



“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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Wet Weather

Submitted by Gary Hayward

The Stanislaus County Public Works Roads Division isn't whom the Beatles sang about with their lyrics, "When the rains come, they run and hide their head." For when the rains come in the valley, the folks at Roads don their fluorescent green rain gear with reflective striping, pull on their rubber boots, and wade into battle armed with flashlights, barricades and pumps.



Often working all day and well into the morning hours, the teams clean leaves from the drain inlets, use trucks and portables to pump water, place flooded barricades, close roads, clean the roadway of debris, mud, and fallen trees. The potholes grow like flowers, only uglier and faster when the roads are wet. The department has four patch

trucks that are kept busy chasing the little wheel busters!

Our administrative staff is kept busy fielding phone complaints that include those from the CHP, Sheriff and Fire Departments. The complaints are relayed to the employees that are dispatched to respond. A recent complaint was that of a barn in the road! Upon arriving at the location there was indeed the roof of a barn the high winds had relocated to the road.

During extreme weather when the Office of Emergency Services on Oakdale Road is activated, Roads will send a representative to be on site to expedite decisions and dispatch.

Our year round maintenance of the pump stations and

storm drainage basins minimize problems, but it doesn't eliminate them. When the water level is rising our Roads and Morgan Shop team will work together in the rain to fix a problem. Dangerous conditions exist for the employees working in the wet and dark. Their job requires them to drive on slippery roads and shoulders. The Roads Division and Morgan Shop staff are well trained and professional in their duties.

The citizens of Stanislaus County are fortunate to have such an experienced response team when the going gets tough.

Sandbags for flood prevention are available at 1716 Morgan Road, Modesto during periods of inclement weather. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, phone 209-525-4130.

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TRIVIA QUESTION:

How many miles is our Road Operations Division responsible for maintaining in Stanislaus County?

Answer on page 3.



Check out GIS at:
www.gis.stancounty.com

What is Distracted Driving?

Submitted by Matt Machado & Jayne Sissle

What is distracted driving?

- Visual—taking your eyes off the road
- Manual—taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive—taking your mind off what you're doing

Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increases the risk of crashing.

While all distractions can endanger drivers' safety, texting is the most

alarming because it involves all three types of distraction.

Other distracting activities include:

- Using a cell phone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a PDA or navigation system
- Watching a video
- Changing the radio station, CD, or MP3 player

Research on distracted driving reveals some surprising facts:

- Using a cell phone while driving, whether it's hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration

at the legal limit of .08 percent. (Source: University of Utah)

- Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent. (Source: Carnegie Mellon)
- 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of near crashes involve some type of distraction. (Source: Virginia Tech 100-car study for NHTSA)
- Nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than a half million were injured. (NHTSA)
- The worst offenders are the youngest and least-experienced drivers: men and women under 20 years of age. (NHTSA)

Ethics Quotes

Abraham Lincoln:

When I do good, I feel good;
when I do bad, I feel bad.
That's my religion.

"Health & Safety Byte"

Submitted by Jayne Sissle

Drivers who use hand-held devices are **four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.** For more information, read the "What is Distracted Driving?" article.



Mentor Celebration & Recognition

On January 28, 2010 at the Martin Petersen Event Center, the Stanislaus County Employee Mentors and the United Way held their annual Mentor Celebration Event "Mentors Deserve a Day at the Beach".

James Kooler, PhD. of the Tulare County Office of Education Youth Development Programs was the keynote speaker for the event for the 9th year in a row. Matt Machado, Director of Public Works and the 2008 Mentor of the Year presented the **2009 Site Coordinator of the Year award to Public Works Employee Sharon Andrews**. Rick Robinson, Stanislaus County CEO presented the 2009 Mentor of the Year award to Norma Baker in the CEO's office.

The Employee Mentor of the Year

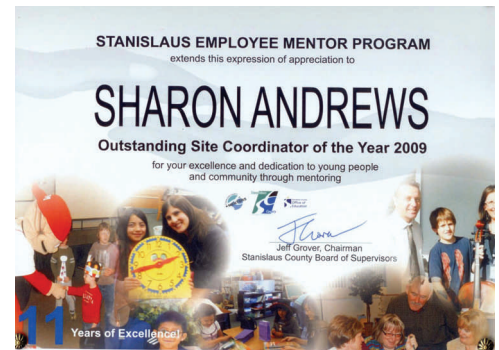
and the Site Coordinator of the Year awards are given based upon the following criteria:

1. Active mentor participant;
2. Above average (based upon program average) time commitment to protégée;
3. No conflicts with employment duties as assigned - good standing;
4. Departmental role model for mentor program i.e. advocate to peers and leadership;
5. Extracurricular participation (on own time) either through annual event planning process or partner recruitment, etc. (Site Coordinator of the Year only);
6. Identified Department Site Coordinator (Site Coordinator of the Year only).

