



“In the Works”

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

**Stanislaus County
Public Works**

**Volume 6, Issue 1
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Transportation Infrastructure

Submitted by Matt Machado

A healthy infrastructure will enable us to remain a strong and prosperous nation, but only if we move forward with vision, leadership, and community involvement and support. Much of the transportation infrastructure is owned and maintained by local government. Counties own 45 percent of the public roads in our nation. These public roads include 230,690 bridges. Current funding is inadequate to maintain these critical roads and bridges. The federal gas tax is more than 20 years out of date. The federal surface transportation funding law, MAP-21, is a major funding source to manage our nations bridges and federal-aid roadways. Local governments own 43 percent of the federal-aid highways, yet these local agencies only receive 16 percent of MAP-21 funds for these federal-aid highways. The current reauthorization effort for MAP-21 needs to consider the vital role of local infrastructure.

The State of California infrastructure and funding program is in a similar situation to the federal program. The state gas tax is approximately 20 years out of date. Not only has the fuel tax not been indexed for inflation, the overall consumption is down considerably. Californians consume less gas per capita than the national average. Fiscal year 12/13 resulted in gas tax revenues 16 percent lower than the peak in 2006. This lower level of revenue is similar to revenue levels from 1996. The local level is even more challenging with local roads having more than 60% of all accidents on California roads yet they receive only 35 percent of the statewide revenue.

The upward trend of more vehicle miles traveled on public roads and continued increase of costs to do business and the downward trend of fuel consumption has resulted in a breaking point of our local, state, and national infrastructure.

Stanislaus County Public Works maintains more than 1,500 miles of roadway and more than 230 bridges. Of the 1,500 miles of roadway, nearly 500 miles is a part of the federal-aid system. Stanislaus County infrastructure is in poor condition with our roadway condition index at a rating of 52 compared to the state average of 66 and with more than 20 bridges rated at structurally deficient or obsolete.

Maintained, functional infrastructure is key to a successful and prosperous economy. **The time is now to invest in our local, state, and federal infrastructure.**

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>SR 99 / SR 219 Kiernan Avenue Interchange Project</i> | 2 |
| <i>Stanislaus County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Service</i> | 2 |
| <i>Thanks for the Memories ~ Diane Haugh's Retirement</i> | 3 |
| <i>Oops! Fiscal Year 12/13 Accident Recovery</i> | 3 |
| <i>Farewell to "Swell Mel" ~ Mel Eslinger's Retirement</i> | 4 |
| <i>Meet April Henderson-Potter</i> | 4 |
| <i>Staff Updates & News</i> | 4 |

Ethics Quotes Juanita Kidd Stout

“A person educated in mind and not in morals is a menace to society.”

"Health & Safety Byte"

Be proactive,
not reactive
towards safety.

Safety is no accident!

Civility Principle:
“Respect Others’
Opinions”



Do you know what this is? This is an accounting pegboard. Pegboard accounting systems (also known as a One-Write System) were used prior to computerized accounting programs and are still being used today by small start up businesses. All transactions are captured as they take place. This bookkeeping system uses a board with pegs on the left side. The pegs hold a day sheet, or daily journal, in place on the board.



Submitted by Joann Schmidt

SR 99 / SR 219 (Kiernan Avenue Interchange Project) Article and Photos Submitted by Bryan Voyles

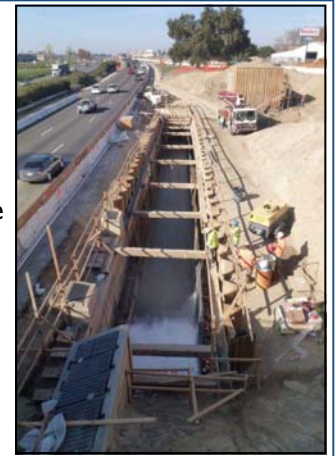
The first year of the Kiernan Avenue Interchange Project has come and gone. Yes, that's 215 working days down. During that time, we have completed some roadway widening, expanded an existing drainage basin, built sound walls, installed the majority of the drainage systems, and we have just about completed the pumping plant.

The pumping plant was the priority work for Stage I. A new one needed to be built and the old one taken out so that the new bridge could be started. The new pumping plant is scheduled to be tested at the end of March 2014.



The first stage demo work (photos on the left and bottom right) was done on the bridge during a night shift on Saturday, March 15th. Highway 99 was closed under the bridge while all traffic was detoured to the off and on ramps. There were a few unexpected bumps during the night, but for the most part everything went smoothly.

We are still on track to finish in mid-2016. The project still has about 500 working days left, but in the near future, we should start seeing the Stage I bridge being built. That will bring more night work and freeway lane closures.



