

# CURRENT PROJECTS



Contra Costa County  
Public Works  
Department

Fall 2009

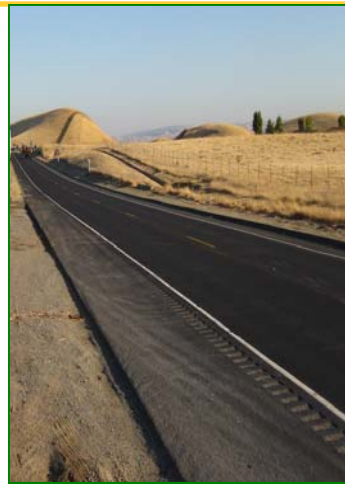
## VASCO ROAD OVERLAY

A total of 6.3 miles of Vasco Road between the Alameda/Contra Costa County line and Camino Diablo was repaved with rubberized hot mix asphalt pavement.

The work began in September and was

completed by mid October.

This \$2 million project was awarded to Ghilotti Construction Company, Inc. and is funded by federal economic stimulus funds authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



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## BETHEL ISLAND BRIDGE PROJECT

The Bethel Island Bridge project continues to move forward. The new bridge will replace the existing 60 year old timber bridge over Dutch Slough.

The Wells Road and Bethel Island Road detours are complete and traffic has been shifted onto them. The construction of the embankments for the southern bridge approach and new levee access road is proceeding.

Once the new Bethel Island Road embankment is complete it

will sit untouched for a 30 day settlement period. Two piles have been placed at each of the five in water piers, and all but two of the land based piles have been completed. Concrete and rebar will be installed in all the piles in October.

Once the piles are done the pier caps will be constructed (one is already complete) and precast girders will be placed between the piers. A metal deck form will then be placed followed by reinforced concrete deck. This will allow north-

bound traffic to use the new span. At the north end a 'sliver' widening will occur by removing part of the old bridge and constructing enough new bridge for north and southbound traffic use.

In 2010 the old bridge will be removed and the remaining width of the new bridge will be constructed, complete with sidewalks on both sides.



Crews working on the southern temporary trestle



Dropping the decking for the temporary trestle at the northern levee

## IRON HORSE TRAIL PEDESTRIAN OVERCROSSING PROJECT

The Iron Horse Trail Bridge Overcrossing project will provide trail users with a safe, convenient way to cross Treat Boulevard. The project involves construction a multi-span pedestrian bridge including a steel arch over Treat Boulevard near the Pleasant Hill/Contra

Costa Centre BART station.

The bridge foundation pile work, which included PG&E shutdowns at night was completed in September. This milestone also included the completion of all underground work.

The shop drawings for the structural steel portions of the bridge are now in the final stages of completion. Steel is expected to arrive on site in the spring. Construction is anticipated to be completed and the overcrossing open in July 2010.

## KNIGHTSEN SIDEWALK PROJECT

After many years of planning and coordination with the community, the Public Works Department is proud to report the completion of the Knightsen Sidewalk Project. The project consisted of constructing 270 feet of curb and sidewalk on the west side of Knightsen Avenue and the south side of "A" Street, pavement reconstruction, curb ramps, a driveway and drainage improvements. The project was a joint effort by the County and the Knightsen Garden Community Club.

The Garden Club volunteers assisted the County in applying for

and receiving a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to construct the project. The Public Works Department was also awarded a \$50,000 CDBG grant that included funds from the federal government's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

(ARRA) for a total of \$100,000 in grant funding for the project.

Downtown Knightsen showcased their new sidewalk at their annual Knightsen Car & Tractor Show on September 26, 2009. The show draws people from well outside their community.



Before



After

## MONTALVIN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In the Spring of 2008 representatives of the Montalvin Manor Redevelopment Advisory Committee for Board of Supervisors District I and County Redevelopment staff worked with the Public Works Special Districts Section to develop plans for improvements at Montalvin Park located in unincorporated San Pablo. As a result of this collaboration a list of proposed improvements were developed to enhance the park in four ways.

1. Provide American with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to the parking area, so that

there will be wheelchair accessibility from the parking lot to and throughout the new improvements.

