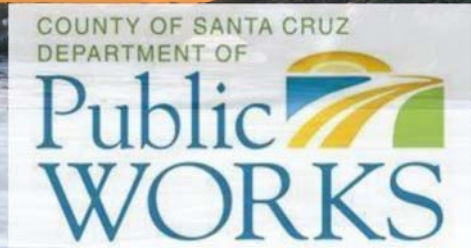


DPW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*Building communities from the ground up.
Striving to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by providing essential services for daily life.*



ROAD REPAIR UPDATE

Tim Bailey

The Department of Public Works is continuing its efforts to repair roads damaged from the winter 2016/2017 storms. There were over 200 storm damaged sites to county-maintained roads during the emergency declared storm events from that winter. Funding for the repairs is received from FEMA for local roads and from FHWA for roads classified as major collector or arterials. FHWA has a strict two-year deadline for advancing the projects to the construction phase. To be able to achieve this deadline the projects must have environmental clearance, a complete design package, and all required right-of-way acquisitions obtained. This is a daunting task for the 96 FHWA funded sites, especially considering that most of the sites had endangered species that will be potentially impacted requiring consultations with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for mitigation requirements and approvals. The County was able to obtain funding authorization for 58 of these sites leaving 38 sites at risk of losing construction funding. One-year time extensions were applied for in September 2019 and we are anxiously waiting to hear whether they have been granted or not. Nearly \$13,000,000 is at risk for these sites.

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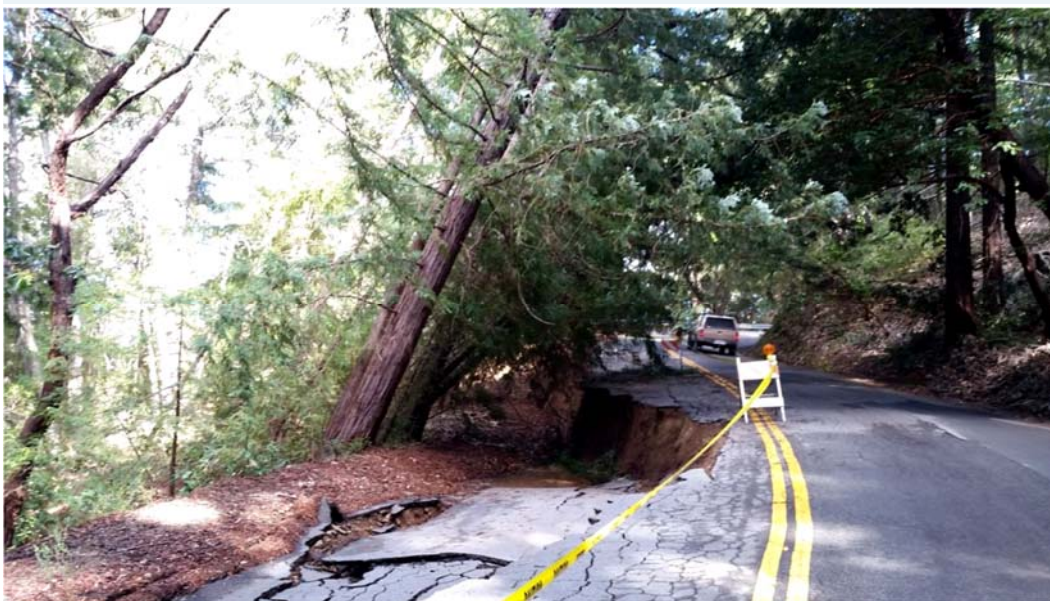


My Santa Cruz County application updates

Enhancements to the My Santa Cruz County application, formerly known as Citizen Connect, continue to be developed with the Information Services Department (ISD) of Santa Cruz County. On the informational resources page (the home screen) of the application there is a new option to view SCC Parking which shows the Soquel Parking and Live Oak Parking locations, and pay station locations on a Geographic Information Services (GIS) Map application developed by the DPW GIS guru Bryan Kriete. Recent additions for issue reporting include Drainage, Stormwater or Flooding issues and Bike or Pedestrian Hazards. Future projects are being developed which include investigating the potential for integrating this application with our current work order system Lucity.

Time Card Process Improvement Effort

In early December the Payroll Time Card Processing Team met over two half days to conduct a process mapping of the present state of time card processing. This event helped the team to identify 18 action items to investigate or act upon to help improve the workflow process. Follow-up meetings will be held to track the action items and bring the process into a new desired state. Changes will be shared as needed when the new process steps are solidified and implemented.



PAJARO RIVER FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

Mark Strudley



Flood of 1995 (below) & 2017 (above)



Since 1966, the Pajaro River levee rebuilding project (Pajaro River Flood Risk Reduction project) has remained in the planning phase with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), punctuated by periods of heightened activity and progress, but without ever being furnished the authority to move into the design or construction phases. Today we share news with you that has been 53 years in the making and will pave a way forward in making this project a reality.

