



Public Works Officers Department 2010 FALL NEWSLETTER



Message from Department Leadership



*By Martin Pastucha
2010-2011 Department President
Director of Public Works
City of Pasadena*

It is indeed my honor and a pleasure to be addressing you as the 2010-11 President of the League of California Cities Public Works Officers Department. I have been preceded in this position by a large number of highly respected public works professionals who have blazed a path and set a standard of leadership for those of us who follow. This group is still very active in the League and through the adoption of the Department bylaws last year will serve a formal role in the upcoming Public Works Officer Institutes as a resource for those new to the upper level of public works management.

A little about my background, I currently serve as the Director of Public Works for the city of Pasadena and have been in this position since 2003. Before that I was the Director of Public Service, then Public Works for the city of La Habra from 1998 to 2003. Prior to my work there, since 1990 I had been involved in various public works activities with the cities of Tustin and Upland, CA.

As President of the Department, it is my goal to promote the following traits through the various policy and transportation/infrastructure advisory committees where the Public Works Officers have appointments:

1) Involvement, making sure we have the commitment and participation of members in the direction of the department; 2) Relevance, making sure we are part of the discussion on any infrastructure investments; 3) Oversight, ensuring that matters relating to the maintenance and construction of the public infrastructure are commented on by those affected (Public Works Directors and City Engineers); 4) Resource, ensure that the Public Works Officers are looked at as a resource who can provide technical analyses of the impacts of pending legislation, regulations, and program procedures. In addition, there are times when the Department is asked to provide feedback and information on a proposed piece of legislation. It will be important for the Public Works Officers *(continued on page 4)*



*By Uche Udemezue
2010-2012 Department Director
Director of Engineering and
Transportation
City of San Leandro*

At the Public Works Officers Institute (PWOI) held this past March, you chose me to succeed Lisa Rapp as your representative on the League of California Cities (League) Board of Directors. Those of you who personally know Lisa can attest to her vast intelligence and knowledge, her unbridled enthusiasm, boundless energy, and unquenchable eagerness to do all that is necessary towards the advancement of Public Works. She has been invaluable to the Public Works Department in accomplishing its mission and is recognized as a giant in the industry.

For the past couple of months, I have been preparing myself for this angst-filled challenge of succeeding Lisa. I have been familiarizing myself with the detailed responsibilities of a board member and the work required to properly and adequately fulfill my mandate from you. As is her wont, Lisa has been very helpful in my education and readiness for this new role.

At the last League conference, I had a chance to witness my first Board of Directors meeting. It was an exciting but assuring experience. We were sworn in as new board members at the last event of the conference on September 17.

I can now say that I am ready to assume the mantle of being your representative and voice on the board. Board meetings are held four times a year in different California cities and regions. The next meeting will be held in San Diego along with the League Leaders workshop on November 17-19. I will provide regular updates on our proceedings through the newsletter and our PWOI. Thanks again for your confidence in my abilities to serve as your voice on the League Board of Directors. ◀

"I am ready to assume the mantle of being your representative and voice on the board."

City of Hawthorne Constructs Sewer with own Forces to Prepare for Stimulus Funded Street Project

By Arnold Shadbehr, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, City of Hawthorne

The city of Hawthorne had to quickly replace the sewer pipe on one of its major highways and finish the work prior to street repaving funded by the Federal Stimulus Program. Hawthorne received approval of \$2.3 million of Stimulus Program funds for the repaving of Rosecrans Avenue - a major six lane highway - provided the construction could be begun within a three month time. Complicating the project was the need to replace several blocks of the sanitary sewer prior to the repaving.

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The city staff of three prepared the plans and specifications for the replacement of 1500 ft. of the 60 year old 8 inch sewer with a 12 inch ABS line within a three week period in August of this year and began the construction by force account with city forces, using rental equipments with operators, the first week in September. Cement slurry backfill was used to avoid settlement of the native clay soil. The sewer pipe upgrade was completed September 29, 2009. The total cost of the design and construction was considerably below the market price.

