



# "In the Works"

## Striving to be the Leading Public Works Department Through Innovative Stewardship of Infrastructure and Environment

Stanislaus County  
Public Works

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## Where in the World is Morgan Shop?

Submitted by Olivia Tanner

Clickty-clack, bang-bang, screech, knock-knock, and hiss-hiss are just some of the sounds you will hear coming from Morgan Shop in a typical day. However, it is not the sounds coming from Morgan Shop that make it important. It's what Morgan Shop does for our community. Morgan Shop works alongside the Road Department to make sure that our streets are safe for you by providing safe and reliable equipment to complete road repairs and other projects.

The first question most people ask about Public Works Morgan Shop is "Where is it located?" Morgan Shop is a division of Public Works and is located at 1716 Morgan Road in Modesto. The next question typically asked is "What does Morgan Shop do?" Morgan Shop provides heavy equipment and vehicles to other Public Works divisions, primarily the Roads and Bridge Division. It is an Internal Service Fund (ISF) operation. The

majority of Morgan Shop's funding comes from renting equipment and vehicles to user divisions. Morgan Shop must purchase and maintain the equipment and provide vehicle maintenance as requested by other county departments. Morgan Shop also provides compressed natural gas (CNG),



unleaded, and diesel fuel to county departments and CNG fueling to other local municipalities.

Currently for calendar year 2009, Morgan Shop completed 2,473 work orders for vehicle and equipment repair. Morgan Shop provides fuel to about 62 different depart-

ments and/or divisions of Stanislaus County and local jurisdictions. For 2009, we have supplied these different departments, divisions, and local jurisdictions with approximately 116,200 gallons of CNG fuel, 203,526 gallons of unleaded fuel, and 56,005 gallons of diesel fuel.

To differentiate Morgan Shop from GSA-Fleet Services department, the majority of Morgan Shop

equipment repair is done to heavy-duty equipment. However, Morgan Shop works with GSA-Fleet Services with completing work orders when Fleet Services is flooded with repair requests. Between the two shops, we work together to keep the County Fleet, both heavy and light duty, safe and reliable.

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### Stanislaus County Employee Mentor Program

Submitted by Sharon Andrews

The focus of the program is to help the student get one-on-one attention in an area in which he/she is struggling. What actually happens is that the mentor and student make a connection, so that the student really knows there is someone interested and invested in their success, because they see their employee mentors show up and keep showing up all year. The employee mentors see their students improve and really enjoy

the experience. As Public Works Director Matt Machado said "It's nice to be needed."

In the 08/09 school year at John Muir School, we received a letter from the principal stating that the majority of students who were mentored made significant gains in their academic scores for the year.

There are two facets to the mentoring program. There is the AIM or "lunch time" program, and also a One to One program that is after work and weekends, and can include programs like Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Beginning in 2010 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the Employee Mentor Program. Public Works currently has 2 mentors, and a total of 170.5 hours of AIM mentoring hours since 1999. The total number of mentors in the County with the Office of Education and the Lions Club equals 127 with a total of 16,288.75 hours since 1999. And our numbers keep growing! We average a 14.2% increase every year. "Be the change you want to see." Please call Sharon Andrews at (209) 525-7572 for more information.

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Our newsletter has a new name, "In the Works". It was submitted by Angela Brooks.

Thank you!

### "Safety Byte"

Submitted by Laura Janovich

Whether you're a homeowner or a professional excavator, if you're going to dig you must call USA NORTH-the one call center serving Central and Northern California and all of Nevada. 1-800-227-2600. Let's all do our part to protect our vital buried facilities.

Public Works is now 42 days without a reportable accident/injury!  
Our record is 228 days.



## "Move Over" Law

### "Move Over" Law

Submitted by Laura Janovich

With a new year brings new laws. There are more than 700 new laws being added to the list of "Can and Can't Do's" that will take effect as of January 1, 2010. In this ever changing world of mandates, regulations and laws, we are challenged to be law abiding citizens, and as Public Works employees, we should be role models of compliance to these laws and regulations.

