



COUNTY OF VENTURA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR
JEFF GORELL
Second District

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
KELLY LONG, CHAIR
MATT LAVERE
JEFF GORELL
JANICE S. PARVIN
VIANEY LOPEZ

September 24, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Recommendation for the Development of a Notification System for Pre-Work Communication for Ventura County Public Works Projects

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation

The Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Director of the Ventura County Public Works Agency to develop a notification system to inform Supervisors and the public before operational maintenance and capital project work is initiated in their respective areas. This system would ensure proactive communication, enhance transparency, and allow all parties to stay informed and prepared ahead of time. It is requested that the Director return to the Board within 60 days for a plan of action.

Discussion

Clear and consistent communication between the Ventura County Public Works Agency, the Board of Supervisors, and the public is essential for the success of public works projects. Currently, there is limited advance notification provided to Supervisors or local residents before work commences in specific areas. This gap in communication may result in confusion, a lack of awareness about project details, and missed opportunities for community feedback or concerns.

This proposed notification system would:

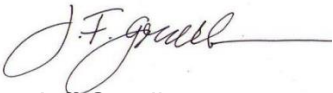
1. **Keep Supervisors Informed:** By notifying Supervisors in advance, they can be well-versed in the work planned within their districts, enabling them to respond to inquiries from constituents and provide any necessary guidance or support to the project team.
2. **Enhance Public Awareness:** Notifying the public of upcoming work ensures that local residents are aware of what is happening in their communities. This awareness reduces confusion and potential disruptions, while also allowing residents to prepare for any inconveniences that may arise from the work.
3. **Provide Opportunities for Feedback:** By informing both Supervisors and the public in advance, there is an opportunity to address any questions or concerns prior to the start of the project. This proactive approach promotes a more collaborative environment, allowing for any necessary adjustments or clarifications before implementation.

4. **Foster Transparency and Accountability:** A formalized notification process demonstrates the county's commitment to transparency and accountability in its public works projects. By providing advance notice, Ventura County ensures that all stakeholders are aware of the project scope, timelines, and any potential impacts on the community.
5. **Emergency Notification:** Account for emergency work that may not be part of the normal advanced notification process.

Fiscal Impact The development of this notification system may require an initial investment in software or staffing, but the long-term benefits of improved communication and community relations are imperative. It would be beneficial to explore existing notifications systems within the County including the Everbridge public safety notification system and to explore existing notification systems in place in many cities in the region.

Conclusion It is imperative that a notification system be developed and implemented to ensure that all parties are informed before public works projects begin. Clear communication will not only streamline the process but also improve public trust in the agency's operations. I urge the Board of Supervisors to support this recommendation and direct the Ventura County Public Works Agency to ensure a timely and effective solution is implemented.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gorell
Supervisor, Second District