Via Dolce Park Groundbreaking on Westside

BOE Providing Design, Project & Construction Management Services

On March 23, 2018 Councilmember Mike Bonin led the groundbreaking for Via Dolce Park, 3507 Via Dolce, Marina Del Rey, CA 90290.

The existing 6,300 sq. ft. vacant lot will be developed into a pocket park that includes:

- Children’s play area (play equipment including wall climber, crunch bar, spiral slide, wave climber, tree climber, rumble and roll zip slide, platform, covers for shade, language panel, etc.)
- Rubber surfacing under the play area;
- Picnic area with a picnic table;
- ADA compliant sitting area with two long benches and three short.
- Bike track
- Trash receptacle
- 36-inch high split rail fence installed around the play area, to prevent children from running out of the park into the street, and to prevent any public access to the native plantings.
- Trees to shade the seating and picnic areas.
- Park signage (i.e., facility name, park rules, etc., botanical signs and way-finding Grand Canal signs).
- The remaining area of the property will be landscaped with native vegetation and irrigated with a solar controller and a temporary irrigation system.

All of the new additions will make the Park fully ADA compliant and the main entrance to the park will include an ADA gate.

The landscape design will conserve water with new California-friendly and drought-tolerant plants. BOE prepared informational display boards on the different types of plants so attendees could learn about the landscaping plans.

The Bureau of Engineering is providing design, project and construction management services on this project.

Project funding was provided by Proposition A and Recreation and Parks Capital Park Development B Fund. The contractor is Jack Loera, Commercial Paving & Coating.

Representing BOE, Proposition K Program Manager Neil Drucker noted that BOE staff has been working very closely with many of the community, as well as with the office of Council District 11 on the design, community outreach, and construction for this project and that there many schemes and options that were considered before the final design was approved.

Congratulations go to Mahmood Karimzadeh, Program Manager, and his staff from the Architectural Division, Bill Lee, Gus Malkoun, Jane Adrian and Lorena Matos and everyone who contributed to this project.

Drucker also thanked Councilmember Mike Bonin and his staff Debbie Dyner-Harris,
Via Dolce Park - continued from page 1

Krista Phipps, Taylor Bazley, and Anna Kozma for their efforts to make the project successful.

Councilmember Mike Bonin speaking at the event.

Mike Bonin and Neil Drucker at podium.

California-friendly and drought-tolerant plants will be featured in the landscaping for the new Via Dolce Park.
On March 27, 2018, City Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), so that BOE can begin the Updated Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs Master Plan process. The planning process is being led by Engineering, with the support of Council Districts 13 and 4, and in coordination with LADWP.

Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs are two adjacent water storage facilities with associated operational infrastructure and are collectively referred to as the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex. LADWP is required to bring Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs into compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule which mandates a State approved plan for either covering, providing advanced treatment, or bypassing all remaining open drinking water reservoirs. Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs have been replaced by the newly constructed Headworks Reservoir. The 2000 Master Plan needs to be updated to reflect the current SLRC site.

The updated Master Plan will guide improvements and protection of the reservoirs, and seek to balance its historic character, its use as a community gathering place, its strategic location within the Silver Lake community, and its unique blend of both functional and recreational spaces. LADWP has agreed to provide up to $2.92 million to BOE for the Updated Master Plan.

On May 1, 2018, the BOE will hold a Community Open House at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, LA 90027 to discuss the first step in the process, hiring a consultant to support the planning process.

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**Presentation on Venice Dual Force Main Project at Calif Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference**

On March 27, 2018, a panel comprised of BOE staff from the Environmental Management Group along with Bureau of Sanitation’s Community Outreach Team, and consulting firm Environmental Science Associates (ESA) presented the City’s environmental compliance program for the Venice Dual Force Main (VDFM) sewer project to the California Association of Environmental Professionals at their annual conference in Rancho Mirage.

The project, currently in construction, is required to comply with over 100 environmental mitigation measures and coastal development permit conditions. The large number of measures has the potential to create a compliance quagmire that requires day-to-day monitoring and oversight. With the aid of consultants and consistent community outreach, the City is limiting construction impacts through a robust environmental mitigation and monitoring program.