Many thanks to the Rotary Club, United Way, Lions Club, and the Stanislaus County Employee Mentors

for providing service at the event.

Thanks to Costco, Jack Frost, Safeway and many other local merchants for providing the food, and thanks to Ghirardelli, Gallo Winery, SCOE, and the generous employees of Stanislaus County Planning and Public Works for providing funds and donations for the gift baskets drawing.



Public Works Transportation & Engineering Division Encroachment Permits

Submitted by Michael Luevano

The purpose of an encroachment permit is to enable the County to monitor work or activities performed within County road right-of-way by private developers, contractors, or utility companies. Issuing the permit assures that plans comply with Public Works' Standard Designs and Specifications, Stanislaus County Code and if any conditions of approval (use permit, tentative map, site plan review, etc.)

An encroachment permit is required whenever work or activity is performed within the County easements or right-of-way. To obtain a permit an application must be submitted, approved, and fees collected.

All work performed within County road right-of-way shall be inspected by the County Construction Inspector during the construction progress with

results being recorded in a daily log. A final inspection must be performed before an encroachment permit completion notice is processed.

The division issued 280 permits in 2009 and inspected more than \$50 million worth of improvements in Stanislaus County right-of-way. Field inspections include construction of commercial, industrial, residential subdivision, and multi-family developments. We inspected 30 large private commercial and agricultural projects and 7 sewer and water transmission pipeline projects. This was accomplished without litigation and not one team member being injured on the job. Some other inspections performed by the team in 2009 were for sewer, water, storm drain, curb, gutter, streets, sidewalks, traffic signals, and park basin improvements. We also monitor erosion control and soil remediation of



Michael Luevano
209-968-3119

the construction sites.

Our goal in 2010 is to develop and implement an on-line permit application on the Public Works website. The application will be a fillable form that will be uploadable into our permit database without having to manually manipulate the data. This will save our staff time, streamline our permit process, and provide our customers with a more efficient way to handle their permit request.

Our Encroachment Permit Team can be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

* * *



David Gein
209-525-7594



Road Operations Division's Rotation Training Program

Submitted by Gary Hayward

The Road Operations Division of Public Works presently has a training program for equipment operators. The employees are given a Rotation Training Guideline to explain what is expected of the employee and a timeline for completion.

There are eight pieces of equipment that an employee must learn to operate within the first 12 months of employment before he/she can be hired as a permanent employee and be promoted a step. They must have gained proficiency in this entry-level equipment and have passed an operators test.



They receive field training by skilled supervisors and co-workers. Each employee is instructed in the safe operation of all equipment with which the employee is, or will be involved with. The training includes instruction on the safe work practices and operating procedures of the equipment and the department.

A panel of three supervisors do the testing and observation required for the employee to be signed off as being a proficient operator. If an employee doesn't pass the testing, the immediate supervisor and the employee will review what skills and additional training are needed for that employee to pass the proficiency

test. That training will be scheduled for the employee.

To be eligible for promotion to the next step/level, an employee is required to spend the next three years rotating between the three major crews in the department. This will assist the employee in gaining skills and the knowledge to allow them to be successful in promoting. At the present time there are 20 pieces of equipment that an employee must be trained on during this three-year period.



The training the employee receives is from the knowledge of the supervisors and co-workers. There is classroom training with DVD's, videos and books on some equipment. All of the equipment requires hands on training while on the job. This training includes instruction on the safe work practices and operating procedures of the equipment and the department.

A panel of three supervisors do the testing and observation required for the employee to be signed off as being a proficient operator when the operator feels he is ready for testing. If an employee does not pass the testing, the immediate supervisor and the employee will review what skills and additional training are needed for that employee to pass the proficiency test. That training will be

scheduled for the employee.

At the beginning of the fifth year of employment for the employee that has met all of the criteria listed above, the employee must become proficient on six pieces of advanced level equipment. The employee being trained is already a proficient operator on 28 pieces of equipment. The employee(s) that would be assigned as the trainer would have several years of experience operating this equipment. This training includes instruction on the safe work practices and operating procedures of the equipment and the department.