2. Provide a stronger central entrance and focus of activities within close proximity to the parking area. This will be accomplished by grouping several program activities, such as a sports court, seating and picnic areas in closer proximity to the parking area and the existing play area. This entrance area will become the stepping off point for park users to explore the rest of the park.

3. Enhance the safety of the park by providing higher visibility. This will be achieved by concentrating more activities in a highly visible area near the parking area.

4. Provide visual enhancement and beautification of the site with the placement of various planting areas that will be filled with native plants and grasses.

If all goes as planned, construction will begin in the Summer of 2010 and the project will be completed by Fall 2010.

## MARSH DRIVE BRIDGE REPAIR

Following a routine bridge inspection by Caltrans, the Public Works Department was notified of the urgent need to conduct repairs to the Marsh Drive Bridge over Walnut Creek. Caltrans determined that a few of the bridge support columns had deteriorated to the point that their serviceability was questionable in the event of an earthquake or large rain event. Repair of these compromised piles became a top department priority and was completed in

October prior to the rainy season.

The repair was localized around each of the ten bridge support columns and consisted of soil



excavation, concrete removal, placement of reinforcing steel and concrete, and soil backfill to encase the columns in concrete "jackets."

Since all of the work was in an environmentally sensitive area, all work was accomplished using handheld tools so that no large motorized equipment was brought into the creek channel.

## WILLOW LAKE SIDEWALK PROJECT

The Willow Lake Sidewalk project originated from members of the community, Discovery Bay Elementary School faculty, and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors who voiced their desire for a safer route for students to walk to school. Willow Lake Road is one of two main collector roads in Discovery Bay.

The Contra Costa County Public Works Department successfully applied for a grant from Safe Routes to School (SRTS) for \$186,000 to fund the project.

The project provides pedestrian facilities along the south side of Willow Lake Road between Discovery Bay Boulevard and Discovery Bay Elementary School. Improvements for this project included installation of

a 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk, 970 feet in length and installation of eight pedestrian curb ramps in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Before

Striping at the intersection of Willow Lake Road and Discovery Bay Boulevard was removed and replaced.

In addition, the mid-block crosswalk in front of the school was removed and replaced ap-

proximately 30 feet east which required the installation of 2 new curb ramps.

Construction of this project will close the last remaining sidewalk gap between the Willow Lake Road/Discovery Bay Boulevard intersection and Discovery Bay Elementary School. The improvements were completed in August.



After

## PINOLE CREEK GOAT GRAZING DEMONSTRATION

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) coordinated with Parents for a Safer Environment (PfSE) to test goats eating stream bank vegetation on Pinole Creek to reduce the risk of flooding and wildfire. Approximately 400 goats grazed a ¼ mile stretch of Pinole Creek between Henry Ave and Tennent Ave for two days in early September. Students from nearby Collins Elementary School were quite intrigued with the goat grazing activity. The Contra Costa Times published an article on Page 3 of the September 11<sup>th</sup> edition.

The goats appeared to be effective at removing weedy vegetation along the stream banks. But, like most animals, the goats preferred some kinds of plants to others. The goats were also given an opportunity to browse two small trees in order to test their ability to remove brushy vegetation. Previous studies using goats to graze aquatic vegetation (plants growing in the stream channel) indicated problems with bacteria levels in the stream. So District and PfSE staff took water quality samples within Pinole Creek to see if goats grazing on the stream banks would pose a water quality problem. Unfortunately, the stream samples were corrupted by water from a storm drain flowing into the creek within the grazed area. Samples from the storm drain indicated very high levels of bacteria, which masked any measurable bacteria input from the goats.

On a positive note the elevated bacteria levels quickly dropped off downstream of the grazed areas, indicating a possible filtering effect of aquatic vegetation.

The District wishes to thank Contra Costa Central Sanitary District for analyzing the water samples free of charge.

The results from PfSE's trial were encouraging to the District. District staff intend to develop and implement a more detailed and larger scale study in the near future. This study will assist the District in making a business decision about the role of goats in managing vegetation in the District's facilities.



Goats grazing in Pinole Creek



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