

# COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
COUNTY OF SOLANO

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
675 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 6500  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533-6342  
(707) 784-6100



To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator  
Date: May 3, 2011  
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

---

## 1. County Administrator's Update on Contracts

The County Administrator did not sign any contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update.

## 2. Resource Management Awards Public Works Improvement Projects

Gibson Canyon Road: Bids were opened on April 13, 2011 for construction of the Gibson Canyon Road Improvement Project, located north of Vacaville. The project limits extend for 1.34 miles from Pamela Lane (located just north of Steiger Hill Road) to Cantelow Road, except for a 0.29 mile segment located about half a mile north of Pamela Lane that will be improved in 2012. The project consists of repairing the existing paved surface, constructing standard 12-foot width lanes, and making minor alignment improvements to enhance traffic safety while retaining the rural feel of the roadway. Five bids were received for the project. The low bidder was Ghilotti Construction Company of Santa Rosa, with a bid of \$978,746. Construction is scheduled to start on or about May 9.

Peaceful Glen Road: Bids were opened on April 21, 2011 for construction of the Peaceful Glen Road Improvement Project, located in the English Hills area north of Vacaville. The project limits extend for 0.21 miles from just west of Timm Road to just east of Timm Road. In addition to reconstructing the road surface, the project will repair the embankment below the roadway, which has been severely eroded by Sweeney Creek. Completion of the work will allow the reopening of this segment of Peaceful Glen Road, which has been closed since the storm of March 20, 2011 due to a partial failure of the road. Seven bids were received for the project. The low bidder was Cowan and Thompson Construction of Martinez, with a bid of \$526,257. Construction is scheduled to start on or about May 16.

- Contact: Paul Wiese, Resource Management, Engineering Manager, 784-6072

## 3. Completion Environmental Site Remediation at County Corporation Yard in Fairfield

The County has completed the environmental remediation of released petroleum at the corporation yard at 3255 N. Texas St. in Fairfield. The original contamination was discovered when the single-walled fuel tank was replaced in the 1990s with a double-walled tank. No further action is required.

Architectural Services received official notification on April 13, 2011 from Resource Management, which is the regulatory agency responsible for overseeing remediation activities following documentation of the unauthorized petroleum release. Resource Management has confirmed that the site currently meets regulatory standards regarding previous corrective actions for the underground storage tanks formerly located at this site.

This concludes a 15-year clean-up effort that began in December 1996 when the County was notified by the State Water Resources Control Board that the site was accepted into the State of California Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund). Following characterization of on-site contaminants, two major remediation efforts were implemented: a) soil excavation, disposal of contaminated soil that was replaced with uncontaminated soil, and b) a two-phased extraction of contaminated groundwater that ultimately resulted in effective remediation and closure of this site.

To date, the County has received a total of \$899,868 in reimbursements from the Fund against a total of \$2 million maximum allowed per site, which covered the vast majority of the project costs and minimized the use the County's General Fund. Final Reimbursement Request Number 22 will be submitted to the Fund in the current fiscal year for all remaining eligible reimbursement costs, approximately \$30,000.

- Contact: Kanon Artiche, General Services, County Architect, 784-7908

#### **4. County Completes Multi-Year County Parks Improvement Effort**

March 2011 marked the completion of the final projects in Solano County's eight-year string of park improvement projects made possible by \$3,988,133 in California State Parks grants, authorized by the Proposition 12 (Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000) and Proposition 40 (California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002) bond measures. Solano County was awarded grants totaling \$2,114,035 from the Proposition 12 Grant Program and \$1,874,098 from the Proposition 40 Grant Program.

Solano County used their grants to improve park facilities that will now provide the public with high-quality and well-built park facilities for the next several decades. Since 2003 these grant funds made the following projects possible:

- New picnic tables and grills at the Sandy Beach picnic area
- New tables and campfire rings at the Sandy Beach campground
- The new 5,000 square-foot Lake Solano Nature Center
- Two new park security residences to replace deteriorated structures
- Handicapped access improvements at restrooms, campgrounds and picnic areas
- New park office for Sandy Beach County Park
- New sewer system equipment for Lake Solano County Park
- New irrigation well and sprinklers at Sandy Beach County Park
- Parking lot and road repaving at Lake Solano and Sandy Beach Parks
- Partial funding for Solano Land Trust's acquisition of open space lands at the Vallejo Swett and Eastern Swett Ranch properties near Vallejo

During this eight-year effort, Solano County developed a good reputation with State Parks for accomplishing projects on time and within budget, and meeting tight grant deadlines. This reputation made the County more competitive for subsequent state parks grant programs, such as the \$74,870 "Nature Education Facilities" grant the County received in March 2011. This grant was only possible due to the cooperative efforts of County staff who recognized the value of grants as one of the few ways to improve public facilities during difficult economic times.

Several key staff were particularly important in achieving this goal through their project leadership: County Architect Kanon Artiche, Associate Architect Rosa Lane, and Pam Ogle, recently retired Assistant Director of General Services.

Contact: Dan Sykes, General Services, Parks Services Manager, 784-3118

## **5. County Parks Score \$170,348 in State and Federal Grant Funds**

The Department of General Services, Parks and Recreation Division, received word in the first quarter of 2011 of three grant awards totaling \$170,348 that will fund projects at Sandy Beach County Park in Rio Vista, Lake Solano County Park north of Vacaville, and Lynch Canyon Open Space Park north of Vallejo.

Sandy Beach: A \$60,000 from the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) Boat Launching Facility Grant program will be used to install a fish cleaning station with handicapped accessibility. The station will consist of a cutting table and sink for preparing caught fish, which will provide a convenient, clean and less destructive alternative to the current practice of some who cut fish on park picnic tables and garbage can lids. DBW staff estimates funds will be available to complete this project during FY2011/12, assuming budget authorization in the State budget in summer 2011.

Lake Solano: A \$74,870 grant from the California State Parks' Nature Education Facilities grant program will outfit the park's Nature Center with interpretive exhibits, a video projection system, security cameras and furnishings, as well as make repairs to the park's Shoreline Trail. Work on this project is tentatively scheduled to begin in spring 2012 and be completed by spring 2013.

Lynch Canyon: A \$35,478 from the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (formerly Minerals Management Service) will be used between spring and fall 2011 to perform scientific studies on how to improve management of Lynch Reservoir and improve wetland habitats in the park. These funds are available through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program that provides funds to counties around the nation where petroleum production and drilling occurs.

None of the grants require any County match. With most local agencies faring badly in difficult economic times, grant programs have become very competitive. Solano County was one of only six statewide awardees for the Boat Launching Facility program, and one of only 44 awardees out of more than 300 statewide applications for the Nature Education Facility grant. The successful grant awards reflect the County's great relationships with local partners who helped plan and write the grant applications, including the Solano Resource Conservation District and U.C. Davis' John Muir Institute for the Environment, which support Lake Solano's outdoor education and restoration programs, and the Solano Land Trust, which owns and jointly manages Lynch Canyon Open Space Park.

- Contact: Dan Sykes, General Services, Parks Services Manager, 784-3118