DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Public Works Department Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013. Through the many diverse programs in the Department, we strive to support the citizens of Santa Barbara and the community’s needs. This report highlights some of the activities that occurred during the past fiscal year and key capital projects that reflect the City’s investment in public infrastructure.

Many of the programs in Public Works support other departments, as well. Fleet Services and the Facilities and Energy Management Divisions help operate and maintain City vehicle and building assets. Water and Wastewater services are provided to City and regional customers. Transportation infrastructure for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians, along with Downtown Parking, support mobility needs of all modes of transportation. It is a certainty that over the past year, if you live in or have visited Santa Barbara, you have experienced the direct services of Public Works.

This year, we are highlighting some of the transportation improvements and outreach programs in the City. We are also sharing information about the new Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) resource recovery project at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant, and some improvements to the plant itself. Most of us think of our surface water sources in Santa Barbara; however, this year we are focusing on some ground water projects that play an important role in our overall water supply system.

We hope this snapshot of the past year’s activities in the Department piques your interest, and we encourage you to visit our website: santabarbaraca.gov/pw for more information about all of Public Works’ activities. Please contact us if you have questions about any of our programs.

Christine F. Andersen
Public Works Director
City of Santa Barbara
PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT MISSION

Why we exist...

We provide our community with the sustainable foundation to thrive by delivering quality services and public infrastructure through efficient and fiscally responsible practices.
CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SUMMARY

The Public Works Engineering Services Program broke a record in Fiscal Year 2013 with $87.5 million in completed Capital Projects. This was due to the Notice of Completion being filed for the Santa Barbara Airport Terminal, which had a total project cost of approximately $52 million. In total, there were 36 Capital Projects completed this Fiscal Year.

OTHER CAPITAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE COMPLETION OF THE FOLLOWING:
Structural Upgrades to Parking Structures 2, 9, and 10 ($1,951,978), Lower West Downtown Lighting Project ($446,931), Phase I of the Mission Creek Fish Passage Project ($1,558,155), Final phase of the Breakwater Concrete and Cap Repair Project ($402,491), Conejo Road Repairs and Sewer Improvements Project ($774,494), Las Canoas Water Main Replacement ($2,997,401), Rattlesnake Creek Sewer Pipe Bridge Emergency Repair Project ($190,681), Marina One Phases 2-4 ($4,570,697), and other projects as described in this Annual Report.

EAST SIDE TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

On October 7, 2011, Sergio Romero was killed crossing Milpas Street at Ortega Street. In the following weeks, City staff attended several public outreach neighborhood meetings to listen to concerns about Milpas Street; specifically, the intersections of Milpas at Yanonali Streets and Milpas at Ortega Streets.

Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning sections staff reviewed both intersections and developed viable alternatives to improve crossing conditions without decreasing overall safety. Beginning in January 2012, open house meetings were held with the Police Department to provide information to residents, property owners, and business owners about planned pedestrian safety improvements. Following these meetings in October 2012, City Council approved a restriping plan on Milpas Street from Cota Street to Canon Perdido Street, the installation of a raised median and rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the intersection of Ortega and Milpas streets, and the installation of pedestrian activated flashing beacons at the intersection of Yanonali and Milpas streets.

In January 2013, the Public Works Department installed the approved pedestrian flashing beacons at the intersections of Yanonali at Milpas and Ortega at Milpas Streets. Additionally, a median refuge island was installed on Milpas Street at the Ortega Street crosswalk. After the work at each of these intersections was completed, Milpas Street from Cota Street to Canon Perdido Street was re-stripped to reduce the number of traffic lanes from two to one lane in each direction, plus adding a center turn lane. Construction of the median and installation of the flashing beacons lasted three weeks, followed by slurry sealing.

The pedestrian flashing beacons provide greater safety by making the crosswalks more noticeable to drivers when someone is crossing Milpas Street. The median refuge island at Ortega Street provides a waiting place for pedestrians, allowing them to stop halfway across the street. The restriping provides fewer lanes for pedestrians to cross, and the resulting wider traffic lanes reduce sideswipe crashes and allow for easier parking maneuvers.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT VISION

Our vision for the next five years...

