

THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

February 2015

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FROM THE
DIRECTOR'S
DESK

Jeff Pratt,
Public Works
Agency Director



Dear Friends,

I'd like to thank everyone for attending our recent State of the Agency meetings. It was a pleasure watching our teams come together to celebrate the success of past projects and inform us about future developments. We are including some photos from the highly competitive Marshmallow Challenge and the lessons we learned — most notably, how the five departments, within the VCPWA, along with outside partners, work collaboratively to get projects done and improve our community.

In this issue, we talk about the Engineering Services Department's collaboration on the firehouse projects to ensure fire protection services are in keeping with current codes and operational needs of the Fire Protection District. We also address the work that our Transportation Department did to clean up the mudslides resulting from the rain in our County.

Finally, we'd like to recognize the 2014 Service Awards, Challenge Coin Recipients, and Retirees. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. Here's to another year of collaboration.

All the best,

Jeff Pratt
Director

What Does a Marshmallow Have to do with Collaboration?



The Marshmallow Challenge is a remarkably fun and instructive exercise that encourages teams to experience simple but profound lessons in collaboration, innovation, and creativity.

All that's needed are 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string, and one marshmallow to bring a working team closer together and learn some surprising lessons.

To illustrate the importance of teamwork and collaboration, this exercise was conducted at the recent VCPWA State of the Agency meetings. Jessica Kam explained the exercise and energized everyone to work collaboratively. Engineers, project managers, O&M workers, and administrative and support staff worked together in teams to build the tallest structure with a whole marshmallow on top. Communication, ingenuity, and time management were just a few skills that emerged during the timed exercise.

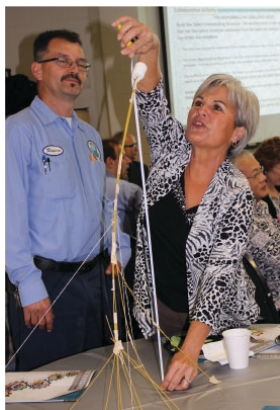
The team presentations throughout the VCPWA meetings echoed the theme of collaboration leading to innovation:

- Brian D'Anna of the Engineering Services Department informed the gathering about the collaborative nature of his department and highlighted the HCA Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, a simple project that requires the collaboration of numerous organizations to succeed.
- Janice Turner of Central Services Department also spoke of her department's collaborative functions and agency-wide teams responsible for specific Agency initiatives, one being the roll-out of SharePoint, a collaborative software program, which encourages innovation and project productivity.
- Karen Mendoza discussed the Website Committee and the evolution of website development.

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- Sandy Harrison talked about her participation on the Public Works Week Committee that plans and organizes the National Public Works Week activities, where we showcase the Agency to the public. She also shared her involvement with the Picnic Committee, collaborating on activities geared to just having fun with family and co-workers.
- Dave Sasek of the Water and Sanitation Department explained the collaboration behind the Moorpark Desalter – Pilot Well Test Project and the importance of developing this additional water supply.
- Dave Fleisch of the Transportation Department highlighted the unique collaboration with the community of Oak Park, and the cities of Agoura Hills and Thousand Oaks, along with other outside organizations, to develop the Kanan Shuttle Service, including efforts to keep the service free.
- Kathryn Pierce gave an overview of the Agency Workplace Safety Program and the collaborative efforts needed to ensure employee safety.
- Karl Novak, Rick Cadena of Watershed Protection, and Tony Cuccio, Rodrigo Loera, and Gilbert Cardoza from Transportation shared collaborative efforts between the O&M divisions of their departments; one highlighted project involved the remote-controlled skid steer that is used to clear brush and debris from hard-to-reach areas.
- Gerard Kapuscik of the Water Protection District helped everyone understand the Levee Certification Project and the importance of collaboration toward getting such a large, involved project completed in an expedited time frame.