The Venice Dual Force Main crosses three bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and also runs through Marina del Rey (unincorporated LA County), creating multi-jurisdictional implications. BOE has been successfully coordinating between the many local, state, and federal agencies involved with the project.

BOE’s Environmental Supervisor Dr. Jan Green Rebstock led the panel through a discussion of the complex and litigious history of the ten year approval process for the project while Environmental Specialist Talmage Maxwell Jordan explained how the City is meeting the environmental challenges that construction of the $89-million dollar micro tunneling project presents. Construction is expected to be completed in 2020.
The following article was posted March 16, 2018 on Councilmember Nury Martinez’ website:

The L.A. Bureau of Engineering unveiled an improved Laurel Canyon Boulevard Bridge in Sun Valley. Crossing over the Tujunga Wash, the updated bridge is designed to improve traffic and pedestrian safety along Laurel Canyon Boulevard.

The federally-funded project rehabilitated and widened the existing bridge by 39 feet, to a total width of 100 feet, to match the approaching roadways. The project also accommodates an additional left turn lane, wider traffic lanes, wider sidewalks, new architectural barriers and other roadway improvements.

The bridge railing was designed by Heath Satow, with input from the community. The design is based largely on the relationship of the Native American Gabrielino/Tongva and Chumash cultures of the area, with the oak tree. Several varieties of native oak, including the white oak, black oak and coast live oak, were an integral part of their cultures. The fruit of the oak, or acorn, was one of the most important food sources for Native Americans in California.

One story tells of “Mother Earth” and “Father Sky” creating the oak tree for the Chumash, so they would never go hungry. More broadly, the acorn is a symbol of life and potential. Cast into the bridge, these images recall a fertile land nourished by the river below.
Environmental Engineering Division’s (EED) Blower Air Cleanup Project at the DCTWRP was awarded Envision Silver Certification by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI). Similar to LEED for Buildings, Envision is a framework that integrates sustainable alternatives into all types of civil infrastructure projects.

The Envision evaluation assessed the Blower Air Cleanup project’s performance across 60 sustainability credits addressing community, quality of life, leadership, resource allocation, natural world and climate & risk.

The DCTWRP Blower Air Cleanup Project involves a Biotrickling Filter (BTF) system designed to collect and pretreat the foul air, thereby protecting and extending the life of the new stainless steel fans, piping, diffusers and other ancillary equipment downstream. The project performed notably well in the resource allocation category, protecting fresh water availability (RA3.1) and reducing potable water consumption (RA 3.2) by using only recycled water for the BTF system.

This award demonstrates EED’s ability to deliver projects that benefit the community’s triple bottom line (social/environmental/economic conditions) while providing sound engineering solutions. This is a great accomplishment for BOE. Special thanks to Samuel Ahn, Ibrahim Hafeez, Nathan Ho, Andrew Kin, Tanat Satidkit, and Michael VanWagoner for their contributions to the project and Envision certification process.

Allen Profiled by The Eastsider
The Eastsider website featured a lengthy interview with Julie Allen, head of the Sixth Street Viaduct Division.

Meet the woman in charge of building L.A.’s new Sixth Street Bridge
April 4, 2018

City civil engineer Julie Allen is no stranger to high-profile and complicated projects. She was involved in the rehabilitation of Echo Park Lake and Machado Lake. Now, she’s in charge of her biggest project yet - the $482 million replacement of the Sixth Street Viaduct connecting Boyle Heights and Downtown LA.

Allen is only the second woman to serve at the highest level of project management in the city’s Bureau of Engineering. When Allen was named project manager, she was the only female engineer on the city’s Sixth Street Viaduct team. Since then her team has become more diverse, including the addition of several other women in lead roles.

In a Q&A with The Eastsider, Allen, who was raised in Modesto and graduated from UCLA, described the challenges of working on the largest bridge project in city history, the significance of having a women leading the project and her nerdy fascination with square rebar.

