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David S. Kim, CalSTA Secretary
Toks Omishakin, Caltrans Director
Dennis T. Agar, District 10 Director

NEWS@10

RTW



READY TO WORK



District 10 Equity Task Force

explores partnering opportunities with San Joaquin County and the Ready to Work Program - **PAGE 12**



District 10 Director's Corner



Dennis T. Agar
District Director
Caltrans District 10

Strategic Plan Built on Strong Foundation

Safety means different things to different people.

At Caltrans, for instance, resident engineers view safety for a construction project through a different prism than maintenance superintendents preparing to reopen mountain passes.

But no matter their responsibilities, every member of the Caltrans District 10 team shares the same goal of ensuring the safety of workers and the traveling public.

Safety is so important to what we do, it's at the forefront of Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin's Top Five Priorities: Safety, Modality, Innovation, Efficiency and Partnerships.

These five priorities formed the foundation of the Caltrans Strategic Management Plan and shaped the Vision, Mission, Goals and Values of the plan.

Each priority is important, but Safety is critical. It's unfortunate, but every day 10 people die on California's transportation system, including at least two pedestrians and bicyclists. This cannot become normal. We must continue to move Toward Zero Deaths, and we must emphasize safety in everything we do from planning to design to construction to maintenance.

Safety has never been more challenging than today, as we continue to navigate a global pandemic and mitigate the consequences of climate change.

Our District 10 team never ceases to amaze me with their hard work and productivity while teleworking. Our District 10 construction crews, working in the field with our partners, are an inspiration, delivering projects in a timely and fiscally responsible manner. And our District 10 maintenance teams, in concert with our partner agencies, have shown tireless dedication clearing hazard trees, vegetation and debris, assisting with road closures and many other important functions as fire season occupies more of the calendar year.

We all should take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate our collective commitment to keeping the public safe while striving to meet our Director's Top 5 Priorities. We must never forget the traveling public is counting on us.

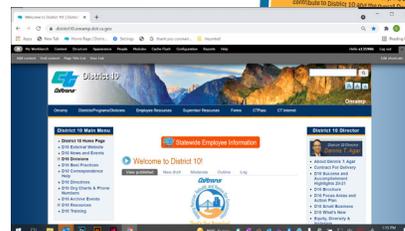
To celebrate our successes, I invite you to join me via WebEx from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Thursday, October 7 for District 10 Employee Recognition Day 2021, when the Caltrans Values Awards, the District 10 Director Award, and the Division Banner Contest winners will be announced. It will be a great event and I hope you all can take part.

In closing, your commitment to excellence reminds me of a quote from Francis of Assisi, "Start by doing what's necessary; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Thank you and stay safe out there.

District 10 Success and Accomplishment Highlights

District 10 Strategic Action Plan



Find these documents and more at:
<https://district10.onramp.dot.ca.gov/>



By Nicole Mowers
Public Information Officer



Safety is Everyone's Priority



Caltrans District 10 has been an advocate for evaluating roadway safety and assessing the needs of its ever-changing roadway users.

Caltrans District 10 identifies roadway safety improvements across the eight counties – Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne – and more than 3,547 lane miles it maintains with the goal to keep roadways safe. Whether reminding motorists to be “Work Zone Alert” in the Central Valley or informing travelers in the Sierra Nevada to be careful in the snow and not “Crowd the Plow,” safety is always the number one priority across District 10.

In the Central Valley, our maintenance crews are busy 365 days a year, repairing guardrails, filling potholes, and picking up trash to keep our highways clean and safe for our drivers. The men and women of the District 10 Maintenance crews work tirelessly around the clock to keep the highways safe – from big trucks on Interstate 5 to everyday commuters on State Route 99. More and more people are on the road today than ever before, and it just goes to show how committed our maintenance teams are when they are out on the busy highways keeping motorists safe.



10 maintenance crews, autumn and winter can be particularly harrowing seasons as roadways become invisible in soup-like fog, slick with rain, or encrusted in glittering snow and ice in the Sierra.