Our vision is a unified department that coordinates and collaborates effectively and earns the trust and high regard of our community.
EARTH DAY TOUR AND RIBBON-CUTTING FOR FATS, OIL, AND GREASE FACILITIES

The City of Santa Barbara and Marborg Industries hosted a tour and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) facilities at Marborg Industries and at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant on Monday, April 22, 2013, just in time to celebrate Earth Day.

Attendees were given a tour of Marborg’s FOG processing facility followed by lunch, compliments of Marborg. Following the tour and lunch, the festivities moved to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant where a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony featured guest speakers. Attendees were also treated to a tour of the FOG receiving facility.

The new FOG facilities at The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant convert “grease to gas”, utilizing the waste stream of selected fats, oil, and grease collected by Marborg from area restaurants. Marborg is a locally owned and operated business that collects, screens, and delivers FOG liquids to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, thereby reducing hauling and disposal costs.

The collected materials are introduced to the Wastewater Treatment Plant’s digester units where bio-gas is produced. The resulting methane gas is a renewable energy source, yielding up to approximately 4,500 kWh of electricity per day. Savings from electricity production and reduced hauling costs lower Plant operational costs. Additionally, carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by up to an estimated 17 metric tons per day.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT VALUES

The values we believe are critical for us to reach our vision...

We value open, constructive, and proactive communication with each other and the community.
EASTSIDE RIDES!

Concurrent with the efforts to address pedestrian and traffic safety issues on the Eastside neighborhood, approximately 60 attendees participated in the Eastside Rides event, held at the Franklin Neighborhood Center on May 18, 2013. The Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, COAST - Coalition for Sustainable Santa Barbara, and Traffic Solutions, joined the City of Santa Barbara to produce the event that featured a bilingual presentation on bicycle riding skills, helmet fittings, bicycle parking lot drills, and a neighborhood ride.

Bicyclists learned to follow the rules of the road and were reminded that driving your bike means acting like the driver of a vehicle, and:

- You will have fewer conflicts with other drivers
- You will be more visible
- You will be safer

Future events are being planned for the Eastside and other City neighborhoods.

CARRILLO AND ANACAPA STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The Carrillo/Anacapa Street intersection was identified as having among the highest number of motor vehicle involved collisions in the City. Therefore, the Transportation Division conducted a study that evaluated existing conditions and developed solutions to enhance safety conditions at the Carrillo/Anacapa intersection. The study results indicated that the two primary collision factors were eastbound traffic running red lights, and signal visibility that was compromised by the signal pole location.

In the fall of 2012, the Engineering Division began construction for the Carrillo and Anacapa Street Intersection Traffic Safety Improvements Project, located at the intersection of East Carrillo and Anacapa Streets.

The intersection was improved by installing signal poles with mast arms over Carrillo Street to improve signal visibility, pedestrian crosswalk signals, sidewalk access ramps on Carrillo Street, and drainage inlets in the 100 block of East Carrillo Street to minimize flooding in the area during rainstorms.

The Carrillo and Anacapa Intersection Traffic Safety Improvements Project resulted in improved signal visibility and safety for all modes of transportation.
The values we believe are critical for us to reach our vision...

All of us are responsible and accountable for the success of our department’s mission/ vision.
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS:
MODOC AND PORTESUELLO INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

The Modoc and Portesuello intersection had been identified as a concern by both La Cumbre Junior High School students, parents, and administrators and the Santa Barbara Community Academy as a barrier to children walking to school. The City had been working with both of the school’s leaderships, Parent/Teacher Associations, and the neighborhood residents to make improvements at this intersection since 2006.

Following an extensive public outreach effort, the Engineering and Transportation Divisions designed a project that reduced the crossing distance along Portesuello from 105 feet to 44 feet, and standardized the intersection to a 90-degree angle for better overall function. The project, funded by a California Safe-Routes-to-School grant, included safety improvements such as, the relocation of the access ramp and crosswalk on Modoc Road from the eastern side of Portesuello Avenue to the western side, and the addition of new pedestrian street lighting over the crosswalk.

The design meets the access needs of pedestrians, as well as large vehicles, including Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District buses, school buses, and emergency vehicles.

CABRILLO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Cabrillo Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project was carried out to install pedestrian activated flashing beacons at the intersections of Cabrillo Boulevard at Bath Street and Cabrillo Boulevard at Chapala Street.

