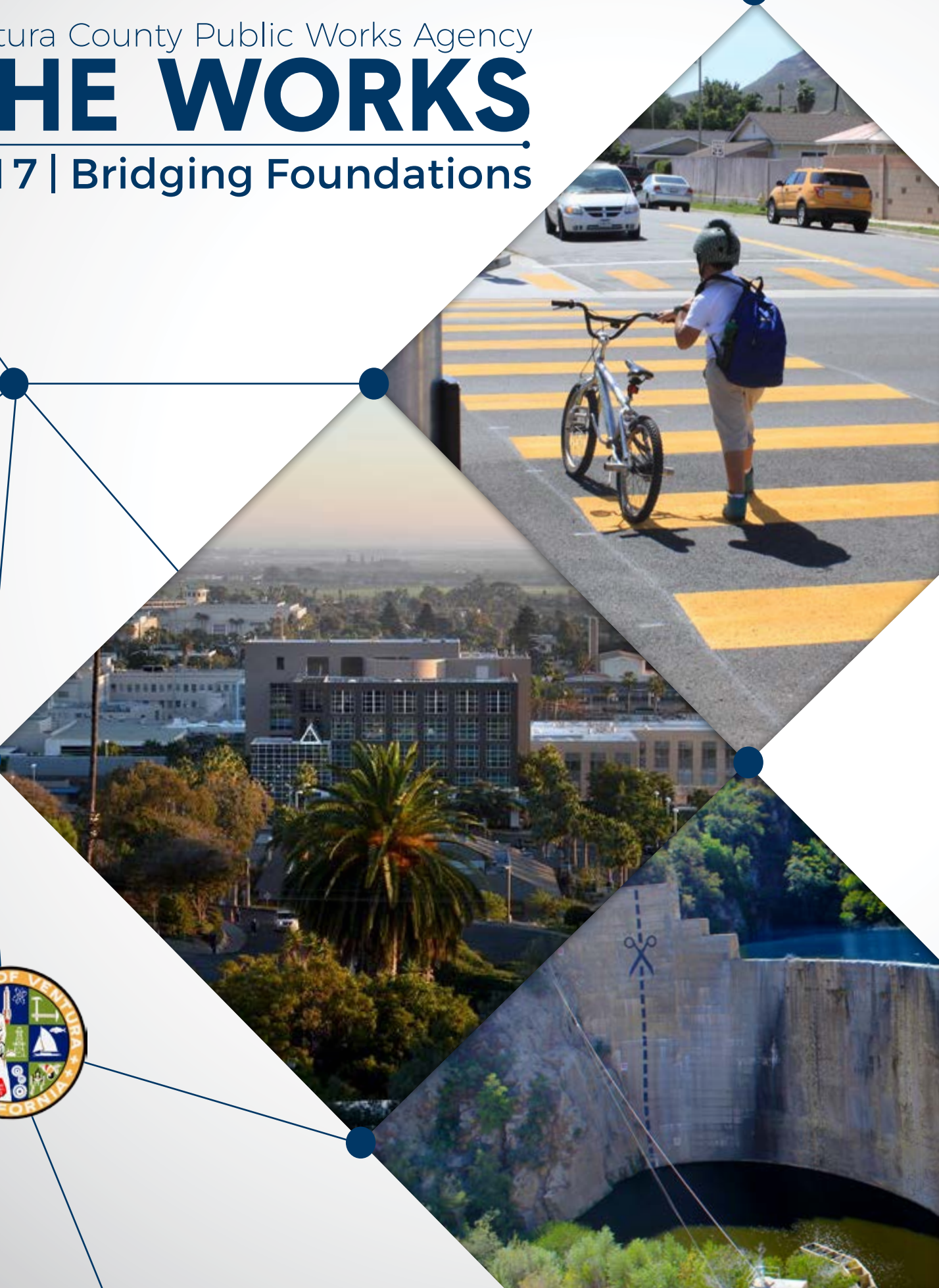


Ventura County Public Works Agency

THE WORKS

2017 | Bridging Foundations





Jeff Pratt, Public Works Agency Director

Happy New Year to all! In this issue, we reflect and celebrate the groundbreaking work each department and all 400 VCPWA employees have accomplished over the past year, as well as look forward to new accomplishments in 2017.