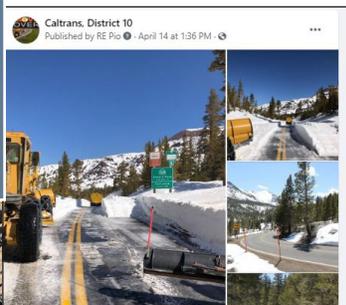
As transportation employees, we all know about the California Move Over law requiring motorists to move over if it is safe to do so when they see flashing amber lights. But this message continues to be worth repeating to ensure safety during the winter months involving motorists and Caltrans snow removal equipment.

Our maintenance employees brave all kinds of weather elements at all hours of the day and night to ensure the traveling public arrive at their destinations safely. Let's guarantee their safety on our highway system as well. To that end, it is our responsibility to ensure our vehicles are prepared for winter travel, whether we're encountering rain in the valley or snow in the mountains.

It might be a burden to put out more cones, a burden to wear personal protective equipment, a burden to drive around to put up a sign rather than running across the ramp, but there is a saying, “Heavy is the head that wears the crown.” We wear the crown. We take full responsibility for our own safety. If we don't, who will?

At Caltrans, we choose to plan safe, think safe, and be safe.

How do you practice safety?



In the Sierra Nevada, current work to repair guardrails, fill potholes and trim vegetation soon will make way for chain-control checkpoints and hours spent behind heavy machinery removing snow from the roadway. For the men and women of the District





By Rick Estrada
Public Information Officer



Clean California Helping District 10 Take Out Trash

We've watched garbage build up on our streets and highways for decades, but now it's time to put that trash in its place.

District 10 is on the front line of Clean California, a comprehensive effort that integrates all divisions of Caltrans and sends them on a unified task: Let's reclaim California's streets, highways, and roadsides.

Clean California has a \$1.1 billion budget, emphasizing these five pillars: \$418 million for litter abatement for three years; \$287 million for state beautification projects for two years; \$296 million for local beautification projects for two years; \$62 million for project design, construction, local support and engagement; and \$33 million for public education for two years.

Not only will Clean California remove trash from our highways, it will provide an economic jolt to the California economy.

Clean California will pluck an estimated 1.2 million cubic yards (21,000 tons) from state highways alone, and that's enough garbage to fill 81,000 garbage trucks. The program also will create an additional 10,000 to 11,000 jobs, including dozens of newly created positions right here in District 10.



The emphasis for Clean California's entry-level jobs will be attracting people experiencing homelessness, at-risk youth and those re-entering society following incarceration.

The three-year Clean California programs will drive a cultural shift among Californians, convincing them of the shared responsibility in maintaining a clean environment and the need to put trash in the proper garbage can. This goes for parks and waterways, as well as streets and highways.



Sam Sherman is the Acting District 10 Clean California coordinator, and he notes that his goals include

engaging and investing in communities through grants, education, expanding litter abatement efforts and protecting Caltrans infrastructure.

Sherman is working with District 10's local partners, as well as internally with the many different divisions within Caltrans. If you have questions, he can be reached

at Sam.Sherman@dot.ca.gov.



Stockton North Maintenance Yard a Win-Win for Caltrans



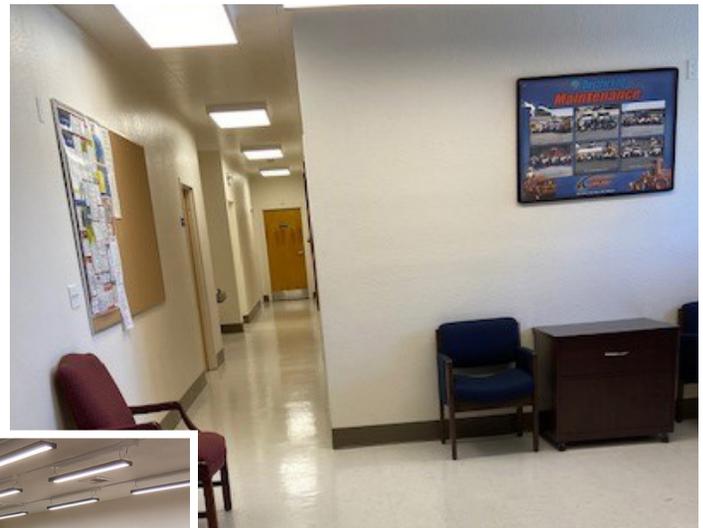
By Gary Ellenbolt
Public Information Officer

