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Recognizing City Employees: Public Works' Building Management Division

The Building Projects Management Division in the City's Public Works Department is a behind-the-scenes job for some of the City's highest profile projects. The work keeps the division's four employees quite busy. Led by Chula Vista Building Services Manager David White, the team assesses facilities projects, develops scopes of work, and puts related capital improvement projects out to bid. Once contracted, the division manages each project.

The division may only be two years old, but it consists of highly seasoned planning and engineering professionals. In addition to White, there are Building Project Managers Luis Echevarria and Gilbert Sanchez and Management Analyst Henry Argetsinger. The division began when the City added staffing to make progress on Measure P projects assigned to Public Works.

(Left to right: David White, Gilbert Sanchez, Henry Argetsinger, Luis Echevarria.)

"Success in building project management can only be accomplished by a team of construction professionals that have exceptional attention to detail and dedication to their craft, and I'm fortunate to realize this in all my team members," White said.

The commitment of team members is inspiring, White said, adding that he is grateful for their exceptional work. Recently completed projects include the renovation of the Third Avenue sign and upgrading and renovating the Memorial Park light poles. The projects have helped modernize the area.

The details needed to create a comprehensive scope of work help keep projects within budget and timelines. For the Third Avenue sign, for example, the scope included stripping all the old paint from the sign, prepping, and repainting it, converting the light bulbs from neon to LED and procuring new vinyl lettering. Parts of the project were done by the City's Public Works employees and other parts by contractors.

Other projects include working with Parks to upgrade roof systems, rehabilitate parking lots, install new playground equipment, and resurface tennis and basketball courts. The division has also been working to procure an office trailer and resurface the basketball courts at Harborside Park.

At the Living Coast Discovery Center, the department is working on a $2 million project that will span over two phases. The first, which will cost some $500,000, replaces the chillers for all the systems that support the fish tanks. The second phase will complete an upgrade to these systems.

One of the larger City investments is completely remodeling a building at Eucalyptus Park. To be named Casa Casillas, the building will become an artist space that will be managed by the library. The project calls for saving the building, stripping it down to its framing and reconstructing it. The $3.5 million building renovation is part of an overall Eucalyptus Park upgrade, bringing together a variety of funding sources.

"I would like to thank the Senior Management Team within the Public Works Operations Department for their support and entrusting this team with the responsibility of project development, procurement and management." White said. "I would also like to thank all of those who took part in the decision to recognize the Building Projects Management team in the City newsletter, the recognition is greatly appreciated."