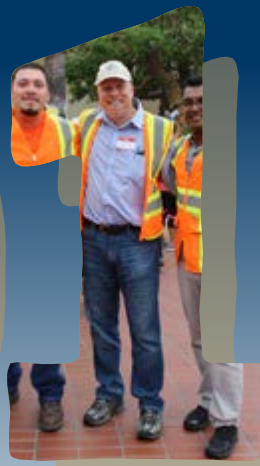
Each department has contributed so much to the betterment of Ventura County this year, and our 2016 Recap reflects it. 2016 has also been a year of change. For the first time in VCPWA history, we've welcomed four new Department Directors to our leadership team. This month, we extend a warm welcome to Glenn Shephard, our new Director for the Watershed Protection District. As you know, with each new appointment, we've scouted nationally for the best leaders for our organization. I am confident this new leadership and fresh perspective will help us continue on a productive path for next year.

In this issue, we get festive in sharing photos of our non-profit involvement this holiday season, from FOOD Share's 5th annual CAN-tree Collection food drive and our donation to RAIN, to a surprise guest performance in Ventura County Ballet Company's production of The Nutcracker. In addition, we share our involvement in leading an 8-week course at CSUCI and we celebrate another exciting accolade which recognizes our team's innovative work.

And on a final note, I am excited to announce another "new beginning" for 2017. Our monthly newsletter received an update to better reflect VCPWA's communication goals and celebrate all the hard work and innovation that each of you bring to VCPWA. I hope you all enjoy "The Works" newsletter!

Thank you, team, for another remarkable and historical year for VCPWA. Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year!

A LOOK BACK ON...



Central Services

The Central Services Department (CSD) is the hub for many of VCPWA's core support programs and services including technology, human resources, health & safety, real estate, fiscal services, and clerical services. This year, we bid farewell to our longtime Central Services Director, Janice Turner, who retired from the Agency this summer, and welcomed Tabin Cosio to take the helm of the Department. He has seamlessly transitioned into the role.

One of CSD's greatest strengths is managing the Agency's \$300 million budget and doing so in a cost-effective way. This year, CSD announced that the Lean Six Sigma efficiency program has provided \$2 million in cost avoidance this fiscal year, adding to the almost \$7 million in cost avoidance over the past six years. VCPWA leads all other Ventura County departments in overall cost avoidance!

Over the past year, Health & Safety was instrumental in getting the Accident Review Council up and running to enhance workplace safety programs that led to a downward trend in workplace injuries. The Human Resources Division successfully conducted 30 job recruitments to fill highly technical positions and senior management slots. The IT team launched strategic technology-based solutions, like the new electronic purchase requisition process, and installed new hardware that equips our employees to more quickly and efficiently do their jobs. Real Estate Services busied itself negotiating deals that secured new County properties for, among others, the Fire District, IT Services and Library Services. All this while Clerical Services wrangled Jeff's busy schedule to make sure he was at the right place at the right time and with the right information.



TABIN COSIO

This year, the Engineering Services Department (ESD) wished a Happy Retirement to Director Herb Schwind and proudly promoted longtime VCPWA team member Chris Cooper to succeed him.

Solar projects proved to be the shining example of how ESD will transform major County facilities by implementing environmental and energy-saving strategies. Coming on the heels of completing the Ventura County Government Center Solar Project in late 2015, ESD completed the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Solar Project in February 2016. The facility now contains 3,620 ground-mounted solar array panels that cover over three acres of land on the JJC property. The solar panels are expected to reduce the County's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by approximately 532 metric tons, which, along with previously completed County solar projects, significantly aid in reaching the goal of reducing GHG emissions 15% by 2020.

ESD recently completed the Horizon View Mental Health Rehabilitation Center. The \$9 million project is a 24 hour facility that provides intensive mental and behavioral health services. This is a one-of-a-kind facility in the County and only 1 of 20 in the entire state. The 15,000 square-foot space includes 16 client bedrooms, programming space, a dining room, a commercial kitchen and an outdoor exercise yard.