With cooperation between two State agencies and at the price of one dollar, Caltrans District 10 is putting finishing touches on what will be known as the "Stockton North Maintenance Building."

A five-minute trip on Highway 99 will bring together workers from several maintenance crews and reduce crowded conditions at the District Headquarters on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Mauricio Serrano, the District 10 Deputy Director for Maintenance, said the District will see immediate cost savings with the building, which was recently purchased from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for one dollar.

"We had a leased building that we'd been paying \$7,000 a month to keep the steel painters crew," Serrano said. "Right now, the contract has expired, and we're going to go month-to-month, and we feel confident we're going to get out of that building by the end of October. So, we're going to be saving \$84,000 a year from our maintenance budget."



Division. The larger building will allow for more office space for the District's expanding Maintenance Engineering program, along with multiple conference rooms and additional space for the Emergency Operations Center.

CHP has moved to a new facility a couple of blocks from Stockton North Maintenance. Serrano said it's a true "win-win situation" for both agencies, and the state.

The Stockton North Maintenance Building is located at 3330 Ad Art Road on the east side of State Route 99.



According to Serrano, who became Deputy Director for Maintenance earlier this year, Caltrans Maintenance workers have done most of the labor to get the building into working shape. The original building contract expired with work still to be done, and Serrano praised the Field Maintenance Unit for stepping in and finishing the job.

Serrano said the steel painting crew will be joined by workers from the District 10 Electrical Maintenance



Take the Drone Tour
(Click Here)



Coleville 4

Brings Excellence in Field to Caltrans

By Bob Highfill
Public Information Officer

Career prospects are not abundant in the tiny mountain community of Coleville, which sits at an elevation of more than 5,000 feet in the Antelope Valley of northern Mono County.

The population of the census-designated place in the early 1990's was just more than 400 when four young men were teammates on the football field, baseball diamond and basketball court at Coleville High School.

Christopher Baker, Cody Collins, Josh Dixon, and Matt Hussman – the Coleville 4 – grew up believing they would be ranchers or take other occupations in their hardscrabble hometown. But in time, each found his way to Caltrans. Now, all four are Maintenance Superintendents in different districts making a difference by improving the safety of the traveling public on California's roadways.

The uncanny coincidence four men who grew up together in the same small town would tackle fruitful careers within the same state agency and ascend to the same title is not lost on any of them.

"All I did was work for several different ranchers," said Baker, Maintenance Superintendent, District 10, Altaville/Sonora. "That's what I thought I was going to do."

Collins and Hussman also grew up working on ranches, and Dixon was raised on the Paiute Indian Colony of California in Bridgeport prior to attending Coleville High. Neither had much growing up, but they appreciated hard work and relished the great outdoors.

Their dreams and ambitions, spurred by their strong work ethic and competitive spirit, proved too large for Coleville to contain.

"It is crazy," said Dixon, Maintenance Superintendent, District 2, Quincy. "I think about it a lot because it wasn't really something on any of our minds growing up. None of us said, 'Hey, we're going to work for Caltrans.'"

Big things from small places

Coleville High, with an enrollment of fewer than 100 students, competed in the Nevada Class A 8-man football league. Most seasons, the squad numbered fewer than 20 players. Baker, Collins, Dixon, and Hussman were standouts on offense, defense, and special teams.