The Flood Control Act of 1944 first granted the Army Corps authority to construct a flood control project on the Pajaro River. The Corps completed this project in 1949, but six years later, the levees were breached by a major storm. Subsequently, the 1966 Federal Flood Control Act authorized a new and more robust project for the Pajaro River. Although the Corps has completed piecemeal repairs on the levees, no significant progress has been made since 1966 to move this project forward. In the meantime, the levee system has failed four times, caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, led to the displacement of hundreds of residents, and tragically, resulted in the loss of life. Today, the Zone 7 Flood Control District staff, housed in DPW's Flood Control Division of Special Services, is ecstatic to announce that a significant milestone has been reached and a new chapter will begin for the Pajaro River Flood Risk Reduction Project. On December 12, 2019, James C. Dalton, Director of Civil Works at USACE, signed the project's Director's Report.

The Director's Report, which accompanies a finalized General Re-evaluation Report/Environmental Assessment (the project's feasibility report), does several important things:

- It confirms the federal authorization to rebuild and enhance the existing levees and flood control facilities on the Pajaro River and Salsipuedes Creek, all without seeking further Congressional approval;

- It pivots the project into the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design phase—a phase in which the project has never been; and,
- It allows the project to compete for federal design and construction funds.

Several days later, on December 20, 2019, Congressman Panetta secured language in the Fiscal Year 2020 federal spending bill that reserves at least \$1.5 million for Army Corps funding for flood control projects, like the Pajaro River project, which are located in economically-disadvantaged communities that have suffered from fatal flooding. The Director's Report authorization and the strong indication in the federal budget package suggests some very promising momentum forward.

However, without federal construction money, the local project sponsors have not been able to tap into the project's State Subventions funds, originally authorized in 2006 in the California Water Code. But with Governor Newsom's signing of AB 489 on September 27, 2019, prospects for significant movement forward have increased. AB 489 revises the State Water Code so that the Director's Report unlocks approximately \$100M in State Subventions funds that can be used to start design and construction, in advance of any investment from USACE. While Zone 7 and Monterey County will continue to hunt for federal funds, a large sum of State funds is now available to move the project forward without the challenges and sluggishness of federal appropriations holding us at bay.

Like any \$400M construction project, moving dirt won't be immediate, but at the very least we have a path forward...one where this project can become a reality. We are looking forward to building a project that will allow the residents of Watsonville and Pajaro to finally rest easy when the storm doors open!

LASERFICHE

Brian Miyakusu

If you searched for scanned DPW documents, you have used Fortis. Fortis has not been supported for years and is being replaced Countywide by Laserfiche. Laserfiche is a Document Management System that uses Search, Optical Character Recognition scanning (OCR), Workflow and Meta Data to make our searches easier and more useful. Meta Data is "data that provides information about other data" which sounds silly. Think of it as adding categories and tools for searching.



Soon, searches can be performed from every machine on the DPW floor by opening Internet Explorer, and going to our Laserfiche weblink address, entering your username as DPW### (your number here ###) with your computer password. Typing in an APN number for a property is a common search. Entering 026-301-08 will result in the documents that have that APN number. You can see permitting, sewer info and other documents related to the APN property.

If your job requires searching through the documents for various records multiple times a week, your manager can purchase a license that will allow custom searches that can help narrow down the search by different criteria and save the searches.

Dominic Sprattling and Victor Acevedo in Central File along with Terra Prestwich and Andrea Gifford in SCCSD are using Laserfiche to scan in all the new documentation coming into their departments. These documents are optically read and stored so any of us can search by what is written in the document.

The most exciting part of the new system that wasn't possible before is Workflow. After we fix a few issues, there will be an accounts payable system that will take scanned invoices into Laserfiche and then route them from the AP staff to the proper manager for paperless approval (or denial). If approved it will return to AP staff, the invoice will be paid, and then it will be filed by year and the first letter of the Vendor. The invoice is searchable by managers and AP staff so that the invoice can be found all along the process.

Contact me (Brian), Dominic, Victor, Terra, and Andrea to see how we are using it. Official training from our vendor will be coordinated with Assessors and Environmental Health.



DPW EVENTS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Heather Viola
Accounting Technician

Nicole Steel
Project Manager

Bryan Wardlow
Engineering Technician I

Bruce Bongard
Solid Waste Inspector

Joshua Miller
Public Works Maintenance
Worker I

Taylor Walton
Public Works Maintenance
Worker I

PROMOTIONS

Michael Rible
Electrical Instrumentation
Technician I

Barry Gregory
Public Works Dispatcher

Bradley Rudolph
Public Works Maintenance Worker II

Adam Flechsig
Public Works Maintenance Worker III

Mark Hernandez
Public Works Maintenance Worker IV

Henry Munoz
Public Works Supervisor

Daniel Ortega
Public Works Supervisor

Jose Ramirez
Public Works Supervisor

RETIREES

Constance McNair

Patrick Turner

Richard Scott

Raymond Pike

Julie McGowan



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“ The beginning is the most important part of the work. ”

- Plato

