



Q&A WITH JEFF PRATT, VCPWA DIRECTOR



This year, the theme of Public Works Week is "*Public Works Connects Us*," how does that play a part of VCPWA's mission to promote best practices in Ventura County?

Here in Ventura County, we are all connected to one another, and to other areas as well, through our system of roads, pipes and waterways. When considering our best practices, we need to remember that what we do affects the world far beyond our county border, as far as wastewater treatment or environmentally-friendly building materials. We also are focused on stronger connections between the five parts of our agency so we can function more efficiently as a whole.

Public Works Day is an exciting opportunity for our local STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students to learn about Public Works career opportunities. What piece of advice can you offer our local youth who want to pursue a career in this industry?



It's important for the community at large to understand the importance of Public Works; what role can our community play with VCPWA to maintain its outstanding leadership in Southern California?



As more people move to our community, what does that mean for the future of VCPWA?

Added population always increases the demand on our infrastructure, requiring addition to water treatment facilities, road improvements, and expanded sanitation services. We also partner with other agencies to facilitate expansion, such as the construction of a new fire station or medical office. The future will bring many additional challenges, and further underscores the need for us to work together as a community to make the most of our resources.

As 2017 sets in and 2018 is on the horizon, what is your vision for VCPWA and Ventura County?



The future will be a time of change for us, regarding our people, our culture, and our evolving processes. As Ventura County has grown, we have gone from a mostly rural area into a mixture of rural, urban and suburban, and our population continues to increase. All five departments within the VCPWA depend on one another in order to function their best, and so my vision for this year and the next is to strengthen the bridges between departments so we can continue our success as a regional and statewide leader in public works services.

Our community is an important part of the VCPWA's success, and we believe the key to community support for Public Works is encouraging interactivity. For example, we have our Public Works Awareness Day each year with activities for children and adults, demonstrations, and career information. Our staff regularly visits schools and other organizations for educational opportunities. Our agency works to be accessible to our community members, and we encourage anyone with questions or comments to contact us.



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

VCPWA's ability to work efficiently connects all of our departments. When each department operates by using best practices in project management through Lean Six Sigma principles, the entire agency is at its most productive and accomplishes its goals to complete quality projects in a timely, cost-effective way.

As a team, we always support and commend our peers as they make advancements in their own professional development when they invest time to learn how to master these best practices in efficiency.

We've recently celebrated three of our team members who have completed courses in project management and Lean Six Sigma training. Congratulations to VCPWA team members David Kirby and John Ryan, who graduated the County of Ventura's Project Management Leadership Academy, and Rodrigo Loera, who received his Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification!

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One of our main goals of Public Works Week is to educate the general public about the value and necessities of public works projects throughout North America, and public works professionals.

We use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life. Thank you for taking the time to connect with Public Works to learn more.

We invite the students in attendance for Public Works Day and those interested in a career at VCPWA to contact Kathryn Pierce, Kathryn.Pierce@Ventura.org to find out more information on how to become a part of the amazing Public Works team.



VENTURA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DAY

PUBLIC WORKS CONNECTS US

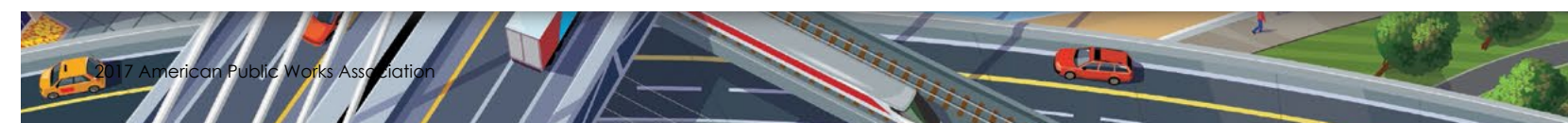


**PUBLIC
VENTURA COUNTY
WORKS**

Ventura County Public Works Agency

THE WORKS
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National PUBLIC WORKS Week

“Public Works Connects Us” is the theme for this year’s National Public Works Week, May 21-27. It’s also a meaningful observation guiding VCPWA’s best practices — not just this year, but always.

National Public Works Week has been celebrated since 1960 by the American Public Works Association (APWA), and every year the number of participating municipalities continues to grow. One of the goals of the APWA is to educate the community about Public Works, and the value and necessity of the work we do. VCPWA does this all year, but especially during Public Works Week, when we host special events including demonstrations, children’s activities and educational opportunities for all ages.

This year’s theme reminds us that each VCPWA department is part of an interconnected network that provides crucial services and performs essential functions that keep our community moving forward. Cooperation between departments is vital to efficiently maintain infrastructure and plan for emergency situations such as floods, fires and other threats.

Further, we are reminded that we are part of a statewide, nationwide, and even global network, in which the decisions and actions we make affect the world far beyond Ventura County’s borders. Through inter-agency partnership and community support, we will strive to improve the public’s quality of life and safety as well as preserve our environment for generations to come.



Join us at the
Ventura County Government Center
FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC
WORKS WEEK
AWARENESS DAY
MAY 23RD | 9AM - 2PM



THE PEOPLE OF PUBLIC WORKS CONNECT US ALL



APWA's message below for this years Public Works Week celebrates the connection and the people of Public Works.

"As the cornerstone of civilization, public works provides, maintains, and improves the structures and services that assure a higher quality of life for our communities. Its streets, roads, bridges, and public transportation keep us linked together from coast to coast, and its clean water and sanitation services keep us healthy and allow our communities to grow and prosper. APWA proudly salutes and thanks the tens of thousands of public works professionals who work tirelessly throughout North America every day to strengthen the bond that keeps us all connected."

VCPWA Director, Jeff Pratt and his team of professionals in Central Services, Transportation, Watershed Protection, Water and Sanitation and Engineering Services have dedicated their careers to preserve and maintain the County, connecting all of us in our community.



OUR TEAM AT WORK

- From clerical work to agency-wide support, the hard-working team at **Central Services** works behind the scenes to keep not only the agency running, but also VCPWA's technology, payroll and employee benefits, all while promoting job safety, emergency preparedness and training, Cal/OSHA compliance and risk management.

- The team at the **Transportation Department** plays a critical role in connecting us all through planning, designing, funding and maintaining the 542 miles of County unincorporated roads. In addition, the team works to help coordinate our public transit, connecting us all.

- Whether it's working to protect public infrastructures and our properties, or watercourses and watersheds from a flood of stormwater, the crew at the **Watershed Protection District** works to control and conserve so the community can continue to thrive.

- The people at **Water and Sanitation** work to treat and dispose of wastewater safely while providing high-quality water to residents in the Ventura County Waterworks Districts. Through the Integrated Waste Management Division they work to reduce solid waste, prevent pollution, and promote the sustainable management of waste materials.

- The team in **Engineering Services** provides a wide range of services to the residents of Ventura County. Their services extend to managing engineering and architectural contracts while overseeing construction projects, land development, surveying and the public counter.

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