



Jeff Pratt, Public Works Agency Director

Greetings!

It's only the second month of the new year and we are off to an incredible start. This month, we learned that three VCPWA projects earned the prestigious Project of the Year Award from APWA's Ventura County chapter. Projects recognized were: Donlon Road Realignment, Happy Valley Bioswale and the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility. Congratulations to all of the hardworking teams that earned this honor!

We're excited to unveil our communications theme for 2017, which you will see weaved throughout each issue of our newsletter this year: Bridging Foundations. Our foundations to address infrastructure needs for our watersheds, water and sanitation facilities, transportation, engineering and central services are interconnected to provide a diverse range of vital services to enhance the lives of our citizens. This year, we focus on bridging our five-department agencies closer to function stronger as a unit, projecting our Agency forward as a statewide leader in community services.

In this issue, we highlight a project and initiative that perfectly underscores our new theme. VCPWA's Accident Review Council shares insight into the critical work and data gathered each month. Every single piece of information we receive helps bridge our procedures to ensure a solid foundation of safety for our VCPWA employees and community members. Also, we take a tour of the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility Laboratory & Office. The ribbon cutting of the new WSD Moorpark lab is a reminder that VCPWA continues to build innovative technologies and processes to serve our community. Also, we share photos from the Ventura County's Community for a Clean Watershed and the County of Ventura's Integrated Waste Management Division rain barrel and compost bin truckload sale.

Hope you enjoy this edition of The Works! Jeff Pratt

Meet the... ACCIDENT REVIEW COUNCIL

The ARC is a best practices entity responsible for reviewing the circumstances and causes of accidents, near misses, and occurrence reports, to ensure that the root cause is identified, and that, if needed, the appropriate action (e.g. change in methods of operation, increased training, etc.) has been or will be taken to prevent reoccurrences. "When you actually get down to it, it's the communication and the peer to peer involvement that has improved our safety program," Raba said.

Through ARC's work, the committee has determined that slips, trips and falls and lifting incorrectly make up the majority of accidents. Most can be avoided when adhering to proper safety

VCPWA Health and Safety Officer Phil Raba explains, "A significant impact that the ARC has had on the Agency is increased employee involvement between the committee members, their peers,

"Safety takes a team effort as well as personal responsibility. Tim Clack - Equipment operator for VCPWA Watershed Protection District & Chairman of the Accident Review Committee.

guidelines. This year there were incidents resulting in lost days or modified duty because employees were not following procedure. It is the responsibility of the ARC to review the investigation conducted

and the departments." Peers of the committee members have brought forward questions and have engaged in discussion. The ARC has invited the employee involved in an accident to attend a meeting to gather further information or to enhance the ARC knowledge on the process. by the employee's supervisor on these types of incidences, and identify hazards and implement measures to help correct and eliminate them. For example, while examining incidents involving the three points of contact earlier this year, the ARC requested implementation of a written procedure and related



training. During the training it was brought to our attention that we were not able to use the three points of contact while getting into and out of the bed of a dump truck. After reviewing the process, a group of PWA O&M and GSA fleet personnel developed a method using the three points of contact for dump truck beds. A ladder was installed on the passenger side of the vehicle to avoid traffic, along with a folding foot peg on the inside of the bed. Another training aid that was developed is the three points of contact Job Performance Associates (JPA) training video to demonstrate the proper method visually.

"As ARC Chairman, I am very proud to say that the committee is making progress in pursuing solutions to help improve safety in our workplace," said Tim Clack, equipment operator for VCPWA Watershed Protection District.

The chart below shows injuries from 2010 through 2016. We've made great progress since ARC was formed in 2015 in reducing the number of injuries.

If you are interested in joining the ARC or just want to attend a meeting, contact Phil Raba or Tim Clack for more information.



2010-2016 INJURIES

TAKE A TOUR >>>>>>

of the New Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility Laboratory & Office



Major upgrade: Congratulations to Water and Sanitation Department (WSD), Director Michaela Brown, her predecessors Reddy Pakala, and David Sasek; Deputy Directors Susan Pan and Eric Keller, along with staff, for their tireless efforts to bring the new Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility Laboratory and Office project to fruition. The WSD is proud to have a State-certified laboratory for sample analysis of water, wastewater, and recycled water. The WSD hosted a ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony December 19, 2016, and were joined by Supervisor Linda Parks, County of Ventura CEO Michael Powers, and other elected officials.

Join The Works on an insider tour of this modern, 5,200-sqaure-foot facility, with stops in the water testing laboratory, conference room, offices, SCADA monitoring center, and more.

Stop 1 on Tour: The computerized Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) monitoring system (seen here), lets technicians monitor the wastewater treatment process and provides real-time data on the operations of the wastewater system and water supply to more than 10,900 active connections within Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1. Results of analyses are used for monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reporting to the State.









