

Ventura County Public Works Agency

THE WORKS

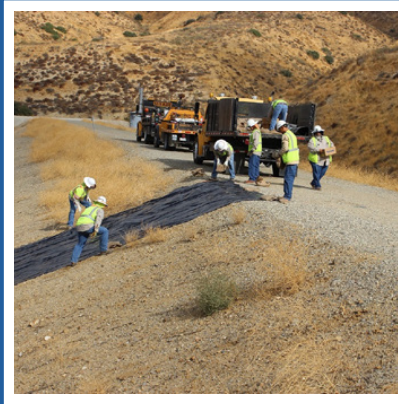
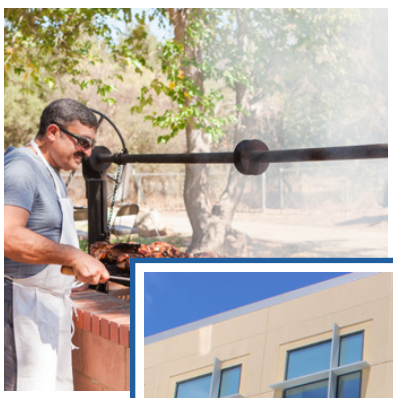
2017 | Bridging Foundations

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Director's Note:

2017 was a monumental year of Bridging Foundations and communications between projects, departments and the community. In this issue of The Works, we celebrate a year in review of the projects, awards and events you all made possible.

We helped open a new hospital wing to serve the community, improved bike lanes and bus shelters, increased department efficiencies and safety procedures, worked together to improve the environment, and educated a whole lot of young people on what we do day in and day out, to name a few. All in all, I would say 2017 was a dynamic year for VCPWA.

I thank everyone for participating in our recent State of the Agency. It was a great opportunity to look back at 2017 and look forward a new year of projects and successes for 2018!

All the best,

Jeff Pratt, Public Works Agency Director

Public Works Day

As part of National Public Works Week, more than 700 youth attended Public Works Day hosted by the Ventura County Public Works Agency. The Government Center's Parking Lot G was filled with heavy-equipment demonstrations, interactive displays, and career and informational booths.



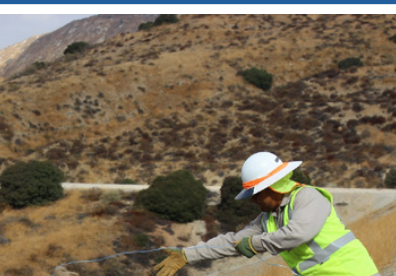
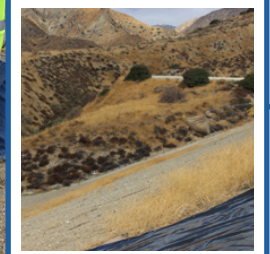
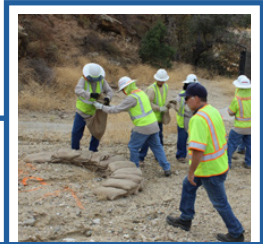
Storm Day 2017 Training

On November 1st, Storm Day 2017 simulated a severe storm of several days and a scenario depicting emergency response to structural damage to local dams in Ventura and Simi Valley triggered by an earthquake.

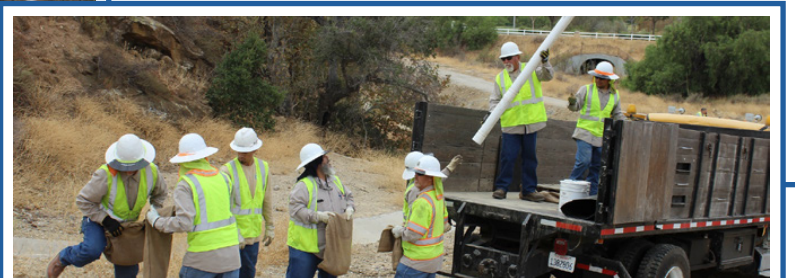
The annual exercise underscored VCPWA's role as first-responders. In floods, debris flows, fires, earthquakes, or any other emergency circumstances, VCPWA works alongside the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, the Ventura County Fire Department, and emergency medical personnel to provide critical infrastructure support and maintain public safety.

"When a natural disaster strikes, Public Works is always one of the first responders on the scene and the last to leave to assess the damage and work around the clock until the area is safe again, so citizens can continue with their everyday lives."

