

**KEEP THE DELTA CLEAN YOU PLAY IN IT, YOU DRINK IT TOO!** BY DAN JORDAN

In its ongoing efforts to improve Delta water quality, Contra Costa County secured a grant from the State of California to increase public awareness of responsible recreational boating and to provide additional recycling services in the Delta area within Contra Costa County. The success of the "Keep the Delta Clean" (KDC) Program led the State to encourage the County to submit a grant proposal for expanding the program throughout the Delta in partnership with other Delta counties and the City of Stockton. The County entered into a grant contract with the State in January 2007. Work is underway to deliver the improved services.

The "Keep the Delta Clean" Program was created to help preserve the precious resources of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in the face of growing urban and recreation populations in and the area. Through successful partnerships with marina operators, boaters, other Delta counties, the California Coastal Commission, and the Department of Boating and Waterways, the KDC Program is working to reduce potential nonpoint source pollution by educating boaters about safe and environmentally friendly boating practices, while improving access to pollution prevention services at marinas throughout the Delta.

The KDC recruited volunteer Dockwalkers to educate fellow boaters about environmentally friendly boating, and established five Clean Marina demonstration sites in the County to showcase the benefits of environmentally friendly marina operations. These sites included the construction of used oil recycling facilities and fish cleaning stations connected to public sewage treatment facilities, initiation of oil absorbent pad exchange services, and

installation of "dock boxes" for safe storage of soap and other common dockside chemicals.

The County also distributed over 10,000 free Boater Kits to recreational boaters throughout the Delta. The Kits featured our spokesfish, Stanley the Striped Bass, asking boaters to help "Keep the Delta Clean" and consisted of a reusable canvas tote bag containing valuable boater resources such as the new "Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Map for Recreational Boating". The kits also included an oil absorbent pillow to capture oil leaks and drips.

Phase II of the Program, also known as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watersheds Boating Program, is based on the successes and lessons learned in Phase I of the KDC. During Phase II, the County will work in partnership with the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo counties and the City of Stockton to expand the public information effort by promoting responsible boat operation and distributing 20,000 Boater Kits.

The County will assist its partners with the installation of more pollution prevention infrastructure at marinas that will be free for boaters to use. Additionally, a website will be developed at [www.keepthedeltaclean.com](http://www.keepthedeltaclean.com) that will provide boaters with valuable boating resources.

Free and publicly accessible pollution prevention services are key for preserving the quality of the Delta's drinking and irrigation water, recreation, and environmental health. The Keep the Delta Clean Program's goal is to provide boaters with the knowledge and the tools they need to help improve our water quality.

**STATE ROUTE 4 BYPASS**  
BY NANCY WEIN

The State Route 4 Bypass Project, a new freeway project in east county, currently has over \$100 million in new roadway construction going right now. Segment 1, with a total estimated construction cost of \$60 million, consists of almost three miles of new freeway mainline with two interchanges between existing State Route 4 and Lone Tree Way, and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2007.

Segment 3, the most southerly section of the Bypass, began construction in November of last year and is 8.5 miles in length, with completion anticipated in mid 2008. The estimated construction cost for this phase is \$42.4 million. Segment 3 connects to an existing section of the Bypass between Lone Tree Way and Balfour Road. The Public Works Design Division prepared the plans and specifications for Segment 3, the largest project ever designed by the Department. The project consists of four miles of new roadway between Balfour Road and Vasco Road at Walnut Boulevard, and improving four and a half miles of Marsh Creek Road from the future intersection with the Bypass to Byron Highway. The project will also construct two bridges, five signalized intersections, three detention basins and includes excavation of over 650,000 cubic yards of earth.

The Bypass project, when complete, will become the new State Route 4 through the Cities of Antioch and Brentwood and Contra Costa County. It is anticipated that Caltrans will adopt the Bypass as the new State Route 4 and relinquish the existing highway to the local agencies in the 2008/2009 time frame. When all sections of the Bypass are complete and open to traffic, there will be over twelve miles of new highway between the Bypass connection points with existing State Route 4.

# CURRENT PROJECTS



Spring 2007

**Inside this issue:**

**TYLER MEMORIAL PARK PLAY STRUCTURE**

BY DOMINIQUE SPINALE

The Town of Discovery Bay has a new play structure at Regatta Park, formerly known as Tyler Memorial Park.

The play structure was purchased by Ross Recreation and installed by Landscape Structures in mid February. Regatta Park's new structure was opened to the public on February 16, 2007.



The Town of Discovery Bay, District III, and Public Works would like to thank the Discovery Bay community who made the new park upgrade possible. We hope that the neighborhoods and surrounding communities enjoy the new play structure!