A panel of three supervisors do the testing and observation required for the employee to be signed off as being a proficient operator when the operator feels he is ready for testing.

As with all of the proficiency test results at each step of the employee's career, each test result is put in the individual employee's training file that is kept at 1716 Morgan Road in a locked cabinet. Each employee receives a copy of the testing results. Each employee has been given a binder that duplicates his or her training file that the department keeps locked. It is recommended that the employee keeps his personal training binder up to date with the department's file.

This training rotation program has resulted in a better-trained and versatile workforce.

Grayson Community Requests County Service Area

Submitted by Denny Ferreira

The unincorporated town of Grayson has requested the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works to initiate a ballot procedure to approve an assessment in order to form a new County Service Area.

The County Service Area would provide services to 273 parcels located north of West Grayson Road and east of River Road. The proposed special benefits would include street sweeping, drain cleaning, and adequate maintenance to the existing storm drain system. Included within the assessment is a 20-year repayment proposal for a capital improvement project to Mary Street. The capital improvement would provide curb, gutter, sidewalk, resurfacing, and drainage infrastructure to all of Mary Street. If the parcel owners of Grayson approve the annual assessment of \$95.21 per equivalent benefit unit, construction on Mary Street would be set in motion around April of 2011.

On Tuesday, March 16, 2010 the Board of Supervisors set a public hearing for Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 9:05 a.m. The public hearing will be held in the Joint Chambers, 1010 10th Street, basement level, in Modesto. During the public hearing the opportunity will be given to those who would like to speak in favor or in opposition of this ballot proposal. At the conclusion of the public hearing the Clerk of the Board will tabulate the ballots and will then report the results during the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

TRIVIA QUESTION:
How many miles is our Road Operations Division responsible for maintaining in Stanislaus County?

ANSWER: Per the State of California, the road mileage is 1,527.04 miles. That would be equivalent to a roundtrip from San Francisco to San Diego, and back to San Diego. WOW!!



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: 209-525-4140

E-mail: 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, as lead agency and in coordination with the other County Transit operators, has started the Google Transit Trip Planner Project. This project will enable someone who wants to use public transportation to type in their point of origin and destination, give a time in which they want to travel, and have the planner provide them with a schedule of how they can accomplish the trip using the County's public transit services. The tentative completion date is June 2010.

For marketing purposes, we are looking for a name for the trip planner. If you have any suggestions, please contact Brad Christian in the Transit Division at 209-525-7538.

The Transit Division is also working with the City of Patterson in improving the Transit Transfer Center in downtown Patterson. After many months, the design approval and right-of-way has been received from Caltrans. Construction is anticipated to begin in April and completed by late May.

Transit Division's website is: www.srt.org/

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

WORD SEARCH

B	T	N	E	M	E	G	A	N	A	M	R	E	T	A	W	M	R	O	T	S	I	E	E
G	R	A	G	O	J	M	R	O	S	W	X	L	O	A	A	S	N	U	R	U	T	C	E
B	A	I	A	M	P	E	E	P	K	A	M	F	U	F	T	E	F	E	R	R	A	N	E
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|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| BRIDGE ENGINEERING | INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING |
| TRAFFIC ENGINEERING | INFORMATION SYSTEMS |
| SOLID WASTE | FIELD ENGINEERING |
| UTILITY MAINTENANCE | DESIGN ENGINEERING |
| CHANNEL MAINTENANCE | CENTRAL SERVICES |
| WATER RESOURCES | STORM WATER MANAGEMENT |
| PUBLIC SERVICES | ROAD AND TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS | MOTOR POOL |
| ADMINISTRATION | FISCAL |
| TRANSPORTATION PLANNING | SURVEYOR |

Staff Updates

Retirement:

Bill Jones retired on 1-29-10 with 39 years of service.

Bill Cardoza retired on 2-26-10 with 35 years of service.

Thank you for your service!

New & Returning Staff:

Angela Brooks—Eng Aid I
Design Division

Curt Chappell—Survey Division

Tony Refuerzo—Sr Eng Tech Design Division

Welcome to our team!



Promotion:

Andrew Malizia was promoted to Assistant Engineer.

Congratulations!

Departure:

Firoz Vohra left County employment on 3-26-10.

Good luck!

New Baby:

Elliott Lea (Road Maintenance Worker III) -
New baby girl named Ava on 1-28-09.

Best wishes!!

We're on the web: www.stancounty.com/publicworks