DPW UPDATE

Volume 20, Issue 2 Summer 2006

CIP Team Tackles $150 Million in Projects

Valley Center, Wildcat Canyon, South Santa Fe—roads that are just part of the work planned or underway in DPW's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) section. Add in the north side aircraft ramp at McClellan-Palomar Airport, the Central Avenue flood control channel and the Spring Valley sewer outfall projects. Now you've scratched the surface.

Crew preps shoulder of Valley Center Road as part of the $34 million improvement project.

CIP's 33-member staff has 82 different projects in the works and 64 of them are active this year. Total budget for these is $150 million.

"This is a huge load of work," said Deputy Director Mohammad Fakhrriddine of Engineering Services. "Our staff is working hard to get these projects done on time and on budget."

Many of the projects are high profile and vital to the County.

Take the $34 million Valley Center Road project. It widens what has been a two-lane road that carries a large volume of traffic through the area. The $12 million Wildcat Canyon project also affects thousands of daily commuters a day as they head to and from work and a local casino. Other big projects include widening Highways 54 and 94 in Rancho San Diego ($13 million), Central Avenue flood control improvements in Bonita ($7.5 million), a new aircraft parking ramp at Palomar Airport in Carlsbad ($7.6 million) and major improvements to South Santa Fe Avenue in the Vista/San Marcos area ($75 million).

"We can't just hire a contractor and pave the road," said Terry Rayback who manages CIP. "We work with other DPW sections before and during each

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Crompton Tapped as New DPW Assistant Director

Richard Crompton was appointed DPW's Assistant Director to replace Chandra Wallar, who was promoted to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Land Use & Environment Group. He'll head the Land Development Division.

Crompton is a civil engineer with extensive experience managing facilities engineering and construction activities during his 20-year career in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Most recently, he was Vice-President of the San Diego office of The Onyx Group. That company provides land use planning, architectural design and GIS services.

"Rich is a valuable addition to our management team," Director John Snyder said. "His experience is a great match for our needs, and I look forward to working with him for a long time to come."

From the Director's Desk

Results from this year's employee satisfaction survey are in, and I'm very happy to report that 289 of you turned in surveys, the highest number of employees participating in the survey since it started in 2000.

You rated 44 questions, ranging from "Are you treated fairly by your department?" to "Does top management of the County do its job well?" Overall, the survey results for DPW showed stability in how our employees perceive the County and DPW as an employer. A few issues were rated the highest in the five years the survey has been conducted, with a high percentage of employees saying the department provides a work environment free of harassment and values diversity in the work place, that rules and regulations in the department are applied consistently, that supervisors are thoroughly explaining assignments and that supervisors plan work in advance to a great degree.

Also ranking highest in five years were the department's recognition of employees' performance, providing feedback on performance, and employee perception that top management is doing its job well.

Among areas identified for improvement were "Are tasks assigned fairly within your work group?" which dropped by 3%. Also dropping were "Are you satisfied with your job overall?" and "Do you find your work interesting and challenging?" I want you to know that those of us in management take this information seriously and use the information to set goals for the next year to try to improve ourselves as employers. If you would like a copy of the entire survey result, please call LaVonne Engel at (858) 694-3230.

John Snyder,
Director

You've Seen S-Route Signs, but What Do They Mean?

by Tom Davis, Field Engineering

Ever wonder what news reporters mean when they refer to "County Road S-2"? What exactly are S-Routes?

In 1958, the County Supervisors Association of California (CSAC, now the California State Association of Counties)

established the California County Route Marker Program. This program identifies the more important county routes by designating them as "County Sign Routes" and assigning route numbers to them. Roads receiving such designations include roads of general public interest, roads leading to a state park, a national park or a national monument and roads leading to a major recreation area or major arterial streets.

Standards were developed for these roads in terms of their construction (i.e., at least 40 feet wide, unless the route was established before January 1, 1945). Most counties in California participate in the voluntary program.

Initially, 63 routes were established totaling 1,415 miles, including 368 miles in San Diego County. One stipulation of the program was: "All county highways which for a period of five consecutive years are impassable for vehicular travel, and on which during such period of time no public money is expended for maintenance, are considered to be unnecessary highways, and may be re-designated as stock trails." Not likely to happen here in San Diego County.

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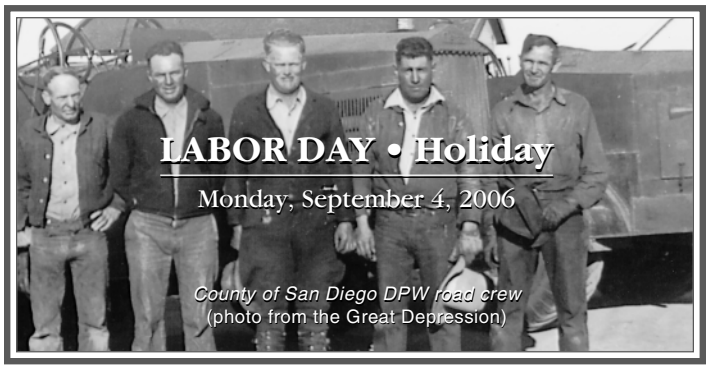

Safety & Wellness

HOT, HOT, HOT!!!

by Carl Spiron, Safety Officer

With summer here and thermometers pushing mercury toward the top, we need to take extra caution when working. That means working in the sun or even driving or sitting at a desk.

