

THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

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FROM THE *Director's Desk*

Jeff Pratt,
Public Works
Agency Director



Dear Friends,

This issue is all about sharing great news from VCPWA! We are happy to announce Chris Cooper will be taking over as the new Director of the Engineering Services Department. Congratulations, Chris, we look forward to your in-depth knowledge and leadership!

VCPWA is also leading the way and leading the news in sustainable water management with the installation of new pervious concrete technology. If you did not catch VCPWA's David Kirby on KEYT, be sure to read the article in this month's issue of *The Pipeline*.

Lean Six Sigma efforts are always newsworthy in our book. Read on to learn the cost savings achieved and give us your suggestions on how we can become even more efficient in our work efforts.

On the Job with O&M was so popular and informative, we had to share one more look at What's in the Truck out at the Saticoy Yard.

The last bit of news is a big reminder to join us October 8th for all the fun and games at the Coney Island in the Park VCPWA Picnic! We look forward to sharing great food and time with our VCPWA families.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Pratt".

Jeff Pratt
Director



VCPWA announces new Director of Engineering Services Department

The Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) has named Chris Cooper as the Director of the Agency's Engineering Services Department (ESD). Cooper succeeds Herbert Schwind who served VCPWA for over 4 years and retired earlier this year.

Chris is excited for the opportunity to take the helm of ESD for VCPWA where he launched his engineering career almost 30 years ago. "I was extremely fortunate to have worked under three outstanding former Directors of Engineering Services and learn from them the nuances of this position. Engineering Services has a relatively young staff who are very talented, energetic and enthusiastic to learn new skills," said Cooper. "I hope to be able to share my career experiences with them to make their job easier and rewarding."

For the past 7 years, Chris served as the Deputy Director of Project Services Division of VCPWA; during this time, the Division's workload progressively increased from \$24 million annual to nearly \$111 million today. Under his direction, the team has undertaken and delivered numerous noteworthy and award-winning projects for the Health Care Agency, Fire Protection

District and the General Services Agency.

Previous to serving as ESD's Deputy Director, Cooper began his career with VCPWA as an Engineer, and subsequently served in senior project management positions with the United Water Conservation District and Hawks & Associates before returning to VCPWA as Engineering Manager II, where he worked directly on the VCMC Replacement Clinic, Saticoy Operations Yard, and several water tanks and pipelines for County Waterworks Districts.

Cooper's team is currently focused on completing the VCMC Hospital Replacement Wing (HRW) and starting work on the new \$61 million Todd Road Jail Health & Programing Unit. "Chris brings a wealth of public and private experience to VCPWA," said Jeff Pratt, Director of VCPWA. "I am confident that he is a positive addition to our team and will lead our Engineering Services Department through his superior work ethic and dedication to outstanding customer service."

Cooper has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Davis, and a M.S. in Public Administration from California State University, Northridge.

RECENTLY IN THE NEWS...

VCPWA received national recognition for its innovative pervious concrete work

In California, the natural water supply fluctuates between drought and heavy rains, causing imbalance in the water supply. Droughts greatly deplete aquifers, a major source of water to California's residents, farms and businesses, while heavy rains cause flooding and polluted runoff to enter into the rivers and the ocean.

A relatively new technology using pervious, or porous, concrete, is gaining momentum and media attention as a viable option to recharge aquifers with filtered clean water, and reduce wasteful runoff. The pervious concrete differs from traditional concrete because it has voids in the material that allow water to flow through it to the soil below for infiltration. This is accomplished by removing or minimizing sand within the concrete mixture, as sand fills in the voids between the aggregate in concrete, making it impermeable.

"VCPWA was the first in the state of California to have installed pre-cast pervious concrete which drastically improves quality control and ease of construction," said David Kirby, VCPWA Water Quality Engineer. "We hope the recent media exposure on KEYT and nationally recognized Civil + Structural Engineer Magazine will help share this innovative technology with other municipalities."

The agency poured traditional pervious concrete at key areas of the County Government Center Parking lot, and has installed pre-cast pervious concrete panels in the gutters of a residential neighborhood adjacent to a school in the unincorporated community of El Rio.

"This new technology allows Ventura County to capture stormwater to recharge our underground aquifers while reducing flooding rather than it being treated as waste. Explained Kirby, "Ventura County is leading the way with promoting this technology and it is catching on in other parts of State as a result."

