

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Working For You

Annual Report 2024-2025



SAN JOAQUIN
COUNTY
Greatness grows here.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This year, as San Joaquin County celebrates its 175th anniversary, it's a great time to reflect on what truly connects our community—our shared commitment to service, progress, and working together to make this a great place to live, work, and play. Every day, the Department of Public Works plays a vital role in that story by keeping San Joaquin County running safely and efficiently. To see some of Public Works' significant historical milestones, please watch our San Joaquin County 175th anniversary video at: <https://bit.ly/4ojar02>.

Whether it's maintaining roads, managing water and wastewater systems, protecting against floods, or supporting clean and reliable solid waste services, our team of nearly 500 professionals is dedicated to serving the public with excellence in pursuing our mission to provide high-quality, fiscally responsible infrastructure and services that preserve and enhance our community's quality of life.

Everything we do supports the Board of Supervisors' strategic priorities—from maintaining fiscal responsibility and promoting innovation to improving public safety, supporting healthy communities, managing our water resources, and supporting economic development. These goals guide our work and ensure that every investment we make benefits the people, businesses, and visitors of San Joaquin County today and into the future.

I'm incredibly proud of what our team accomplished this year, and this report is intended to highlight the variety and importance of Public Works' contributions to our community. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for their leadership and support, to our Public Works team for their exceptional dedication, and to our community for their continued trust and partnership.

As I prepare to retire, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served the people of San Joaquin County for the past 14 years. I want to thank everyone who has made my time with the Department of Public Works such a rewarding experience. It has been an honor and privilege to lead this department, serve the community, and to work alongside so many talented and dedicated professionals who make a difference every single day.



Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fritz Buchman'.

Fritz Buchman, Director
San Joaquin County Department of Public Works

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MEET OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM



Fritz Buchman
Director



Alex Chetley
Deputy Director
Development



Kristi Rhea
Deputy Director
Administration



David Tolliver
Deputy Director
Operations



Najee Zarif
Deputy Director
Engineering

ABOUT PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works' mission is to provide high-quality, fiscally responsible infrastructure and services that preserve and enhance our community's quality of life and support the County's goals. These efforts are undertaken by a staff of nearly 500 employees, both in the field and in the office, with an operating budget of over \$280 million. We strive to achieve positive customer experiences by serving them in a responsive, dependable, honest, and fiscally responsible manner. We value the diversity of our team as a strength that allows us to better serve our diverse community.

Public Works values:

- Excellent Customer Service
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Integrity
- Diversity

Public Works is overseen by the Director and an Executive Team composed of four Deputy Directors. The Executive Team is responsible for overseeing 21 budgets in 18 divisions/units, which are organized into four service areas: Development, Administration, Operations, and Engineering.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

340

MILES OF UNDERGROUND
FACILITIES

1,597

MILES OF ROADWAY

1,312

FLEET VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT

265

BRIDGES

360

MINOR STRUCTURES
(SMALL BRIDGES)

100+

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

3

COUNTY-OWNED WASTE DISPOSAL
& RECYCLING FACILITIES

323

MILES OF WATERWAYS /
CHANNELS

KEY OVERSIGHT AREAS

- Public infrastructure planning, design, construction, and maintenance
- County vehicle and equipment maintenance
- County solid waste program management
- Water resources planning and flood management
- County Surveyor's office services
- Private development project review

PRESERVING & ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Initiated the Countywide Sidewalk Connectivity Plan, which will create a comprehensive database of sidewalk coverage for targeted neighborhoods throughout the unincorporated County; recommend improvements to increase connectivity, accessibility, and safety of the sidewalk network; and identify potential Active Transportation Program eligible projects.

Completed the Bridge Approach Guard Railings Replacement, which consists of upgrading five existing outdated bridge approach guardrail systems with an approved standard guardrail system to enhance transportation network safety.

Completed the Benjamin Holt Drive Safety Improvements, which consists of installing a new high-visibility pedestrian crosswalk at the corner of Benjamin Holt Drive and Leesburg Place to facilitate safer road crossings.

Completed the Garden Acres Sustainable Communities Plan, which intends to guide future transportation improvements that enhance mobility; promote walking, biking, and public transit; and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. It recommends several conceptual transportation improvements along key corridors in the Garden Acres community including bike lanes, shared-use bicycle routes, sidewalks, separated walking paths, and other improvements to public transportation infrastructure.