**LAS TRAMPAS CREEK BANK RESTORATION AT GLENSIDE DRIVE** BY HANNAH WONG

The Public Works design team recently completed the plans for the Las Trampas Creek Bank Restoration Project for the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. This project will repair a badly eroded stream bank in the existing Flood Control maintained creek channel located at Glenside Drive, Lafayette. Las Trampas Creek runs through the Lafayette Christian Church property, and erosion has damaged a portion of their parking lot. The reconstruction work will prevent further erosive damage to the parking lot and adjacent structures. Rock slope protection will be used to stabilize the toe of the creek bank and willow pole bundles will be inserted near the bottom of the slope to provide vegetated habitat and additional slope stability. Willow pole bundles consist of two larger freshly cut willow poles surround by a bundle of smaller willow cuttings. These cuttings will help protect the willow stakes from being crushed when they are placed in the rock slope protection. Insertion of willow pole bundles will create a more natural vegetated stream channel by allowing trees to become established in the reconstructed slope while still maintaining the benefits of a hardened channel. It will also reduce the cost of environmental mitigation by one third. The majority of the creek bank slope will be protected by an erosion control blanket seeded with native plants. The estimated construction cost for this project is \$240,000 and work is scheduled to begin at the end of July 2007.



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Do you have comments or questions about this newsletter?

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### CROCKETT DOWNTOWN UPGRADES

BY BILL FERNANDEZ

The community of Crockett received monies from the Tosco Co-generation project as mitigation for the impacts to the community by the project. Local community groups developed a beautification project to install landscaping, benches, an entry feature and pavement and sidewalk modifications to the downtown area.

The first phase was put out to bid with the bid opening occurring May 1, 2007. At this date the contract has not been awarded, but if all goes well construction should begin in early July 2007.

The project involves construction of three bulb-outs along Pomona Avenue, which is the main street in the community. The bulb-outs will be located at the intersections of Pomona Avenue at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Pomona Avenue at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. These bulb-outs will aid in traffic calming and give refuge to pedestrian traffic crossing Pomona.

Additionally, handicap access will be enhanced by the installation/upgrading of five curb ramps and enhancement of cross-walks in the area.

### DANVILLE BOULEVARD ALAMO DOWNTOWN-PHASE 1

BY JASON CHEN

This project will construct intersection improvements at the Danville Boulevard/Stone Valley Road intersection, an in-pavement flasher system at the existing pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Danville Boulevard and Jackson Way, and an entry median island on Danville Boulevard just north of Saint Alphonsus Way.

The project is needed to add a second southbound left turn lane at the Danville Boulevard/Stone Valley Road intersection. The additional left turn lane will eliminate the excessive queuing in the southbound left turn movement at the intersection. The in-pavement flasher system will provide an additional tool to assist pedestrians crossing Danville Boulevard at Jackson Way.

The entry median island will help channel and slow traffic on Danville Boulevard heading into and out of the Alamo downtown area.

The project was advertised in June 2006 followed by a bid opening in July 2006. The construction contract of \$390,000 was awarded to Richard A. Heaps Electrical in August 2006. A pre-construction meeting was held in October 2006. Traffic signal poles arrived in January 2007, coinciding with the start of construction. Construction of improvements is expected to be completed by the end of May 2007. This project is funded by Alamo Area of Benefit funds.

### EL SOBRANTE READING GARDEN

BY WARREN LAI

The R-9 Citizens Advisory Committee and Supervisor's Office have been active in the development and planning of a children's reading garden adjacent to the El Sobrante Library. It is the first park to be constructed in the unincorporated community of El Sobrante. Elements of the park include



playground equipment, paved walking paths, an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant picnic table, several benches and a small turf area. The estimated project cost of \$179,700 has been funded from a variety of sources: Park Dedication Funds, Proposition 12, a Workforce Housing Grant, and the Contra Costa County Library system. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 21, 2007 and construction is expected to be completed in late summer 2007. The second phase of this project involves volunteers planting various drought resistant plants in fall 2007.

### PARKER AVENUE UPDATE

BY JOHN PULLIAM

Excitement is building in the community of Rodeo as work on the Parker Avenue Reconstruction Project continues. The relatively dry weather this spring provided Bay Cities Paving and Grading crews the opportunity to make significant progress in completing their work of removing and reconstructing sidewalks and the roadway along Parker Avenue.

Crews have completed installing new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks along both sides of Parker and San Pablo Avenues, and they are now focusing on constructing the new roadway, including the new median islands.

New street lights and traffic signal poles and equipment are also being installed at intersections along Parker Avenue. The signals at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street are being replaced, and new signals are being installed at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and at the new mid-block pedestrian crossing between the post office and Lefty Gomez Field.

The existing overhead lines and utility poles are scheduled to come down by the end of June. Removal of the existing poles will be coordinated with the installation of new safety street lights.

The County anticipates that the new sidewalks, streets, and medians will be completed mid-year, with landscaping of the new medians and bulb-outs continuing through the fall. The entire project will be completed by end of 2007.