Road games involved bus rides six to eight hours each way. The Coleville 4 developed a tight bond and depended on each other to be successful. Each wanted to make a name for himself and help the team.

"It was a blast," said Hussman, Maintenance Superintendent, Stormwater/Material Site Coordinator, District 9, Bishop area. "I wouldn't change it for anything."

Coleville High's football team twice competed in the Nevada

Class A 8-man football championship game. Each of the Coleville 4 earned numerous accolades in football, baseball, and basketball.

"We always pushed each other, like in sports we were each other's biggest competition, even though we were on the same team," said Collins, Maintenance Superintendent, District 5, San Luis Obispo. "You didn't want them to outdo you. Everybody was pretty self-motivated and wanted to get better."

Hussman graduated from Coleville High in 1994, a year prior to Dixon and Collins, and two years before Baker. Each chose a different path out of high school and eventually took a seasonal job with Caltrans. At one time, all four worked at the Caltrans Sonora Maintenance Station under now-retired Caltrans Supervisor John Vannoy, another Coleville High graduate.

Vannoy was a taskmaster who paid attention to the smallest detail. He often would drive home past work that had been done by his crew. If he spotted even the tiniest defect, he would have that person go back and correct it.

Dixon said Vannoy capitalized on the Coleville 4's work ethic and competitiveness.

"That was one of the hardest crews in Caltrans; the way he demanded excellence in all of us and he would not allow you to stray off that path," Dixon said. "He would send you back as many times as it took to get it right. Being local boys, he expected even more because he knew all of our families."

The Coleville 4 have passed the lessons they learned from their mentor onto their teams.

"We demand that with all of our crews," Dixon said.

Over the years, the Coleville 4 have demonstrated excellence in the field and have been promoted to lead crews in some of the largest, most physically demanding districts in the state, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Sierra Nevada to the Mojave Desert.

Their work includes clearing mountain passes and scaling rock faces, duties many would consider dangerous. But for the Coleville 4, it's their passion.

"I feel because we are competitive, we all are good at what we do," Baker said. "We were all good athletes, and we always had a good work ethic, and we just carried on with it."

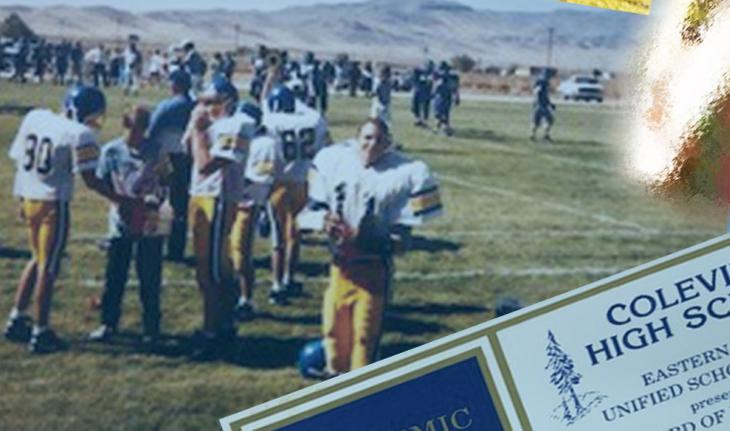
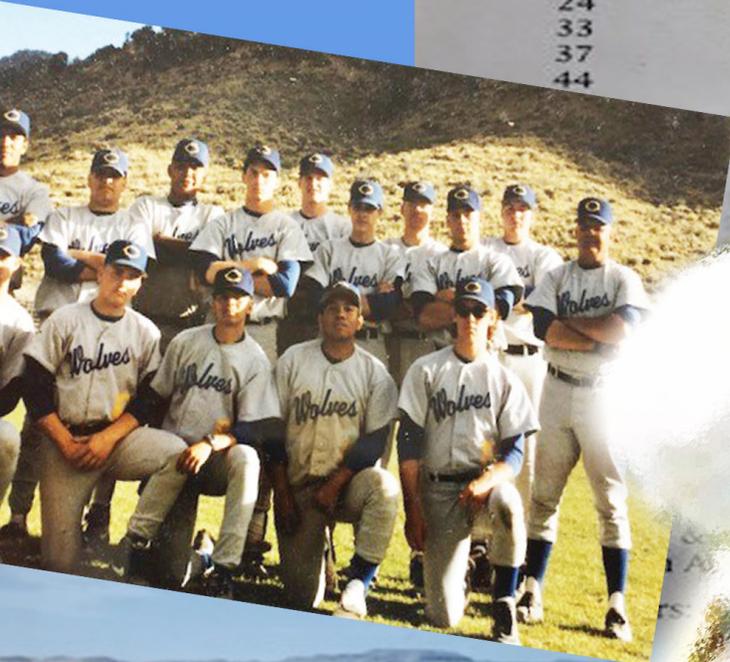
The Coleville 4 keep in touch and take pride representing Caltrans and their hometown.

