Public Works Earns Project of the Year for Disaster Repair

The 2017 winter storms will always be memorable for RMA-Public Works crews but now not just for the damage wreaked by Mother Nature.

County crews worked tirelessly repairing damaged roadways in the aftermath of those storms and one project has received national recognition. The American Public Works Association (APWA) recognized the County and its
partners for emergency storm disaster repair on Elkhorn Road as one of its Projects of the Year in the Disaster or Emergency Construction Repair category.

Neville Pereira, Interim Deputy Director of Public Works, Parks and Facilities, and Enrique Saavedra, Senior Civil Engineer, received the award last week at a national conference in Missouri.

Residents in north Monterey County will not soon forget the damage to this road. A large section of Elkhorn Road was heavily damaged during the storms; several of the culverts collapsed, causing washouts and the road had to be closed to safeguard the public. Because this road is such an important route for the area, it was given a high priority for repair. RMA-Public Works was able to reconstruct the road and open it to the public in less than three months, despite the topographical, environmental, and geotechnical challenges.

The cost to repair the road was $1.3 million. During the construction, RMA staff coordinated closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Board and the California Coastal Commission. Because of the urgent need to reopen the road, the County contracted with local firms for project design, construction management services, permitting and biological monitoring. The Project of the Year program recognizes the importance of these alliances and also honored the County’s partners in the project.

Scenes from the Elkhorn Road repair work last year show the severe damage done by the winter storms.
Contracts/Purchasing Extends Award Streak

The Contracts/Purchasing division of the CAO’s Office is making more room for awards!

For the fourth consecutive year, the division has earned the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute, one of only 47 agencies in California and 45 counties in the United States and Canada to win this year.

Award winners must earn high application scores based on standardized criteria. Contracts and Purchasing Officer Mike Derr says the 2018 win showcases the County’s ongoing efforts to implement best practices and transform countywide procurement practices.

“This is an award given by our peers, through a very lengthy submission and review process,” says Derr. “We have to identify our ability to meet a number of specific goals and accomplishments established by the review committee. It is a very prestigious award.”

Staff Leads Elder Care Symposium

Social Services staff is leading a first of its kind event in our area focusing on the county’s growing aging population and support for caregivers.

The Community Responses to Elder Care Symposium will be held at Monterey Peninsula College on Saturday, September 15th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It is free to the public but registration is needed. You can find additional details about the symposium and register here.
Department of Social Services Aging and Adult Acting Program Manager Allison Yant is the co-chair of the event. She says the idea is to bring professionals, caregivers and the community together to develop innovative ways to care for each other as we age.

“The purpose of the symposium is the engagement, education and empowerment of citizen problem-solvers,” says Yant, adding the gathering will allow attendees to learn about a wide variety of issues. “The event will have eight breakout sessions, each focused on a particular topic related to elder care.”

If you are an elderly caregiver, know someone who is or simply want to learn more, Yant says this symposium is for you. She also hopes folks will spread the word about the event.