### SILT REMOVAL AND LEVEE MAINTENANCE ALONG WALNUT CREEK AND GRAYSON CREEK CHANNELS

BY LARRY THEIS

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has big plans for channel maintenance this summer. The District plans to remove up to 235,000 cubic yards of silt from the Walnut Creek Channel between the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad crossing and Marsh Drive, and up to 20,000 cubic yards of silt from the Grayson Creek Channel between Highway 680 and Hwy 4 in the Martinez area. In addition, existing levees in these areas will be selectively raised to improve flood carrying capacity.

This work is an interim maintenance

project to restore channel capacity until the ultimate Walnut Creek Restoration Project -- a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- is ready for construction. The planning process for that larger project is expected to be completed within the next ten years. The silt removal and levee maintenance for 2007 will improve the flood protection for adjacent properties by restoring the channel's capacity to carry stormwater flows and by raising levees at select locations.

The work is planned between August 1, 2007 and November 15, 2007. Regulatory permits from the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board will authorize the work. The estimated construction cost is between \$6.2 and \$8.9 million. Please contact Larry Theis at (925) 313-2166 with any questions regarding this project.

### PACIFICA AVENUE SIDEWALK

BY HANNAH WONG

Contra Costa County Public Works constructed 700 linear feet of concrete sidewalk along the south side of Pacifica Avenue in front of Rio Vista Elementary School in Bay Point. The new sidewalk now provides a safe place for pedestrians and school-aged children to fully access the school and local bus stop without hindrance.

In addition to the sidewalk improve-



ments, 14 curb ramps, a sidewalk bypass around a joint utility pole, and five driveway conformers were installed along the south side of Pacifica Avenue (between Wharf Drive and Port Chicago Highway). This project brings this segment of Pacifica Avenue into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Public Works also collaborated with

Tri Delta Transit to provide sidewalk area for their new bus shelter in front of the elementary school. The work was completed in August 2006.

The construction cost for this project was \$25,000. The project was financed by a Transportation Development ACT (TDA) Grant, Navy Mitigation funds, and State and local funds.

A second phase of improvements to Pacifica Avenue from the Rio Vista Elementary School to Driftwood Drive is currently in the design stage. The work will consist of a sidewalk extension and drainage improvements along the south side of Pacifica Avenue, and the construction of curb, gutters, curb ramps, and bicycle lane striping on both sides of Pacifica Avenue. In the past year, the Public Works Department secured three grants for this second phase.

The three grants are Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), Safe Routes to School (SR2S), and Transportation Development Act (TDA) grants. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2007.

### PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

BY HENRY FINCH

As part of the Contra Costa County Public Works Department's pavement management program, selected roads throughout the County will be receiving a surface treatment sometime between July 9, 2007 and October 17, 2007. The County Public Works Department has found that a program of preventive maintenance using surface treatments is the most cost effective way to extend the useful life of the County's road network. Surface treatments protect pavements from the damaging effects of water and air infiltration and sunlight exposure that can rapidly deteriorate a road. In many cases the use of a surface treatment will eliminate the need to do expensive pavement patching and will add years to the life of the existing pavement. Surface treatments typically used by the County Public Works Department are single chip seal, double chip seal, slurry seal and cape seal.

A single chip seal involves spraying liquid asphalt on the pavement followed by the spreading of a layer of small aggregate (rock) that is embedded into the oil.

A double chip seal is a single chip seal with a second application (layer) of liquid asphalt and small aggregate.

Chip seal surface treatment applications are performed by Public Works Department maintenance crews. Single and double chip seals are typically used on arterial and collector roads that have a significant amount of wear and high traffic volume.

A slurry seal is a mixture of fine aggregate, liquid asphalt and water that is spread over the pavement by a County hired contractor. Slurry seals are used on arterial, collector and residential roads that are in good condition.

A cape seal is applied in a two-step process. The first process is an application of chip seal followed by a slurry seal application. Cape seals are used on collector and residential roads that have a significant amount of wear.

Prior to the surface treatment application County Public Works Department maintenance crews will prepare the streets for the surface treatment. The preparation work can include crack sealing, which is the application of pavement reinforcing fabric and the removal/replacement of broken pavement. Preparation work is typically performed in the fall after the previous year's surface treatments have been applied and in the spring after the winter weather.

In May, the Public Works Department Maintenance Division mailed surface treatment notification letters to residents whose roads are scheduled to be surface treated in 2007. Residents are also notified the day prior to the surface treatment and the day prior to sweeping, requesting that vehicles be parked off the road to avoid oil spray and allow the workers to treat and clean the entire pavement surface. Chip seal schedule information can also be obtained by phoning (925) 313-7000, or by visiting the Maintenance Division's web page at [http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/pw/maintenance/2007\\_Chip\\_Seal\\_Schedule.htm](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/pw/maintenance/2007_Chip_Seal_Schedule.htm). Scheduling information regarding the contracted slurry seal application can be obtained by contacting the Public Works Department's Construction Division at (925) 313-2320.