The enhanced crosswalks are designed to improve safety for pedestrians crossing from hotels and restaurants along Cabrillo Boulevard to the Waterfront by making it more noticeable to drivers when someone is in the crosswalk.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT VALUES

The values we believe are critical for us to reach our vision...

We are a unified and connected team that respects one another and honors our individual strengths.
Public Works Department

ORTEGA GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT REHABILITATION

The City’s groundwater supplies are an important part of the City’s overall water supply. They help meet peak summer water demands and supplement depleted surface water supplies during droughts. Groundwater supplies also serve as an emergency source in the event of interruption of the supplies from the Santa Ynez River and State Water Project.

The Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant was constructed in the 1970s to treat high levels of naturally occurring iron and manganese in groundwater pumped from four downtown wells: Vera Cruz, Corporation Yard, Ortega Park, and City Hall. These wells provide approximately 50% of the City’s overall groundwater supply. The Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant and four wells played an important water supply role during the drought of the late 1980s.

The Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project was designed to reliably treat up to three million gallons of groundwater per day for the City’s distribution system. The Project scope included refurbishing the existing pressure vessels, storage tanks, and related pumping equipment.

CORPORATE YARD WELL REPLACEMENT

The City’s Corporate Yard Well, located on Laguna Street near the City’s Parks and Recreation offices, was drilled in 1974 to a depth of 675 feet. Until its failure in 2006, the Corporate Yard Well produced approximately 500 gallons per minute.

In 2013, the Corporate Yard Well was formally abandoned, and a new well was drilled near the same location to a depth of 700 feet.

The second phase of the new Corporate Yard Well Replacement Project includes design and construction of the wellhead, pump, and supporting piping and electrical system. Water produced from the new Corporate Yard Well will be treated at the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant. This project is anticipated to be completed in 2014.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT VALUES

The values we believe are critical for us to reach our vision...

We value internal trust and a safe work environment that promotes an open dialogue.
HEADWORKS SCREENING REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT EL ESTERO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

This project replaced the existing screens and solids removal system at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant that had reached its useful life. Screening removes large and non-soluble solids at the intake of the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. The previous Headworks screens did not capture all the influent flow, and solids were passing into the treatment process. Screening of wastewater influent and removal of large and/or non-soluble waste has a direct impact on the overall wastewater treatment process. Solids passing into the wastewater treatment process delay the time to decompose the overall waste stream, thus affecting the quality of treatment.

The Headworks Screening Replacement Project’s design was also challenging in that the Headworks reside in a limited space; it is in a critical location at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the hauling/compaction area for the screened material is at a substantially higher elevation than the screens. Designing a system to reliably transport the removed material to the compaction area took considerable skill.

Completion of the Headworks Screening Replacement Project at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant improves the removal of solids from the wastewater through the screening process, and reductions of the overall wastewater treatment process saves time, energy, and improves water quality.
Public Works Department Values

The values we believe are critical for us to reach our vision...

We value the public’s perception and will proactively and intentionally build community trust.
PUBLIC WORKS PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM VIDEO

In May 2013, Inside Santa Barbara, a quarterly, City-produced thirty-minute news magazine program that informs Santa Barbara citizens about City issues, events, and projects featured the Public Works Department’s Annual Pavement Maintenance Program.

Learn why street maintenance is so critical to our City, the variety of treatments used to maintain and repair our streets, and how the Public Works Department prioritizes, funds, and schedules pavement maintenance. The video is available to watch on the City’s website by clicking here, or by going to SantaBarbaraCA.Gov/eng, and clicking on the link for Pavement Maintenance.

LA COLINA SIDEWALK INFILL

The La Colina Sidewalk Infill Project made it easier for pedestrians to walk along La Colina Road by adding sidewalks and access ramps. Access ramps were installed at street intersections and conform to requirements set by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

La Colina is a high priority for sidewalk infill because it meets several of the City Council adopted criteria for sidewalks, including: serving as a school access route, being of a relatively short length, and providing access to transit. Funding for this project was received from the City Capital Program and Transportation Development Act.
PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT VALUES

The values we believe are critical for us to reach our vision...

We lead with a positive attitude toward our work and each other.
City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/pw

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For after-hour emergencies,
weekend water or sewer line breaks, or
to report street flooding, call:
(805) 963-4286

For all other emergencies, please call 911