Box culvert construction slab poured in late December 2013



Stanislaus County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Service Submitted by Eunice Lovi

One of the unique transit services offered by the County's transit system is a non-emergency medical transportation vehicle that offers service between Stanislaus County and the Bay Area. As part of its transit services, the County provides a non-emergency public medical transportation for County residents that have medical appointments at Bay Area medical facilities. The bus used for this service which is affectionately called "Medivan" is not an emergency vehicle and does not serve individuals who require special medical treatment during transportation. However, the Medivan can accommodate people who use mobility devices and service animals. The Medivan is open to the general public.

A sample of medical facilities served in the Bay Area include the Oakland Childrens' Hospital and Merritt Hospital located in Oakland; St Mary's Hospital, Eye Bank of California, Mt. Zion Medical Center, Shriners Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, UCSF Medical Center and Moffitt-University Medical Center located in San Francisco; Menlo Park Veterans Administration Hospital in Menlo; Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Stanford Hospital and Clinics, as well as the Stanford Rehabilitation Center located at Stanford University; Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto; and also the Livermore Veterans Administration Hospital in Livermore.

County residents interested in using the Medivan to get to medical appointments are required to make reservations by calling 1-800-262-1516 to schedule their trips. Because seating is limited, the County encourages residents to make their reservations two weeks before their appointments. The bus departs from the Modesto Transportation Center at 6:30 a.m. and returns to Modesto by 6:00 p.m. Fares are \$10 each way. Passengers are required to pay in advance since the County does not accept payment on the bus. The other beneficial feature about this service is that patients traveling to Bay Area medical facilities are able to bring "attendants" or "companions" with them on their trips. Fares are only \$3 each way for an attendant.



When necessary, passengers needing to spend more time with their loved ones at a medical facility may request to be picked up on a different day, provided they inform the schedulers while making their reservations. If interested in learning more about the non-emergency transportation service that is offered by the County, please contact Staff Services Analyst/Mobility Coordinator April Henderson-Potter (209-525-7501) in the Transit Division for additional information.

Thanks for the Memories — Submitted by Diane Haugh

In the words of Bob Hope, 🎵🎵🎵 Thanks for the Memories 🎵🎵🎵

As I reflect on my time at Public Works there are many things that come to mind. My first position was as an account clerk in February 1999. We were still in the H Street building, second floor. I think I spent at least the first six months doing non-stop data entry into the old CAMS system. For those of you that were around then, you might remember that the coding structure was extremely long. Employees filled out their timesheets and the account clerk (me) entered the info into the system. The benefit to me was that I gained a really good understanding of the system, which served me well when I had to set up the coding structure for the current system. Then we had the move to Tenth Street Place. We closed shop one day, elves came in, we opened shop the next day! Okay, maybe not that simple, but overall the move went fairly smooth. Remember the sun streaming in the windows because there were no blinds. “Temporary” paper blinds were put in place and fifteen years later, some of them are still there! Then, finally, our move to Morgan Road. Having almost everyone together in the same place (except for Transit and Development Services ☹️) provided an opportunity for better communication and the building of stronger relationships. How exciting that the next move will be into a brand new building!



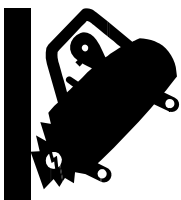
The best part of my job, was the people. Over the years I had the opportunity to work with people at every level of the organization. I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity. The County offers a wealth of options for those who are willing to take the steps necessary to achieve their goals.

Public Works was my other family. While there have been many staff changes over the years, there are a few of us that have been here from the beginning (well, at least my beginning). Julie Serrano was on my initial interview panel, so I have to thank her for my being here! Keimi Espinoza and Linda Allsop also started around the same time. Must have been a good year! And then, there are all of those that joined us later, too many to name (at the risk of leaving someone out), I will miss all of you. My getting a job in Public Works, as opposed to another County department, was pure chance. That was a stroke of luck for which I will be forever grateful. I will always value your friendship. Take care.

So....in the words of Forrest Gump, “That’s all I have to say about that.”

OOPS! Report Fiscal Year 2012/2013

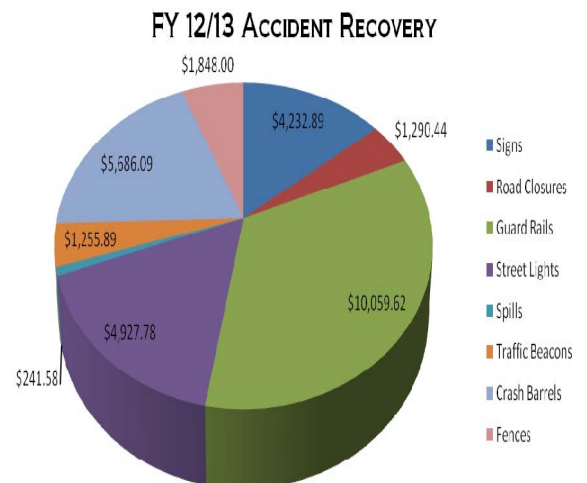
Submitted by Sharon Andrews



With the recent rain, I'm sure you've seen a few more fender benders than usual and thought: “Wow, I'm glad that's not ME!” But have you ever thought about what happens when it's Public Works property that's firmly embedded into the front bumper of the unfortunate car you just passed?

