



PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTED

CITY'S SEWER OPERATIONS BECOME STATE-OF-THE-ART

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department is proud to announce the completion of the *Sewer Emergency Notification System (ENS)* and *Sewer Flow Monitoring Upgrade* Projects. With the completion of these critical projects, the public's health and welfare are now protected by the latest technology; and, given the new system's capabilities; the City's financial reporting to the City of Los Angeles (who treats the City's sewage at their Hyperion Plant) is the most accurate in Culver City's history.

"The new system's reporting capabilities are the most accurate in Culver City's history."

*—Ken Berkman,
Engineering Services Manager*

The first phase of the *ENS* project was to install a new citywide communications system, as the old system could not support the new technology and was in need of replacement. This provided an added benefit to the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments' operations related to public safety communications. The next task was to install the hardware and software to support the *ENS* system at the City's seven sewer pump stations, City Hall, and the Public Works Yard, which also provided the latest in protection technology to the City's computer network. This effort was coordinated in conjunction with the City's Information Technology Department. Concurrently, necessary upgrades to the pump stations equipment were performed.

Ultimately, the new system provides a marked improvement to Public Works' sewer system operations

and emergency response capabilities that benefits many City departments.

Accurate sewage flow quantity reporting is a must for Culver City, as its sewage is sent to the Hyperion Plant, which is owned by the City of LA. One of the duties the Engineering Division performs for the City is to make sure accurate sewer flow amounts are reported to the City of Los Angeles for billing purposes. This is accomplished by measuring the flow in the sewer pipes and at the pump stations. The old flow meters providing this data were approximately 10 years old and antiquated. The new flow monitors provide the most accurate measurements possible at this time and, subsequently, ensure the City is paying Los Angeles the correct amount for treatment of its sewage.

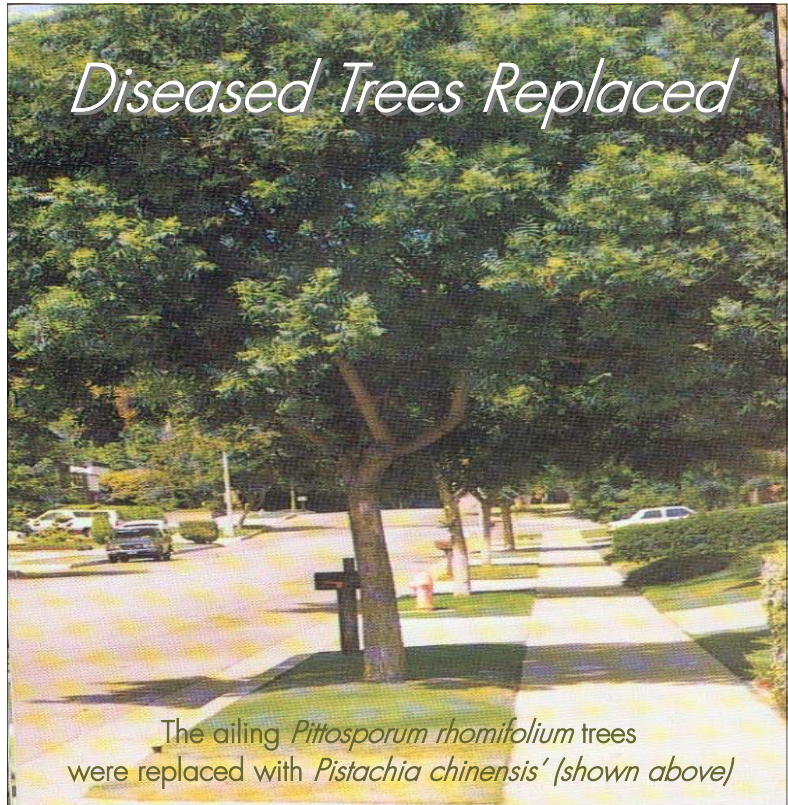
The Public Works Department thanks the Fire, Police, and Information Technology Departments, as well as the project's consultant, *Utility Systems, Science and Software*, for their fine work and assistance in successfully completing this complex and much needed project. ■



Sewer Crew at Work

The remaining diseased and dying trees on Whitburn Street, between Drakewood and Overland Avenues were removed and replaced with new trees in January, 2004.

The old *Pittosporum rhomifolium* trees suffered from repeated aphid infestations, which resulted in depriving the them of their essential nutrients, stunting their growth, and creating an undesirable, sticky residue on their leaves. Prior attempts at various remedies to treat the aphid infestation had proven costly to administer, required repeated re-application, and had limited success. □



AFTER EXPANSIVE CAREER, MAX PAETZOLD RETIRES

productive. You could often find Max working late hours and weekends preparing staff and interagency reports and meeting with the public to discuss traffic issues.

While at Culver City, Max was honored with a formal commendation from the City Council acknowledging his professional manner, dedication, and for being a good example to others in public service. Max was further recognized when he received Employee of the Quarter in the Engineering Division.

Max was always willing to do what it took to get the job done and graciously supported his fellow colleagues. He handled an unimaginable workload with a smile and great sense of humor.