One last message from the marshmallow project: the need to identify hidden assumptions in our projects. After all, we think a marshmallow is light and fluffy — but when we actually try to build a structure to support it, we discover it's not quite what we expected. Collaboration is vital, but unless we identify the assumptions in a project — real customer needs, costs, duration of the service, etc. — we won't succeed. Exercises like the Marshmallow Challenge keep the VCPWA on our toes, and give us the inspiration we need to collaborate effectively as well as make plans for the best possible outcome.





Fillmore Station #27

Thanks to collaboration between the VCPWA Engineering Services Department (ESD) and several other local entities both public and private, Ventura County is getting three brand new fire stations. These new stations will provide exceptional fire protection services to the public, with facilities that meet current codes and operational needs of the Fire Protection District — and we think they're attractive, distinctive additions to the cityscapes as well.

We asked Engineering Manager Glenn Derossett some questions about the three fire stations currently in the works, including Fillmore Fire Station #27, Newbury Park Fire Station #35, and Ojai Fire Station #20.

Q: When did ESD begin working on the Fillmore Fire Station #27 project? When will it be completed?

A: Engineering Services began working on the Fillmore Fire Station #27 in July, 2012. The County expects construction to begin by July, 2015, and be completed in August, 2016.

Q: Who is ESD collaborating with on this project?

A: ESD is collaborating with the Ventura County Fire Protection District, City of Fillmore, the County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, along with consultant designer Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects, Inc. and utility providers such as Southern California Edison, which is providing Savings By Design incentives to the County.

Q: What is the scope of work?

A: Fillmore Fire Station #27 will be a new one-story fire station with three apparatus bays and nine dorm rooms, and will be located at 133 C Street within the City of Fillmore, at the intersection of River and C Streets, south of Ventura Street (State Route 126). The station will occupy approximately 15,000 square feet, including the Fire Station, an Incident Command/Training Center, and a garage. The County has completed the environmental and property-acquisition phases of the project and the improvement plans are currently under their second review by Building and Safety for a building permit.

Q: How did the project come to be?

A: The existing Fire Station #27 was built in 1952 and operates as a Rescue/Engine company, along with providing support to the US Forest Service during their summer and fall fire season. The current station does not meet current codes or operational requirements and is located on an odd shaped lot with insufficient space for expansion. The project was initiated in 2012 when a foreclosed property became available at a favorable location for



Newbury Park Station #35

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Ojai Station #20

responses to the station's emergency calls. The Fire Department had been looking for years at prospective sites in anticipation of the need in the future for a replacement fire station. The new 4.93-acre site, which was originally listed for sale at \$1,050,000, became available from the bank at a price of \$700,000. The developed site will be on 2.64 acres.

Q: We heard that Fillmore has a different storm drain system. Tell us about it.

A: The Fillmore storm drain system has been designed to reduce storm water runoff. Most of the storm water runoff within Fire Station #27's improvement area will be retained on site with a dual system of capturing and storing rainwater in a cistern which can supply landscape irrigation, and percolation into the ground through on-site bioswales.

Q: Can you tell us a little more about the Newbury Park Fire Station #35 project?

A: Newbury Park Fire Station #35 will be a new two-story fire station with three apparatus bays and nine dorm rooms located at 751 Mitchell Road within the City of Thousand Oaks, adjacent to the Mitchell Business Center. The station will occupy approximately 12,000 square feet. The County has completed the environmental and property acquisition phases of the project and the improvement plans have been submitted to Building and Safety for their first review.

Q: What is the vision for the Ojai Fire Station #20?

A: Ojai Fire Station #20 will be a new one-story fire station with two apparatus bays and four dorm rooms located at 12000 Santa Paula Road in unincorporated Upper Ojai. The station will occupy approximately 8,000 square feet, including the fire Station and garage. A public hearing for approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Conditional Use Permit, and Zoning Variance was held by the Board of Supervisors on February 24, 2015. The County is currently responding to concerns of residents that were raised at the Board hearing. Final design and permitting will begin following completion of the environmental process.