Every month, I get between 75 and 90 California Highway Patrol (CHP) Reports of collisions that happen within the county areas, roughly 900 - 1100 collisions per year, not including state routes or freeways. (Probably one reason why our Defensive Driving class is MANDATORY). Most collisions don't involve Public Works, but in Fiscal Year 2012-2013, 62 of them did. Of those, 22 were uninsured (that's 35%), and those go to Probation or Collections.

The other 40 however, I billed to the insurance company provided in the CHP report. Of the 40, 33 were paid; 19 were Signs, 5 Road Closures, 3 Street lights, 2 Guardrails, 1 Roadway Spill, 1 Traffic Beacon, 1 Crash Barrels, and 1 Fence, **totaling \$29,542.29 recovered**. The pie chart above shows the amounts recovered by type of incident. So although signs were the most popular, the big bucks are in guardrails.



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Articles by Public Works Writers

Published by Keimi Espinoza 

Transit Division's
website is:

www.srt.org

For route info call StaRT at
1-800-262-1516



Staff Updates and News

New Employees:

Angelica Arellano (Confidential Assistant III) joined our Administration Division on 1/27.

Sambath Chrun (Associate Civil Engineer) joined our Design Engineering Division on 3/24.

Bryan Conroy (Road Maintenance Worker) joined our Road Division on 3/11.

Kathy Johnson (Assistant Director) joined our department on 3/24.

Joseph Rodrigues (Road Maintenance Worker) joined our Road Division on 2/24.

Les Stachura (Senior Engineering Tech) joined our Development Services Division on 1/14 as our Encroachment Inspector.

Barlow Taylor (Senior Engineering Tech) joined our Construction Engineering Division on 1/13.

Welcome aboard!

Promotions:

Chris Brady (Construction/Roads/Bridges) and **David Leamon (Development/Traffic)** were promoted to Deputy Director on 3/22.

Congratulations!

Departing Employees:

Letisia Corona (Confidential Assistant III) left Administration after 10 years of service.

Ebony Stagg (Senior Engineering Technician) left Traffic Engineering after 2 years of service.

Good luck! You'll be missed...

New Grandchild:

Randy Avants (Road Superintendent) has a new granddaughter named Dixie who was born on 3/19.

Best Wishes!

Farewell "Swell Mel" Submitted by Olivia Tanner

After nearly 30 years of dedicated service, Mel Eslinger has retired. His last day as the Public Works Heavy Equipment Shop Manager was January 24, 2014. Sadly, his famous words like "make it happen", "get it done", or "what could I do for you" will no longer be echoing through the Morgan Shop.



Mel and Sharon Eslinger

Mel began employment in Stanislaus County as a mechanic/welder in January of 1984. From there his career path took him on a journey from Heavy Equipment Mechanic, to Leadman, to Shop Supervisor, and finally to Manager III of the Heavy Equipment Shop. Some of Mel's greatest skills include creating specifications for equipment procurement, welding and fabrication, improvisation, leadership, and mechanics.

When asked what he would miss about Public Works he stated, "I developed great relationships with my co-workers at Public Works, but I will especially miss the Morgan Shop Staff. We worked well as a team and became a family."

Mel is thankful for the opportunities that Public Works provided and for the surprise retirement reception that was given in his honor prior to his last day. He appreciated all who attended.

As a retiree, Mel will continue to farm his 30 acres of almonds, camp, travel (especially to the ocean), ride quads and ATVs, and spend more time with his family. "Swell Mel's" (as his Morgan Shop family called him) charismatic and energetic personality will be missed. He was hardworking and dedicated. *Farewell "Swell Mel" and enjoy your retirement!*

Meet April Henderson-Potter, Staff Services Analyst/Mobility Coordinator in our Transit Division

April Henderson-Potter has been with Stanislaus County for nearly 10 years (in July). April started her career with the County at the Community Services Agency providing eligibility for services such as Child Care, General Assistance, and Food Stamps after attending North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. From there, April promoted to a Family Services Specialist III with the Alliance Worknet, who provides workforce development to Stanislaus County residents. April's computer skills and creativity quickly led to her assumption of "other duties as assigned" and found herself working on multiple special projects including the implementation of the Statewide CalJobs system, as well as the Social Media and Outreach Committees.



April is excited about her new opportunity with Public Works as the Mobility Coordinator for the StaRT transit system. She hopes that she will be a valuable asset to the department and help increase ridership and help keep moving StaRT forward. April is newly married, has two "Irish twin" boys (Caleb and Elijah who are 11 months apart), 3 dogs, and hasn't gotten a good night's rest in almost 4 years! 😊 She loves movies, enjoys acting and bringing a smile to people's hearts. *Welcome to our department April!*