

THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

September 2014

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**JOIN
US!**

This Saturday, September 27th for PWA's 29th Annual Picnic at Soule Park, Ojai! Tune in to the next issue for all the great highlights and photos!

From the Director's Desk

Jeff Pratt,
Public Works
Agency Director



Dear Friends,

We begin this month's newsletter with an article about the Santa Clara Levee Project, which is currently in planning stages. Flood protection is a major concern of the VCPWA Watershed Protection District. FEMA will soon be re-drawing flood plain maps, and without these improvements many residents and business owners will be forced to purchase expensive flood insurance. Read about the latest from the team in Watershed and how they're helping save County residents from paying for unnecessary insurance.

In other news, we invite you to take a cruise with us along our scenic roads. Enjoy the beautiful photos we have included in this issue, then get out and enjoy some lovely scenery in person.

Along with the scenic roads presentation, we have a "Challenge" for you! Each week, VCPWA will be featuring photos of one of our unincorporated roads on our Facebook page. Guess the road and you could be crowned the "King of the Road" for the week, and receive a certificate recognizing your backroads knowledge.

We also have a fun story from Engineering – Development and Inspection Services. Daphne Murillo, a Student Worker, turned an innocent mistake into something inspiring. Find out the story behind Daphne's "Encouragement Permits."

All the Best,

Jeff Pratt

Levee or Not?

The Ventura County Public Works Agency Watershed Protection District (VCPWA WPD) constantly strives to protect homes, businesses, and public facilities from flooding dangers and damages. VCPWA WPD is currently leading proactive efforts to improve the levees south of Highway 101 known as the SCR-3 Levee system in order to provide adequate flood protection for about 3,800 structures located in North Oxnard.

SCR-3 currently does not have a unifying design required to protect these properties adequately during high-flow flood events. The neighborhoods affected by the project stretch from the Wagon Wheel development along Highway 101 heading west to Victoria Avenue and south to Gonzales Road along the south side of the Santa Clara River.

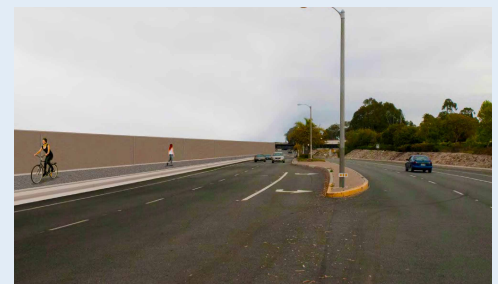
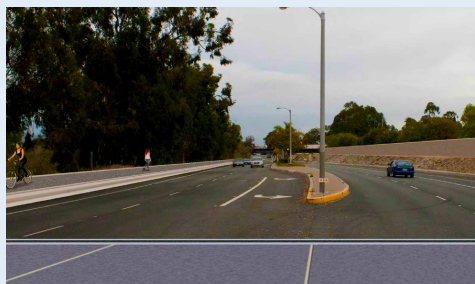
The complex undertaking is a two-phase project spanning four river reaches. Reach 4, which is closest to the Highway 101 Bridge, currently has a 2,500-foot-long "gap" in flood protection. Reaches 1-3 continue downstream to the Bailard Landfill, where existing levees need improvements to meet federal standards.

With the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planning to redraw SCR floodplain maps in the next few years,

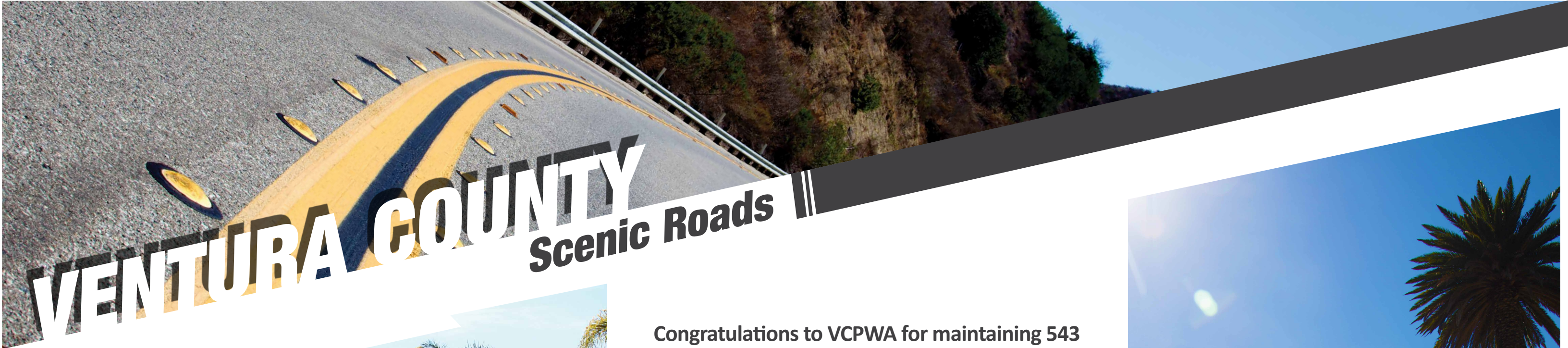
VCPWA WPD hopes to have the SCR-3 levee improvements in place in time to avoid mandatory flood insurance for those with federally backed mortgages.