[Watch the Reunion Click Here.](#)



COLEVILLE WOLVES FOOTBALL '94

NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	WEIGHT	HEIGHT
11	Chris Baker	11	165	5'10"
12	Chad Donvito	10	125	5'7"
24	Joell Carter	9	120	5'3"
33	Josh D...	12	155	5'7"
37	Jar...	11	145	5'9"
44	C...	9	145	5'9"
	J...	9	110	5'8"
	E...		190	5'9"
	M...		175	6'0"
			130	5'9"
			165	5'8"
				6'0"



COLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
EASTERN SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
presents this
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
to
Chris Baker
in recognition of **4.00**
Spring
We congratulate
and wish you
continued success.
Given this **10th** day of **October**, 1994
[Signature]

NEVADA "A" LEAGUE
ALL DIVISION TEAM
1994 Division 1
All-State Football Team
2nd Team
Chris Baker
Coleville High School

[Signature] N.T.A.A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DIVISION PRESIDENT



By Bob Highfill
Public Information Officer

Rock Pile Shrinking at Ferguson

An all-important phase in the Ferguson Rock Shed Project is progressing swiftly and safely.

Since April, Caltrans District 10 and its partners have been working tirelessly to remove tons of rocks (talus) deposited by a pair of slides that buried about a 750-foot-long stretch of State Route 140 along the Merced River. Today, the rock pile appears to be less than half the size it was at the start.

Caltrans is well into an ambitious, one-of-a-kind project that will restore full access on Route 140 by constructing a rock shed that will protect motorists and bicyclists from future slides.

The Ferguson Rock Shed project, led by Caltrans District 10 Project Manager Allen Lao and District 10 Resident Engineer Corey Casey, will benefit the communities of Mariposa and El Portal, among others, and provide a safe route for millions of visitors annually to Yosemite National Park.

Motorists have been able to access Mariposa, El Portal and Yosemite via existing temporary vehicle bridges over the Merced River. But motorists can look forward to traveling smoothly and safely thanks to a protective shed that will be a landmark structure in District 10 and an attention-grabbing, engineering, and aesthetic marvel worldwide.



A critical step in the project began this spring when excavators and other heavy equipment were air-lifted by helicopter into position. Crews have since been removing the rocks and hauling them by truck to the Mariposa County landfill.

The progress of the talus removal has been incredible. In all, more than 140,000 tons of rocks will be removed to make way for construction of the rock shed – an 11-segment concrete

structure that will be launched hydraulically onto a structural base along the existing highway alignment.

In each phase of the project, safety is the number one priority for Caltrans and its partners. Among many measures in place, state-of-the-art instruments monitor the work site 24/7. Work cannot begin until these instruments deem the site is safe. Should the instruments detect movement outside the allowable safety thresholds, alarms sound so workers know they must vacate the area. In the event of another slide, equipment can be operated by remote control, so the work can continue.

Barring any weather events or other unforeseen factors, the talus removal phase could be completed by the fall 2021.