He will be missed. □

Prior to joining Culver City as Traffic Engineering Manager in 1997, Max Paetzold was employed for a number of years at the Department of Transportation for the City of Los Angeles. Max's seven years at the City were very

Mark your Calendars —
Public Work Day Celebrations will be
held on Wednesday, May 19, 2004.
More Information to follow



Maintenance-Operations
Employee of the Quarter

Ben Tenorio has been employed with the City since June of 1984. Ben is currently the Sewer Sub Drain Crew leader, and has performed every aspect of his crews duties and has a vast historical knowledge of our entire sewer operation. He has, over these past months, continued to upgrade and maintain the seven sewage lift stations mechanical operations. These stations operate 24 hours per day every day of the year. Mr. Tenorio and his team can be relied upon to respond as needed at any hour of the day to problems that occur at the stations. Ben also supervises and trains maintenance personnel involved in over 150 storm water runoff catch-basin and line management citywide. This small crew also maintains the Ballona Creek's bikeway and performs special pickups at the various redevelopment parking lots when needed. □

Sanitation Employee of the Quarter

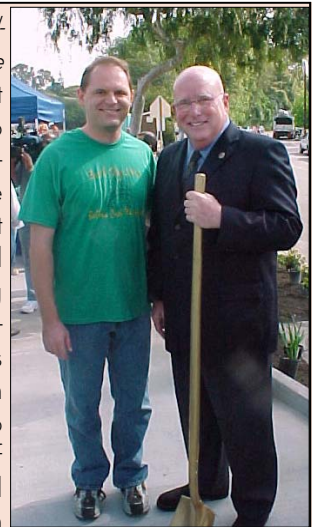
Juan Vasquez joined the Sanitation Division in August 1985 as a Collector through a staffing agency, and in 1987 was hired permanently as a Sanitation Driver. Juan is known for his no-nonsense approach in getting the job done.



Juan has an impeccable attendance record and consistently shows pride in his work and in the cleanliness of his truck. Juan's work ethic has made him a an integral part of the refuse collections team. Juan is being commended for dedication and ability to effectively work as part of a cohesive team. Excellent job Juan! □

Bridge Entryway is Landscaped
at Earth Day Event

Upon discovery that the *Ballona Creek Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project* budget would not cover the costs to landscape the southern entrance to the bridge, Mate Gaspar, the City's Project Manager, sought out and secured additional funding sources and formed partnerships with the County of Los Angeles and the Southern California Water Company to complete this essential part of the project. The County paid for and installed the irrigation system, the City paid for its new controller, and the Southern California Water Company donated and installed the new water service and water meter.



The Southside entrance to the bridge was landscaped in celebration of Earth Day on April 21, 2004. The event included planting of trees and a variety of native plants. Culver City Middle School students provided the necessary labor to plant the vegetation. □

Environmental and Recycling News

'On-Call' Bulky Item Pickups Commence

In an effort to provide better customer service and increase efficiency, the Bulky Item Pickup Program has been restructured. Beginning in January 2004, residential customers who have been issued curbside automated containers (black, green, and blue) will receive two free bulky item pick-ups per calendar year. Previously, bulky item collections took place as two scheduled events during the year. Residents can now call the Sanitation Division to schedule a pickup year round, providing convenience for residents while being more cost effective for the City's Sanitation Division.

After a resident has received two free pickups in one year, the additional ones will be charged at the City's regular rates. The minimum fee is \$27.50 and increases by \$13.75 increments depending on the type and amount of items. There is a flat fee of \$55 for the removal of refrigerators, air conditioners, or washing machines.

Bulky Item Pickups require scheduling one week prior to the pickup. A maximum of three cubic yards of items are allowed per pickup. Place your bulky items at the curbside the night before your scheduled day in a fairly uniform manner. All loose items must be bagged, boxed or bundled with twine, and set out on the curb for collection.

For more information or to schedule a bulky item pickup, call the Sanitation Customer Service Department at (310) 253-6400.

Hazardous Waste Center Opens at UCLA

UCLA has been added to the list of centers Culver City residents can take their household hazardous and electronic waste. The centers accept paint and solvents; used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, and other automotive fluids; cleaning products; pool and garden chemicals; aerosol cans; all medicines; automobile and household batteries. Electronic items include computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televi-

sions, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and electronic toys. For clarification on which items will and will not be accepted call 1-800-CLEANLA. Please note that it is against the law to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste in your vehicle at one time. The two centers serving the City are:

HYPERION TREATMENT PLANT

7660 West Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey
Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

UCLA

550 Charles E. Young Dr. West
Los Angeles
Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Recycling Containers Now in Parks

Blue recycling containers used for can and bottle recycling have been placed near the soda vending machines in all Culver City Parks and Recreation facilities. The containers were purchased using grant funds obtained from the California Department of Conservation.

Gaspar Receives Commendation

For his exceptional work and outstanding leadership on the Ballona Creek Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project, Mate Gaspar received a commendation at the Engineering quarterly luncheon, and two days paid leave.

Public Works Welcomes Linda Leonard

who joins the Street, Tree, Sewer, and Maintenance Operations Division as Administrative Secretary, replacing the now retired Clancy Reedy. Linda held the position of Administrative Secretary in the Transportation and CAO Departments before joining Public Works.