There are actually two (2) new "Move Over" laws that went into effect January 1, 2010, but a conditioning period of 6 months, has also been imple-

mented. The first new law, SB 159, "When approaching an emergency vehicle or tow truck displaying emergency lights on the highway, motorists must slow down and move out of the lane adjacent to the emergency vehicle, if it is safe to do so." Additionally, SB 240 expands the "Slow Down and Move Over" law to include Caltrans vehicles that are flashing amber lights.

We as Public Works employees know the dangers the roadways can bring. Many of our vehicles display flashing amber lights when parked on the shoulder as we respond to a variety of emergencies and carry



out our daily duties. Possibly in the future there will be an additional SB bill to amend the amended SB 240 and include our Public Works vehicles in the list of "authorized" vehicles and the word highway will be amended to read "roadway".

In the meantime...common sense should be your guide. Did you honestly think we would require a law that prohibits us from texting on our cell phone while traveling 65 miles per hour on the congested freeways that are constantly under construction, and shared with vehicles of all shapes and sizes?

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## Roads Happenings

### Roads Happenings

Submitted by Gary Hayward

The largest division in the Public Works Department is the Maintenance and Operations Division consisting of 63 employees. We are responsible for ongoing maintenance of the County right-of-ways which includes maintaining roadways and bridges in a safe condition; trimming trees, streetlight repairs, flood and other hazard response, street sweeping, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance and many other duties. The nature of our job requires us to be available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Since 1979, the Division operated on a Monday through Thursday schedule, working 10-hour days. With a growing population in Stanislaus County and many more vehicles using the roads, there was a need to reorganize the work shifts to provide for coverage on Fridays. A Tuesday through Friday shift was started in January 2009 through crew realignments.

This proved beneficial for the employees, the department, and the public. The five day coverage is beneficial as

there are now employees at "Roads" on Fridays working on maintenance and who are able to provide immediate response to emergency road closures, flooding, downed traffic signs or trees, and the "occasional pothole"! The employees still get to work the 4 days/10-hours day week. In addition, we still have employees on the after hours and weekend on-call rotation that respond to give the county 7days/24-hours coverage.

In this atmosphere of budget cuts, another significant benefit of the five day coverage was a cost savings. In 2008, from January 1st to November 6th, the department paid out \$172,752 in overtime. In 2009, from January 1st to November 6th, \$65,473 was paid out in overtime. In just less than one year, \$107,279 was saved from the cost of overtime. The five day coverage accounted for a large portion of this by not having to pay callback rates to employees on Fridays before 5:00 p.m.

To put this cost savings in perspective, \$107,279 could pay for one of the following: the salary of 2.7 part-time positions; 2.2 full time positions; 5.3 gas-powered pickups; 1.3 Bobcat tractors with a grinder attachment; or approximately 99,000 items from the Dollar Store.

Other cost saving measures implemented this year reduced expenses by eliminating uniform and locker rentals, bottled water, landscaping services, and unnecessary building alarms and maintenance.

November 2009 was my one year anniversary as the Road Superintendent. I am very fortunate to manage a highly skilled work force and to have very experienced Road Supervisors. It is a pleasure to work with the other employees in Public Works that are as skilled at their job as the "Roads" employees are at theirs. It is a benefit to Stanislaus County to have such a varied and professional division that can provide immediate response to situations that arise and to maintain and construct the roads and bridges for the public.

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## Public Works Projects Information

### "Lights On" at

#### Marshall Avenue

**Submitted by Denny Ferreira**

Nighttime seems to be a lot brighter for 34 parcels in west Modesto. In cooperation with the residents of this particular area, Supervisor Jeff Grover, the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works, and the Modesto Irrigation District worked together to solve this issue. The result is five (5) 150-watt High Pressure Sodium Vapor streetlights have been installed on this once dark street.