The project work had to overcome major traffic problems in that Rosecrans Ave. carries (continued on page 6)

City of Burbank Equalization Basin Improves Water Quality, Saves City Resources

By Bonnie Teaford, Director of Public Works, City of Burbank

The city of Burbank's Public Works Department recently celebrated the dedication of a new \$13.5 million, two million-gallon equalization basin at the headworks of its wastewater treatment plant. This project captures the peak daytime flows for treatment during the nighttime low-flow hours and allows for increased recycled water availability, reduces the potential for downstream sewer overflows, and increases the reliability of the city's wastewater treatment plant. The project is expected to save Burbank between \$500,000 to \$1 million each year in avoided treatment costs and electricity, with the payback period anticipated to be about five years. The project has increased the rated capacity of the plant from nine million gallons per day to 12 million gallons per day.

Burbank's project manager, Dan Rynn, Assistant Public Works Director – Wastewater Systems, attributed the project's success to the excellent cooperation among the project partners that included Kennedy/Jenks Consultants (designer), Pacific Hydrotech (contractor), and United Water Services (Burbank's contract operator of the plant.) For questions, call Bonnie Teaford, Public Works Director or Dan Rynn, Project Manager at 818-238-3915. ◀



Equalization basin under construction in 2009

City of Malibu Celebrates the Opening of the Legacy Park Project

By Robert L. Brager, PE, JD, Public Works Director, City of Malibu

The city of Malibu is located in Northwest Los Angeles County and includes 21 miles along the Pacific Ocean. Since the city's incorporation in 1991, it has been committed to protecting this scenic coastline. In the last four months, the city has opened two new storm water treatment projects which will greatly improve water quality in the Santa Monica Bay: the Legacy Park Project and the Paradise Cove Stormwater Treatment Facility. Together they will enable the city to treat an additional 3.3 million gallons of stormwater and urban runoff a day which will preserve the local environment and allow residents, as well as the approximately 15 million visitors the city receives annually to safely enjoy our local beaches.

Malibu's new Legacy Park utilizes innovative design techniques to provide an area wide approach to stormwater management – an approach that benefits water quality, water conservation, habitat restoration, environmental education and public recreation. This multi benefit park is a great example of a comprehensive solution to a public health issue faced by many coastal cities that truly maximizes benefits for all stakeholders.

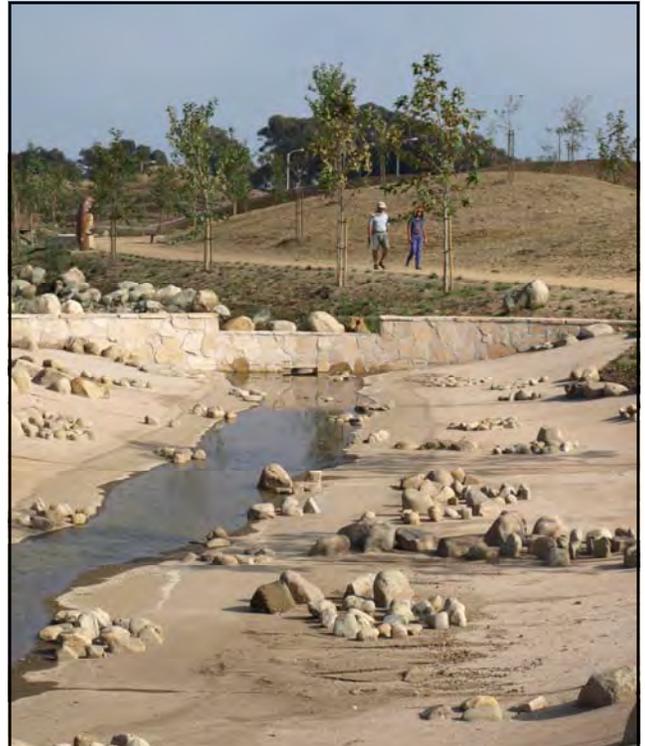
“...a comprehensive solution to a public health issue faced by many coastal cities that truly maximizes benefits for all stakeholders.”

Legacy Park is located in the heart of Malibu, within the Malibu Creek Watershed and adjacent to Malibu Creek, Malibu Lagoon and Surfrider Beach. The park, which was a collaborative public/private partnership, opened to the public on Oct. 2, 2010 and transformed 15 acres of commercially zoned land into an environmental cleaning machine. The park's infrastructure is designed to capture stormwater and urban runoff from 330 acres of the Malibu Creek Watershed and channel it through the park's biofiltering creek and into the storage pond. A storage pond in the center of the park can hold up to 2.6 million gallons of stormwater and urban runoff. The stored water is then diverted into a previously constructed stormwater treatment facility where it is further filtered and treated for bacteria disinfection through an ozonation process. The expanded storage capacity and flow equalization created by the park's infrastructure greatly increases the treatment capacity of the exiting stormwater treatment facility and enable the facility to meet the local Total Maximum Daily Load for Malibu Creek 100 percent of the time.

