

IN THE WORKS



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

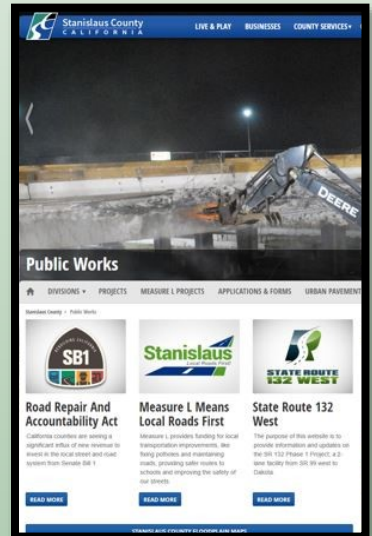
**Stanislaus County
Public Works
October 2023**

Potholes in Stanislaus County

Phew! We just survived one of the wettest winters in years! No more worrying about the dreaded drought of 2023. We have plenty of water coming in from the snow melt for our farmers to thrive and as a bonus Stanislaus County citizens can enjoy keeping their lawns a little bit greener this year. That's the good news, the bad news? **POTHOLES!**

Potholes are formed when water seeps through the surface cracks in the asphalt and causes the underlying soil to soften. Once the underlying soil becomes soft, the asphalt cannot effectively support the weight of the traveling vehicles, causing it to deform and break. Continuous stress from vehicles traveling over the weakened asphalt will cause it to spall out (pop out), and as a result a pothole is born. At first, new potholes may just be a few inches wide and deep but can quickly expand, resulting in a much larger pothole. The most dangerous part of a pothole is the depth, which can potentially cause damage to vehicle tires and/or the vehicle itself. This causes a safety issue for everyone on the road, especially our driving citizens.

Since the storms in January, our Roads Division has been overwhelmed with pothole service requests. The General Maintenance crew (GM) that responds to all the pothole requests estimates there have been over 700 calls for service. This uptick in requests has overwhelmed the GM crew. The division decided to reallocate



Public Works

Website:

**[www.stancounty.com/
publicworks](http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks)**

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Quote of the Quarter:

"Safety is no accident

- Author Unknown



ROADS

Potholes in Stanislaus County

all available crews to support General Maintenance and patch potholes over a 4-week period. To be as efficient as possible the County was split into 4 zones and each crew was assigned a patch truck. This Team effort provided a positive outcome for everyone. Not only did it help the GM crew get caught up on all the pothole requests but also helped keep the citizens of Stanislaus County safer on the road. Great teamwork from the Roads staff!!



**County
Workers
Filling in
Pot Holes**



Filling potholes is a simple yet repetitive process. The easy part is identifying the pothole. After that the pothole needs to be cleaned out by removing any loose rock, dirt, and debris. The cleaned pothole then is sprayed with a bonding agent called “bitsy” in and around the sides of the pothole. Once the bitsy is tacked (dried a bit) the hole is then filled with hot asphalt. The GM crew will then prepare the asphalt to be leveled with the compactor. That is how you fill a pothole. Once the pothole is cleaned, bonded, and filled, it’s on to the next!

Article by Bill Martins



Fun Fact: Did you know that as of January 2023 the Public Works Administration team has entered over 900 Pot Hole requests. Thank you to our County citizens for reporting these potholes!



SURVEY

Drones Helping Stanislaus County

Drones are being used by public works departments everywhere to improve efficiency and effectiveness in a variety of tasks, including:

- Infrastructure inspection
- Asset management
- Construction monitoring
- Disaster response
- Public safety



The Drone used at the Public Works Department. DJI Phantom 4 Pro.

Drones can provide real-time data and imagery that can help public works departments to make better decisions, save money, and improve public safety.

Here are some specific examples:

- Drones can be used to inspect bridges and roads for damage without having to close them to traffic.
- Drones can be used to survey public lands and assets, such as roads, bridges, and buildings.
- Drones can be used to monitor construction projects in real time to identify potential problems early on.
- Drones can be used to assess damage after natural disasters and to deliver supplies to remote areas.
- Drones can be used to monitor traffic and crowds, and to search for missing people.