Engineering Services

Continued on next page



JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER SOLAR PROJECT

ESD also recently completed the Vehicle Storage Building at Todd Road Jail. The \$2 million project is a 20,000 square-foot facility used by the Sheriff's Office for long-term storage. The new building provides much more space, as well as greater protection and monitoring.

Lastly, ESD continues to spearhead the massive undertaking constructing the Ventura County Medical Center's 220,000 square-foot replacement wing. A project that has been six years in the making inches toward its projected completion date in May 2017.

Transportation

Keeping the 542 miles of unincorporated roads managed by the Transportation Department (TD) safe for all motorists, pedestrians and cyclists is the core of the team's mission.

2016 proved once again that years of hard work is paying off when the TD's annual Traffic Safety Analysis data showed the number of collisions on unincorporated County roads has dropped by almost 40% in a decade, declining from a high of 950 to a historic low of 577. The trend toward fewer accidents has mostly been downward since the County started a coordinated effort to analyze and develop a number of corrective actions to reduce collisions in high-impact areas.

The TD completed twelve road improvement projects this year totaling over \$12 million, including seven pavement projects. Two projects are particularly noteworthy: the Donlon Road Realignment and the Wendy and Gerald Signal Installation.

For more than 20 years, the community of Somis longed for road enhancements and safety improvements for Donlon Road. Idling vehicles at the intersection had also long been a source of reduced air quality. Further, during peak traffic hours, congestion at the intersection was delayed and often backed up for a mile or more.



DONLON ROAD RIBBON CUTTING

The project, completed in March 2016, moved Donlon Road approximately 200 feet to the west to connect its alignment with the existing traffic signal on Highway 118 at Somis Road (Highway 34). The new signal and standard four-way intersection has greatly improved traffic flow. The project was selected as one of APWA's Projects of the Year.

In April, the TD and Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks commemorated the completion of the long-awaited new traffic signal at the previously uncontrolled crosswalk and intersection of Wendy and Gerald Drives in Newbury Park. The new signal provides a safer path to school for students as well as a way to reduce traffic collisions.

"Completing safety projects is always important and rewarding," said David Fleisch, VCPWA TD Director. "To see a school student use the signalized crosswalk while we were doing the ribbon cutting highlighted exactly why we applied for the funding to help complete the project."

Watershed Protection District

The Watershed Protection District (WPD) continues to be a powerhouse in using environmentally sound approaches when fulfilling its mission to protect life, property, watercourses, watersheds, and public infrastructure from the dangers and damages associated with flood and storm waters.

In March 2016, the County of Ventura was awarded a Class 5 rating under the Community Rating System (CRS) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This prestigious Class 5 recognition demonstrates the County of Ventura's ongoing commitment to implementing a sound and comprehensive floodplain management program that exceeds the minimum FEMA requirements for flood warning notifications, stormwater management practices, channel maintenance, reduction of flood damage risk to development within the floodplain, environmental protection of wildlife and habitat within the floodplain, and public outreach on flood awareness and preparedness and the importance of purchasing flood insurance. This is an important achievement for the County as there are only five other communities in California with this distinction, and 102 communities across the United States.