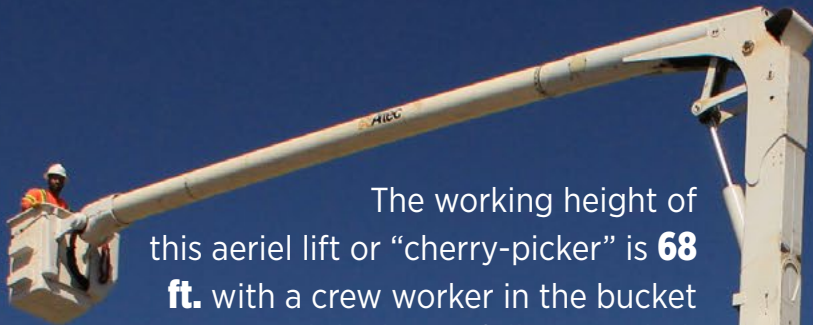


Kelsey Gerckens, KEYT - KCOY - KKFX Reporter, on site with VCPWA's David Kirby for on-air demonstration of the new pervious concrete technology in action.



What's it like to work for VCPWA Transportation Department Operations and Maintenance?

Let us walk you through a day on the job and show you "What's In Our Truck."

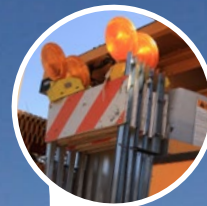


The working height of this aerial lift or "cherry-picker" is **68 ft.** with a crew worker in the bucket and the boom fully extended.

This truck helps our crew do their job **safely and efficiently.** We can maneuver above and around branches and power lines that may be in the way without having to climb trees.

Our crew needs to be **as visible as possible**, especially when working on roads with heavy traffic.

After the **boom inspection**, safety check and addressing job site concerns, the O&M crew sets up appropriate signage to inform the public of a **work zone.**



Trees that are uprooting or leaning and heavy are a **disturbance to the ground** and a danger to the road.

"We try to do as much as we can." VCPWA has its own saw shop where we splice ropes, cut chains, sharpen saws and tie loops.



Carrying all the tools needed for tree removal can be a heavy task. Padding helps to **prevent property damage.** Our O&M crews are always prepared on the job!



Lean Six Sigma News

This year, VCPWA announced that the Lean Six Sigma efficiency program has provided 2 million dollars in cost avoidance this year, adding to the almost 7 million dollars in cost avoidance in the past 6 years.

The Lean Six Sigma is one of the world's most popular management efficiency programs that allows VCPWA to uncover different and important cost saving opportunities. "Lean Six Sigma is based on the principles of constant improvement, as well as making sure processes prevent defects, mistakes, and unnecessary waste," explains Tabin Cosio, Director of PWA Central Services. "We encourage every VCPWA employee to think about how we can be more efficient and submit your suggestions on ways to run our operation even more effectively."

This year, cost savings came from the sharing of an expensive backhoe with other county agencies instead of purchasing two, the re-evaluation of water supply channels, and the updated organization of storage closets to improve efficiency when searching for items.

Since implementing this program, VCPWA employees have worked alongside Six Sigma counselors and have conducted 175 events to identify the problems and find solutions that not only resolve the problem, but provide more efficient processes and cost savings. Over 280 VCPWA employees have participated in the program since it was implemented in 2009, and another 400 are trained on Lean Six Sigma techniques.

"We hope that by this time next year, we can get even more Agency involvement and greater cost avoidance," said Cosio.



2 million dollars
in cost avoidance this year



7 million dollars
in cost avoidance in the past 6 years



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ST ★ ★ ★
ANNUAL

Ventura County
Public Works
Picnic

THE ONE & ONLY

★ CONEY ISLAND IN THE PARK ★

ENJOY A FUN FILLED DAY OF:

- BBQ • FACE-PAINTING • SILENT AUCTION
- CARICATURE DRAWING • GAMES/PRIZES
- RAFFLES • HORSE SHOES • GOLF TOURNAMENT

COME ONE!
COME ALL!

OCTOBER 8TH

10:00am - 3:00PM

At
Soule Park in Ojai



Tickets are on sale at your Department's Administration desk! Event Sponsored by VCPWA Management.