

# THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

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## From the Director's Desk

Jeff Pratt,  
Public Works  
Agency Director



Dear Friends,

As our 60th anniversary year unfolds, I want to extend a hearty thank you to everyone who participated in our recent State of the Agency meeting. It was an exciting and successful three days of learning, innovating, and reflecting on where we've been, where we're headed, and how we'll get there.

Even if you weren't able to attend, enjoy the photographs displayed here. As *The Journey Continues*, we realize just how much the Public Works Agency affects each of our lives. Every day.

Thanks to the generous support of the community, our kids can be safe as they walk to school. Learn more in this issue.

Also, it turns out our Ventura County Surveyor's Office has something up their sleeves besides emerging technology. They helped write an article this month, pointing out some of the many changes the industry has gone through over the years. The amazing historic photos were provided by a local resident. Just think what the next 60 years will bring – as *The Journey Continues*...

All the Best,

Jeff Pratt  
Director

## *The Journey Continues...*

Our vision merges with our journey as this year's State of the Agency meeting took a look both at our history and our future. But even as technology advances, one thing never changes — the need for the human touch. Now, employees are more empowered than ever to create the ultimate customer experience through the new Customer Service Plan. We were all inspired as each department presented a vision of the future, from dynamic work environments to futuristic cars.

**Central Services** envisions transforming their offices with mobility computing, wireless charging phones, electronic work flow, and electronic whiteboards.

Emerging innovations from **Engineering** include aerial drones, 3D laser scanners, topographic mapping, virtual inspections, and B.I.M. (building information multi-dimensional modeling). Using these in conjunction with the Cloud will allow communication to be more powerful than ever.

**Transportation** took to the road as they explored interactive technologies like solar-charged photo-luminous paint to light roads at night, interactive sensor lights that turn on only when a car approaches, and wind lights.

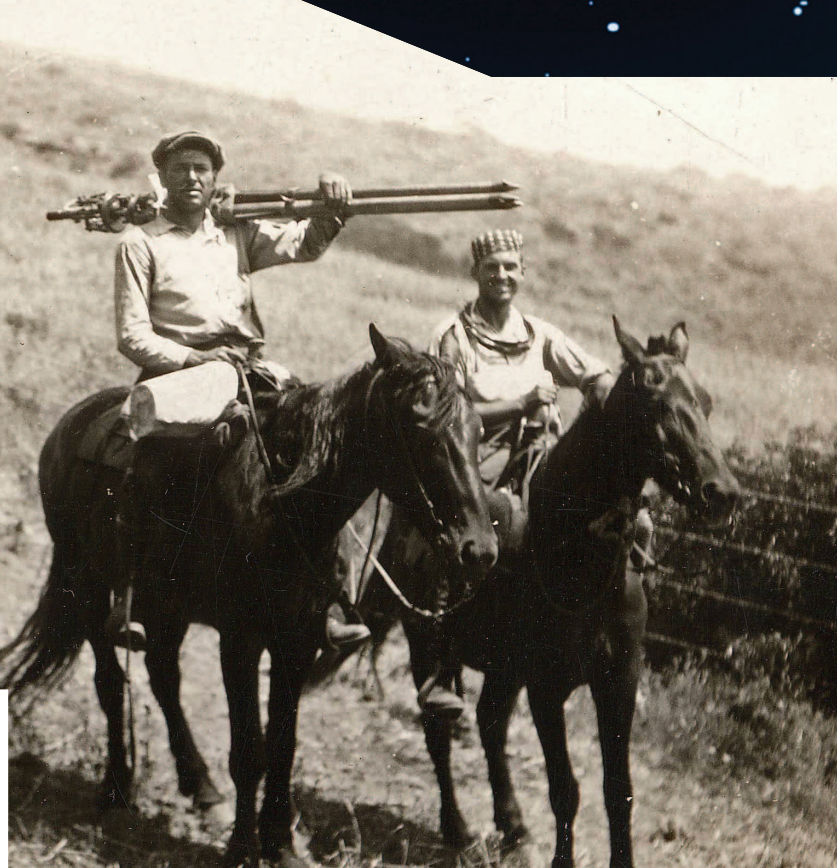


In their quest for zero waste, **Water and Sanitation** explained that they are looking at utilizing an automated metering system, a desalter project, more xeriscaping, and yard/food waste that will convert to usable energy.

The **Watershed Protection District** entertained the crowd with their fun, futuristic newscast that showed just how much can change in only 60 years, including survey drones, environmentally friendly channels, futuristic work environments, and the success of the Dodgers! Who knew?

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's State of the Agency meetings. We look forward to meeting again in 2015!





# From Wilderness to GPS

Surveying is one of the world's oldest professions, dating to the ancient Egyptians who mapped out parcels of land to assess taxes. In America, surveying has a proud and interesting history. Three of the four presidents on Mt. Rushmore were surveyors! (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln were surveyors – Theodore Roosevelt was not.)