"The goal of the project is to close the gap in flood protection in Reach 4, improve the existing levees and stream bank protection in Reaches 1-3, and certify the levee system as meeting federal standards," said Gerard Kapuscik, Manager, Strategic Decision Support Group. "Once the levee improvements are constructed and accredited by FEMA, a typical homeowner with a federally backed mortgage will be spared the requirement to pay upwards of \$2,000 per year in annual flood-insurance premiums."

The public was given the opportunity to submit preliminary comments on the project on the VC Levee website or by mail. There will be more opportunities to comment as project planning progresses. All comments are valued and will be thoughtfully considered as the VCPWA WPD and City of Oxnard work collaboratively to refine project design alternatives and evaluate environmental impacts. Scheduling for the project is expected to occur over a 27-month period, beginning in late 2015 and ending in 2018. Construction will occur sequentially.



Proposed Site Renderings



Congratulations to VCPWA for maintaining 543 miles of unincorporated roads! Come with us as we take a journey on the beautiful back roads of Ventura County.

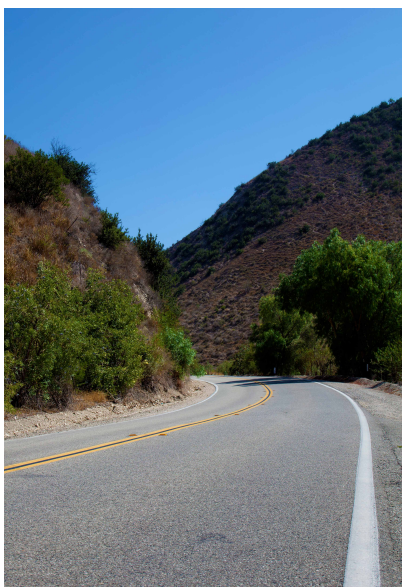
These byways stretch from the gorgeous mountain ranges of Foothill Road, where orchards of lemon groves trace your drive, to breathtaking Deer Creek Road, which touches the famous Pacific Coast Highway. VCPWA works at maintaining Ventura County's most scenic routes for its residents and visitors. Take a look at the roads less traveled extending from Ojai, Santa Paula, Camarillo, and Thousand Oaks.





Are you the “King of the Road?” VCPWA is hosting a challenge on Facebook for the next 6 weeks, beginning on September 29, 2014. Each week we will feature photos and “King of the Road” clues focusing on one of VCPWA’s unincorporated roads. You’ll be given the chance to guess the name of the road featured, and the person who guesses the most roads accurately during the challenge will get “King of the Road” bragging rights and a certificate.

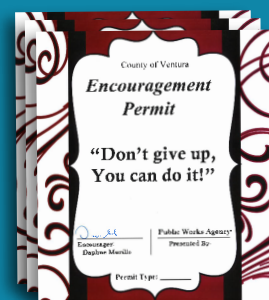
Come test your knowledge of some of the most scenic roads in our lovely Ventura County! Go to www.facebook.com/VCPWA



A Little Encouragement Boost

In February, 2013, when Daphne Murillo was a senior in high school, she volunteered to work for the Public Works Agency. Her first assignment was to help at the PWA Permits Counter. A customer approached the counter and asked Daphne about getting an encroachment permit. Being new and not familiar with the services offered, Daphne turned to her supervisor and said that the customer was looking to get an “encouragement permit.” The supervisor chuckled and explained that the Transportation Department issued encroachment permits and continued to assist the customer.

More than a year later, Daphne attends Ventura College and is now a Student Worker III. She has heard some of the people who visit the PWA Permits Counter express frustration with the overall permit process, and looked for a way to encourage the customers.



Daphne remembered the earlier incident and created her own “encouragement permit,” with the words “Don’t give up!” and “You can do it!” to hand out to customers who need a little encouragement boost. Two people have told her that they have framed their encouragement permits and put them up on their wall at work. Next time you stop by the Hall of Administration at the County Government Center, and see Daphne working hard at the Permits Counter, be sure to stop by and congratulate her on her creativity – and offer her some encouragement of her own!