Continued advocacy against the State's harmful and wasteful Delta Conveyance Tunnel Project, including advocacy efforts with State policymakers and meetings with legislators and the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Completed the Kennedy Community Complete Streets Plan, which evaluated:

- Local and regional multimodal transportation needs in the community;
- Connections to the commercial and retail opportunities within and adjacent to the study corridor;
- Implementation of complete street elements to better accommodate non-motorized users. As part of ongoing efforts to support non-motorized travel in San Joaquin County, this plan identifies sustainable transportation improvements that result in greater mobility for users of all ages and abilities, enhanced safety, and increased access to employment opportunities.



Garden Acres Sustainable Communities Plan



Kennedy Community Complete Streets Plan



Washington, D.C. Advocacy Trip

PRESERVING & ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Completed the Fine Road Drainage Improvements Project, which reduced flood risks east of Fine Road between Milton Road and Dynasty Drive. The project added three culverts under Fine Road at Dynasty Drive and performed ditch grading improvements to reduce localized flooding in this rural residential area by allowing runoff to flow more efficiently downstream.



Ice Pigging Water Quality Process for Thornton Residents

Completed Ice Pigging for Thornton Residents, which improved water quality in the Thornton community. Using an advanced pipeline cleaning technique that utilizes a slurry of ice and liquid to scour the inside of nearly 5 miles of water pipes in Thornton. It removed sediment and other deposits that build up over time.



Fine Road Drainage Improvements

Completed the Special Districts Fire Flow Study using Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grant funding for a collaborative and data driven study to evaluate the County's special districts. This study evaluated fire flow capabilities to support additional development and identified the necessary improvements in each district to provide the required fire flow.

Hosted San Joaquin County's 25th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, where more than 350 volunteers demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship by clearing nearly three tons of trash and recycled products from 19 miles of local inland waterways.

Submitted the Updated Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) The Groundwater Authority, consisting of 16 groundwater sustainability agencies (including San Joaquin County), submitted a 5-year update to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the California Department of Water Resources. The updated GSP, required under the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), outlines projects and actions to ensure the subbasin reaches sustainable groundwater use by 2040.



25th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day

SUPPORTING HIGH-QUALITY, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Completed the Road Stabilization Pilot Project, which involved testing a carbon sequestering agent derived from trees to rehabilitate a one-mile segment of West Woodbridge Road that is founded on highly organic soils that are common in the Delta. The agent is designed to stabilize organic soils and extend roadway life. Based on initial results, it appears to be a viable means of performing longer lasting and more cost-effective maintenance treatments for Delta area roadways.

Completed Construction of the Thornton Water Main Looping Project, which included 0.6 miles of new pipelines to improve water quality and fire flows by eliminating dead-ends. The project was funded entirely through a \$1.4 million State grant with no cost to Thornton residents.

Contributed to Development of the County's Workday Enterprise Resource Planning System. Public Works staff volunteered to assist in customizing and training employees on Workday, which is a software system to integrate core County business processes into a single, unified system. The County has been using Peoplesoft Financials to manage financial and business processes for the last 20+ years and is transitioning to Workday to create a system that can meet the business needs of County departments.

Updated the WINCAMS Cost-Accounting System from a Server-Based to Cloud-Based Platform. Migration from a server-based to a cloud-based system resulted in improved system performance and security and better collaboration and system accessibility from remote sites.



Woodbridge Road Before Sustainable Road Treatment



Thornton Water Main Looping



Sustainable Road Stabilization on Woodbridge Road

PROVIDING EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

Completed Advanced Metering Infrastructure in Colonial Heights and Lincoln Village, which allows water meters to be read and operated remotely. The improvements increase water management efficiency by enhancing data and leak detection capabilities, reducing operational costs for the districts, and providing residents with greater awareness and control over their water consumption.



Reuse Room Program

amounts, and pavement preservation strategies utilizing images, videos, and mapping tools. The highlight of the site is an interactive map where constituents can input an address and receive information regarding upcoming road improvements planned for County-maintained roads. Future features are intended to include transportation safety initiatives and information about the Department's capital improvement plan.