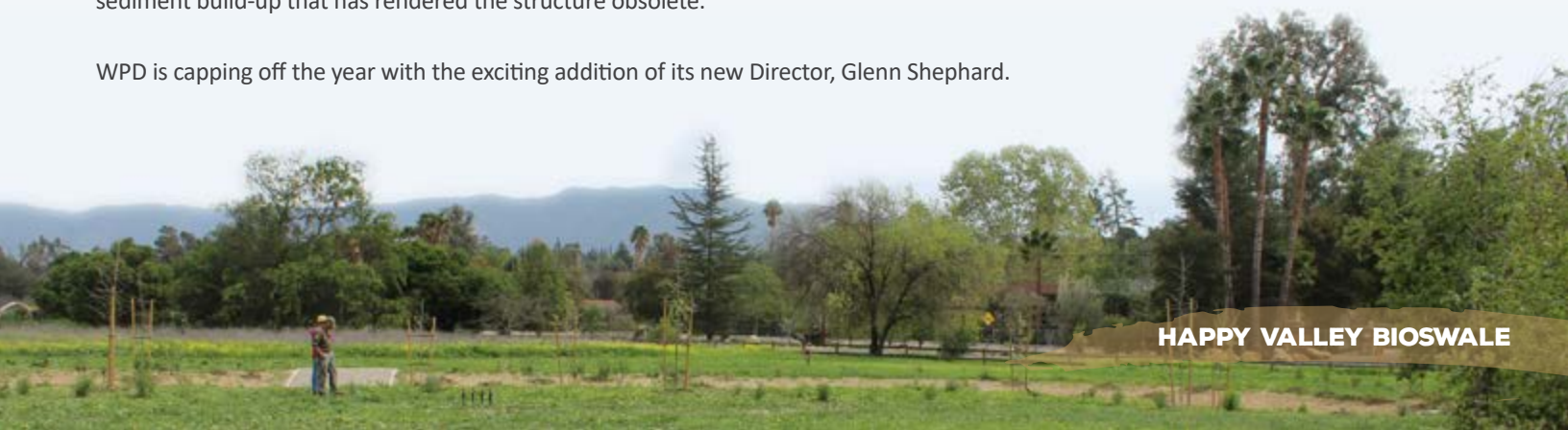
This summer, WPD installed precast pervious concrete panels in the gutters of a residential neighborhood adjacent to a school in the unincorporated community of El Rio. The purpose of this project was to capture stormwater for groundwater recharge, reduce local nuisance of frequent flooding, and improve water quality of stormwater runoff to meet State water quality objectives. This project was the first application of precast rather than poured in-place pervious concrete in California. Off-site fabrication of precast panels significantly improved product quality of the pervious concrete and reduced installation time in the field. As a result, 46 acres of El Rio residential area became a demonstration of Green Streets application and sustainable water management practices.

Earlier this year at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Ojai Meadows Preserve, WPD designed and constructed Happy Valley Bioswale, an enhanced vegetated swale, to reduce urban runoff pollutant loading to the Happy Valley Drain, a tributary of the Ventura River. Located in Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Ojai Meadows Preserve, the bioswale was installed in order to meet State water quality objectives, but also to provide habitat for wildlife by including native drought-tolerant plants in the design. The ASCE and APWA award-winning project blends elements of engineering and natural biological processes to remove a variety of pollutants from urban stormwater runoff while supporting natural habitats. The improvement will benefit aquatic life and recreational uses by reducing high nitrogen levels which can cause excessive algae growth and deplete oxygen in the water. The stormwater catchment area covers about 40 percent of the urban area of Meiners Oaks.

Ventura County residents once again had the opportunity to learn how to transform their gardens into beautiful drought-resilient landscapes when WPD hosted its second annual Watershed Friendly Garden program. For the first time, the program's seminars and workshops were offered at two locations; Oak Park and Meiners Oaks. The five-part interactive series was well attended at both locations and received positive feedback from participants.

WPD also participated in a very important conversation with Congresswoman Julia Brownley, State of California representatives and other stakeholders in October 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.

WPD is capping off the year with the exciting addition of its new Director, Glenn Shephard.



HAPPY VALLEY BIOSWALE

Water & Sanitation

The quest continues for the Water and Sanitation Department (WSD) to develop more water conservation-focused strategies and cost-effective solutions to deliver California's ever-more precious resource. With the addition of the Department's new Director, Michaela Brown, the team has certainly stepped up to the task and accomplished great work this year.

As with other agencies, the WSD faces significant challenges, including aging infrastructure, regulatory compliance (including new State reporting on water use), environmental sustainability, and the higher costs of water itself. To achieve all of these, the capital and financial resources of the WSD must be managed fairly and efficiently; Water and Sanitation enlisted the help of national Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. to complete a high level of analysis and to provide sound recommendations for the proposed water rate structure changes in 2017. The recommended changes in the water rate structure for Ventura County Waterworks Districts (VCWWD) 1, 17, 19, and 38 will better reflect the actual cost of acquiring, treating, storing, and delivering potable water.

