

# P.W. Progress

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## New Home for People Empowering People

Napa County's Adult Resource Center, known as "People Empowering People," has a new home in Napa!

Funded by a grant from 2004's Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, the County purchased the property and remodeled it to meet the needs of this peer socialization program, operated by the non-profit Circle of Friends.

The center provides socialization activities, life

skills development classes and employment and other service referrals so that mental health consumers can increase meaningful participation in their community. It provides a place for clients to meet and support each other in ways appropriate to each individual's stage of recovery.

The remodeling was constructed by Melnikov Construction of Carmichael, CA.



PEP exterior, interior

## Potential New Home for Health & Human Services

The County is looking into the purchase of the former Dey Labs property, owned by Mylan, Inc., in the Napa Valley Commons (previously the "Napa Valley Corporate Park").

The 25 acre site has existing structures which could be put into service as the new location of the Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA).

There are also other areas which were formerly manufacturing, laboratory and warehouse space, which could potentially be

leased to other parties.

The purchase and remodel of the Mylan site could potentially be less expensive than redevelopment of the current Old Sonoma Road campus, which had been in the works, and better meet the space needs of the Agency.

On February 5, the Board of Supervisors indicated its intent to purchase the property. The matter is set to come back to the Board in March to finalize the environmental

determination for the purchase, and enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Public Works is now working with HHSA and the County Executive Office on the "due diligence" phase of the potential purchase, investigating the feasibility of use of the space for HHSA, the physical condition of the facilities as well as any constraints on the use of the property such as easements, or drainage/flooding concerns.

## A Bright Idea!



In 2011, the County and City of Napa launched an effort to expand recycling of fluorescent lamps beyond the five collection sites that existed in Napa County. Soliciting the voluntary cooperation of businesses that would accept lamps from local households, the agencies were able to establish several new reliable partnerships.

The agencies advertised

the energy-saving benefits and recyclability of fluorescents to residents throughout the County. Advertisements, with messages in Spanish and English, listed recycling locations and described the risks that mercury-containing fluorescents pose to the environment and public health.

The project has resulted in far more convenient lamp collection and recycling in

Napa County. As of December 2012, residents have 15 sites where they can drop off used fluorescent lamps, free of charge. These efforts may lead to private/public partnerships for collection of other problem items, like paint, electronics, batteries, and used automotive products.

*For more information:*  
 Dave Briggs  
 (707) 253-4094

[www.naparecycling.com](http://www.naparecycling.com)

## Fish Gotta Swim



**Rotary Screw Trap (top photo)  
 Smolts (bottom photo)**

The County and many other partners support and coordinate fisheries monitoring in Napa County.

This time of year, the program funds the Napa County Resource Conservation District to monitor steelhead and salmon populations by collecting data on the number of smolts, young steelhead or salmon, migrating to the ocean

each year. A specialized tool is used for this purpose, a Rotary Screw Trap, an 8-foot rotating fish trap located in the Napa River. The trap allows biologists to catch, measure, and release these and other native fish in order to generate population estimates and collect genetic samples. The trap is installed in the spring and remains in place until flows diminish. It is checked daily to

remove debris and assess/release the day's catch.

This is the trap's 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation. For more about the program visit: [www.naparcd.org/bio\\_smolttrap.html](http://www.naparcd.org/bio_smolttrap.html)

You can attend an open-house of the trap in operation. For dates and times visit: [www.naparcd.org/SalmonidEvents.html](http://www.naparcd.org/SalmonidEvents.html)

## Upcoming Events of Interest

Our Natural Resources Conservation Division announces the following upcoming events:

- Water Conservation Workshop, March 21<sup>st</sup> COPIA Auditorium, 500 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Napa.
- Annual Business Recycling Leader Awards, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Napa City and County will host. Silverado Resort, 1600 Atlas Peak Road outside of Napa. (Silverado Resort is achieving an 83% diversion rate, including a rigorous food composting program!)

- Earth Day, April 20<sup>th</sup> A festival will be held throughout downtown Napa
- Watershed Symposium, May 23<sup>rd</sup> COPIA Auditorium, 500 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Napa.