Caltrans is very excited about this project and thanks area communities and motorists for their patience and cooperation.

“A project like the Ferguson Slide is like playing a game of Jenga,” Lao said. “Every move is calculated, and the conditions can change at any time. Our team has been able to adapt, and we are not only committed to reopening the route but making it safer for many years to come.”



District 10 Maintenance Celebrating Excellence in Transportation Award

Let's congratulate District 10 Deputy Director of Maintenance Mauricio Serrano and his team for earning a 2020 Caltrans Excellence in Transportation award for the PREPARE program, a Traveler and Worker Safety Project. The project focuses on State Route 140 in Mariposa County and the adjacent Ferguson Fire burn scar.

PREPARE (not an acronym) crunches massive amounts of weather data to predict impacts for the Ferguson Fire burn scar: It predicted 14 rain events last winter with the potential to trigger slides sending rocks, dirt and more onto the highway. The program generated \$3 million in savings last winter due to reduced overtime.

Six storms in the winter of 2018/19 were high-risk, closing SR-140 in advance to keep people out of harm's way. PREPARE gained significance as a second fire tore through the Ferguson/Briceburg burn scar in the summer of 2019, and the trio of Maintenance Manager Jon Bevan, with Maintenance Supervisors Jess McCoy and Dave Taylor, are playing key roles in its success.

Natural disasters in the Merced River Canyon have long impacted the only all-weather southern approach into Yosemite National Park. The 2006 Ferguson Slide buried 750 feet of SR-140 and the 2018 Ferguson Fire burned nearly 97,000 acres.

Caltrans

2020 EXCELLENCE in Transportation Award

Mauricio Serrano
District 10 Deputy Director of Maintenance

Jon Bevan
Valley Maintenance Manager II

Dennis T. Agar
District 10 Director

PREPARE Program **DISTRICT 10** **Maintenance**

CALIFORNIA 140



Gerardo Rodriguez, District 10 Maintenance Employee of the Year

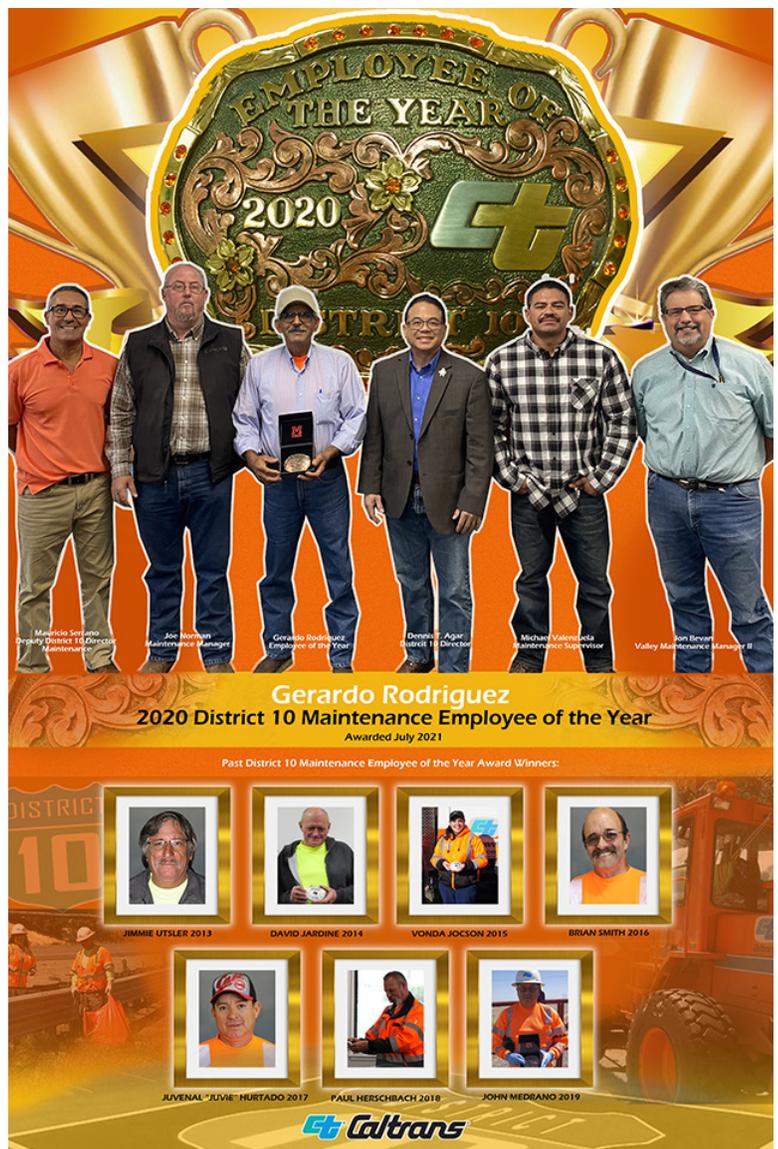
Gerardo Rodriguez, a 21-year Caltrans veteran whose vast knowledge and commitment to safety are important assets to District 10 Maintenance, has been selected the 2020 District 10 Maintenance Employee of the Year.