MOORPARK WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

The WSD has also recently completed the construction of a 1.5-million-gallon new steel water tank in VCWWD No. 1 (Moorpark) to meet the storage and fire protection requirements of the new private development tract 5187. In addition, 8,000-linear-feet of high pressure water pipelines were constructed in VCWWD No. 17 (Bell Canyon) in May this year, which will improve the accessibility, efficiency, and reliability of the water distribution system. Design and award was also completed for the Recycled Water Distribution System – Phase IV, which will be constructed in 2017. In addition, re-coating work was completed on three potable water reservoirs totaling over five million gallons, as part of the annual water reservoir maintenance program. Substantial refurbishment work was also completed on Well No. 15, returning the local groundwater well with filtration treatment as a reliable local supply of potable water for District No. 1.

WSD also capped off its year with the exciting opening of the new 5,200 square-foot office and laboratory building at the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility. Be sure to read next month's issue for an in-depth tour of the new facility with Augustine Godinez.



NEW STEEL WATER TANK

GLENN SHEPHARD: NEW DIRECTOR OF THE WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT



VCPWA has named Glenn Shephard as the Director of its Watershed Protection District (WPD). Shephard comes to Ventura County after a successful 27-year Civil Engineering career with the United States Navy, which demonstrates a proven, consistent track record of increased responsibility with commensurate measurable accomplishment.

In his last position, he worked as Program Executive Officer, Director of Base Operating Support and Energy Programs for Navy Installations Command. In this role, he was responsible for planning, programming and budgeting execution for facility assets, real estate leases, as well as a \$2 billion annual operating budget. He led and directed an 18 person team organized with three division leads. His team was comprised of program management professional and analytical support employees serving worldwide – 10 Navy regions and 70 installations.

“Glenn’s global experience and success in leading large complex engineering organizations and multi-disciplined professional and technical staff reflect his expertise to assume his new Director role with VCPWA,” said Jeff Pratt, it’s Director. “The management qualities he mastered in the Navy are complemented by his extensive experience working with state, county, city and environmental regulatory agencies.”

Shephard is a registered professional engineer, has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University, a M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida, and is an alumnus of Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business Executive Program, Strategy and Organization.

*Welcome to the
team, Glenn!*

VENTURA COUNTY BALLET COMPANY PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER... Starring Jeff Pratt?

This holiday season, VCPWA Director Jeff Pratt was invited to grace the stage in the Ventura County Ballet Company's annual production of The Nutcracker. Jeff danced the part of Party Dad!



Giving Hearts:

VCPWA participates in the 5th annual CAN-tree Collection

How many VCPWA employees does it take to build a CAN-tree? A few of our team members spent the morning at CAN-tree Collection 2016, constructing CAN-trees made of donated cans that will feed Ventura County community members who are food insecure.

The VCPWA team had a blast building this year's CAN-trees, and finally revealed their top secret CAN-tree design – a life-sized Nutcracker of Jeff Pratt!

The CAN-tree Collection provides over 150,000 meals for people in need in Ventura County. Thank you to everyone who came out to the CAN-tree Food Drive at The Collection at RiverPark for an inspirational day of giving back to our hungry friends in Ventura County. We are so proud to be party of this community event.



RAIN Transitional Living Center

For the 3rd year, VCPWA has provided support for the non-profit organization RAIN during the holiday season to help those in transition from homelessness to permanent housing. This year, the team donated \$600 to the local non-profit. It is a great cause and VCPWA salutes the WPD staff for their continued efforts on behalf of families and people in need.

A Bridge to Permanent Housing

Since 1997, the RAIN Transitional Living Center (RAIN) has provided housing and services to families and single adults in Ventura County, California. Serving up to 70 people at a time in a home-like setting in Camarillo, RAIN provides nutritious meals; intensive case management services; employment assistance including transportation to work; life skills courses on topics such as money management, parenting, and relapse prevention; and privately-funded enrichment programs for children.

**AND THE AWARD
GOES TO...**



VCPWA'S HAPPY VALLEY BIOSWALE –

Meiners Oak Urban LID Retrofit was recognized twice by American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) – both ASCE Los Angeles Section and ASCE Region 9 (Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, and San Francisco areas) selected our project as the Environmental Engineering Project of the Year, “in recognition of the project’s unique technical achievements, its complexity, scope and engineering features.”

Bravo, Team!



VCPWA can add college educators to its impressive body of work. The agency was invited to lead an 8-week course for California State University, Channel Islands’ Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program. Moderated by VCPWA Director Jeff Pratt, the course presented an overview of the history and strategic management of Ventura County water use.