

THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

March 2014

Vol. 5 • No. 3

From the Director's Desk

Jeff Pratt,
Public Works
Agency Director



Dear Colleagues,

Through the years, we've all experienced the lasting effect that technology has had on our lives. One of these incredible systems, Building Information Modeling (BIM), is enhancing our Engineering Services Department and helping drive project efficiencies, timelines, and budgets. Don't miss the article in this issue.

Some Ventura County residents are not aware just how fragile our environment is and the many ways we impact it every single day. The VCPWA Watershed Protection District is working with the Surfrider Foundation with a goal to educate people about better ways to protect our oceans and beaches. Read more about it.

Community members that travel Kanan Road as part of their weekday commute now have an alternative transportation option—the Kanan Shuttle. Thanks to our Transportation Department's efforts, in collaboration with Supervisor Parks, about 7,000 people each month are taking advantage of this new, free service that has helped to reduce road congestion and air pollution in the area.

What's next? Find out as
The Journey Continues...

All the Best,

Jeff Pratt
Director

BIM, BAM, BOOM

Engineering in Ventura County

What if there was a computer-animated design system that could track every facet of a construction project before, during, and after it is built? Viewable in both living color and three dimensions? Well, unbelievable as it sounds, this revolutionary system already exists and it's called Building Information Modeling (BIM).

BIM is a technology that the construction and design industry uses in complex projects such as the Ventura County Medical Center Hospital Replacement Wing Project (HRW). Managed by VCPWA's Engineering Services Department, BIM is designed to help drive efficiencies for the multiple trades who work on the project to help stay on timelines and budget.

Once construction is underway and plans change, updates are entered into the BIM system. This creates new 3D images that reflect the changes, which then communicates clearly to the hundreds of people who will ultimately be working together. Everything—including the existing underground utilities, the landscaping, the hardscaping, even the medical equipment in the patient rooms—is modeled, recorded, and tracked.

The primary software used on the HRW project is Autodesk Revit 2013. Autodesk Revit 2013 operates

in such a way that it enables the various trades to build models for their portion of the work using an approved modeling software. Then, using Autodesk Navisworks, the BIM manager combines all these models into one. This allows the many components to be coordinated, resolving any potential conflicts before construction even begins. The master schedule is then linked to the design so, as the building progresses, any surprises that might have risen can be completely avoided.

Long after construction is completed and the ribbon is cut by the Board of Supervisors and CEO Mike Powers, BIM will keep working on behalf of the facility's managers to expedite the maintenance projects that will keep the hospital running smoothly.



"The Engineering Services staff is one of the most highly qualified and dedicated teams I have ever been associated with."

—Herbert Schwind, PE, LEED AP



Herbert Schwind PE, LEED AP

Director, Engineering
Services Department

Q Herb, can you tell us a bit about your work background?

A After graduating from college with a degree in Civil Engineering, I served as an active duty Navy Civil Engineer for over 26 years. Over the years, I was stationed or deployed to Greece, Okinawa, Spain, Diego Garcia, Alaska, Italy, and Port Hueneme Seabee Base, where I met my wife. After I retired from the Navy I served as the Director of Infrastructure and Facilities for Glastonbury, Connecticut, for over 10 years, managing capital projects for schools, community centers, and other building projects. I always knew I wanted to return to Ventura County, and in late 2011, I jumped at the chance to manage the VCMC Hospital Replacement Wing project.

Q How would you describe the staff of ESD?

A The Engineering Services staff is one of the most highly qualified and dedicated teams I have ever been associated with. They are highly trained, educated, and experienced and can be counted on to provide excellent services to their customers and clients.

Upcoming Events

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

Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SESSION

Q Please share with us how the other 26 County agencies work with VCPWA Engineering Services Department?

A The Engineering Services Department provides support both to other County agencies and to the public in general.

The Development Services staff and the Surveyor's staff work directly with engineers, developers, and land owners, reviewing and assisting them in their development plans and needs to ensure they comply with State and County requirements.