MUDSLIDES

The month of December brought Ventura County some much needed rain, and left the Ventura County Public Works Agency's Department of Transportation with a hefty load of mud, rocks, and vegetative debris, as well as eroded shoulders on various roads throughout the County.

On Potrero Road, mudslides were caused by erosion in canyons previously denuded by the Spring fire in 2013. Superintendent in the Road Maintenance Division and 31-year VCPWA employee, Rodney Perez, estimated more than 500 cubic yards of material eroded from the hillside. The mudslides did not come as a complete surprise to Perez and his veteran maintenance team, aware that the canyons had experienced wildfires in the past few years, making the hillsides vulnerable to collapse in the event of heavy rainfall.

It took the Transportation Department over a week to clear the impassable 1.5-mile stretch of roadway covered in debris. A fleet of maintenance trucks headed by front-end loaders and excavators transported mud deposits to a designated stockpile site where water could percolate back into the earth. The road was then swept clean for public traffic. The previously mentioned Gradall excavator was also used to clear ditches and restore culverts so that the road could be safely repaired for motorists.



STATE OF THE AGENCY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND AWARDS

Service Awards

Richard Cadena

Supervisor - PW Maintenance
Watershed Protection
20 Years

Tony Chen

Engineer IV
Watershed Protection
20 Years

Pam Cook

Accounting Officer II
Central Services
20 Years

Julia Dixon

Accounting Officer II
Central Services
20 Years

Agnes Kish

Engineering Technician IV
Transportation
20 Years

George Ramirez

Fiscal Technician II
Central Services
20 Years

Kevin Chrisman

PW Maintenance Specialist
Transportation
25 Years

David McCarthy

Supervisor - PW Maintenance
Watershed Protection
25 Years

Daniel Romero

Senior Public Works Inspector
Watershed Protection
25 Years

Michael Stevens

PW Maintenance Worker IV
Watershed Protection
25 Years

Julie Stuart

Engineering Technician IV
Transportation
25 Years

Lucy Taylor

Supervising Accountant III
Central Services
25 Years

Augustino Godinez

Public Works Superintendent
Water & Sanitation
30 Years

Rodney Perez

Public Works Superintendent
Transportation
30 Years

David Torfeh

Engineering Technician IV
Transportation
30 Years

John Weal

Real Property Agent II
Central Services
30 Years

Gilbert Beltran

Equipment Operator III
Transportation
35 Years

Anthony Cuccio

Supervisor - PW Maintenance
Transportation
35 Years

Jess Lemos

Public Works Superintendent
Transportation
35 Years

John Pennington

Senior Public Works Inspector
Engineering Services
35 Years

Employees of the Year

Rose Paredes

Engineering Services

Bill DuFrain

Watershed Protection

Retirements

Retirees

Department

Years of Service

Colleen Bruns	Central Services	36
Sally Long	Central Services	19
Daniel Hartzell	Engineering Services	5
Dolores Murphy	Engineering Services	16
James Myers	Engineering Services	26
Rose Paredes	Engineering Services	24
Kathy Smith	Engineering Services	12
Danny Battung	Transportation	33
Sivarajan Chikkiah	Transportation	20
Diane Folgelstrom	Water & Sanitation	11
Reed Kregel	Water & Sanitation	15
Reddy Pakala	Water & Sanitation	34
Gary Bakken	Watershed Protection	23
Joe Juarez	Watershed Protection	32
Hank Weishaar	Watershed Protection	34
Tom Wolfington	Watershed Protection	4

Challenge Coin Recipients 2014

Eric Weinstein
Jonathan Jacobson
Anthony Gallo
Susan Pan
Gabe Ramirez
Howard Hope
Ray Gutierrez
Sergio Vargas
Felipe Gonzales
CJ Farrar
Pete Wessel
John Bryson