To see the rest of this article go to www.theeastsiderla.com under the Boyle Heights neighborhood.
Welcome to the Bureau of Engineering!

The following information about some of our new employees illustrates that the Bureau of engineering has hired a very diverse group of talented people.

**Adrian Castro**

Adrian Castro joined the Street Improvement and Stormwater Division (SSD) in February as a Civil Engineering Associate I. Adrian currently resides in the San Fernando Valley. He attended Cal State Los Angeles, where he obtained his B.S. in Civil Engineering, and has also earned his Engineer-in-Training (EIT) certificate.

Before joining Engineering, Adrian was an Assistant Project Engineer for VCA Engineers located in the city of Alhambra. Outside of work, Adrian enjoys sports, movies, and spending time with his family. He is very grateful and excited for the opportunity that the Department of Public Works has given him, and he is looking forward to expanding his knowledge while with Engineering and with the SSD division.

**Sylvia Dhimdis**

Sylvia Dhimdis joined the City of Los Angeles as a Civil Engineering Associate I in February. She is part of the Street Improvement and Stormwater Division, where she will be assisting the Stormwater Group.

Sylvia was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and had two great role models while growing up - her parents. They were always supportive of Sylvia’s educational and career path and worked hard to provide a better life for her. Ultimately, Sylvia’s primary goal is to make her parents proud and work in the field she is most passionate about.

Sylvia knew she wanted to be a civil engineer finishing high school. Knowing this, she focused her studies toward a degree in Civil Engineering and graduated from Cal State Northridge (CSUN) with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 2014 and subsequently earned her M.S. in Structural Engineering there in 2016. Another special person who has greatly impacted Sylvia’s educational career with abundant support is her husband, Justin Ramirez, who also works for Engineering.

Sylvia previously was a volunteer intern for the Construction Management Division in 2013 while attending CSUN. She then worked with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works for about three and half years, where she was in Watershed Management Division and then Building and Safety Division. She is excited to be back with Engineering. Sylvia looks forward to helping the department and advancing her skills and knowledge in engineering.

**Elen Smiley**

Elen Smiley joined the Wastewater Conveyance Engineering Division (WCED) on April 2, 2018 as a Civil Engineering Drafting Technician. Elen received her Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix. She also holds degrees and certificates in Architectural Drafting Technology, General Arts, Interior Merchandising and Web Design.

Prior to joining the Bureau of Engineering, Elen worked for Southern California Edison, Mesa Associates, and Burns & McDonnell as a contractor.

Elen was also active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1997 to 2003 and in the drilling Reserves for about 5 more years thereafter. During her service she earned several military awards including the National Defense Service Medal (2001), Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Award (2001) and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (1999).

Elen is from Mexico City and currently resides in Downey, CA with her husband and four children. In her spare time, Elen enjoys painting, reading, gardening, poetry, arts and crafts, and many other things. Elen is excited to join the Bureau of Engineering and WCED and looks forward to a new career with the City of Los Angeles.

**Laura Rossana Torres**

Laura Rossana Torres joined the Wastewater Conveyance Engineering Division (WCED) on April 2, 2018 as a Civil Engineering Drafting Technician. Rossana received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California State University-Long Beach and a certificate in Civil 3D. Her areas of expertise are grading, street improvement and drainage and she also worked on several rail projects.

Prior to joining the Bureau of Engineering, she worked as a Civil Engineer and Project Engineer with John Labib & Associates as well as other engineering companies. Rossana currently holds a real estate sales license and have experience in residential and commercial sales. In addition, she has extensive experience in site development for residential, commercial and industrial projects.

Rossana is from Bogota, Colombia, and she currently resides in Redondo Beach with her 10 year old son. During her free time, she enjoys salsa and flamenco dancing, karaoke singing and walking. She is happy for the opportunity to work for the Department of Public Works and looks forward to lending her time and skills to the Bureau of Engineering.