Jeff Pratt, Director of VCPWA



"More than 200 Ventura County workers participate in the eighth annual Storm Day drill, simulating the effects a severe storm and an earthquake would have on two dams."
Ventura County Star

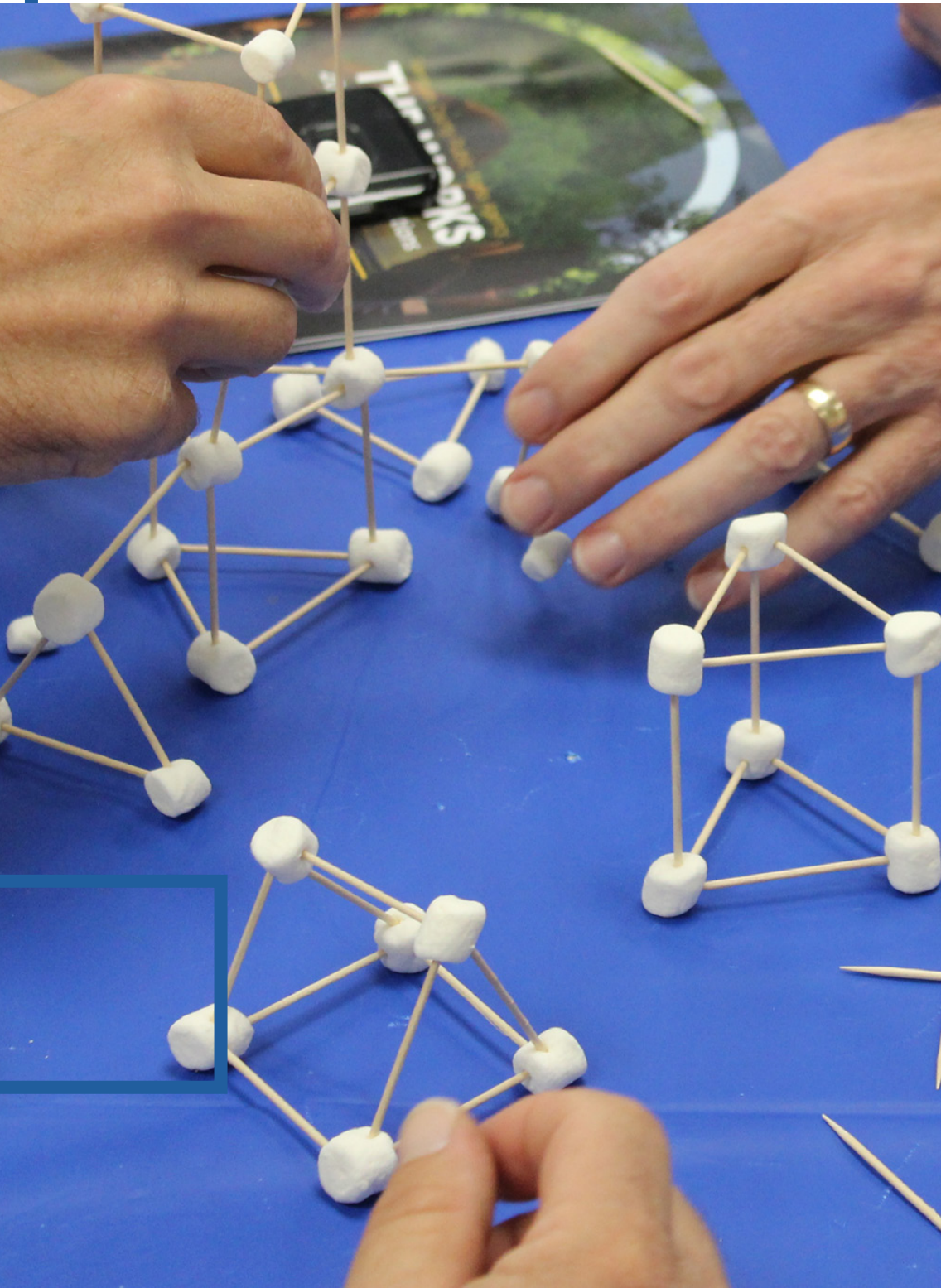




2017 VCPWA Picnic

VCPWA's 32nd annual picnic was an old fashioned county fair to remember! Thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who worked so hard to make it one of our best picnics in history.