The Development Services staff, Surveyor's staff, Project Services, and Contracting Departments provide support to other County agencies to help define, design, and build their projects to satisfy their needs while ensuring State and County laws are complied with.

We develop many of the policies and procedures that all elements of the County refer to and follow.

Q Can you tell us about your family, hobbies, and interests?

A Having lived and worked in many different locations, my wife and I love living here in Ventura County. We don't have any kids so we spoil our dog. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and golf. I also like to read.



A Message from Our Mascot

PW CAWS:

Hello! join us! Stay connected to your VCPWA community!



Like Us on Facebook!

[facebook.com /VCPWA](https://facebook.com/VCPWA)



Follow Us on Twitter!

twitter.com/VCPublicWorks

MAKING MOVES:

Kanan Shuttle Service Receives Accolades

Since its inception in August 2013, ridership for the Kanan Shuttle Service in Oak Park has soared. The new transportation service—a collaboration between the Ventura County Public Works Agency, Supervisor Parks, the City of Agoura Hills, and First Transit—has surpassed expectations with almost 7,000 users every month.

The shuttle, featuring a logo of a leaping mountain lion, conveniently transports riders along Kanan Road with a 15 – stop route that provides easy access to schools, parks, and shopping.

The Kanan Shuttle's website (www.kanashuttle.com) has received overwhelming feedback from visitors commending the service for its convenience and helping to alleviate traffic during peak hours. It is estimated that approximately 600 car trips per month along Kanan Road are eliminated by people using the Kanan Shuttle.

“Not only has the service drastically reduced congestion on Kanan Road, but it has also helped reduce pollution in the City of Agoura Hills.”

—David Fleisch, VCPWA Director of Transportation

“We’re thrilled with the warm reception the Kanan Shuttle has received since introducing the new mode of transportation to the Oak Park community,” said David Fleisch, VCPWA Director of Transportation. “Not only has the service reduced congestion on Kanan Road, but it also helps reduce pollution. People appreciate the reduced travel costs and the availability of fixed-route transit in the area.”

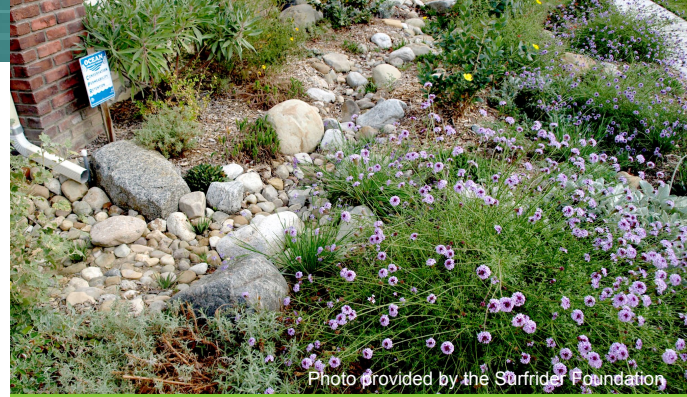


Photo provided by the Surfrider Foundation

Moving from Gray to Green

The VCPWA Watershed Protection District continues to strengthen its actions to “Move from Grey to Green” in 2014. On February 4th at the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura, Tully Clifford, Watershed Protection District Director, spoke to members of the Surfrider Foundation. He emphasized the importance of looking at the District's actions as a whole rather than project per project, with a concentration of maintaining sustainable ecosystems in our watersheds.

The audience listened attentively as Clifford explained how the District is concentrating on the big picture—to protect homes and businesses while preserving water quality, safeguarding habitats, and improving creek aesthetics. The Surfrider Foundation was very interested in what their group can do to help protect our oceans and beaches.

The Surfrider Foundation's current campaign, Ocean Friendly Gardens, reflects the Watershed Protection District's mission statement to protect life, property, watercourses, and watersheds. The campaign educates and assists people in creating landscapes that utilize native plants, permeable groundcovers, and water-retention features to prevent urban runoff, create wildlife habitats, and design beautiful spaces.

Working together, the two entities are looking forward to educating more homeowners on how to apply Conservation, Permeability, and Retention (CPR) to revive our watersheds and oceans.