Once treated, clean water is pumped back to the park to be used for irrigation. The creation of Legacy Park restored and developed six native coastal habitats, while creating open space for passive recreation and environmental education. It offers a living learning center, informational kiosks, an outdoor classroom, a cultural interpretive center and numerous other features to provide information and education about plant and animal life along the Southern California coast.

We invite you all to come and enjoy our smart park. ◀

Legacy Park Project: Environmental Education Center (top, left); Settling Basin (right); Pedestrian Bridge and Observation Deck (bottom, left)



Palm Desert Undertakes Citywide Resurfacing Project and New Aquatic Center

By Mark Greenwood, P.E., Director of Public Works

Construction on the Palm Desert 2010 Citywide Street Resurfacing Project began in July 2010 and is substantially complete. The city used an alternative construction method on this project. Typically, the resurfacing program consists of capping the streets with a layer of new asphalt to extend the life of the street. Overlaying streets is an effective method for street preservation, however, cracks from the underlying surface eventually reflect through the new asphalt. In the program this year, the existing asphalt was removed down to the native soil. The asphalt was then transported to a recycling facility (set up on a city-owned vacant lot) where it was crushed into the proper size of aggregate, remixed with oil, and returned to the streets as a base course of asphalt. The streets were capped with a layer of warm-mix asphalt. This method of construction has reset the life-clock on the streets which were reconstructed. The project was surprisingly affordable and, although this construction method is more intrusive than a typical overlay, the project was completed on schedule and on budget with very few complaints.



New Aquatic Center

On October 1, 2010, a ground-breaking ceremony was held marking the commencement of construction for the Palm Desert Aquatic Center. The facility is being constructed in Civic Center Park, in an area that was previously an open grassy area. An existing date palm grove adjacent to the site will be used for parking with the date palms in the grove being preserved to provide shade for the cars. The project has been underway since December 10, 2009, when the City Council awarded a design contract for the Aquatic Center to Gould Evans Associates of Phoenix, *(continued on page 6)*



Aquatic Center design (left) and current location for future the Center (right)

Message from Department Leadership (continued)

(from page 1) to stay on top of the State budget negotiations for FY 2011-12. The analysis of the recent Budget adoption is unanimous in stating that this budget just pushed a lot of the fiscal issues down the road to another fiscal year. There will be a new Governor preparing the next budget and the November elections could have a profound impact on how that budget is shaped. Further, there are a number of propositions whose passage or defeat could impact the financial and regulatory framework and requirements of cities. The recent actions of the City of Bell and focus on the pension reform will continue to resonate with the elected officials and the public who are to dealing with the financial impact of this recession. President Obama is meeting with Governors and legislative leaders in the hope of promoting a \$50 billion investment proposal to help refurbish 150,000 miles of road, and build or maintain 4,000 miles of rail, along with refurbishing airport runways and upgrade the nation's air traffic control system.

There are a lot of moving pieces out there and the members of this department can serve a significant role in promoting the need for significant investment, effective policies, and efficient management of the public infrastructure and natural resources. As leaders in your respective communities it is important for you to promote locally and participate in the larger discussion. Please let me know your thoughts and ideas as we forge ahead in the coming year. ◀

Glendale Completes Major Public Works Project On Time and Under Budget

Submitted by Shea Eccleston-Banwer, Public Works Administration, City of Glendale

In September 2010, the city of Glendale Public Works Department completed the Fairmont Avenue Extension Project that consists primarily of the construction of the Fairmont Avenue Bridge. This one mile addition extends Fairmont Avenue to the west over San Fernando Road, Southern California Regional Rail Authority railroad tracks and the Verdugo Wash to connect to Flower Street in a developing business district.

The project provides safer, easier and faster access to the SR-134 and I-5 freeways, via a new bridge, for businesses in the Grand Central Business District of west Glendale. At \$44 million, this is one of the largest public works projects ever undertaken by the City.