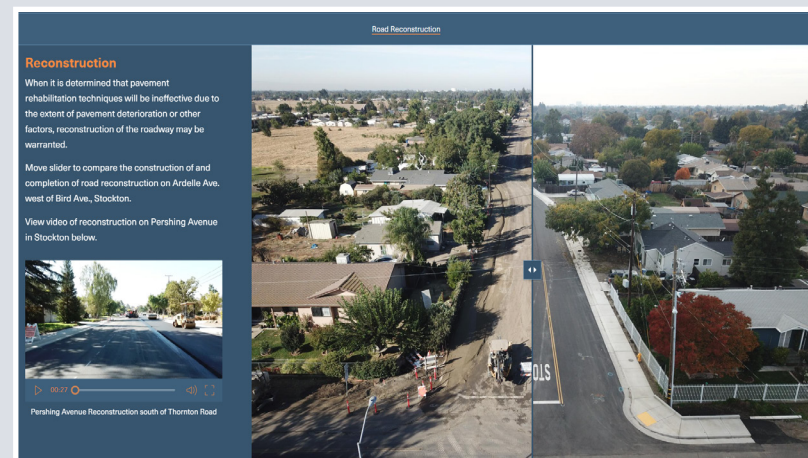
Continued Digitizing Records, which includes permanently archiving hundreds of thousands of land survey records, improvement plans, and other engineering records. To keep these records safe and make them easier to access, Public Works staff continued a multi-year effort to digitize them. This project involves converting documents, both old and new, into a digital format and storing them in an electronic document management system to facilitate location and retrieval by the public and our staff.

Created a Reuse Room Program, where the Solid Waste team sets aside items like cleaning supplies, paint, fertilizers, insecticides, and any other product containing potentially dangerous materials. This program decreases the threat to human health and the environment by providing an avenue for proper disposal of household hazardous waste and encouraging the community to reuse items. In the future, the program will expand by including discarded lawn furniture and landscape equipment.

Developed a Roadway and Pavement Preservation Story Map to enhance transparency and customer service. This digital platform serves as a dynamic presentation tool where the central feature is an interactive map. The developed roadway-focused story map provides the public with an overview of our transportation network, various revenue sources and



Advanced Metering Infrastructure



Roadway and Pavement Preservation Story Map

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Public Works Gives Back

Supporting the Emergency Food Bank

Each year, hundreds of families and individuals receive emergency food assistance from the Emergency Food Bank Main Pantry and partner pantries throughout San Joaquin County. The holiday season is filled with charitable acts including donations to food banks. However, many families still require assistance after the holidays. In February 2025, Public Works coordinated a collection for dried beans and rice to assist families throughout the year.

Outreach for Older Adults

The Department of Public Works supported the “Santa for Seniors” holiday gift program, coordinated by the Human Services Agency’s Ombudsman Program. Continuing its tradition of participation, Public Works staff fulfilled the holiday wishes of 15 senior community members.

Giving to Youth

Trunk O’ Treat is an event that features decorated trunks, children’s activities, pumpkin decorating and other fun events. This event provides a safe and fun activity for families. Coordinating with the Parks Department, Public Works employees donated candy for the event.

Public Works continued its Recycle Program through which the Solid Waste team volunteers their time and skills to repair, reuse, and repurpose discarded bicycles and donates them to the community to benefit youth in need. This year, the team restored 86 bicycles, and recipient organizations included the Child Abuse Prevention Council, Brighter Christmas Charity Organization, Thornton Community Center, Kennedy Community Center, and several Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the County.



Santa for Seniors



Trunk Or Treat Event For Families



Public Works Recycle Program

INVESTING IN OUR DIVERSE PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

Leadership Development and Team Building – In 2024-2025, Public Works expanded participation in its leadership development and team building program from the approximately 25 highest-level managers to approximately 75 additional managers and supervisors. In addition to training, this group had to identify and prioritize department initiatives to address issues and/or improve service delivery. Plans for 2025-2026 include continued training and work with this expanded leadership team and rolling out an initial training phase to the balance of Public Works staff.



Leadership Development & Team Building

Continued the Public Works Academy for the third year – the Public Works Academy is an investment in our staff that consists of 12 monthly rotating classes given by Public Works staff, half of which cover various County- and Public Works specific topics while the other half cover more general professional development topics.

