



THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

Vol. 7 • No. 9



FROM THE
Director's Desk

Jeff Pratt,
Public Works
Agency Director

Dear team,

We have a lot to celebrate this month at VCPWA! A big round of applause to our planning committee who did a wonderful job coordinating this year's VCPWA picnic in Ojai. VCPWA is undoubtedly one of the hardest working teams in Ventura County, so it's always great when we get to take some time to relax and have fun outside of work, engage in some team bonding, and enjoy the company of each other's family and friends.

Speaking of family, we are thrilled to welcome a new member to the ever-growing VCPWA clan, Jean Fontayne. In this issue of The Pipeline, we had an informative Q&A with the Water & Sanitation Department's new Staff Services Manager so the team can get to know her better. Jean, welcome aboard!

Also this month, we celebrated National Flood Preparedness Week, which was honored with a proclamation by our Board of Supervisors. We also had our annual Storm Day exercise, in which our crews conducted drills testing our response to a devastating flood after damage caused by wild fires. As experts in our field, we know it doesn't take an El Niño storm to cause a debris flow affecting our roadways or citizens' homes.

Thank you for all you do!

Jeff Pratt
Director



CONY ISLAND MEETS OJAI: *Keeping a snapshot of our annual VCPWA picnic*

Our 31st annual VCPWA picnic at Soule Park in Ojai was a success! From the food, games and atmosphere, to the incredible entertainment and the company of everyone who attended, it was an unforgettable afternoon.

The Coney Island themed picnic had our departments pulling out all the stops. Kids and adults alike played games that were reminiscent of the seaside carnival theme, such as Skee Ball, Octopus Ring Toss, Mystery Box, Face Painting, Caricature Artist, Craft Table, Temporary Tattoo station and Royal Flush.

Our annual golf tournament brought some new players to the table. This year, team members Ron VanDyck, Joe Juarez, Joe Speciale and Karl Novak reigned supreme and took home the coveted title.

The departments also had fun putting together their gift baskets for the big raffle. Each were unique and thoughtfully put together. Congratulations to raffle winners: Gloria Whitcomb, Nancy Martinez, Margaret Lopez, Tully Clifford, and Cheryl Snider.

VCPWA retiree, Tony Cuccio's and his band Blue Vice Band, provided the entertainment of the afternoon. Nice work on the keyboard, Tony!

And what's a picnic without some awesome barbecue? Our team of grill masters cooked up quite the feast as they made their famous tri-tip, chicken and the addition of the Coney Island inspired hot dog stand was a hit.

A huge thank you to our managers, and the local businesses whose cash and prize donations helped make the event so special: Boccali's Pizza and Pasta, Wendy's, Mariane Kovats Photography, Panaro Brothers Winery, Mountain View Golf Course, Santa Paula Theater Center, Snapper Jacks Taco Shack, Yolanda's Restaurant, Elkin's Ranch Golf Course, Rain Barrel Solutions, Paschen Management Corps (McDonalds), Old Creek Ranch Winery, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Danny's Deli & Grill, Play It Again Sports, Alejandro Salon, Golf 'n' Stuff and Consortium Media.

Thank you to this year's committee members: Adrienne Burks, Katherine Carlton (Consortium Media), Debra Cavaletto, Claudia Castaneda, Danny Chacon, Tabin Cosio, Sandy Harrison, David Hazen, Richard Herrera, Howard Hope, John Lagomarsino, Karen Mendoza, Rene Moreno, Rudy Munoz, Karl Novak, Phil Raba, Gabe Ramirez, Tony Sheppard, Gloria Silvestri-Whitcomb, Kristine Stratas, Frances Tamayo, Eric Weinstein, Katie Yates (Consortium Media)



Well, maybe not, but in the business of Public Works, you can never be too prepared to take on a devastating natural event, especially when thousands of our citizens are at risk. Despite the fact that we're still in a state of a drought, VCPWA is diligent in ensuring our teams are prepared and plan ahead to the best of our ability.

This month, our team carried out its annual Storm Day exercise, in conjunction with National Flood Preparedness Week. This year's theme was Fire & Rain. The Storm Day Exercise simulated flooding from a storm taking place after a simulated local brush fire. The exercise aimed to prepare our crew for landslides in canyons directly affected by fire season. Anytime heavy rainfall is forecasted, our teams are on high alert as these areas are greatly susceptible to debris flows, which can become dangerous for homeowners and their families residing in these regions, as well as motorists who travel the roadsides near these canyons.

For Flood Preparedness Week, the Board of Supervisors granted a proclamation recognizing the commemorative week, and VCPWA's Watershed Protection District created an informational exhibit which was on display at the Government Center. In addition, WPD provided tips for homeowners and residents that they can follow to help minimize losses in case of flooding.

SOME GOOD STEPS TO TAKE:

- ⚡ Make an inventory of belongings and store that document out of the reach of floodwaters, preferably offsite perhaps in a safe deposit box.
- ⚡ Raise appliances a foot or more above anticipated flood level.
- ⚡ Learn how to acquire sandbags and also get familiar on how to place them to do the most good when floodwaters threaten your property.
- ⚡ Make sure everyone in your family knows the plan: What is the evacuation route?

- ⚡ Teach your family about the dangers of electric lines and floodwaters.
- ⚡ Assign a relative or friend living away from you as an emergency contact and be sure everyone in your family has that contact information.
- ⚡ Having enough food and water is essential to "get by" during a flooding emergency. So are cellphones, radios, batteries, flashlights, medical prescriptions, extra eyeglasses and basic first aid items. Be sure to store those supplies up high -- well above the anticipated flood level.
- ⚡ Don't forget pets; they will need enough food to get by for the duration also.
- ⚡ When making improvements to your landscaping, design with an eye toward flood protection as well as aesthetics. Retaining walls and other structures can help divert floodwaters.
- ⚡ Purchasing flood insurance is a good idea too, since most home insurance policies do not cover flooding.