Initiated by concerns from Marshall Avenue residents, Supervisor Grover made a concentrated effort to provide streetlights to an area, within his district, that would improve the area by deterring crime, providing a safer pedestrian way, and aide law enforcement efforts in this area.



Supervisor Grover and his field staff went door to door and educated the parcel owners on the benefits of forming an assessment district in order to provide adequate street lighting to the area. Collectively parcel owners signed a petition in support of the proposal in July of 2009 and approved the required ballot procedure to approve the annual assessment on November 3, 2009.

Working closely with the Modesto Irrigation District's Engineering Department, the Stanislaus Department of Public Works facilitated the installation of six new wooden poles and five lights along this 1300-foot roadway. As a result of six months of public outreach and planning, the Modesto Irrigation District energized all the streetlights on December 21, 2009.

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### Stanislaus County's

#### Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP)

**Submitted by Paul Saini**

Stanislaus County's NPDES Phase II Storm Water General Permit requires the County to develop and implement a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) that describes Best Management Practices (BMP), measurable goals, and timetables for implementing six program areas (also known as six Minimum Control Measures). The six control measures include:

1. Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts Program
2. Public Involvement/Participation Program
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program
4. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control Program
5. Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment Program
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations Program

Each control measure contains BMPs necessary for proper storm water management. The BMPs contain specific tasks to meet the objective of that control measure. Implementation of these control measures are expected to result in significant reductions of pollutants discharged into receiving water bodies located in Stanislaus County to the Maximum Extent Possible (MEP).

Chris Brady and Paul Saini from the Engineering Division currently manage the County's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). A few of the Minimum Control Measures that were successfully completed during the 2008-2009 reporting period included:

✓ A storm water web link has been added to the County website to educate the public on storm water related issues, concerns, activities, and policy. The website is available at <http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/storm/index.shtm>

✓ An electronic computerized storm water management database tracking system has been designed by County staff. This database is currently in use to record and track storm water violations.

(cont'd next column)

✓ Bus ads have been placed in the Stanislaus Regional Transportation (StaRT) buses to help educate the public about protecting our storm drain systems. Flyers (11" x 17") promoting "Only Rain Down The Drain" have been placed in 15 StaRT County buses.

✓ The County participated in the Earth Day 2009 celebration that was held at Graceada Park in Modesto, California. During this event, tri-fold storm drain pollution prevention flyers were distributed to the public.

✓ The County road maintenance crews installed over 500 storm drain catch basin markers. The markers have a fish logo with the label, "No Dumping, Drains to River".

✓ The County hosted a "Got SWPPP?" storm water workshop for municipal operations. Approximately 60 people attended this event. Topics for the workshop included: Public Outreach; Good Housekeeping; BMP Overview; and Low Impact Design.

✓ An outline for the County's Manual of Storm Water Quality Control Standards for New Development and Redevelopment was drafted.

✓ J&L Analytical will assist the County in sampling and testing our outfalls to the lift stations pumping into Modesto Irrigation District (MID) facilities

✓ The County placed a three-month advertisement on a Digital Electronic Message Board (DEM) located along Highway 99 near the Fulketh Road on/off ramp. The "dual-facing" sign is located midway between Sacramento and Fresno, on Hwy 99. This highly visible 20' X 30' LED display targeted the high-density Central Valley commuters along Hwy 99.

More information can be found about the County's Storm Water Management Plan on our website. Please visit:

<http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/storm/index.shtm>

<http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/storm/pdf/annual-report.pdf>

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**Don't Pollute Our Water!**



Free Disposal of Household Chemicals  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm Friday & Saturday  
1716 Morgan Road, Modesto  
Call: (209) 525-6700



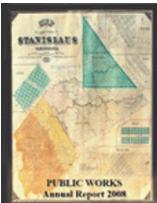


## Stanislaus County Public Works

**Public Works**  
**1010 10th Street, Suite 3500**  
**Modesto, CA 95354**  
**Phone: 209-525-6550**  
**Fax: 209-525-6507**

