



“In the Works”

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

Stanislaus County
Public Works

Volume 8, Issue 4
December 2016

Measure L — Approved!

Submitted by Matt Machado

On November 8, 2016, the residents of Stanislaus County voted overwhelmingly to approve Measure L and institute a special 25 year, one-half cent sales tax increase designated for the sole purpose of local transportation improvement projects and programs. The ballot measure included an Expenditure Plan (“Plan”) developed by the Stanislaus Council of Government. As a result of extensive public outreach asking residents to identify their priorities for future transportation programs and projects, the Plan provisions committed 50% of the new tax exclusively for repair and maintenance of Local Streets and Roads. The Plan and tax increase will be implemented on April 1, 2017, with anticipated revenues for road maintenance of \$1.3 million during Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to Stanislaus County.

Over the course of the 25 year Plan, scheduled road maintenance includes 3,085 miles of chip seal, 845 miles of slurry seal, 325 miles of asphalt overlay, and 50 miles of reconstruction will occur throughout the County. During the first year of the Plan, 32 miles of slurry seal and 83 miles of chip seal will be performed.

Using the optimal weather conditions which occur during the spring and summer months, the first project identified for the 2017 road maintenance season is the slurry sealing of about 80% of Salida’s streets. This project will be put out to bid in the winter of 2016 and awarded in early spring of 2017, with construction anticipated to occur during May and June of 2017. Preliminary engineering estimates of construction costs are approximately \$1.2 million, with construction oversight costs of approximately \$100,000. To deliver this project as promised in the tax measure, Public Works will amend its operations budget so that the construction contract can be awarded and work can begin. The April-June 2017 roadway maintenance tax

revenue collections are estimated to be \$1.3 million and expected to be distributed in late August 2017.

The second project identified for 2017 is the application of chip seal maintenance during the months of July, August, and September 2017 to various sites within the County. These areas include rural roads south and west of Oakdale, east of Turlock, and south of Riverbank. Advanced preparation for the project requires the ordering of the chip during March to allow lead time for crushing and delivery, and filling the vacant six road maintenance worker positions in early April to assure trained workers are available. The oil needed for chip sealing will be purchased in July 2017, and included in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The department estimates the cost of the chip to be approximately \$300,000 and the new staffing to be approximately \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Additionally, design has been started for two sidewalk projects. The first project will construct sidewalks in the area of Hanshaw Middle School and Bret Harte Elementary school, along Butte Avenue and Glenn Avenue. The second project will construct sidewalks in the area of Kirschen Elementary School and Robertson Road Elementary School, along Robertson Road and south to the new soccer sports fields.

In the year 2017 we will see some great projects kick off and be built, yet with only a partial year of funding 2018 will be even a bigger year of project delivery. It is anticipated that in the year 2018 Public Works will chip seal 125 miles, slurry seal 35 miles, and asphalt overlay 25 miles. All brought to you by Measure L. **Thank you!**

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Word of the Quarter Integrity

Ethics Quotes W. Clement Stone

- Have the courage to say no.
- Have the courage to face the truth.
- Do the right thing because it is right.

These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.



An Expedition to the “County Corner” at Mount Boardman Submitted by Larry Fontana

In 1868 the County Surveyors of Alameda, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties conducted a boundary survey to establish the county lines between the respective counties. An oak tree (see photo on right) was selected on Mount Boardman, named after the Alameda County Surveyor at that time W. F. Boardman, as the convergence point of these three counties along with the County of Santa Clara. Approximately 148 years later, Chad Johnson and I had the opportunity to revisit the oak tree “County Corner” with the County Surveyors of Alameda, Santa Clara and San Joaquin. Our group consisted of Michael Rubner County Surveyor for Alameda County, Bill Slepnikoff County Surveyor and his assistant Chris Wilson from Santa Clara County, Warren Smith County Surveyor from San Joaquin County, the retired Santa Clara County Surveyor Gwen Gee, and Mike Quartaroli with Quartaroli & Associates Inc.

This location was last visited by Stanislaus County Surveyor George Macomber in 1931. He set 1½ iron pipes as 20’ witness corners (point marked by a monument) in the four cardinal directions; north, south, east, and west.

The tree is located on the property owned by N3 Cattle Company LLC. Contact was made with their ranch manager who provided access through the locked gates and acted as our guide up the hill. With a little searching, we located the oak tree still alive and the witness corners set by Macomber. We were able to occupy the witness corners with GPS units to determine coordinates and perform some old fashion chaining between the points on the ground to verify distances. The data collected will be shared by the four counties to improve all of our GIS platforms.



Pictured from left to right: *Santa Clara County Surveyor* Bill Slepnikoff and his assistant Chris Wilson; *Stanislaus County Assistant Surveyor* Chad Johnson; *Santa Clara County retired Surveyor* Gwen Gee; *Alameda County Surveyor* Michael Rubner; *San Joaquin County Surveyor* Warren Smith; *Stanislaus County Deputy Surveyor* Larry Fontana; and *Quartaroli & Associates Inc.* Mike Quartaroli,

Trees in Stanislaus County Submitted by David Leamon

We have estimated that there are at least 8,500 trees within Stanislaus County right-of-way. Stanislaus County Public Works spends a considerable amount of time and money clearing the right-of-way of tree debris. In two Fiscal Years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 the tree crew has spent \$317,191 on tree maintenance. Our total revenue for those two years was \$25 million. Tree maintenance took up 1.2% of our revenue for those two fiscal years. One of our roads crew spent approximately 10% of their time on tree work. The rest of the time was traffic/road related work and striping.

