***“...a county that is respected for its service in the
community and is known as the best in America”***

Collectively, I call on all of our County staff to move into the future committed to this purpose. It remains a fundamental core of this organization and lays the framework for what we do. It channels passion and fosters excellence.

Our future looks stronger each day and we must remain committed to our values and stay true to this foundation as we strive to serve and gain the respect of our community each day.

Respectfully,
Stan Risen
Interim Chief Executive Officer



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution proclaiming September 2013 as National Preparedness Month. Preparedness information (and more!) can be found at www.stanoes.com, www.stanemergency.com and www.ready.gov The time to prepare for an emergency is BEFORE the emergency happens.

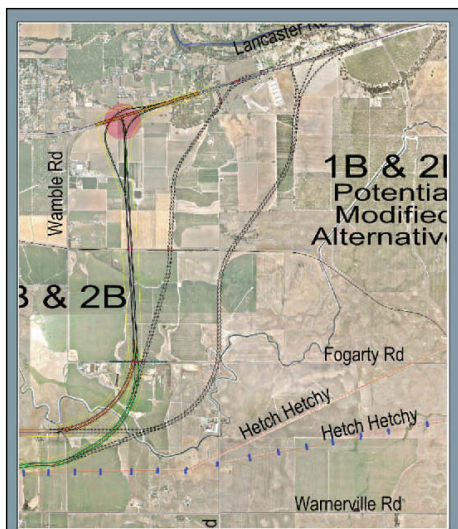
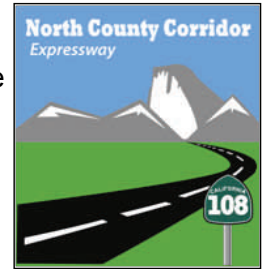
The following strategies will help ensure that you are ready for the next emergency and/or disaster.

- ✓ **Make a home and family disaster plan**
- ✓ **Learn CPR and First Aid**
- ✓ **Assemble an emergency kit**
- ✓ **Be informed**—Sign up to receive Emergency Notifications directly to your cell phone during an emergency or disaster. Register at the Office of Emergency Services Emergency Self Notification (Reverse 911) Self Registration website: <http://gis/stangis.org:8080/EmergencyRegWeb/>
- ✓ **Know your role**—All government employees, including County employees, are disaster service workers by State Law. Certain departments will respond to their traditional roles (such as police, fire, and Public Works). Speak to your supervisor about reporting procedures.

North County Corridor Project (NCC) Submitted by Colt Esenwein

The North County Corridor Project environmental studies were largely put on hold, at the end of 2012, as traffic forecasting set out to prove that what is needed today and for the foreseeable future is a limited access expressway with some interchanges, grade separations, and at-grade intersections as opposed to a freeway.

The traffic forecasting was completed and the NCC Project Development Team (PDT) reviewed the findings and recommended that the scope of the project be revised to an expressway with a new western limit of Tully Road. Several internal changes occurred with the consultant engineering team lead by Jacobs Engineering including a new environmental consultant and a completely new Jacobs team. This led the NCC Transportation Expressway Authority (TEA) to authorize staff to issue a new Request for Qualifications to find the best, most qualified team to deliver the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) for the revised scope that the NCC PDT recommended. The Drake Haglan and Associates team, led by Matt Satow, the project manager, and Namat Hosseinion of Dokken Engineering, the environmental lead, were selected and are now under a \$3 million contract to complete the studies and environmental document.



Today, there are two alternative connection points to State Route 120 being considered, what we call the Stearns and Wamble alignments. The Stearns alignment continues to be well defined by the City of Oakdale on the west and the airport on the east. The Wamble alignment, in its initial configuration, did terrible things to Burchell's Nursery, bisected the property and destroyed a lot of prime agricultural land including a large well providing the water for their farming operations. This led the Project to put boots on the ground and try to make the Wamble alignment the best alignment it could possibly be.

In walking the project, it was easy to see that further to the east, but still within the Burchell Nursery property, there was a natural bluff line, which ended along the edge of a 200 year old oak grove, where the flat, prime agricultural land met with the low rolling, tree planted hills. This became the first modification to the Wamble alignment.

As this modification was further studied and there were some public outreach efforts, two of the affected property owners came forward, although generally supportive of the project, not so supportive of the highway impacting their homes. One of the property owners, Raegan Amerine, a 90 year old cattleman, already lost his house once to Caltrans back in 1955 when State Route 120 was planned and constructed right through his living room.

NCC staff and Caltrans worked with Raegan Amerine and Warren Baize (photo on right) to further develop the Wamble alignment which resulted in a second modification which now connects to State Route 120 where the now defunct Lancaster alignment connected. This latest modification to the Wamble alignment has been well received during public outreach efforts.

Drake Haglan and Associates is now under contract and will work to finalize this alignment by the end of this year and have a administrative draft environmental document completed by July 2014 with the public draft hitting the streets the following winter 2014/15.



Do you know what this is?

Answer: It is an "envelope moistener" to moisten the glue to seal envelopes. You put water in the well and roll the glue part over the wet roller. Sponges work too!



COUNTY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Submitted by Sylvia Jones, Public Works Volunteer Coordinator

Public Works (PW) has been very fortunate this year with our volunteer program. Two of our volunteers, Eileen Brauell (Transit) and Ross Campbell (Administration) have been with us for quite some time and continue to add enormous assistance. We also added Angelica Corona (Administration) to our long term volunteer program in January, 2013 and Cristina Aragon for the months of February and March.



Ross Campbell has been with us for six years and is planning to “retire” soon; he started around the time Matt Machado assumed the role of Director of Public Works. Ross tells us that it has been fun and a really good experience. Ross further states that he feels Public Works has evolved into a very professional organization under the direction of Matt Machado.

