

P.W. Progress

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Paving completed; Lessons learned

The county recently completed asphalt overlays on 14 miles of roads. The most significant work was performed on Silverado Trail in the central area of the Napa Valley.

Public Works staff received a lot of feedback from people delayed by the road work.

As a result, we have “debriefed” the project and identified some valuable lessons learned, which will be applied to future work:

- Revise the scheduling so that it does not happen during the Fall harvest season in agricultural areas.
- Avoid work on major roads on Fridays.
- If circumstances outside of our control result in delays, postpone the project rather than proceed during harvest.
- Greatly enhance our approach to posting signs warning of the work – larger signs, clearer messages,

locations which allow opportunities for detouring around the work.

- Evaluate the possibility of working at night on major roads such as Silverado Trail.



Silverado Trail
Paving crew at work

We're moving!

As reported here in the Spring, 2012 issue, Public Works has been working with other County departments on a wide-ranging effort to improve service for the customers of the County's permitting processes.

The most-significant change coming out of this effort was two reorganized departments: Public Works and Planning, Building & Environmental Services. The latter will contain all of the County's permitting functions “under one roof.”

Taking the “under one roof” concept a step further, staff will be relocating within the County Administration Building, so that all the permitting functions are located in the same place. PB&ES will occupy the entire 2nd floor, highlighted by a new “one stop shop” service center which will welcome customers immediately where they arrive from the elevator or stairs.

Public Works, in its new operational configuration, will be relocating to the 1st

floor of the Administration Building, the former home of the Environmental Management Department. The new mailing address will be:

1195 Third Street
Suite **101**
Napa, CA 94559



Quick Fix for Slide on Redwood Road

Public Works has completed the repair of damage due to a small, active landslide area on Redwood Road, northwest of Napa.

The landslide area had been depositing debris on the road, blocking access for residents and emergency vehicles, and requiring frequent cleanup by maintenance crews, even during the dry parts of the year.

A geotechnical study was performed and recommended construction of a “catchment wall” – a wall along the base of the uphill slope to catch any debris before it lands on the road itself.

The wall being built is known as a “soldier pile” wall, and has steel beams placed vertically into drilled foundation holes, with timber beams

stacked between them horizontally.

The wall extends 80 feet along the road and ranges from 8 to 13 feet high.

The repair is estimated to cost a total of \$150,000, from local funds. The contractor is Maggiora & Ghilotti, of San Rafael.

Construction started just after Thanksgiving and was **completed in just one week!**

Storm Damage Repairs on Dry Creek Road

The repair of one of the last two remaining storm damage sites from the 2005-06 winter storms is under way.

On Dry Creek Road, west of Mt. Veeder Road, creek flooding had eroded the bank below the road, narrowing the road to one lane in the damaged area.

A geotechnical evaluation recommended the construction of a soldier pile wall as a retaining

structure to restore support for the road pavement.

The damaged area extends 110 feet along the road. The wall ranges up to 15 feet in height, with a concrete cap on top (adjacent to the roadway surface). Much of the wall is further protected by the placement of large stones, known as “rip-rap,” at the base of the wall and covering the slope down to the creek.

The repair is estimated to cost \$644,000, including construction and design, which is being paid by a combination of federal and state disaster relief funds.

The contractor is Nichelini General Engineering Contractors, a local Napa firm.

Photos (at left)
New wall and rip rap
New road surface

Working Together on our Roads

The segment of Old Howell Mountain Road between Silverado Trail and Conn Valley Road just got a lot smoother.

This road on the edge of the city of St. Helena has portions both inside and outside the city limits.

The County and the City worked together on a project to repave the road, using maintenance crews from both agencies.

The cost of the project was approximately \$96,000, which was divided between the two

agencies. The project was a great success and a model of possible future opportunities.

Crews reported some difficulty with drivers bypassing the flaggers – please drive carefully in work zones!



Redwood Road
(Top) Slide area before repair
(Bottom) Wall under construction



Old Howell Mountain Road

Getting a Grip on Roadway Safety

One location on Silverado Trail, one of the Napa Valley's main thoroughfares, had experienced a substantial number of collisions, in some instances involving serious injuries or fatalities.

The site, a roadway curve between Skellenger Lane and Sage Canyon Road, has good sight distance and geometric features. However, between 2006 and 2009 it experienced 14 collisions resulting in 12 injuries and 4 fatalities.

Public Works installed enhanced signage to warn

drivers of the curve, and evaluated other treatments for their potential benefits.

The selected treatment was a product called Tyre Grip®, which is distributed by Ennis Paint. It is a type of surface treatment, like a slurry seal, using specialized materials to increase the friction between the roadway and vehicles' tires.

The good news: since the installation of this product in 2010, there have been no more collisions at this location!

The bad news (if any): this segment of Silverado Trail was scheduled for a pavement overlay in 2012. Since there had been such great success with the Tyre Grip® product, Public Works arranged to re-install the material immediately after the paving project. The photo below shows the new installation.



Tyre Grip® on Silverado Trail

Keeping Up with Aging Infrastructure

The ongoing challenge for Napa County Public Works, as well as all other local government agencies, is maintaining the aging infrastructure in a state of good repair.

A recent success story is a bridge located in the Silverado residential community, northeast of Napa, on Westgate Drive.

The bridge was constructed when the community was originally developed in the 1960s, and one of its timber railings was deteriorating.

Crews refurbished the railing and put a new face on it, and it is as good as new!

The County is now embarking on a new program to evaluate all 79 bridges in our care, to identify which ones are in need of maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement. Funding will be available for this work from federal and state sources.