2017 VCPWA State Of the Agency

Three days of information and collaboration inspired VCPWA teams to explore new ways to work together and learn about projects that bridged across departments for success. Each presentation detailed how innovative solutions stem from communication, finding maximum efficiencies and working with communities and stakeholders to better Ventura County. We challenged you with a fun contest to build the tallest marshmallow tower; in the process reminding each of you that together we are stronger at solving problems and rising to any challenges we encounter.

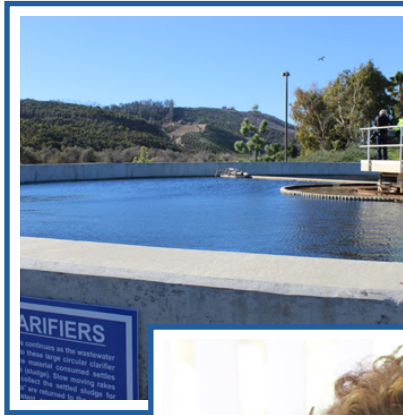
This annual meeting helps to create a wider understanding within the Agency and encourage collaboration among our five departments, as well as throughout the county. We hope you all walked away with a greater appreciation for each department and for the work you do every day to sustain our mission to deliver efficient, responsive, and cost-effective public works services that protect and enhance the safety, health, and quality of life in Ventura County.

Michaela Brown (WSD)

Water, Sanitation, and Public Safety - a County Waterworks District Perspective

Michaela Brown, Director of the PWA Water and Sanitation Department, gave a presentation to the Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) December 13th titled “Water, Sanitation, and Public Safety – a County Waterworks District Perspective”. This presentation provided an overview of the infrastructure for water and sanitation in the eleven special districts, managed and operated by Ventura County Public Works Agency’s Water and Sanitation department.

Brown explained, “With state of the art laboratory and operations systems, much of the network is monitored and operated remotely using a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. This allows efficiencies in staffing that are critical to the successful operation of infrastructure that supports the farthest reaches of Ventura County”. Brown further discussed how the automation, coupled with the remote locations of the water and wastewater infrastructure can be a security challenge and the need to address this from a Public Safety perspective.



Chuck Alvarez (CSD)

VCPWA is pleased to announce the appointment of Chuck Alvarez to the position of Manager - Real Estate Services.

Chuck was selected from a very competitive field of candidates after an involved and open recruitment and selection process. Chuck has dedicated his 28 years of government work to real estate services, 25 of which have been spent here in the Public Works Agency. Chuck will succeed outgoing Manager Keith Filegar who had served in that capacity since 2009.

Chuck brings a wealth of real property expertise along with a strong work ethic and dedication to providing outstanding customer service. Chuck’s areas of professional expertise include right-of-way acquisitions, property appraisals, road vacations and utility franchise agreements.

Chuck holds the designation of Senior Right of Way Professional, the most prestigious professional designation granted to right of way professionals who have achieved professional status through experience, education, and examination. Chuck is also the President of the International Right of Way Association – Chapter 47, representing the Ventura/Santa Barbara areas.

ASCE POY (Transportation)

Donlon Road Realignment Continues to Sweep Up Awards!

Congratulations to the Transportation Department for their recent Project of the Year Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers Los Angeles Chapter!

MNS Engineers, Inc. helped VCPWA celebrate the third award for County of Ventura's Donlon Road Realignment project at the 2017 ASCE Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch on October 14th at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Anitha Balan, Engineering Manager for the Ventura County Public Works Agency, and Michael Ip, Principal Engineer

from MNS, accepted the award for the "Roadways & Highways Project of the Year" for the Donlon Road realignment at State Route 118.

The project, which began planning in 2012 and was completed in 2016, realigned Donlon Road to create a standard four-way intersection with Somis Road, making it much safer and quicker for residents of the historic Somis neighborhood as well as commuters on State Route 118. Congratulations to the County of Ventura!



America Recycles Day

On November 14th and 15th, VCPWA joined GSA in the Hall of Administration to remind us all to reduce, reuse, and recycle at home and at work! Everyone was encouraged to enter the "I Recycle" photo contest; congratulations to our top 20 most creative and enthusiastic recyclers!



Holiday Home Improvement Day

Volunteers from each of VCPWA's 5 departments kicked-off December by participating in "Holiday Home Improvement Day" at The City Center on Saturday, December 2nd.

The team spent time painting, cleaning, repairing, planting and decorating The City Center Transitional Living Community, a nonprofit organization that provides housing, counseling, and support services to homeless community members.

To learn more about The City Center, visit www.TheCityCenter.org.



Before



After