“We the Maintenance family would like to say congratulations to Gerardo for his hard work and dedication,” District 10 Maintenance Supervisor Michael Valenzuela said. “Gerardo’s appreciated for the great knowledge he brings to his role, as well as the training he provides to co-workers on the wide array of equipment that we keep in our maintenance yards.”

District 10 Director Dennis T. Agar and Deputy District Director for Maintenance Mauricio Serrano were among the many on hand recently to celebrate Gerardo’s award with a room full of his co-workers.

Gerardo has worked on District 10 Landscape and Maintenance crews, while also handling equipment in the maintenance yards and road closures that ensure the safety of his co-workers.

“We can always count on Gerardo to pick up the phone, regardless of the time and the weather, because he recognizes the important role that he plays in helping keep all of us safe,” Valenzuela added.





D10 Our Promise Campaign: Starts September 13, 2021 and runs through October 29, 2021

For more information check out the
Our Promise intranet page.
Let's work together to help recover, rebuild,
and revive our communities!

That's Our Promise!

Throughout this year's campaign, your D10 Key Connectors will be sharing inspirational non-profit videos, stories from community members, and are available to answer your questions. Additionally, we would love to hear from you and what non-profits you are interested in. If you are inspired to share a short selfie video telling your "Our Promise" story, please email the our.promise@dot.ca.gov email box and we will send you the details. Giving is easy!