**Mayor Appoints Senior Project Manager for Homelessness Strategies**

*Mayor’s press release:*

LOS ANGELES (April 2, 2018) - Mayor Eric Garcetti has appointed Christina Miller as Senior Project Manager for Homelessness Strategies, a key member of the team leading his administration’s response to the crisis of unsheltered homelessness.

“We are building 10,000 units of supportive housing to lift homeless Angelenos out of desperate situations for good - but we cannot lose sight of the fact that people living on the streets today need help now,” said Mayor Garcetti. “Christina has an exceptional track record of creating partnerships that quickly connect people to housing and services. She’s the right person to take on this challenge.”

Christina comes to the Mayor’s Office from Los Angeles World Airports, where she served as the consulting project manager on homelessness issues. There, she helped lead an inter-agency task force that successfully addressed a homeless encampment in Manchester Square, and connected 350 people with housing-focused services.

As Senior Project Manager for Homeless Strategies, Miller will supervise the successful development, coordination, execution, and completion of projects that respond to the needs of those experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Mayor's team and getting closer to the core of this movement to solve homelessness in Los Angeles,” said Miller. “We have an opportunity to build a City where no one calls the sidewalk their home - and it's an honor to be part of a leadership team that is committed to real and lasting change.”

Miller previously worked at L.A. Family Housing, a low-income housing developer and service provider in the San Fernando Valley - where she brought to scale a community-wide housing system for people experiencing homelessness, and oversaw services that brought nearly 1,000 chronically homeless adults and veterans off the streets.

Miller is also a certified Rape Crisis Advocate. She received her Master's Degree in Counseling from California State University Northridge, and her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from California State University Channel Islands.
BOE 2018 Alumni Luncheon
The annual Bureau of Engineering Distinguished Alumni Luncheon was held on March 22, 2018 at Taix French Restaurant. City Engineer Gary Lee Moore highlighted BOE projects and programs and the activities of each division/group. The luncheon provides an opportunity for current and retired BOE employees to renew acquaintances. Thanks go to Karen Dacres for coordinating the event.
Seminars offered by the Construction Management Association of America, Southern California Chapter. For additional information on these seminars please go to www.cmaasc.org.

**Los Angeles World Airports Capital Program Updates** on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at The LA Hotel Downtown, 333 S. Figueroa, Downtown LA. 5:30 pm Registration, 6:30 pm Dinner & Presentation. Guest speaker: Cynthia Guidry, Deputy Executive Director Planning & Development Group, Los Angeles World Airports.

Cost: Register by Friday, Apr. 6 $70/member, $140/non-member. After Apr. 6 $85/member, $170/non-member.

**Best Practices in Managing Change Requests, Change Orders, Claims** on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Dr., Long Beach, CA 90815, 8:00 am Registration, 8:30 am Seminar. Changes are an inevitable part of the construction process. This seminar provides the Construction Manager with practical techniques and tips to best manage the evaluation and resolution of change requests, change orders and claims. Includes case studies and examples of changes, disputes, and their resolution.

- Knowing What Your Contract Requires (Handout includes the “Contract Review Checklist”)
- Timely Notice and Response
- Determining Causation and Entitlement
- Evaluating Direct and Unit Costs
- Writing the Change Order
- Full and Final Considerations
- Evaluating Claimed Overhead
- Valuation of Claimed Inefficiencies
- Total Cost and Measured Mile Calculations
- Characteristics of Mediation, Arbitration, and Litigation

Seminar Leader: Chip Ossman, President, Ossman Project Management Consulting, Inc.

Cost: Register by Friday, Apr. 6 $70/member, $140/non-member. After Apr. 6 $85/member, $170/non-member.

**Breakfast of Champions – UCLA & UC Irvine Capital Program Updates** on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at The LA Hotel, 333 S. Figueroa, Downtown LA. 5:30 pm Registration, 6:30 pm Dinner & Presentation. Guest speaker: Masood Eftekhari, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Cost: Register by May 11 $70/member, $140/non-member. After May 11 $85/member, $170/non-member.