Something new this year was the addition of two summer intern volunteers, Ben Jamison and Amanda King. Please see below some great feedback from Ben and Amanda on their PW volunteer experience.



Ben Jamison— “This summer I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Stanislaus County Public Works Department and assisted both the Design and Survey divisions of the department. As an engineering major at the University of Pacific, I was searching for an in-field look into the world of engineering, and not only did my time here help me get that look, it connected me with experienced engineers and assisted me on my journey to my career. I have assisted the department by drafting road intersection designs on computer software, compiling soil information into databases locating early county photographs on Google Earth, and helping in many other projects. However, the greatest benefit for me has been the chance to question the engineers in my department and learn from their experiences and knowledge. Additionally, I know that my volunteered time has helped the people of Stanislaus County, and I get to enjoy the satisfaction that my work is building a better community amongst my friends and neighbors each and every day. I would highly recommend anyone who has extra time to volunteer for Stanislaus County Public Works as an opportunity to both gain experience and give back to your community at the same time.”



Amanda King— “I interned in the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) department of Stanislaus County Public Works for a month and a half (June and half of July). This experience was very beneficial because I learned how GIS can be used outside of a classroom setting, and what type of GIS tasks a county might need to be completed. I created several maps for GIS, I used Google Earth to help collect sign data, and I helped go through files to make sure they were up to date and complete. The most beneficial part of my experience here was that I was able to learn how to use GIS in real world applications instead of just with classroom exercise. This internship has helped me a lot, and I think that it has helped me be better prepared to start my GIS masters program this fall.”

On behalf of Public Works team members, I would like to thank our volunteers for giving their time, skills, and dedication to Public Works this year.

The New StaRT Buses are Here!!

Submitted by Eunice Lovi



In early September, the County’s Public Works Transit Division, which oversees the Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT), took delivery of five replacement 40-foot buses manufactured by New Flyer America, Incorporated. The buses are designed to handle heavy passenger loads with plenty of room for standees. The New Flyer buses are low-floor and have the ability to “kneel” for wheelchair passengers, seniors and persons with disabilities to easily get into the buses. All buses comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They also meet “Buy in America” requirements and are fueled with compressed natural gas (CNG).



The buses were approved by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Transit Division’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Staff is currently working with the County’s operations contractor, Storer Transit Inc., to get the buses ready for service. Activities to be completed may include inspection by California Highway Patrol (CHP) inspection and applying for license plates from the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

The buses will replace existing buses in the fleet that have met their useful life as per federal guidelines. The Transit Division anticipates delivery of two additional buses in December 2013 and March 2014. Of the remaining buses to be delivered, one is 35-foot bus and the other is 32-foot.

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 

Transit Division's website is:

www.srt.org

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

Staff Updates and News

New Employee:

James Spoonemore (Road Maintenance Worker) joined our Road & Bridge Division on June 29th.

Welcome aboard!

Promotion:

Randy Avants was promoted to Road Superintendent on September 7th.

Congratulations!

Retiring & Departing Employees:

Doralee Boles (Associate Planner in Transit) retired after 12 years of service.

Thomas Geiss (Senior Engineering Tech in Design Engineering) left after 2 years of service.

Greg Guerra (Senior Road Maintenance Worker) retired after 17 years of service.

Gary Hayward (Road Superintendent) retired after 33 years of service.

Brandon Hiemstra (Road Maintenance Worker I) left after 9 months of service.

Stacie Morales (Staff Services Analyst in Transit) left after a combined service of 5-1/2 years.

Karin Tramel (Road Maintenance Worker III) retired after 34 years of service.

Thank you for your service!

New Children & Grandchildren:

Jonathan Freeman (Road Maintenance Worker I) has a new daughter named Althea who was born on July 21st.

Randy Avants (Road Superintendent) has a new granddaughter named Fallon who was born on August 21st.

Best Wishes!

Parklawn Update

Submitted by Julie Serrano, Accountant III

The Parklawn neighborhood is an unincorporated, disadvantaged community on the south side of the City of Modesto with 327 parcels that rely on septic tanks for treatment of sewage. The neighborhood is located north of Nelson Way, south of Hatch Road, between Morgan Road to the east and Pearson Avenue to the west.

Failing septic tanks within the Parklawn neighborhood threaten local water supplies and pose a public health risk. On December 4, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved award of the construction contract for the first phase of the Parklawn Neighborhood Sewer Improvements in the amount of \$982,551 using federal Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG).

The primary purpose of the Parklawn Neighborhood Sewer Improvement project is to provide a sewer system to the neighborhood that allows property owners to abandon their existing failing septic tanks and connect to a public sewer system.

Public Works went to the Board on April 16, 2013 for approval to apply for, enter into and sign the Financial Assistance Application for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program to fund the remaining phase of the project. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program could offer the neighborhood a minimum grant forgiveness of 75% of the total project cost of approximately \$4,951,000. The community would be responsible for the remaining 25% of costs through County Service Area (CSA) assessments. The proposal would include funding for the City of Modesto fee to connect to city sewer services (approximately \$5,000 per connection). Property owners would be responsible for installing and funding the infrastructure needed to connect.

We received a call from the State Water Resource Control Board in August, 2013 with very good news. In reviewing the information provide in our Financial Assistance Application, Parklawn neighborhood has been conditionally approved for a 100% loan forgiveness grant. At this time we are just waiting on the State to complete their review of the Grant Application and make a final determination on the loan forgiveness amount.

Kudos to our Road Maintenance Division

Warren B. called to say, "Thank you!" for the quick response and great job we did trimming vegetation. He was very, very appreciative.

Mrs. W. called to say, "Thank you!" for the prompt response to fill the potholes on Plainview Road. She was very happy with the work that was done.

Good job!