Public Works Strategic Priorities Progress – Public Works made substantial progress on Year 2 objectives to advance its Three-year Strategic Priorities. With an overarching theme of Optimizing Staff and Infrastructure Investments, Year 2 objectives, which were pursued by standing and one-time self-directed teams, include:

- ▶ Developing multi-year transportation investment and flood-risk reduction strategies (expected completion September 2025).
- ▶ Developing the Cultivating Greatness in Public Works Program, which is a program of six bi-monthly courses, using a mix of in-house and external instructors, that are intended to provide all Public Works managers and supervisors with a common set of core skills and knowledge (first class expected in November 2025).
- ▶ Completing development and implementation of Public Works' NEXGEN Computerized Maintenance Management System and associated NEXGEN 311 service request app (anticipated go live August 2025)
- ▶ Completing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system implementation for selected key water and wastewater systems SCADA allows for remote monitoring and control of utility systems (key system completion anticipated November 2025).



NEXGEN Computerized Maintenance Management System



Investing in Public Works Employees

LEARN MORE ABOUT 2024-2025 PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES



- ▶ **207** miles of roadways preserved and enhanced with chip, slurry seal, restoration, and resurfacing treatments
- ▶ **\$23.4** Million in construction contracts awarded for 17 transportation related capital improvement projects
- ▶ **95,000** cubic yards of channel debris cleared
- ▶ **600,000** feet of County system sewer lines cleaned
- ▶ **30,034** kilowatts of solar energy generated from landfill
- ▶ **2,501,968** pounds of Household Hazardous Waste material diverted
- ▶ **1,044** encroachment permits processed
- ▶ **1,125** transportation permits issued
- ▶ **25** City and County subdivision maps totaling 2,600 lots reviewed and approved
- ▶ **600** surveying documents reviewed and approved
- ▶ **190** Development/Planning applications processed
- ▶ **10** flood-related complaints/violations investigated
- ▶ **15** Watercourse Encroachment Permits and Central Valley Flood Protection Board endorsements issued
- ▶ **20** elevation certificates approved
- ▶ **65** flood zone inquiry responses

- ▶ **960** groundwater level measurements performed
- ▶ **20,343** mattresses recycled
- ▶ **1,028,728** pounds of tires recycled
- ▶ **231,619** pounds of used oil recycled
- ▶ **86** bicycles for the Rebicycle Program distributed
- ▶ **1,564,681** pounds of hazardous waste recycled. 356,813 pounds were reused. All materials designated for reuse are available to County residents free of charge through the Reuse Program



One Million Pounds of Tires Recycled

LEARN MORE ABOUT 2024-2025 PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES



Roadway Slurry Seal



30,034 Kilowatts of Solar Energy Generated From Landfill



Roadway Restoration



Clearing Channels at Mormon Slough

PUBLIC WORKS CONTACT INFORMATION



For immediate assistance from the Public Works Department, download the NEXGEN 311 App or visit www.sjgov.org/departments/pwk/request.

Channel Maintenance	209-468-9698	Sidewalk Safety Repairs	209-468-3074
Engineering	209-468-3000	Solid Waste	209-468-3066
Fleet Services	209-468-3099	Storm Pump Problems	209-468-3090
Flood Control Benefit Assessment Information	209-468-3055	Stormwater Illicit Dumping	209-468-3055
Flood Zone Information	209-468-3055	Street Light Repair	209-953-7618
Household Hazardous Waste Program	209-468-3066	Street Tree Safety Trimming	209-468-3074
Improvement Plans	209-468-3023	Surveyor	209-468-3000
Landfills - Hours & Acceptable Wastes	209-468-3066	Traffic Impact Mitigation Fees	209-468-3023
Main Switchboard	209-468-3000	Traffic Sign Repairs	209-468-3074
Pothole Repairs	209-468-3074	Transportation Engineering	209-953-7631
Private Development Requirements	209-468-3023	Used Oil Recycling Information	209-468-3066
Public Improvement Requirements	209-468-3023	Utilities Maintenance	209-468-3090
Real Property Information	209-953-7455	Water Account Status Information	209-468-3009
Road and Traffic Maintenance	209-468-3074	Water Mitigation Fees	209-468-3023
Road Permit Inspection	209-468-3022	Water Quality, Leaks, Supply, & Wells	209-468-3090
Road Right-of-way Widths	209-468-9855	Water Resources	209-468-3089
Sanitary Sewer Problems	209-468-3090	Water Service Connections	209-468-3009



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