## Spotlight: Natural Resources Conservation Division

As a part of the County's reorganization efforts, a new Natural Resources Conservation (NRC) Division was created in the Department of Public Works to consolidate related programs/functions that were previously located across three departments. The NRC is located at 804 First Street in Napa, along with the Flood District and Water Resources. The following programs are a part of Natural Resources Conservation: **Groundwater Programs & Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC), Watershed Programs & WICC Board, Water & Energy Conservation Programs, and Recycling & Waste Reduction Programs.** Beginning with this issue, we spotlight some of the activities of this new and exciting addition to the Public Works family! For information about the Division and its overall activities, contact NRC Program Manager **Patrick Lowe, (707) 259-5937.**

### Groundwater Programs & Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)

Napa County and other public agencies have been monitoring our groundwater resources since the mid 1900's. Based on studies by the County's consultant, the County continues to work on efforts to expand voluntary groundwater (GW) monitoring in key locations to provide better data and fill data gaps; develop better GW data collection procedures; estimate the rates of aquifer replenishment and study GW and surface water interaction; and report on annual GW conditions and trends. On September 20, 2011 the Board of Supervisors appointed 15 residents to the Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC). The members represent diverse interests including, environmental, agricultural, development, and community interests. The GRAC was created to assist County staff and technical consultants with recommendations regarding groundwater resources and sustainability, including development of a voluntary **Groundwater Monitoring Plan**, the centerpiece of its work. (See article below for more information.)



Support of the GRAC is provided by Public Works since 2012, as a part of the reorganization noted above. The NRC Division provides staff support, along with an inter-departmental working group. Meetings are held bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Agriculture Commissioner's Office, 1710 Soscol Avenue, Suite 3, Napa CA.

For more information on the Groundwater Programs and the GRAC, visit: [www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac](http://www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac)

*Watch this space in future issues for information about Watershed, Water & Energy Conservation and Recycling & Waste Reduction Programs!*



## Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee

The Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) was created to assist County staff and technical consultants with recommendations regarding: (a) Synthesis of existing information and identification of critical data needs; (b) Development and implementation of an ongoing non-regulatory groundwater monitoring program; (c) Development of revised well pump test protocols and related revisions to the County's groundwater ordinance; (d) Conceptualization of hydrogeologic conditions in various areas of the County and an assessment of groundwater resources as data becomes available; (e) Development of groundwater sustainability objectives that can be achieved through voluntary means and incentives; and (f) Building community support for these activities and next steps. The GRAC works collaboratively to fulfill its charge.

To date the GRAC has spent most of its time reviewing and providing feedback on draft chapters of a proposed voluntary **Groundwater Monitoring Plan**. The Plan includes characterization of current groundwater conditions in sub-areas of the County, refinement of criteria used to identify priority monitoring areas, and a proposed monitoring network. The groundwater monitoring program relies on publicly owned and volunteer private wells. To fulfill its mission and garner community interest and support, the GRAC developed a **Communication and Education Plan**, designed to implement the Groundwater Monitoring Plan through voluntary participation. This effort includes the development of an outreach brochure and a series of fact sheets on specific topics.

GRAC activities planned in the near future include an update to the Board of Supervisors in April, outreach efforts for volunteer monitoring wells, review of possible updates to the Groundwater Ordinance and development of groundwater sustainability objectives.

For more information: [www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac](http://www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac)

## **Working Together Gets the Job Done**

Public Works' Roads Division recently worked together with staff from the City of Napa and Cal Fire, to improve the entrance area of Fire Station 25.

The station, located on Monticello Road (SR 121) near Atlas Peak Road, was in need of updating the pavement in the entry

and parking area in front. Crews from the three agencies worked together to repave the area and improve the handling of stormwater drainage.

This cooperative effort represented a cost savings over contracting out for the work.



***Rolling the new pavement***



***Redwood Road Catchment Wall***



***Dry Creek Road Storm Damage Repair***

## **Recent Successes in Road Repairs**

In the last issue of *PW Progress*, we reported on two road repair projects which were in progress.

We are pleased to report that both projects are now complete!