**Effective Leadership and Communication in the Modern Era** on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at the Long Beach Airport Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Dr., Long Beach, 90815, 8:00 am Registration, 8:30 am Presentation. This will be a presentation and panel discussion of owner’s needs and construction manager’s responsibilities for Managing Construction Safety on public construction programs. Key topics will include managing and transferring risk, understanding owner responsibilities, differing approaches for Design Build and limits of liability. Topics to be covered:

- Responsibilities of a CM
- Contractor Interface
- Partnering vs Enforcement
- Insurance
- Media Control

Panel members: Port of Long Beach, Richard Baratta, Director of Risk Management; California State University Office of the Chancellor, Jay Jefferson, Construction Manager, Capital Planning Design & Construction; CW Driver, Jim Wathen, Safety Director; Safework CM, Greg Metchkian, Executive Vice President. Moderator: Yashar Hooshvar, Senior Vice President, Safework CM.
Regional Rail Update on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at The LA Hotel, 333 S. Figueroa, Downtown LA, 5:30 pm Registration, 6:30 pm Dinner & Presentation. Guest speakers: Jeanet Owens, PE, LEED AP, Senior Executive Officer, Project Management/Regional Rail, METRO; Justin Fornelli, Director, Engineering and Construction, METROLINK; Michelle Boehm, Southern California Regional Director, CA High-Speed Rail Authority.

Cost: Register by June 8 $70/member, $140/non-member. After June 8 $85/member, $170/non-member.

LA Metro – Highway & Transit Programs Update on Thursday, July 12, 2018, at The LA Hotel Downtown, 333 S. Figueroa, L.A., 5:30 pm Registration, 6:30 pm Presentation. Learn about Measure R and M project delivery progress and what’s ahead – contracting opportunities.

Guest Speakers: Bryan Pennington, Deputy Chief Program Management Officer and Abdolla Ansari, Sr. Executive Officer, Program Management, Highway Program.

Cost: Register by Fri, July 6 $70/member, $140/non-member; after July 6 $85/member, $170/non-member.

LMU Students Tour Sixth Street Viaduct

On February 13, 2018 students from Loyola Marymount University toured the Sixth Street Viaduct Project. Their visit was coordinated by Karen Keal of the Sixth Street Viaduct Division. The following letter was received from the Loyola Marymount University Department of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science:

Dear Ms. Keal,

On behalf of our students, we wanted to thank you and the engineers from Skanska/Stacy Witbeck (Michael Cardwell and Steve Smith) and T. Y. Lin (Hooshang Alishahi) for taking the time from your busy schedules to give us a tour of the construction site at the Sixth Street Viaduct Project. The presentation showed how the project is not just a “bridge,” but an essential element of the community, integrating pedestrian, vehicular, and bicycle movements, and incorporating community parks and recreational areas. It was very informative to the students and to us. The students received a first-hand opportunity to understand how a project is developed through community outreach, through the design concept, and then to managing the complexities of constructing the project considering the river, the 101 freeway, the railroad activity, and high voltage power lines.

The students also felt an appreciation for all the engineering that supports the actual construction work in field how the work that you and your colleagues do on a day to day basis ensures a safe, high-quality project. Also, thank you Scott Bae for helping our students with the safety gear. We appreciate you all.

Sincerely,
Joseph C. Reichenberger, P.E., Professor
Sunai Kim Ph.D., S.E., Assistant Professor
Arrivals
Kayla Truong, CE Associate I, WCE; Atousa Ghoncheh, CE Associate I, WCC; Manna Jenniér Zhou, Admin Intern, LGD; Leonardo Sciolis, Secretary, PAC; Ronald Reyes, Management Assistant, PAC; Shunyu Zhang, Structural Eng, Associate III, ARC.

Departures
Paul Blecher, SPC I, retired, Survey; Alan Espiritu, CE Associate II, retired, Bonds; Serjik Hartouinjianhanian, CEDT, transfer to DWP, SED; Franklin Molina, Management Analyst, transfer to DWP, ADM; Ansar Mustafa, CE Associate III, promoted to Street Lighting; Phuoc Le, CE Associate IV, promoted to Sanitation.

Promotions
Michelle Santos, Management Analyst, ADM; Esteban Martinez, Structural Engineer, SED; Daniel Kozubal, stay at PAC to CSD.

Internal Transfer
Annabel Nuno, Sr. Management Analyst I, from PAC to CSD.

Professional Registration
Civil
Amy Lin, CE Associate I, LGD.

We’d Like to Hear from You
If you have any articles for the Newsletter, please e-mail them to BOEnewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, May 3, 2018.

Notice No. 09 Standard Plan Restoration of Asphalt Concrete Streets
Notice No. 09 dated April 3, 2018, titled Standard Plan S-477-1 “T-Trench and Pavement Restoration - Asphalt Concrete Streets” states that on March 19, 2018, the City Engineer approved the new revised Standard Plan S-477-1 for the restoration of asphalt concrete streets after excavation.

Effective immediately, the new revised standard plan shall be incorporated in all applicable City of Los Angeles projects and Permit work when asphalt concrete street restoration is required as part of the project scope. Standard Plan S-477-1 does not supersede, but rather works in conjunction with Standard Plan S-251-1, “Pipe Laying in Trenches,” and other applicable standards. Bedding, as well as, backfill material are to be specified by the project engineer.

Standard Plan S-477-1 is posted on the Bureau of Engineering website and can be viewed and downloaded. For any questions please contact Mati Laan at (818) 374-5086 or via email at Mati.Laan@lacity.org.

Passing of Brogan
We are very sorry to report that retired Civil Engineering Assistant III (old series) Charles “Chuck” Brogan passed away on March 4, 2018. He retired from the former Wastewater Program Management Division on January 6, 1996. Our deepest condolences go to his daughter Kelly, son Michael and the rest of his family.

An Appreciation
Chuck was a key figure in the different funding sources used in the Wastewater Program, working with the CAO on federal Clean Water Grants, establishing revenue bonds, etc. I wanted to express my gratitude for his service to the Bureau after he retired. I asked for his help after the $178.3M Proposition DD Library Bond was approved by voters in 1998. City administration at the time favored the use of consultants and questioned if BOE should even be involved in the new bond. Chuck volunteered his time to come up with ideas on how to set up systems for tracking costs and financial reporting. The success of these systems helped show that BOE was taking a proactive approach to managing not only the projects, but also the finances. This led to BOE being asked to take on managing the $100M Proposition CC Zoo Bond Program in 1999, and when subsequent general obligation bonds passed - Proposition F $378.5M Fire & $154.1M Animal Services Bond in 2000, $600M Proposition Q Police/Fire/Paramedic/Citywide Security Bond in 2002 - there was no question that BOE would manage these programs. Chuck leaves many of us who deeply valued his friendship.

Winifred Harano, retired
BOE Finance & Administration

Passing of Welling
With much sadness we report that Joy Welling, EIT, Civil Engineering Associate I with the Prop O Group, passed away on March 17, 2018 while pursuing one of her passions, canyoneering. Joy started her City career with the Geotechnical Engineering Group in June 2016 and rotated to the Proposition O Group in January. She recently passed the 8 hour Professional Engineer exam and was eagerly anticipating taking the Survey and Seismic portions of the exam in the Fall after obtaining the requisite experience. Joy loved spending time with her family and friends, especially in the outdoors.

Joy is survived by her father, Kent Welling, Civil Engineer, WCE, her mother Beth, brothers Steven and Timothy, sisters-in-law Melissa and Denise, grandmothers June Welling and Felisa Saturion and her companion Michael Peck.

The family wishes to thank Commissioner Joel Jacinto and everyone in the Bureau of Engineering for all of the love and support they have received.

CMAA So Cal Project of the Year Award to Machado Lake Project
On April 26, 2018, the Construction Management Association of America, Southern California Chapter will present the 2018 Project Achievement Award, Project of the Year to the Bureau of Engineering Construction Management Division for the Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project at their 26th Annual Awards Gala at the InterContinental Hotel, 900 Wilshire Blvd. The award is to recognize outstanding achievement in the practice of construction management.