In 1873, when Ventura County separated from Santa Barbara County, government surveyors were making their way west and north from Mt. San Bernardino, one of the three Initial Points for California. They laid out 6-mile by 6-mile townships, and one-mile square sections except where Spanish and Mexican land grants – ranchos – had already been established.



In those early days of County history, the common mode of transport was horse and wagon. Surveyors used a 66-foot chain to measure distances, a magnetic compass to set directions, and an engineer's transit to measure angles.



As late as the 1920s, Ventura County survey crews still used horses and mules to carry their equipment through the mountains and along the beaches of this golden county. By the 1950s, the County surveyors, now part of the newly formed Ventura County Public Works Agency, were using trucks for transportation, steel tapes for distances, and theodolites for angles.

Today, boundaries are still marked in the ground by iron pipes, brass disks, and even stone monuments, but the recent technology boom has made new and improved tools available to the surveyor. According to Alex Mathews (Surveyor III) of the VCPWA Surveyor's Office, this has made survey work more efficient and allowed for greater precision and accuracy in measurements. Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers eliminate the need for direct line-of-sight observations and allow

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a single surveyor to travel directly to a monument to perform measurements rather than requiring a five-person crew to clear line, pull chain, and traverse from valley to ridge to valley through rough and dangerous terrain.

Other new and emerging survey technologies include reflectorless electronic distance measurement (allowing measurements to inaccessible spots), laser scanning (automated measurements that produce a highly detailed 3D "point cloud"), lidar (which combines aspects of lasers and radar for airborne surveys), and drones (a new platform for aerial imagery).



From field to finish, the precision, accuracy, and sheer volume of data the surveyor can collect today allows for amazingly detailed representations of field conditions for engineering analysis and design as well as for information-rich exhibits for the client or the public. What does the future hold for surveying? If it's anything like the last 60 years, the changes will be far-reaching and mind-boggling.

## Sunset Sidewalks Keep our Kids Safe

Until now, some of the young students in the Oak View community have had to walk to school in the streets, without the benefit of sidewalks to keep them safe from traffic. But not anymore.

The County worked with area schools — of which Sunset Elementary School was one — to determine which neighborhoods needed sidewalks the most. Resulting from a combination of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds and local Road Funds, new sidewalks have been constructed along Lamier Avenue, Sunset Avenue, and Vine Street.

Throughout the course of this project, 30 separate private properties were affected by the construction. Some of the property owners' landscaping had to be removed to make room for the improvements but everyone cooperated beautifully and the project was completed at the end of November, capped off with a fun ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate.



### Upcoming Events

#### National Engineers Week

February 16-22, 2014

#### Speaking Engagements

April 11, 2014 at 7:00 a.m.

VCPWA Watershed Protection District

Tully Clifford

Addressing the Conejo Valley Rotary Club

April 17, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

VCPWA Transportation Department

David Fleisch

Addressing the Ventura-East Rotary

#### Public Works Week

May 18-24, 2014

*Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow*

### Meet Our New Public Works Agency Mascot!

PW CAWS





# State of the Agency Acknowledgments and Awards

## Service Awards

**Ariel Braza**

Engineer IV  
Transportation Department  
20 Years

**James Myers**

Engineering Manager III  
Engineering Services  
25 Years

**Jimmie Hicks**

Equipment Operator III  
Watershed Protection District  
30 Years

**Glenn Derossett**

Engineering Manager II  
Transportation Department  
25 Years

**Kirk Norman**

Engineering Manager  
Watershed Protection District  
25 Years

**Arnold Sotelo**

Equipment Operator III  
Watershed Protection District  
30 Years

**Robin Jester**

Engineer IV  
Watershed Protection District  
25 Years

**Cat Robles**

Public Works Inspector III  
Transportation Department  
25 Years

**John Lagomarsino**

PWA Superintendent  
Watershed Protection District  
35 Years

## Retirements

**Retirees****Department****Years of Service**

Juan Ceja	Transportation	35
Elaine Chips	Water & Sanitation	15
Turner Clark	Engineering Services	12
Roger Flora	Engineering Services	13
James Kawaguchi	Water & Sanitation	20
Bill Lykins	Water & Sanitation	12
James Moran	Watershed Protection	32
Matthew Mozley	Transportation	38
Cefe Munoz	Water & Sanitation	6
Jim Pellerino	Water & Sanitation	37
Charles Vivian	Transportation	39
Helen Weir	Central Services	22
Margaret Lopez	Central Services	36

## Challenge Coin Recipients 2013

### Silver Coin Recipients

Judi Allen	Alex Mathews	George Ramirez
Sonnette Aquino	Angela Maxwell	Bruce Rindahl
Ariel Braza	Greg Martinez	Manny Romero
Howard De Leon	Karen Mendoza	Denise Santoyo
Maryann Jordan	Stephanie Molina	Kathy Smith
Eric Keller	Art Mora	Robert Tayag
Pandee Leachman	Jeff Points	Dan Walsh
Pam Landrio	Phil Raba	Mike Zaffina

### Gold Coin Recipients

Margaret Lopez  
Alisha Redican  
Bob Stanley  
Frances Tamayo