On Redwood Road, a "catchment wall" was constructed along the

base of the uphill slope to catch any debris in an area which had frequently experienced road blockage due to landslide activity. The total cost of the project was \$85,000, paid from local funds.

On Dry Creek Road, a soldier pile wall was constructed as a retaining

structure to restore support for the roadway in an area damaged in the 2005-06 storms. The wall extends 110 feet along the road, and has a height up to 15 feet at its highest point. The total cost of this project was \$780,000, paid by a combination of federal and state disaster relief funds.

## **Improved Efficiency with the Right Equipment**

The Roads Division has recently acquired a new "shoulder-backing" machine. This equipment is used for adding material in the shoulder area when the paved area has been raised with an overlay, to bring it level with the new roadway surface.

Also known as a road widener, this equipment can also be used for paving areas up to four feet wide, such as when the County is adding a

bike lane to an existing roadway.

The equipment cost approximately \$80,000 and is expected to greatly increase the efficiency of these operations, since it goes faster, uses less manpower and produces higher-quality results. The Roads Division will also be able to get rid of one grader, which had previously been used for this kind of work.



***The new machine***

### Devlin Road Extension in the works

As reported in previous issues of *PW Progress*, the County is working on advancing the completion of Devlin Road as a means of stimulating development, and therefore job creation.

Two segments of the road extension are the subject of current activities:

- Segment C, the first block immediately south of Airport Boulevard
- Segment E, the block immediately north of Tower Road (including a bridge over Fagan Creek)

In February, the Board of Supervisors received an update on the status of these projects, and acted to continue the progress under way.

For Segment C, the County is forming a Community Facilities District (CFD) to enable financing of the portion of the work which is the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. The details are being worked out between the parties, planned to be wrapped up by the Board in May.

Also for Segment C, design is under way. Construction is planned

for this summer. Funds are available not only from the CFD noted above, but also a “loan” of county funds, and revenue from Traffic Mitigation Fees which have been collected in the area for this purpose.

For Segment E, design is also under way, along with environmental permitting and right-of-way acquisition. Construction funding is not currently available, but is expected to be in approximately 2017. Until that time, this portion of the project will be “shovel-ready!”



Devlin Road extension

### Access St. Helena Update

Access St. Helena is the project on State Route 29 in and south of St. Helena placing the “wire” utilities underground.

Next, Caltrans will improve safety by constructing a continuous two-way left-turn lane through this busy and popular area.

The result will be a safer and more beautiful area of the Napa Valley to be enjoyed by all travelers in the area.

The contractor has recently finished installation of all the vaults which are part of the utility

system, and is now “connecting the dots” installing the underground conduits which connect them. Where the trenches have already been installed, they are being repaved as weather permits.

Some work is now being performed at night. Night work lessens the impact in areas where the road is narrower (and thus requires a lane closure). Traffic will be able to travel through these work areas in both directions, under the control of flaggers.

In addition to the highway itself, work is also taking place on Zinfandel Lane.

**For more information:**  
[www.accessstheleena.org](http://www.accessstheleena.org)



## Napa County Public Works



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

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[http://www.countyofnapa.org/  
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## Road Improvements Coming this Summer

Surface treatment projects are scheduled for 17 miles of County roads this summer.

These roads will be treated with a "chip seal." This uses a coating of oil to seal the road and preserve it in good condition, covered by a thin layer of small gravel, or "chips," which adds

durability to the seal treatment and helps it last longer. Low-cost treatments like chip seal, extending the life of fairly good roads, are the most cost-effective use of limited funds.

5 ½ miles of roads surrounding the City of Calistoga and 11 ½ miles in the south county area

will be treated. The south county area includes the Airport Industrial Area.

The project is estimated to cost a total of \$675,000, with funds coming from local and state funds.

For a complete list, visit:

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

## Some Great News from the Animal Shelter!

Here is your piece of great news for the day!

From July to December,



2012, the Napa County Animal Shelter adopted out a RECORD 493 animals to loving new



homes!



Congratulations to Shelter staff and the lucky folks who brought home new friends.

## 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

## NAPA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

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