If rains are predicted, save the links listed below on your phone for easy access to current storm related information:

- Current storm information: <http://vcwatershed.net/fws/>
- Live map showing radar returns for current and past precipitation: <http://www.vcwatershed.net/fws/gmap.html>
- Local news online: <http://www.keyt.com/> and <http://web.vcstar.com/weather/>
- Local road closures http://vcwatershed.com/webeoc/status_report.php (available via <http://vcpublicworks.org/> --online services menu tab)
- Sigalert (live highway closures map): <http://www.sigalert.com/>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/>

Learn more- check some of these resources on the web:

- Information about flood insurance discounts in unincorporated Ventura County areas: <http://www.vcfloodinfo.com>
- VC Sheriff's emergency preparedness website <http://www.readyventuracounty.org/>

Introducing Jean Fontayne

The newest team
member of VCPWA



VCPWA welcomes Jean Fontayne as the Water & Sanitation Department's new Staff Services Manager. Jean joins us at a critical time as the Department is tasked with finding cost-effective ways to deliver this precious resource to county residents and businesses. We're confident that Jean's background in finance, customer service and high technology make her the ideal addition to our workforce. Get to know more about Jean in her new position and some tidbits on what she likes to do outside the office.

Q:

Congratulations on your new role with the Water & Sanitation Department! What are you most looking forward in your new position?

I am looking forward to learning all the nuances of the Water & Sanitation Department, and working with a balanced customer support team.

Q:

Tell us how your past professional experience has prepared you for this new role?

I have an MBA from CLU (California Lutheran University) in Management and Organizational Behavior, and in December, I will obtain a Post MBA certificate in Finance.

Q:

What are you hoping to accomplish with your team?

In my new position I hope to help connect roles, responsibilities and tasks in order to create efficient team processes.

Q:

What do you love about working for VCPWA?

I like that the VCPWA is employee centered.

Q:

What are 3 things most of your peers don't know about you?

My peers don't know that:

1. I love to read, and one of my favorite authors is Ken Follett and my favorite book by Follett is The Pillars of the Earth. I have read all books written by Ken Follett, Patricia Cornwell, Michael Connelly, James Patterson, and many more.
2. I am both a Badger and Packer fan. In the fall, I love to watch football!
3. Last year I began to meditate to relax, de-stress and enhance my mental focus.

Q:

What do you love to do outside of work?

Outside work when I am not busy with school work from CLU, I am usually walking the trails in Dos Vientos, playing tennis, or attending AYSO soccer games.

Matilija Dam IN THE NEWS



Congresswoman Julia Brownley joined the VCPWA Watershed Protection District and other stakeholders to discuss a plan for the removal of the Matilija Dam due to its adverse impact on the local ecosystem and sediment build-up that has rendered the structure obsolete.

Following a tour of the dam, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency John Laird was the special guest at a roundtable discussion with key federal, state, local, and community stakeholders to identify strategies and specific plans for funding and actions needed to remove the dam and accommodate accumulated sediment. Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), Assemblymember Das Williams (D-Carpinteria), and Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett also participated in the event.

Matilija Dam was built in 1947 on the Ventura River to provide a local water supply and flood protection for surrounding communities. However, over the past 70 years, sediment build-up behind the dam has significantly undermined the structure's intended functions. It also has impacted the ecosystems of Matilija Creek and the Ventura River, preventing natural sand and sediment flow to the beach, and preventing the endangered steelhead trout from reaching their ancestral spawning grounds.

"Today, 27 percent of the original steelhead spawning habitat in the Ventura River watershed lies locked behind the dam."



- Peter Sheydayi, Watershed Protection District Interim Director.

"The District has been actively involved in the removal of Matilija Dam since 1999," said Peter Sheydayi, Ventura County Watershed Protection District Interim Director. "Today, 27 percent of the original steelhead spawning habitat in the Ventura River watershed lies locked behind the dam. A successfully completed project would remove the Matilija Dam and facilitate the natural flow of sand and sediment from the mountains to the beaches, also allowing the endangered steelhead trout to reach habitat upstream of the existing dam to the place of their ancestral spawning and rearing."



VCPWA

Community Outreach

VCPWA Transportation Department Director Dave Fleisch spoke to the Ventura County Council of the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA) at their October luncheon meeting. Dave spoke to a group of 40 former military officers and spouses about VCPWA Transportation Department's innovations and improvements, addressing the current status of roads throughout the County and a number of innovations in progress to provide our residents with the best roads in California.



Back by Popular Demand

VCPWA's Watershed Friendly Garden workshop returned for a second year—this time at TWO locations! Due to the overwhelming success of introducing the five-part series last year, the Watershed Protection District offered the classes in Ojai and Oak Park. Each event was well attended ranging from 35-55 participants each class. Congrats to our team on hosting such a great, informative learning opportunity for the community!

SAVE THE DATE
12.19.16

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening

-of the-

New Office/Laboratory Building at the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility

Monday, December 19, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.
9550 East Los Angeles Avenue, Moorpark, CA 93021

RSVP to Sandy Harrison by December 15, 2016 at
(805) 378-3012 or Sandy.Harrison@ventura.org



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



Trigonometry
IN ACTION!

$$\frac{360^\circ}{16} = 22^\circ 30' 00'' = 22.5^\circ$$

$$2R \sin \frac{A}{2}$$
$$LS 90 \sin 11.25^\circ$$

LAND SURVEYING = OUTDOOR MATHEMATICS

VCPWA's Engineering Services Department was invited to Ventura College for a public speaking engagement. The team gave college students a presentation about surveying using both older and modern survey instruments and methods.