**Public Works Morgan Road**  
**1716 Morgan Road**  
**Modesto, CA 95358**  
**Phone: 209-525-4130**  
**Fax: 209-525-4100**

E-mail: [publicworks@stancounty.com](mailto:publicworks@stancounty.com)



To access our Public Works 2008 Annual Report, go to

[http://www.stancounty.com/  
publicworks/pdf/annual-  
report-2008.pdf](http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/pdf/annual-report-2008.pdf)



### Transit Division Submitted by Brad Christian

The Transit Division has been busy working on many projects, including:

- As lead agency, a Countywide Trip Planner program that will allow riders to plan their time-specific trips through the internet, including ride times, origin, transfer and destination bus stops.
- Electronic fareboxes for all of the StaRT buses for greater passenger convenience and improved efficiency in boarding passengers
- The purchase of a new paratransit bus for a peak time commuter service
- The installation of security cameras in all of the StaRT buses

These project are be funded with \$594,367 in economic stimulus money and \$184,249 in Proposition I-B Transit funds.

The Division has also installed Google Translate on it's StaRT website so that a person can translate the website into the language of their choice.

**Transit Division's website is: [www.srt.org/](http://www.srt.org/)**

Passengers may call StaRT at 1-800-262-1516 for more information.

## Holiday Project Submitted by Sharon Andrews

Employees from Public Works, the Auditor-Controller's Office along with the Planning Department, and LAFCO, chose Redwood Family Center as the 2009 recipient of their holiday giving event. Redwood Family Center (RFC) is a live-in facility where women who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction have an opportunity to be reunited with their children in a structured environment as they rebuild their lives and recover from the effects of a devastating disease.

RFC currently houses 24 women and 32 children. Employees chose a child's name, then donated cash or got to shop for a toy and an item of clothing. Every child was "adopted". Each child also received a stocking, and their moms received "pampering" items such as gloves, socks, and personal care items.

Non-perishable food was donated to help stock RFC's cupboards and excess cash was used to purchase a grocery gift card. Items were delivered to the Center on December 23, 2009. The employee response was heartwarming. I think we all experienced that the real joy of the season is in giving rather than receiving. Thank you to everyone who helped brighten the holidays for these children and their moms!



### Did You Know?

Submitted by Laura Janovich

Diabetes has reached epidemic proportions nationwide, however, nowhere in California are people more likely to die of diabetes than in the San Joaquin Valley. Every week, at least 19 people die of diabetes in the valley. It touches 1 out of 10 people in the valley, compared to 1 in 13 statewide. Diabetes is due in part, to the increase of overweight and obese adults and children.

5.2 million people are unaware that they have diabetes and it often goes undiagnosed because some of the symptoms seem harmless. Early detection and treatment can decrease your chances of developing complications, but left untreated, it can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, amputation and blindness. If you have one or more of the following symptoms, make an appointment with your physician to find out if you have diabetes:

- \* Frequent urination
- \* Extreme hunger
- \* Extreme fatigue
- \* Irritability
- \* Excessive thirst
- \* Blurry vision
- \* Unexplained weight loss



### United Way 2009 Campaign Results

**LIVE UNITED – A credo. A mission. A goal.**

Public Works team member's generous pledges help raise **\$1,034** during the 2009 United Way of Stanislaus County (UWSC) campaign. United Way of Stanislaus County offers a classic example of how powerful teamwork can be. Through a community-wide network of volunteers and donors, UWSC assures a wide range of health and human services are available to people who need them. As a UWSC contributor, each of us plays an important role in maintaining the health and quality of life in our community.

### Thank You for Living United

Submitted by Sylvia Jones

### Staff Updates

#### Retirement:

Michael Thrasher: 22 years.

**Thank you for your service!**

#### Promotion:

Denis Bazyuk: Promoted to Assistant Engineer

**Congratulations!**



**Check out GIS at:**  
[www.gis.stancounty.com](http://www.gis.stancounty.com)

We're on the web: [www.stancounty.com/publicworks](http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks)