



SAN CLEMENTE BEACH PROJECT RESUMES



Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs

Sand is pumped onto the beach near the San Clemente Pier as the hopper dredge, the Bayport, is seen in the background April 25 in San Clemente, California. The project recently resumed, and the plan is to place about 92,000 cubic yards of sand onto the beach. Manson Construction is expected to be at the site for the next 20-25 days, with an estimated completion prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Leaders celebrate new hangar at Yuma Proving Ground



Photo by Robert DeDeaux, LA District

Lt. Col. Sean Karrels, battalion commander with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, left, cuts the ribbon on a two-bay hangar that will be used for training during an April 9 ribbon-cutting ceremony at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. Representing the Los Angeles District was Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks, Los Angeles District deputy commander, third from left.

STORY BY ROBERT DEDEAUX
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

YUMA PROVING GROUND, Ariz. – The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground’s primary mission is to test the nation’s military ground combat equipment; however, for nearly 30 years, its vast desert ranges also have been used by the Military Freefall School to train thousands of the military’s most elite paratroopers.

Leaders with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District and the Yuma Proving Ground celebrated the completion of a two-bay hangar, which will benefit the school, during an April 9 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the installation.

“For more than 50 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has partnered with Yuma Proving Ground, contributing to the national defense mis-

sion with projects that improve readiness and enhance the quality of life for our warfighters and their families,” said USACE Los Angeles District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks.

USACE constructed the hangar for the Special Operations Aviation Command flight detachment, which supports training operations for the Military Freefall School, a part of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

“Having served in Army aviation for over 20 years, this is without a doubt the nicest hangar and operations facility I’ve ever seen,” said Lt. Col. Sean Karrels, a battalion commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. “This will directly improve mission readiness,

[YUMA, continued on Page 17](#)

SAAPM Proclamation Signing



Photos by Richard Rivera, LA District CIO/G6

Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks, Los Angeles District deputy commander, signs a proclamation in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, or SAAPM, April 4 at the Los Angeles District's headquarters in downtown LA.

The goal of SAAPM is to raise awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals about their role in prevention. Coordinator for the Los Angeles District's monthlong observance for SAAPM is Debra Flores-Estrada, realty specialist with the LA District's Real Estate Division.

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District Commander:
Col. Andrew Baker

Public Affairs Chief:
Dena M. O'Dell

Interim Editor: Dena M. O'Dell

Contributing Editors:
Stephen Baack, Robert DeDeaux,
Dan Collins, Brooks O. Hubbard IV

Tel: 213-452-3922

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Address mail to the Los Angeles District Public Affairs Office
ATTN: NewsCastle Editor
Room 1105, 915 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017-2325

Email the Public Affairs Office at:
publicaffairs.SPL@usace.army.mil



April celebrates legacy employees, special observances

SPL team:

As we head full speed into May, I want to start off by extending my sincerest congratulations to two of our valued employees and recent retirees – Dave Castanon, chief of the Regulatory Division, and Danny Carrasco, chief of the Contracting Division. Both gentlemen are SPL legends, having left their marks on SPL's work and identity for four decades.

DAVE CASTANON

Dave served for nearly 40 years of honorable service to the Los Angeles District, most notably, as the chief of the Regulatory Division. He is known for his calm and inspirational leadership style – and, also, as “The Scrutinizer” for his attention to detail on regulatory documents and work (as an aside, I think “The Scrutinizer” would be a solid professional wrestling persona).

Dave began his career with the Los Angeles District in 1984 in the Planning Division, where he worked as a geographer, senior ecologist and environmental protection specialist, working on important district Civil Works' projects, like the Sweetwater River Flood Control Project, Seven Oaks Dam and the Santa Ana River Flood Control Project.

He wraps it up as the chief of our esteemed Regulatory Division – a beloved mentor, leader and truly outstanding teammate!

DANNY CARRASCO

Danny served in SPL for 41 years, most notably as the chief of the Contracting Division. His superior leadership and professionalism inspired subordinates, peers and leaders alike and greatly enhanced SPL and the entire region.

For decades, Danny leveraged his relationships across SPL, the South Pacific Division, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters to provide acquisition planning leadership, communication of



COL. ANDREW BAKER
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER

contract requirements and leadership in resolution of contract disputes and claims.

Under Danny's leadership, SPL has a track record of successfully adapting to program growth and technical competencies to meet requirements.

From fiscal years 2021 to 2023, Danny was directly responsible for \$1.34 billion in contracts, including \$650 million to 113 small businesses, 142 contractors and 80 8(a) contracts to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

Both Dave's and Danny's leadership in their respective fields and their willingness to serve unselfishly have greatly enhanced our reputation here at SPL and USACE writ large.

They are both bedrock members of the SPL family, and we'll miss them greatly (but are glad we'll see them around at SPL events, as they're remaining close here in LA). All the best and many thanks to Dave and Danny!

As April comes to a close, I also want to extend my appreciation to some folks who have gone above and beyond to support SPL.

First off, I want to thank Debra Flores-Estrada, SPL coordinator for this year's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, or SAAPM.

Sexual assault is an issue that affects our entire community. The goal of SAAPM is to raise awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals about their role in prevention.

Throughout April, Debra coordinated several events, including a proclamation signing in recognition of SAAPM; and numerous activities, like Teal Tuesdays, Denim Day, a walk/run at Whittier Narrows Park, “Paint the District Teal” decorating contest and a Lunch and Learn presentation.

Thanks, Debra, for all that you have done to support this very important observance!

I'd also like to thank all of the volunteers, who helped coordinate and participate in “Bring a Child to Work Day!”

The event – in honor of April's Month of the Military Child – was a huge success! I'm really glad to have had the opportunity to participate and can't wait to do so next year with my kiddos. I was so impressed with the program, and it was clear the kids who participated had a blast ... and learned a little bit about the amazing work we do. If you missed it, I highly encourage you to think about coming out next year.

It is because of volunteers like you – who dedicate your time to important events like this – that 25 children were able to participate in STEM-related activities and see what their parents do every day here at the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

As we move into May, I'd like to note some important observances:

ASIAN AMERICAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER

Celebrated in May each year, Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes the challenges faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story.

This year's theme, “Advancing Leaders Through Innovation,” recognizes the collective benefits resulting from a spirit of community, cooperation and cultural engagement.

Army diversity means valuing each individual and optimizing talents to build high-performing and cohesive teams. This is an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to the history of our nation, recognize and honor their service and foster inclusive environments, where in the Army, “you can be all you can be.”

In honor of their contributions, please join me this May in recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander's enduring legacy to our nation and to our district.

[COMMANDER, continued on Page 4](#)

Honoring 40 years of service!



Photos by Richard Rivera, LA District CIO/G6

TOP PHOTOS: Dave Castanon, chief of the Los Angeles District's Regulatory Division, accepts the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal from Col. Andrew Baker, LA District commander, during his retirement ceremony April 30 at the LA District headquarters building in downtown Los Angeles. Castanon, affectionately referred to as "The Scrutinizer" by his colleagues for his attention to detail as the Regulatory Division chief, began his service with the LA District in the Planning Division in 1984. He later moved to the Regulatory Division, where he became the chief in 2010. We wish Dave the best in his future endeavors!

[COMMANDER, continued from Page 3](#)

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

We observe Holocaust Days of Remembrance week from May 5-12, with Holocaust Remembrance Day May 6. This year's theme is, "Behind Every Name a Story: The Courageous," which honors those who risked their lives to save others during the Holocaust.

The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust, in which we remember the lost lives of six million Jews, honor the survivors, pay tribute to the rescuers and celebrate the liberators. During the Days of Remembrance, we are reminded why it is imperative to confront antisemitism and all forms of hate-based conduct, and we are inspired to build a better future for all.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is May 27. This is a time for us to pause and remember the valor and great sacrifices of the military men and women, who gave their lives in defense of our nation, its values, our freedom and our liberties.

It is on this day that we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.

I encourage you all to keep in mind the common bond we have with the service members, who have gone before us, who selflessly served our nation and paid the ultimate price.

One way to honor the fallen is by participating in the National Moment of Remembrance, which gives us time to pause at 3 p.m. local time to reflect on those who died in service to our nation.

Those with flags can fly them at half-staff from sunrise until noon and then raise them briskly to the top of the staff until sunset in honor of the nation's battle heroes.

Thank you for all that you do to support the LA District's mission! I remain proud and honored to serve with you!

Proud to be SPL!

~ Col. Andrew Baker,

Commander, LA District

Deputy commander, SPL subject matter experts speak at Environmental Justice event in LA



Courtesy photos, LA District Planning Division

LEFT PHOTO: Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks, Los Angeles District deputy commander, talks about the LA District and the role it plays in environmental justice during an Environmental Justice Funding Convening event April 19 in Los Angeles. The event was hosted by Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, representative for California's 37th Congressional District.

RIGHT PHOTO: Amanda Wagner, section chief in the LA District's Planning and Formulations Branch, Planning Division, left, and Jodie Clifford, chief of the Planning Division, right, discuss how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help deliver Environmental Justice projects in California and ways to partner with USACE during a breakout session at the event.

US Army Corps of Engineers commemorates 200th anniversary of Civil Works program

BY USACE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Civil Works program.

“The Civil Works mission that has been entrusted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is something that makes USACE unique among the world’s military organizations,” said Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, USACE commanding general. “Our abilities to cohesively perform military, civil, and research and development missions have enabled us to take on and find solutions for many of our nation’s toughest challenges both at home and abroad.

“We take great pride in the contributions we make to our nation, her citizens and our armed forces on a daily basis.”

The beginnings of the Civil Works mission for USACE are based on two key pieces of legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by Presi-

dent James Monroe in 1824.

The General Survey Act of 1824, signed into law April 30, 1824, authorized Army engineers to chart transportation improvements vital to the nation’s military security and commercial growth through the design of state and private roads, canals and railroads determined to be of national interest.

The work authorized in the Act enabled Army engineers to significantly contribute to the nation’s westward expansion and provided legislation that enabled subsequent rivers and harbors acts to authorize funds for navigation improvements.

The first Rivers and Harbors Act was then signed into law May 24, 1824, to authorize improvements for navigation on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, recognizing the vital importance of maintaining navigable waterways for commerce and transportation and defined what is the current USACE civil works mission.

Among the key pieces of legislation are:

- 1899 - Refuse Act gave USACE authority to regulate obstructions to navigation.
- 1928 - Flood Control Act adopted a comprehensive plan for flood control on the Lower Mississippi River, including the use of floodways and spillways in addition to levees.
- 1936 - Flood Control Act made flood control a federal policy and officially recognized USACE as the major federal flood control agency.
- 1944 - Flood Control Act authorized USACE to develop water projects in the Missouri River Valley in accordance with the Pick-Sloan Plan and further authorized USACE to provide fish and wildlife management and public outdoor recreation facilities at its projects.
- 1986 - The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 brought major change in financing by

[CIVIL WORKS, continued on Page 15](#)

Baker meets with Southern Arizona leaders



Photos by Robert DeDeaux, LA District Public Affairs

Col. Andrew Baker, Los Angeles District commander, center right, and Justin Gay, Los Angeles District deputy engineer, back row, second from left, meet with City of Tucson leaders and consultants at the Tucson City Hall before touring the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project, a potential 595 project site, March 26 near Mission Garden in downtown Tucson, Arizona.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY ROBERT DEDEAUX
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOENIX – The Los Angeles District Commander Col. Andrew Baker led a team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or USACE, to review several military and civil works project sites March 25-27 in Arizona.

During the visit, the district met with military commanders, city representatives and tribal leaders in Arizona to discuss future projects and promote the district’s engineering and construction capabilities for upcoming projects.

“We work tirelessly to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources and remain focused to safely deliver projects on time and within budget to our Arizona partners,” Baker said. “We understand the importance of strong partnerships and visited leaders of various cities, tribal communities and military installations to understand their future infrastructure

[LEADERS., continued on Page 7](#)



Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander Col. Johnny Ives, left, and Los Angeles District Commander Col. Andrew Baker, right, discuss construction projects at the installation March 27 near Sierra Vista, Arizona. One of the projects discussed, the Ground Transport Equipment building, will create additional vehicle storage at the installation.



Photos by Robert DeDeaux, LA District Public Affairs

Los Angeles District Deputy Engineer Justin Gay, left, and Luther Lee, Tribal engagement director for Senator Mark Kelly, right, tour a potential project site for the Ak-Chin Indian community March 25 near Maricopa, Arizona.

[LEADERS, continued from Page 6](#)

needs and expectations. The entire State of Arizona is a very important part of the district’s operational area, and we are committed to supporting their engineering and construction needs.”

The Los Angeles District supports the public and military in Arizona with a wide variety of projects and planning, engineering, construction and environmental services. Projects include flood-risk management, navigation, recreation, and infrastructure and environmental stewardship.

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

After discussing flood-risk projects with USACE employees, Col. Baker and LA District Deputy Engineer Justin Gay met with the Ak-Chin Indian Community Chairman Robert Miguel and representatives from the offices of senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema.

“We understand the strong ties and long history the Ak-Chin Tribe has to the land and look forward to partnering with the community,” Baker said.

The group toured the waterways surrounding the community’s farms to show the degradation of the washes and highlight flooding issues that created concern for the community’s agricultural infrastructure.

“The Los Angeles District is honored to support the Ak-Chin Indian community in strengthening its irrigation infrastructure,” Baker said.

TUCSON 595 PROJECT TOUR

A day and 90 miles later, Baker and USACE’s team met with City of Tucson leaders

to tour the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project, a potential 595 project site in Mission Garden, near downtown Tucson.

“I’m looking forward to working with the City of Tucson and executing the 595 project,” said David Silvertooth, a district project

[LEADERS, continued on Page 9](#)



Col. Andrew Baker, Los Angeles District commander, center, and Justin Gay, Los Angeles District deputy engineer, second from right, pose for a picture with Ak-Chin Indian community leaders and representatives from Sen. Mark Kelly’s office at the Ak-Chin Indian community before touring potential irrigation project sites March 25 near Maricopa, Arizona.

Leaders get up-to-speed on Painted Rock Dam

BY ROBERT DEDEAUX
LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GILA BEND, Ariz. – Col. Andrew Baker, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, and Justin Gay, deputy district engineer for the LA District, toured the Painted Rock Dam, a flood risk-reduction project and reservoir, located on the Gila River in Maricopa County March 25 near Gila Bend.

“The Painted Rock Dam and its operators are here to mitigate flood risk to Southern Arizona, and, particularly, the City of Yuma,” said Baker, who has been in command of the district since July. “We even have two Corps employees living at the dam to maintain and operate the facility.”

Most of year, the reservoir remains dry. Daily operations consist of maintenance, weather monitoring and assisting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but the last two years have seen an increase of water flow potentially raising risk to the dam’s drainage area of 50,800 square miles.

“This team is essential to the flood-control mission in Arizona,” Baker said.

The dam consists of a debris pool, spillway, a gauging station and dikes, and is monitored 24/7 by USACE.

“It’s important to tour the spillway rou-



Photo by Robert DeDeaux, LA District Public Affairs

Pictured from left to right, Los Angeles District Operations and Maintenance Branch Chief Mike Farris; dam operators River Kelty and Michael Moran; and Los Angeles District Commander Col. Andrew Baker discuss daily dam operations at Painted Rock Dam March 25 near Gila Bend, Arizona.

tinely,” said Michael Moran, a dam operator residing at the Painted Rock Dam facility. “The Spillway prevents overtopping, a case where waters pour over the top of the dam. This could lead to catastrophic dam failure.

This is the only dam in the district to ever experience a flood so heavy that the spillway had to be used.”

[PAINTED ROCK, continued on Page 9](#)

Around the District

“What I most enjoy about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is being in service to the public and to the land.”

River monitors and conducts operations and maintenance at Painted Rock Dam. He began his USACE career as a laborer at Hidden Dam near Madera, California. River was later promoted to Pine Flat Dam near Fresno, California. He is a native of Springville, California. River has been with the USACE for more than four years.



River Kelty
Dam Operator



[PAINTED ROCK, continued from Page 8](#)

According to USACE records, Painted Rock Dam was built specifically to protect downstream agriculture, Yuma and other towns and small businesses along the Gila River.

“Painted Rock is not just any other dam,” said River Kelty, a Painted Rock Dam operator, who recent transferred from Pine Flat Dam near Fresno, California. “This is the last control for most of Central Arizona’s water flow before entering the Colorado River.”

Painted Rock Dam is within the Gila River Drainage Basin and is operated by USACE’s Los Angeles District. It operates on a prediction basis, which establishes the rate of release for flood waters from the dam, based on upstream and downstream conditions.

“Because Painted Rock is a ‘catch and release’ dam, close coordination with other dams and their operators is very important to managing flood waters,” Kelty said.

Construction of the dam began in July 1957 and was completed in January 1960, at a cost of about \$13.7 million.

“What I most enjoy about working with the Corps is being in service to the public and to the land,” Kelty said.



Photo by Robert DeDeaux, LA District Public Affairs

Pictured is a photo taken from northwest of the Painted Rock Dam March 25 near Gila Bend, Arizona. Painted Rock Dam is a major flood control project in the Gila River Drainage Basin, constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District.

[LEADERS, continued from Page 7](#)

engineer. “The 595 Program is a great opportunity for communities to improve water infrastructure, while capitalizing on the Corps’ authority and expertise.”

The LA District’s mission of the 595 Program is to provide design and construction assistance to non-federal sponsors developing water-related environmental infrastructure, resource protection and development projects in Arizona and rural Nevada.

“As a Tucsonan, I’m particularly excited about a Corps’ project that will add resiliency to the local water supply, honor the community’s heritage and benefit future generations like my own kids,” Silvertooth said.

In 2020, congress authorized \$150 million to establish an Arizona and rural Nevada Environmental Infrastructure program through Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, which became public law in December of that same year. This law helps bring critically needed infrastructure to Arizona and Nevada’s water systems across the two states.

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE

After leaving downtown Tucson, Baker and the Corps’ team joined 355th Mission

Support Group Commander Air Force Col. Casey Bartholomew and his engineering and construction experts to discuss current and future projects at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

“The USACE construction program in Tucson and Southern Arizona is vital in providing modernized facilities and infrastructure that supports our nation’s defense and homeland security,” said Richard Fontanilla, LA District area engineer for the Tucson Resident Office.

The district has a field office – the Tucson Resident Office – located at the base, which provides administrative and quality assurance oversight to 12 active-construction projects. Of those 12 projects, eight are located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and support various U.S. Air Force units.

FORT HUACHUCA

Wednesday’s site visit began in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Baker and Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander Col. Johnny Ives discussed current projects on the installation.

“Safely delivering quality projects is our district’s highest priority,” Baker said.

The district team also met with the Fort Huachuca Department of Public Works. One

of the projects discussed, the Ground Transport Equipment building, will create additional vehicle storage on the installation.

“The USACE construction program in Tucson and Southern Arizona is vital in providing modernized facilities and infrastructure that supports our nation’s defense and homeland security,” said Richard Fontanilla, LA District area engineer for the Tucson Resident Office. “I want to highlight the Huachuca Project Office for safe progress on the various military construction projects on the installation.”

The Fort Huachuca project office, under the Tucson Resident office, has an additional 15 active projects with a combined value of \$74.6 million.

According to Fort Huachuca’s Army homepage, the installation is the largest employer in Cochise County and the largest (single) economic contributor in Arizona. The Arizona Commerce Authority website states that Fort Huachuca accounts for an annual economic impact of more than \$2.4 billion for the State of Arizona.

For more information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District’s programs, projects and events, visit www.spl.usace.army.mil.

Congressional reps visit Whittier Narrows Dam



Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs

Ryan Hamblen, staff director of the Water Resources and Environmental Subcommittee, left, speaks with U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano, 32nd Congressional District of California and ranking member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, right, during a tour of the Whittier Narrows Dam April 2 in Montebello, California.

BY BROOKS O. HUBBARD IV LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTH EL MONTE, Calif. – The Los Angeles District welcomed congressional leaders with the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment April 2 at the district’s Baseyard in South El Monte.

The committee, its staff and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works officials received a comprehensive briefing about the district’s management of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area flood control system, Whittier Narrows Dam and water conservation priorities for the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, of 2024. The committee is in the process of gathering information for developing and passing a WRDA later this year.

The Los Angeles County Drainage Area system has been successful because of the cooperation between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Los Angeles County.

The brief was followed by a tour of the Whittier Narrows Dam and Reservoir, which provided a first-hand look at water conservation efforts at the dam.

Congressional representatives present during the presentation and tour included U.S.

[VIP VISIT, continued on Page 11](#)



Photos by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs



ABOVE: Jon Sweeten, engineer with the Reservoir Operations Center, discusses the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District’s role in the management of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area, including flood-risk management and water conservation, during a brief to Congressional representatives, LA County Public Works and others April 2 at the district’s Baseyard in South El Monte, California.

LEFT: Mark Pestrella, director of LA County Public Works, asks a question during the April 2 briefing at the district’s Baseyard in South El Monte, California.

[VIP VISIT, continued from Page 10](#)

Rep. David Rouzer, 7th Congressional District of North Carolina and chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee; U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano, 32nd Congressional District of California and ranking member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee; as well as other subcommittee members.

The briefing and tour were led by Justin Gay, district deputy engineer; Aaron Smith, senior dam safety adviser with the Corps' Huntington District; George Sunny, project manager for Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modification Project; and Jon Sweeten, engineer with the Reservoir Operations Center.

Whittier Narrows Dam is on the way to making significant project milestones with the award of the Integrated Design and Construction pre-construction services contract later this year.

Following the presentation and tour of the dam, the Congressional representatives toured the Port of Los Angeles.



Photos by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs

George Sunny, project manager for the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modification Project, center, speaks with U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano, 32nd Congressional District of California and ranking member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, left, and other committee and staff members during an April 2 tour of the dam in Montebello, California.



ABOVE: LA District, Port of Los Angeles and Congressional representatives and staff members pose for a picture during an April 2 boat tour at the Port of Los Angeles.

TOP LEFT: Congressman David Rouzer, U.S. representative for North Carolina's 7th Congressional District, foreground, and Justin Gay, Los Angeles District deputy engineer, center next to Rouzer, take in the view during a boat tour of the Port of Los Angeles April 2 near San Pedro, California.



BOTTOM LEFT: U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano, 32nd Congressional District of California and ranking member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, left speaks with a friend during an April 2 boat tour at the Port of Los Angeles.

Celebrating safety!



Photos by Richard Rivera, LA District CIO/G6

TOP PHOTO: Mike Ramirez, Chief of Safety for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division, and Chris Nolan, Chief of Safety for USACE's San Francisco District, both receive coins in recognition of their efforts to assist the Los Angeles District with its CESOHMS assessment. Also pictured in both photos are Chris Rainwater, chief of the LA District's Safety Office, left, and Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks, LA District deputy commander, right.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Abigail Banaga, Contracting Division, receives a coin in recognition of her outstanding support for CESOHMS.

The "Chief of Safety Coin" is an official part of the larger Safety Awards program in the LA District, with the purpose of recognizing employees for acts of exceptional service, achievement or special recognition or for unique contributions toward the accomplishment of the LA District's safety mission. Any LA District or federal employee is eligible for a coin; however, coins may not be awarded to contractors. For more information or to nominate an employee, contact Chris Rainwater at Christopher.s.rainwater@usace.army.mil.

SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

Make training easier? Why yes, yes we can!

LA DISTRICT SAFETY OFFICE

Have you ever asked yourself, "If they expect me to take mandatory training, why don't they make it easier to complete?"

For some classes, it can seem like a lot of work just to find the class, then signing up for the class can be a complex process, and when you complete the class, you're left wondering how to show you completed it. Frustrating!

Well, when it comes to safety training, things just got a lot easier!

What if we told you that with a single click, or two, you could sign up for safety training? Well, that's what we've done to make things a lot easier for all of you.

The Safety Office is in the process of scheduling all safety training that appears on your Position Hazard Analysis, or PHA. The goal is super simple – open a single site, click on the classes that appear on your PHA and that's it! You're registered!

Stay tuned for more information as we complete this worthwhile project.

In the meantime, visit the Safety Share-Point site to see the safety training currently scheduled for May and June. With a single click, you can easily sign up for classes. SOH TRAINING (dps.mil) is your one-stop shop for all safety training!

Give us your feedback. Let us know how you like the new and improved process and how we can make it even better.

The point of contact for safety training is Josh Pendergrass, Joshua.G.Pendergrass@usace.army.mil.



Crews clean up Santa Ana River Marsh



Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs

Gregory McCoy, Los Angeles District Baseyard safety officer, left, discusses safety measures with Tara Finnigan, city manager of Newport Beach, center, and Dave Webb, director of Public Works for Newport Beach, right, during a debris cleanup mission April 19 at the Santa Ana River Marsh at Newport Beach, California.

BY BROOKS O. HUBBARD IV LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District collaborated with the City of Newport Beach, Orange County Public Works and the Orange County Sheriff’s Department to remove debris from several unauthorized encampments April 19 in the Santa Ana River Marsh at Newport Beach.

The area is home to endangered habitat.

The team, consisting of LA District park rangers, scientists and leaders, along with city and county maintenance workers, combed the marsh to remove tons of debris, by hand, from the ecologically delicate bird nesting area.

“My concern is it’s nesting season, and this is an environmental habitat, so we’ve got to do something,” said Newport Beach City Manager Tara Finnigan. Finnigan and Dave Webb, director of Public Works for the City of Newport Beach, toured the clean-up area to assess the volume of trash and debris that was impacting the marsh.

District biologists were present, as the work in the area required environmental clearances and biological monitoring to ensure endangered species were not disturbed. Additionally, a dis-



Photos by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs



ABOVE AND BELOW LEFT: Workers with the City of Newport Beach and the Los Angeles District remove debris from several unauthorized encampments in the inner banks of the lower Santa Ana River Marsh April 19 in Newport Beach, California.

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LA District team 'bridges' gap with STEAM challenge

BY BROOKS O. HUBBARD IV
LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CARSON, Calif. – Future Army officers were joined by a team with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District to bring awareness to science, technology, engineering, arts and math April 5 at the Stephen White Middle School and STEAM Magnet in Carson.

The West Point Leadership in Ethics and Diversity in STEM workshop was led by cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. USACE's participation in the event was led by Lt. Col Stephen Brooks, deputy commander of the LA District.

During the event, JROTC cadets from Gardena High and Washington Preparatory schools, along with students from the 186th Street Elementary School, learned about STEAM and JROTC while building model bridges tested by USACE's LA District team.

Lt. Gen. Steve Gilland, 61st superintendent at West Point, and Alberto Carvalho, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, gave opening remarks before the students broke into groups for outbreak sessions.

"Today, you will hear from the person who is responsible for the education of America's leaders, and, hopefully, you will also hear throughout today about the opportunities proudly spoken to you by students themselves ... individuals who made the choice, made a commitment to serve their country and also to serve yourselves, in terms of future careers," Carvalho said. "They will speak to you about the doors that can be open through service to country."



Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs

First Lt. Zachary Petasek, Los Angeles District project engineer with the Santa Ana River Mainstem project, left, works with students on a STEM-related activity during the West Point Leadership in Ethics and Diversity in STEM Workshop April 5 in Carson, California.

USACE's challenge for students was to design and build a small model bridge with K'NEX bridge building kits to determine its load-bearing potential.

Capt. Cristina Palomino, project manager with the LA District Mega Division; 1st Lt. Zachary Petasek, project manager with the LA District's Santa Ana River Mainstem project; and John Greenheck and Thad Fukushima with the

LA District's Construction Division, recorded measurements of the bridges and added weight until the bridges reached their structural limits.

"This brings back some memories when I was in middle school, high school and college – back to my early days of STEM," Smith said. "We're here to introduce the kids to what we do as a district and kind of spur their future STEM minds, as there is a lot of interest in what we do.

"Our outreach at different elementary and high schools, as well as universities in our district is one of our biggest initiatives in getting out and being a forward-facing district."

After the students completed their bridges, they were then load-tested for the competition. Students with bridges that withstood the added weight before collapsing earned prizes for their design and construction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizes the critical role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leaders of the global marketplace, and enabling the Department of Defense and Army in the security of our nation.

USACE is committed to teaming with others to strengthen STEM-related programs that inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.



Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV, LA District Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District deputy commander, right, works with students on a STEM-related activity during the West Point Leadership in Ethics and Diversity in STEM Workshop April 5 in Carson, California.

Commander meets with Phoenix VA team



Photos by Orville "Dan" Collins, LA District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District command team toured nine renovation projects that are in design quality review March 28 at the Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Phoenix. (TOP LEFT) Col. Andrew Baker, LA District commander, meets with Ricardo Huerta, supervisory health care engineer, Veterans Administration, right, and Frank Mulcahy, lead project manager with the Los Angeles District, left. (TOP RIGHT) Bob Buchanan, facilities manager with the Veterans' Administration, right, along with Huerta, center, discuss the renovation projects with Baker, second from left. (BOTTOM PHOTOS) The team toured the building, along with John Drake, chief of the LA District's International and Interagency Services, second from left and foreground.

[CIVIL WORKS, continued from Page 5](#)

requiring nonfederal contributions toward most federal water resources projects.

- 1997 - Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program transferred from Department of Energy to USACE.
- 2000 - Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan with USACE designated as the lead agency.

The USACE Civil Works program today touches millions of American lives daily through goods and products that are delivered via ports, harbors and waterways; the production of clean, renewable hydropower; water supply for residential, commercial and irrigation use; habitat for fish and wildlife; and recreational opportunities.

The program also plays a critical role in the nation's efforts to reduce risks to citizens and communities from natural disasters, restore and protect the environment, and promote social and economic well-being.

[DEBRIS, continued from Page 13](#)

district safety officer monitored the operation and movement of various large construction equipment, including a long-reach excavator, that was used to remove debris from the banks of the marsh.

"The cleanup was a success due to proper planning, coordination, activity hazard analysis development, short-term rentals of proper heavy equipment for this area and the coordination with Orange County, Newport Beach and our SPL team," said Michael Turanitz, deputy chief of the LA District Operations Division.

The Operations Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of flood-

risk management projects, including 16 dams and 68 miles of levees and channels across Arizona, Nevada and Southern California.

Clean-up teams hauled off trash, shopping carts and numerous other items from the abandoned and illegal campsites. Scores of large dumpsters and trash trucks were filled and refilled throughout the day.

The LA District worked closely with officials to plan and coordinate the cleanup. Recognizing the urgency and significance of this task to the local community, all agencies involved collaborated to ensure the cleanup was carried out in compliance with all policy and legal regulations.

To learn more about the LA District, right click on the icons:



BRING A CHILD TO WORK DAY



On April 25, children of Los Angeles District employees were invited to come to work with their parents and participate in STEM-related activities in recognition of April's Month of the Military Child. About 25 children, their parents, volunteers, and, even, Los Angeles District Commander Col. Andrew Baker and Los Angeles District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks joined in the fun! (Photos by Richard Rivera, Visual Information Specialist, CIO/G6)



Photo by Robert DeDeaux, LA District

Jason Russell, Los Angeles District project engineer, left, expresses the LA District's support for American troops during a media interview April 9 at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona.

[YUMA, continued from Page 1](#)

providing expeditious service to our maintainers and operators, and, ultimately, our customer.”

According to the Yuma Proving Ground’s Public Affairs office, 48 percent of all freefall jumps in the Department of Defense take place at the installation.

“This is the largest military construction project we’ve done on the base so far,” said Byn Butler, a project engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “This project came in at just about \$48 million.”

The new facility was more than two years in the making and included the construction of administration and operation offices, material storage areas, improved taxiways and flood-mitigation measures.

“This hangar is important to the flight detachment because it helps us preserve our aircraft to make sure they are out of the elements,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Jones, the detachment’s commander. “Having a hangar like this allows us to perform the maintenance on the aircraft, so they are available to support the training mission for years to come.”

According to a public release from the Yuma Proving Ground’s Public Affairs office, the flight detachment maintains and flies the C27J, formerly used as a niche cargo plane to supplement the larger C-130. The aircraft was extensively tested at the installation prior to being fielded and is regarded by many as a high-performance aircraft, which has contributed to a significant expansion of the school’s training opportunities in recent years.

“This is much needed,” said Maj. Nicholas Garver, Military Freefall School commander. “We take personnel from the Air Force, Marines, Navy and Army, and teach them the basic principles of military free fall. Having the hangar here for the flight detachment is another signal that the Army supports them and supports our mission here.”

A contract for a new facility for the Military Freefall School near the hangar is expected to be awarded this summer, with construction beginning early next year.



Courtesy photo, Pacific Ocean Division

Aaron Burke, a safety specialist with the Los Angeles District, left, receives a certificate of appreciation from Col. Eric Swenson, Hawaii Wildfires Recovery Field Office commander, right, recently in Maui, Hawaii. Burke was recognized for his contributions in support of recovery efforts following the Maui wildfires Aug. 8, 2023. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actively supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawaii and the county of Maui. USACE efforts include providing temporary power, building a temporary elementary school, planning, temporary housing and removing debris from impacted areas in Kula and Lahaina.

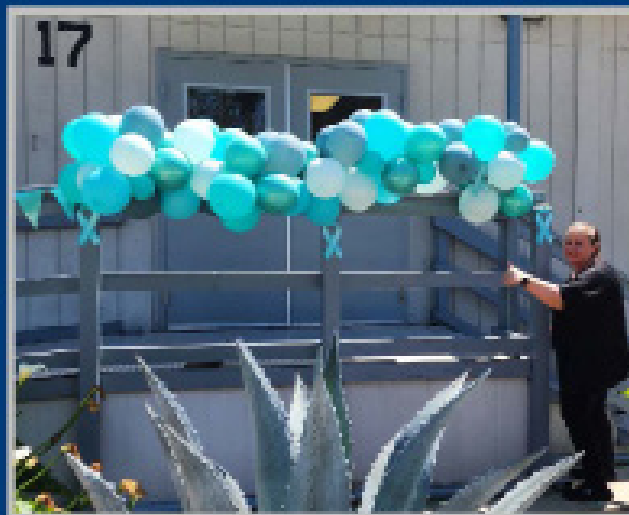
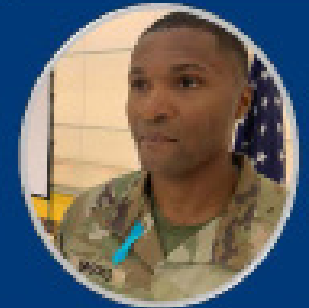
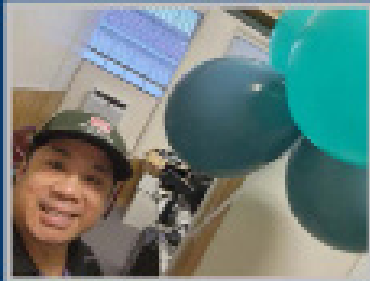
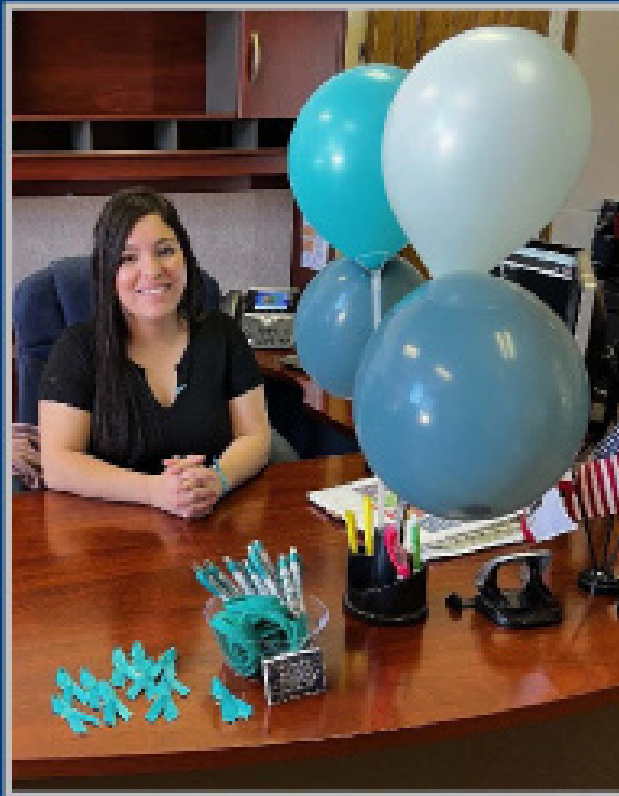


Courtesy photo, Pacific Ocean Division

Michael Curtis, a project manager with the LA District, receives a certificate of appreciation from Col. Eric Swenson, Hawaii Wildfires Recovery Field Office commander, recently in Maui, Hawaii. Curtis was recognized for his contributions in support of recovery efforts following the Maui wildfires Aug. 8, 2023. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actively supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawaii and the county of Maui. USACE efforts include providing temporary power, building a temporary elementary school, planning, temporary housing and removing debris from impacted areas in Kula and Lahaina.



TEAL TUESDAY 2024



**“Step Forward in Driving Change Through Unity:
Empower, Protect, Prevent.”**

**Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month
SAAPM**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**
Los Angeles District