CAL/OSHA recommends seven ways to reduce your risk from heat illness:

1. ***Recognize the hazard*** – heavy work, especially while wearing protective clothing, even in mild temperatures, can create heat-related problems.
2. ***Water*** – keep a supply of clean, cool, potable water available. While working in the heat, you need to drink 3–4 glasses of water per hour and that includes at the start of your shift. Thirst is not a reliable indicator of dehydration.
3. ***Shade*** – work in the shade if you possibly can. If you can't, wear wide-brimmed hats and take breaks in the shade.
4. ***Acclimatization*** – it takes time for your body to adjust to working in the heat. That's especially true after a long absence, recent illness or a recent move from a cool to a hot climate. Ease into your work over a period of 4–10 days and follow procedures for water and shade.
5. ***Take risk breaks*** – these are important to reduce internal heat load and provide time for cooling. Take breaks in cooler, shaded areas.
6. ***Prompt medical attention*** – when you recognize symptoms of heat illness, act promptly. Common early symptoms and signs of heat illness include headache, muscle cramps and unusual fatigue. These can progress quickly to more serious illness including unusual behavior, nausea/vomiting, weakness, rapid pulse, excessive sweating or hot dry skin, seizures and fainting. If you or a co-worker have these symptoms, call 911.
7. ***Training*** – DPW offers special training. Sign up for a class to learn more.

Training

What's a BPR, and Is It a Good Thing?

by Kirsten Aaboe Hope, Training Officer

We've been working hard to improve things for several years in DPW. This year our push for improvements involved what's called Business Process Re-engineering, or BPR. Instead of brainstorming "good ideas," like we've done in the past, BPR sometimes means sitting down for up to five days, using a special process to come up with newer, better, faster, easier ways of doing our business.

Some examples:

- Creating databases of sanitation facility record drawings and rolling them into the Survey Records System
- Streamlining Landfill Management's invoice payment process
- Giving visual diagrams and process maps to customers waiting for counter services to cut out as much confusion as possible
- Reworking the recruitment plan for Equipment Operator to help find highly qualified candidates for these openings
- Developing a streamlined permit process to get rid of duplication and extra work for both contractors and staff
- Developing an Organics Recycling community plan to inform stakeholders and increase organic material recycling
- Developing a process to take care of customer complaints quickly and accurately

BPR is about making whatever process we want to improve the best and fastest for us and for our customers.

Bits & Pieces

Golden Watchdog

DPW's Regional General Permit 53, a permit that allows our crews to clear out channels without waiting for individual permits, won a Regional Golden Watchdog Award from the San Diego Taxpayers Association.

New Watershed Manager

Cid Tesoro is the new manager for the Watershed Protection section. That includes stormwater permit compliance activities and Flood Control District engineering staff. In making the appointment, Director John Snyder praised Tesoro's accomplishments, including implementation of numerous stormwater program initiatives, and his leadership in Flood Control.

Williams Awarded

Recycling's Wayne Williams recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes the best in American spirit and encourages Americans to contribute through volunteer service. Dr.Williams has volunteered for international service four times since 1996, twice as an agricultural consultant in the field with avocado and peach farmers in Michoacán and Jalisco, Mexico, and twice to hold various workshops with apple and apricot farmers in Tajikistan to improve their crops and marketing.

CIP Team (continued)

project as well. That includes Environmental Services, Construction Engineering, Surveys, Traffic and more. Without their efforts, we couldn't do our job."

Both Fakhrriddine and Rayback praise the way everyone in DPW makes the extra effort to get the work done. "I'm really proud to be part of this team," Fakhrriddine said. "Our design staff, project managers, contract group, inspectors and support folks are invaluable links to make this a real success story."

S-Routes (continued)

Locally, these Routes are prefixed with the letter "S." Orange, Riverside and Imperial counties also use the S prefix, primarily because some of our S-Routes cross county lines. Otherwise, there is only one other S-Route in California, in Santa Barbara County.

On January 13, 1959, County of San Diego Supervisors decided to participate in the voluntary program.

Many of the roads listed are not County-maintained. So who maintains these *signs*? DPW does. Our staff periodically inspects with these signs even if they're in other jurisdictions.

San Diego County S-Routes

- **S-1** Buckman Springs Road
- **S-2** San Felipe Road, Mason Valley Road, Sweeney Pass Road
- **S-3** Borrego Valley Road, Borrego Springs Road, Palm Canyon Drive
- **S-4** Poway Road
- **S-5** Pomerado Road, Espola Road
- **S-6** Via De La Valle, Paseo Delicias, Del Dios Highway, Valley Boulevard, Valley Center Road, South Grade Road, Canfield Road
- **S-7** East Grade Road
- **S-8** Plaza Street, Skyline Drive, Linea del Cielo, Paseo Delicias
- **S-9** D Street, Vulcan Avenue, San Marcos Road, La Bajada, Los Morros, La Granada
- **S-10** Rancho Santa Fe Road
- **S-11** El Camino Real
- **S-12** Encinitas Road, Twin Oaks Valley Road, Sycamore Avenue, Deer Springs Road
- **S-13** Juniper Street, Main Street, Mission Road, East Vista Way
- **S-14** North Santa Fe Avenue
- **S-15** Reche Road, Stage Coach Lane, Fallbrook Street
- **S-16** Pala Temecula Road
- **S-17** Bonita Road, Sweetwater Road, Jamacha Boulevard, Jamacha Road
- **S-21** Genesee Avenue, Torrey Pines Road, Camino Del Mar, 1st Street/Old Highway 101, Carlsbad Boulevard
- **S-22** Montezuma Valley Road

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