Fairmont Avenue Bridge

The Fairmont Avenue Extension was first conceived in 1992 when a need to improve the SR-134/San Fernando Road interchange was identified in the City's San Fernando Road Corridor Redevelopment Plan. The western portion of the City of Glendale, which includes Flower Street and Grand Central Avenue, lie in a remote area that has historically been either open land or occupied by a few industrial businesses.

Recent efforts to revitalize the area have successfully resulted in major employers including the Walt Disney Company and Dreamworks Animation expanding facility construction this area and bringing new jobs to the city of Glendale. Unfortunately, freeway access in this area was poor and the influx of new employees and other visitors to this neighborhood resulted in stifling traffic congestion on San Fernando Road and especially at nearby railroad crossings.

“freeway access in this area was poor and the influx of new employees and other visitors to this neighborhood resulted in stifling traffic congestion”

Nearly 20 years of resolve by Glendale Public Works staff and other involved parties resulted in first securing Federal and State grant funding for the project, then obtaining the necessary permitting, and finally completing the construction.

Traffic congestion has been significantly allayed since the completion of the Fairmont Avenue Extension Project. Previously, SR-134/San Fernando freeway ramps provided “F” Levels of Service (jammed condition) where demand exceeded capacity. The new bridge removes heavy commuter traffic from residential neighborhoods, at-grade railroad crossings and congested intersections.

Specifically, it has been projected that the new bridge will remove 16,000 to 18,000 vehicle crossings at railroad tracks daily. A soundwall was incorporated into the bridge design in order to mitigate the concerns of nearby residents over vehicle noise and decorative light fixtures, architectural features and landscaping elements enhanced the visual appeal of the structure.

The success of the Fairmont Avenue Extension Project is attributable to the hard work of the many parties involved in the project. The City of Glendale, Public Works Department oversaw the entire effort. The project design was handled by the private firm URS Corporation while the construction contractor was Griffith Company. Construction management and inspection services were provided by Jacobs Engineering Group.

Since the Fairmont Avenue Bridge crossed railroad tracks and the Verdugo Wash and connected to freeway ramps, a great deal of communication and collaboration was required with numerous public agencies including the California Department of Transportation, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the State Water Resources Control Board. The project was completed on time and under budget. The new bridge was christened at a special ceremony on September 8, 2010. ◀

Palm Desert Aquatic Center (continued)

(from page 4) Arizona. The Aquatic Center facility will include an Olympic-size competitive pool, competition diving platforms, a splash pool, a therapy pool, and recreational areas. The Center will also include a concession stand open to both the pool area and the park and a multi-purpose room available to the public. On September 9, 2010, a contract for construction was awarded to ASR Constructors of Riverside, in the amount of \$7,769,000. The Aquatic Center is expected to open Memorial Day 2011. ◀

League Department Leadership 2010-11 Term Begins

By Dorothy Holzem, League of California Cities Staff

The Public Works Officers Department 2010-2011 leadership team began their term of service at the League's Annual Conference in San Diego on September 18. The Officers were elected at the March Public Works Officers Institute by their peers to guide the work of the Department. They are:

- President — Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works, City of Pasadena
- 1st Vice President — Randy Breault, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, City of Brisbane
- 2nd Vice President — Robert Newman, Director of Public Works, City of Santa Clarita
- Immediate Past President — Larry Patterson, Director of Public Works, City of San Mateo
- Director & League Board Member — Uche Udemezue, Engineering & Transportation Director, City of San Leandro

The Public Works Officers Department is one of 11 professional departments within the League. Their purpose includes fostering professional development of department members by providing opportunities to exchange ideas, consulting with one another and meet with others in the field; encouraging professional accomplishment and the highest ethical standards in city service; cooperating with other departments to promote the overall purposes and goals established in the League's bylaws and by the League's board; serving as a technical and advisory resource to the League; and supporting high-quality service to cities and their citizens by assisting the League with continuing education programs, newsletters, and other works of interest to department members. More information about the Department is available online at: www.cacities.org/publicworks ◀

City of Hawthorne Constructs Sewer with own Forces (continued)

(from page 2) 35,000 cars per day in six lanes and the sewer was relatively deep at 12-18 feet below pavement surface. Much of the work was carried through the night to shorten the construction period and lessen traffic problems in the 80 foot wide street. ◀



REGISTER TODAY!

2011 Public Works Officers Institute

March 23–25, 2011

San Diego Marriott & Marina

Registration available online: www.cacities.org/events