Stop 2 on the Tour: At the heart of the new facility is the impressive water-testing laboratory that replaces a 40-year-old trailer, with comprehensive testing stations, all water quality testing can now be conducted in-house. The laboratory performs sample analysis of wastewater from the various stages of the treatment process, which provides treatment plant operators with necessary information to make daily adjustments to the treatment plant.

STOP 3

Stop 3 on the Tour: The laboratory will also serve as a hub of knowledge available for educational tours where students can learn the science behind providing clean water to the community. Wastewater operators, including Angelo Bullicer, will be able to show students the various steps (pictured here) the WSD takes to test water quality in the new laboratory.



Step 4 on the Tour: The facility also houses convenient office space for WSD staff who began working in their new offices late 2016.





Step 5 on the Tour: The building and property itself showcase environmental and energysaving elements. This includes the facility's solar-panel farm that supplies 70% of the power on the five-acre site and a 50-species fruit, shrub, and flower garden outside the building, which highlights water conservation and the use of recycled water for irrigation.



Media Blitz:

Hot off the Press!



Technology Convert Mo Usable Wate County

By LANCE OROZCO

New control center part o recycling in part of Ventuwater testing lab.

3:40 KCLU's Lance Orozco reports on a recycling system which serves par

The drought is prompting u and how we can better reus



Honors

The Ventura County Public Works Agency (V notable accolades. This month, the American chapter announced its Projects of the Year a Realignment; Happy Valley Bioswale; and the

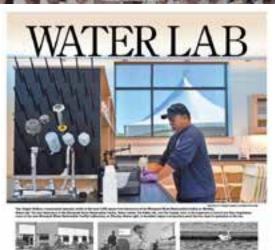
Donion Road Realignment - For more than 2 enhancements and safety improvements for also been noted as a source of reduced air of the intersection was delayed and often back March 2016 by VCPWA's Transportation De to the west to connect its alignment with the (Highway 34). The new signal and standard

(Highway Ga): Interface agreement of the provided treatment management. In partnership with the Qiai VI Protection District designed constructed to reduce urban unoff pollutant loading to the Located in Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's order to med Stale water quality objectives native plants included in the design. The pri biological processes to remove a variety of natural habitats. The improvement will berry intogen levels which can cause excessive stortwater catchment area covers about 4

Moorpark Reclamation Facility – VCPWA V new 5,200 square-foot laboratory at the Mr facility, which replaces the existing 40-year laboratory for water quality testing, and a \$

The SCADA Operations Center shows mo system operations and water supply to Ve as provide central monitoring, control, and The modern building is built with progress existing solar photovoltaic system will proalso has dual plumbing systems, which us landscape irrigation and flushing of toilets

The APWA is a not-for-profit, international the field of public works. APWA serves its



VENTURA COUNTY

One art facility opens in Moorpark, replacing a Novanoid op opension and a state of the state of



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f Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard. The ub of America's National Fine Arts d encourages artistic skills and by the Ventura College Women's achers Awards. Speech teacher Gary en. English teacher Laura Gillis was justice teacher Richard Goff was aus was selected by Sienna Brown. y Shirley, and aikido teacher Edward ne loan brokerage ira Chamber of Commerce at eceived the Small Business of the onstrating their work toward the tributions they made. ... was recognized three times by nty chapter's Projects of the Year n Road Realignment, Happy Valley

AND THE AWARDS GO TO...



VCPWA was awarded three of four Project of the Year recognitions at the American Public Works Association Ventura County Chapter's award luncheon! Projects that received these prestigious accolades were: Donlon Road Realignment, Happy Valley Bioswale and the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility Laboratory and Office. The Donlon Project will be forwarded by APWA as their project of the Year for the Engineer's Week Festivities. *Constat*: *Team!*

National Engineers Week

In February, we're celebrating National Engineers Week from February 19–25! During this time, government agencies, corporations, and engineering, education, and cultural societies raise public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life. This coalition also appeals to the future engineering workforce to increase understanding and interest in engineering and technology careers. Keep an eye out for our March issue as we recap how VCPWA celebrated this year!

January brought well above normal rain fall levels (According to the data, the spots surveyed by the district received well above normal rain. The district determines its normal totals from the 1957-1992 period. A comparison shows all the areas are above 100 percent for the current rain year with the highest being Piru with 187.9 percent and the lowest at 109.5 percent in Moorpark.)

This month, Ventura County's Community for a Clean Watershed and the County of Ventura's Integrated Waste Management Division partnered once again to offer another rain barrel and compost bin truckload sale at the Ventura County Government Center.

In the last two years, over 2,800 rain barrels were sold through the program. "It only takes 1/4 inch of rain collected from a 1,000 square foot roof to fill a few 50 gallon rain barrels," says Lara Meeker, water resources specialist at the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. "That means those 2,000 rain barrels can capture 100,000 gallons of water for every 1/4 inch or more rain storm we get."





QUESTION of the MONTH

How is VCPWA helping residents maximize on the recent rain fall?

With 50 Gallon Rain Barrels!