Overall, drones are a valuable tool for public works departments. They can help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations, and to better serve the public.



SURVEY

Drones Helping Stanislaus County

While each drone is different and its functions can vary, drones are becoming a staple in government departments. Here at Stanislaus County Public Works, we do have a drone at our disposal. In early 2023, when we were hit with major storms, we used our drone to survey the damage and total impact the storms had on the county. Some places are very hard to reach by person, but by using the drone, we had a clear picture of all the storm's havoc.

[Pictures By Michael Rodriguez]



Drone View of Las Palmas Bridge



Drone View of Shiloh Bridge



Drone View of Laird Slough



Drone View of Grayson Bridge



SAFETY

Construction workers are often at risk of injury or even death on the job, especially when working on or near roads and highways. Drivers and pedestrians can play an important role in keeping construction workers safe by being more careful and aware when traveling through construction zones.



Here are some tips on how to be more careful and aware of construction workers on the road:

- Slow down. The speed limit in construction zones is typically lower than the normal speed limit for a reason. This is to give drivers more time to react to changes in traffic conditions and to avoid hitting construction workers or equipment.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals. This includes paying attention to flagmen and other traffic control personnel.



- Be prepared for unexpected changes. Construction zones can be unpredictable, so it's important to be prepared for sudden changes in traffic conditions. Be aware of your surroundings and be prepared to stop or change lanes at a moment's notice.

- Avoid distractions. Put your phone away and focus on the road. Any distraction can be dangerous, but especially so in a construction zone.

Be patient. Construction zones can be frustrating, but it's important to be patient and remember that the workers are just trying to do their job.



SAFETY

If you see a construction worker on the road, please give them plenty of space and slow down. You can also help to keep construction workers safe by talking to your friends and family about the importance of being careful and aware in construction zones.

Here are some additional tips for keeping construction workers safe:

- If you are driving, be aware of your blind spots and check them frequently. Construction workers are often working near traffic, so it's important to be aware of their location at all times.
- If you are walking or biking, be aware of your surroundings and stay on designated crosswalks and sidewalks. Construction zones can be dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists, so it's important to be extra careful.



If you see a construction worker in a dangerous situation, report it to the appropriate authorities. You can help to prevent a serious accident by reporting unsafe conditions.



By following these tips, you can help to keep construction workers safe on the road. Thank you for your cooperation!

Congratulations to our department on reaching 264 days without a workplace injury, accident, or incident! This is a significant milestone, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone in our team. Let's keep up the great work and continue to prioritize safety in everything we do. Together, we can create a safe and healthy workplace for everyone.



Quarterly Safety Meeting 2023

This quarter, the Public Works Department held a safety meeting on Hazardous Communications with Arthur DeLoach, Safety Officer of Stanislaus County. The meeting covered important topics such as how to identify, assess, and control hazardous chemicals in the workplace.



Arthur DeLoach, Safety Officer, presenting his PowerPoint to Public Works staff.

In addition, the department presented several service awards to employees who have dedicated many years to Stanislaus County. These awards are a special recognition of the employees' hard work and commitment to the county.



Public Works Director David Leamon and Surveyor Chad Johnson presenting a Service Award to Senior Surveying Tech Michael Rodriguez.

Congratulations to everyone who received a Service Award!



Public Works Staff Updates

Public Works Welcomes New Hires, Announces Promotions, and Celebrates Retirements

The Public Works Department is pleased to announce a number of changes to its team in the third quarter of 2023. We are excited to welcome seven new employees and promote two current employees.

July 2023—September 2023:

New Hires:

Espinoza, Adrian	July 2023
Rodriguez, Elias	July 2023
Shackleford, David	July 2023
Light, Thomas	Aug 2023
Ayala, Carlos	Aug 2023
Guzman, Cesar	Aug 2023
Silva, Keli	Aug 2023

Promotions:

Perez, Jose—	Senior Engineer Tech
Bondi, Bryce—	Engineer III



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Great job everyone!
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