*Westgate Drive
Bridge over Milliken Creek*



Aerial view of HHS campus

Health & Human Services Campus Update

Progress continues on the project to redevelop the County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) campus on Old Sonoma Road in Napa.

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been prepared, and was circulated for public comment. A public information meeting on

the DEIR was held at the HHS campus on October 2. Comments received so far have to do with potential traffic impacts, preservation of the older existing structures on the site, and the relationship of the proposed project to the surrounding neighborhood, particularly in terms of visual impacts.

Approval of the EIR and selection of the preferred site alternative is expected in February, 2013.

Master planning for the campus redevelopment will then begin, followed by design and construction of the first phase of master plan implementation.



Reach 4 West Bank
Bench 9 hydro-seeded and being prepped for replanting with native species

More River Restoration Success in 2012

Public Works has completed the **fourth** season of construction on the 4.5-mile-long Rutherford Reach Restoration Project.

The project, which was initiated by the Rutherford Dust Society in 2003, restores eroding banks and enhances riparian

habitat and fisheries resources along the Napa River. Funding came from Measure "A" and several state and federal grants.

Reaches 1-3 and the east bank of Reach 4 were completed in prior years. Just completed in 2012 were the west bank of Reach 4, along with

Reach 8, which was the next-highest priority for restoration work. All phases of the Rutherford Reach will be completed by 2015.

Design is under way for a new project in the 10-mile Oakville-Oak Knoll Reach, immediately downstream of the Rutherford Reach.



Reach 8
Erosion Control Measures installed and hydro-seeded

A Message from the Director



Steve Lederer

3rd in a 3-part series

What have I learned in each of the different technical disciplines in my career? It's all about a Department's values.

- **Technical Excellence:** Do it right the first time. Pay attention to the details. Put checks and balances in place to ensure we get the right product.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** It isn't our money, but we need to treat it like it is. Spend it for the best value, and live within our means.
- **Teamwork:** It sounds corny, but all of us

working together can accomplish much more than each of us working alone.

Have a thought? Send me an e-mail at steven.lederer@countyofnapa.org. I promise I'll get back to you.

P.S. Yes, I will sometimes still bring my dogs to work.

Partnering with Business to Find Homes for Cats

The County recently entered into a very successful partnership with a local business, designed to find more homes for adoptable cats in our community.

Pet Food Express, in the Bel Aire Plaza in Napa, remodeled its store to install 12 “cat condominiums” to house these animals in a setting where they will have a chance to find new homes. The store also included a “meet and greet” space, where families considering adoption can spend some time meeting their potential new pets.

The corporation, which has over 40 stores throughout California, has developed these Cat Adoption Centers in four other stores so far, and is working on more. They have adopted out over 650 cats from their store in Walnut Creek since 2010.

The Napa County Animal Shelter, one of the newest members of the Public Works family, cares for about 1,000 animals each year. The additional adoption facility, which cost the store \$200,000 to construct, is operated at no cost to the County, other than transportation

to bring the cats there from the shelter.

Pet Food Express worked with staff from the Animal Shelter on the design of the facility, as well as representatives from the Napa Humane Society.

The Cat Adoption Center celebrated its grand opening on Saturday, October 29.



Cat Adoption Center
At Pet Food Express



Adoption Center customers



Photo credits: Kerana Todorov, Napa Valley Register

More Help for Cats (and Dogs) in Need

The Napa County Animal Shelter recently announced a new partnership with a local business, Platypus Wine Tours. Together, they will conduct a promotional campaign, “Bring Me Home,” to promote pet adoptions.

Platypus Wine Tours donated space on its tour buses to display photos of pets available for adoption at the Animal Shelter. Each of the company’s 16 buses will highlight different cats and dogs available for adoption.

Decals on each bus will

feature a photo of a dog or cat, along with its name, and contact information for the Animal Shelter.

“We adore animals. We’ve been adopting our pets from the animal shelter for years,” said Platypus Wine Tours founder Don Rickard.

Platypus Wine Tours offers wine tours in both Napa and Sonoma Counties.

For more information, please visit www.countyofnapa.org/AnimalShelter



View of ad on tour bus



Close-up view

Napa County Public Works



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[http://www.countyofnapa.org/
PublicWorks/](http://www.countyofnapa.org/PublicWorks/)

Repairs coming to Mt. Veeder Road

Mount Veeder Road, northwest of Napa, has been challenged by the geology of its setting for many years. The area is characterized by landslide activity, groundwater seepage and other water-related issues, and the road has experienced damage due to these conditions over the many

years of its existence. Various repairs over the years have not been sustainable when they did not address the root cause of the problems.

Rather than throw good money after bad, the County has hired a geotechnical engineer to evaluate the length of the road and recommend

needed repairs which will accommodate the challenges of the setting, along with the relative priority among the needed repairs.

With this report now in hand, Public Works will begin developing a multi-year program to restore this road to a more-serviceable condition.

Access St. Helena Update

Access St. Helena is a project to bury all existing above-ground utility lines and widen Highway 29 to three lanes, in and south of the City of St. Helena.

Currently, crews are nearing completion on the installation of large

underground utility vaults at the various locations throughout the project.

At the same time, workers have begun to dig the mainline trench which will contain the conduits that "connect the dots"

between these vaults. During this work, there is some shifting of the lanes but no closures or flag control. Drivers are urged to proceed with caution.

For more information, visit www.accesssthenana.org

About Napa County Public Works..

The Department of Public Works is dedicated to sustaining health, safety, quality of life and protection of natural resources by providing and maintaining public

facilities and services in partnership with the community and other public agencies for current and future residents, workers, visitors and animals of Napa County.

Public Works values...

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Service
- Teamwork

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