Within Streets and Highways Code, trees are a legal expense, however, **it is Public Works policy that the trees are either private or volunteer trees**, therefore we do not maintain trees or do a maintenance cycle on trees. The maintenance of trees is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Public Works will clear the right-of-way when

there are obstructions due to downed limbs or trees.

Our tree crew members are:

Brian England, Roads Supervisor
Eric Moore, Senior Road Maintenance Worker
Keith Wilcox, Senior Road Maintenance Worker
Garett Anderson, Road Maintenance Worker II
Pat Brunn, Road Maintenance Worker II
Brian Conroy, Road Maintenance Worker II
Wayne McConnell, Road Maintenance Worker III
Casey Roberts, Road Maintenance Worker III

They do great work. They are also efficient and have a safe record. As with many of our crews, they are on call and respond to calls twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year (24/7/365). Good job tree crew!

October is National Fire Prevention Month—10 Home Fire Safety Tips

1. **Smoke Alarms**—These are still a very important addition to your home. Install one on every level of your home, including inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. For the best protection, both ionization and photoelectric alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) are recommended. **Be sure to test monthly.** NOTE: Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.
2. **Prevent Electrical Fires**—Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.
3. **Keep Plugs Safe**—Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks—the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.
4. **Alternate Heaters**—Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
5. **Fire Safety Sprinklers**—When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable, and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
6. **Create An Escape Route**—Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It's just like a routine school fire drill, but in your home. **Practice it at least twice a year.**
7. **Clean Dryer Vents**—Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. **Clean the lint filer every time** you start a load of clothes to dry, or after the drying cycle is complete. Make sure your exhaust duct is made of metal tubing and not plastic or foil. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage and check for lint build up behind the dryer **at least twice a year.**
8. **Conduct Regular Inspections**—Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month. Taking a little time to do this **each month** can really pay off.
9. **Be Careful Around the Holidays**—If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.
10. **Be Careful When Using Candles**—Keep candles at least one foot from anything that can burn. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

KUDOS AND THANK YOU PUBLIC WORKS STAFF!!

- ◆ Nancy W. called regarding some potholes on Woodland Avenue. She then wrote a letter stating that she was "**SO PLEASED AND IMPRESSED,**" and that our "**prompt attention is appreciated.**"
- ◆ Debbie called to say "**thank you for the quick response**" to her request regarding multiple potholes on Jessup Road at the intersection of East Keyes Road.
- ◆ Ed A. from Newman called to thank you for the "**quick response and great patching job**" on Draper Road in Newman.
- ◆ Allen B. called to compliment our crew for "**doing a great job repairing a pothole**" on East Keyes Road.
- ◆ Scott T. called to say "**thanks for a job well done**" for removing a fallen tree limb on South Avenue in Oakdale.
- ◆ Pedro C. from San Diego County completed our Customer Satisfaction Survey and "**strongly agreed**" that overall, he was satisfied with our services and his experience with Public Works regarding his inquiry.

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Stanislaus County's Assistance Hotline:

1 (877) 2ASSIST / 1 (877) 227-7478

Stanislaus Regional Transit

StaRT

Transit Division's website is:

www.srt.org

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

Stanislaus County Public Works
Annual Report 2015

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Public Works' 2015 Annual Report is available online at the link below.

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<http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/pdf/2015-annual-report.pdf>



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The Great California ShakeOut



At 10:20 a.m. on October 20, 2016, millions of Californians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in the largest earthquake drill ever. Check out **Ready.gov** for tips on emergency preparedness.

Annual Public Works Holiday Project Submitted by Julie Serrano

This year, Public Works prepared shoeboxes filled with small toys, non-perishable food, school supplies, and/or hygiene items to donate to Operation Christmas Child (OCC) for our holiday project. (See photo below). OCC is a project of Samaritan's Purse and offers hope to children ranging from ages 2 to 14 years old from around the world including the United States.

Our Public Works' goal was to complete at least five more shoe boxes than we completed in 2014. In 2014, we completed 31 shoe boxes. We exceeded our goal by 11 shoeboxes!!! Public Works employees donated a total of 24 filled shoe boxes, in addition we received over \$215 in cash so we were able to assemble 18 more shoeboxes for a total of 42 completed shoe boxes! Let's not stop there; we also collected enough in cash donations to cover shipping charges for all of our boxes, a total of \$294. We actually had our biggest participation this year with 29 employees donating to our holiday project.

This was a very heartwarming experience. I am very proud of our department for being able to reach so many children with our gifts of hope and love. **Thank you!**



Public Works Staff Updates

New Employees:

Tom Price (Personal Service Contract—Engineering Technician) joined our Surveyors Office on 8/22/16.

Bryant Desaire, Michael Maldonado, and Arthur Spears (Road Maintenance Workers I) joined our Roads & Bridges team on 10/3/16.

David Godinez (Road Maintenance Worker I) joined our Roads & Bridges team on 10/31/16.

Juan Portillo (Associate Planner) joined our Transit Division on 12/12/16.

Welcome!

Departures:

Chad Anderson (Road Maintenance Worker II / Roads & Bridges) departed on 11/28/16.

Garrett Smith (Road Maintenance Worker I / Roads & Bridges) departed on 12/1/16.

Best Wishes!

Births:

Shoab Ahray (Associate Civil Engineer / Design Engineering division) has twin daughters named Sophia and Aliya who were born on 10/11/16.

Congratulations!