District 10 Director:
Dennis T. Agar

Managing Editor:
Barbara Mendoza

Editors:
Rick Estrada, Bob Highfill

Contributors:
Skip Allum,
Gary Ellenbolt,

Contributors:
Nicole Mowers,
Kimberlee Vaye,
Jon Bevan,
Yoseph Mohammadi

Graphic Design:
Erik Zelny,
Nhut Nguyen,
Anup Giri

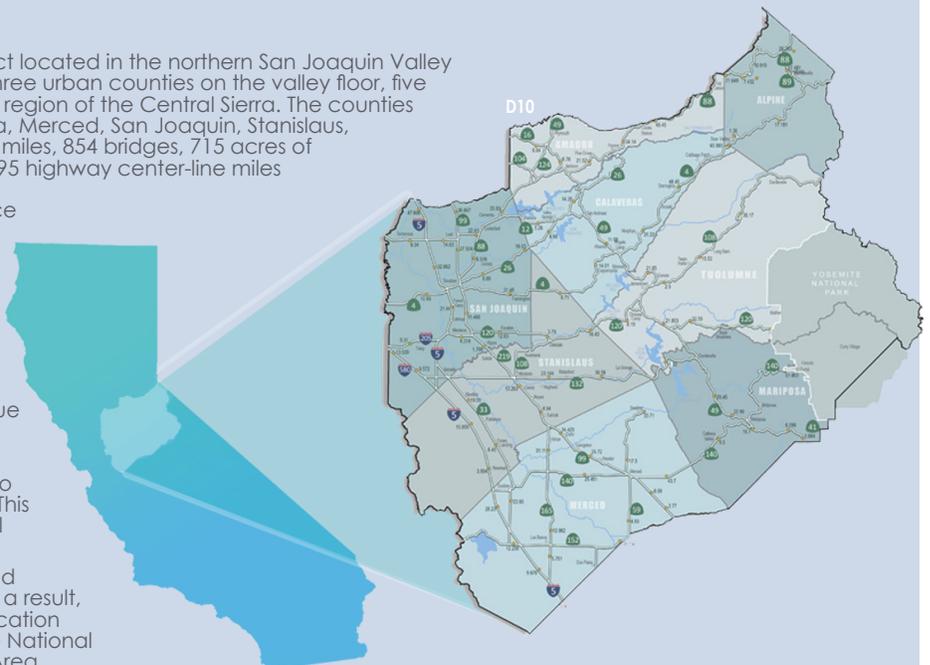
About District 10:

District 10 is a geographically diverse district located in the northern San Joaquin Valley that encompasses 29 cities, eight counties, three urban counties on the valley floor, five rural counties in the foothills, and a mountain region of the Central Sierra. The counties include Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. The District covers: 3,547 lane miles, 854 bridges, 715 acres of landscape areas, roughly 11,000 culverts, 1,395 highway center-line miles open to pedestrians and bicycles, four Sierra snow passes, three rest areas, 24 maintenance stations, 19 airports, the Port of Stockton, and numerous transit and rail authorities.

The major urban areas located within the boundaries of District 10 that include the cities of Stockton, Modesto, and Merced have a combined population of approximately 1.5 million people. The District borders the East Bay Area and continues to experience increased levels of congestion due to heavy commuter traffic through I-580, the Altamont Pass, and other routes.

The five mountain counties also continue to experience a vast amount of development. This growth is primarily adjacent to existing foothill communities.

Two of the District's counties, Mariposa and Tuolumne, border Yosemite National Park. As a result, the District has been very active in communication and interregional issues concerning Yosemite National Park and the development of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Systems, or YARTS.





Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

By Kimberlee Vaye
Administration

D10 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force

VISION:

To educate and empower District 10 staff to utilize and implement tools and resources to advance equity in our work environment and in the communities within District 10.



One of our initiatives is to increase and improve outreach and engagement with community organizations within District 10. Below are some details from that effort.

- Stockton Worknet Career Fair August 5, 2021
- San Joaquin Ready to Work program tour August 18, 2021
- Little Manila Stockton Historic District tour September 15, 2021

On August 18, 2021, the D10 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion taskforce had the privilege to tour the San Joaquin County Ready to Work (RTW) French Camp facility and engage in meaningful discussion with RTW program participants and staff. Seven Caltrans employees attended: Corey Casey, Jason Miller, Bill Lavelle, Tina Pittman-Carr, Raisa Ballesteros, Kim Vaye, and Navraj Jammu. Programs represented: Administration, Construction, Maintenance Design, and Program Project Management. Caltrans staff was able to see where RTW participants live, hear about life skills programs that are offered on site through courses, and the support that the case managers provide to participants during the program and 12 months after graduation from the program.

They were also able to and learn about employment opportunities RTW participants have with Caltrans and



other organizations. Five RTW program participants shared their inspirational stories of what led them to the RTW program (addiction, homelessness, job loss); their progress in the RTW program; their experience working with CT crews; and their future

goals of reuniting with family, gaining stable employment, housing, and transportation. Some of them shared their experience applying for and interviewing for positions with Caltrans. Possible future opportunities with RTW include Caltrans staff offering mini-workshops on writing Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) or navigating potential career paths with Caltrans. They also discussed the opportunity for RTW to be featured in our 2021 Our Promise campaign.

