

Employee Continuous Service Recognition
October 29, 2024



COUNTY OF VENTURA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Emma Ancona

25 Years

Human Services Agency

HS Client Benefit Supervisor

Emma Ancona started as an Eligibility Officer and has held the positions of Eligibility Officer, Client Benefit Specialist III, IV, and Supervisor. As a Client Benefit Specialist, she assisted the community with determining eligibility for the Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, General Relief, and CalFresh programs. Emma has worked at several offices, including the Outstation supporting Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) applications, the Mail-in Center, and Community Service Centers (CSC).

Upon promoting to Client Benefit Supervisor, she was assigned to the Moorpark and then the Santa Clara Valley CSC. In this role, she built connections with partner agencies such as VCMC, One Stop, private clinics, and Public Health. She enjoyed getting to know the community, helping decrease wait times, and seeing the direct impact access to these vital services has on the customers we serve.

Emma is valued and respected by her peers and staff. She enjoys doing the little things to show appreciation to her colleagues, whether it be a supportive word, staff meetings treats, or hand-picked gifts. She prides herself in offering excellent customer service and diligently working to support our underserved communities.

Thank you, Emma, for 25 years of dedicated service to our community.



Sandra Avila

25 Years

District Attorney's Office

Staff/Services Manager I

Sandra Avila has dedicated 25 years of service to the County of Ventura, beginning her career in 1998 as an Office Assistant II at the Human Services Agency. She later joined the Public Health Department, before transitioning to the District Attorney's Office's Crime Victims' Assistance Unit. Rising through the ranks, Sandra was promoted to Victim Advocate Supervisor in 2019, Supervising Victim Advocate in 2022, and finally Staffing Services Manager in 2023.

Throughout her career, she has remained committed to serving the Ventura County community and its residents with dedication and compassion.

We offer our thanks and congratulations to you on reaching this milestone in your County of Ventura career.



Maria Barajas

25 Years

Human Services Agency

HSA Administrative Specialist III

Maria Barajas started with the Human Services Agency as an Office Assistant II. She moved to Office Assistant III and IV positions with the Workforce Investment Act programs before promoting into the eligibility worker classification.

Maria then became a Client Benefit Specialist, promoting from Trainee to IV. She dedicated herself to helping the Santa Clara Valley and Fillmore communities to access critical benefits such as CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. As a resident of this community and a daughter of immigrant parents, she felt a strong connection to the work of assisting our most vulnerable clients with translation and process navigation guidance.

Maria later joined the In-Home Support Services team as a Program Assistant and Program Coordinator. She led the Quality Assurance and Program Integrity business process and policy development efforts, representing the County at state meetings and committees.

Maria is currently an Administrative Specialist III, supervising the Appeals team. Her vast experience with Community Services Department programs and In-Home Support Services helps support and guide the team. Maria is a tremendous asset to the Human Services Agency and the communities we serve.

We thank and congratulate you for 25 years of dedicated service.



Rocio Diaz

25 Years

Health Care Agency

WIC Nutrition Assistant III

Rocio Diaz started her career with the County of Ventura in January 1993. She has worked for the WIC program at various locations across Ventura County during her entire 25 years of service, including currently with Public Health.

Rocio loves helping the community and providing nutrition education. She enjoys helping families live a happy and healthy lifestyle.

Congratulations on 25 years of service and dedication to the health and welfare of our community members.



Ray Farokhi

25 Years

Public Works Agency

Surveyor II

Ray Farokhi is an integral part of the County Surveyor's Office and the Engineering Services Department. He came to the United States from Iran in 1978, attended college in Illinois, received a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and then headed west to the beautiful San Fernando Valley.

Ray began working for the Ventura County Surveyor's Office in 1990 and though he left for a brief time, he returned to the County of Ventura and has reached 25 years of service since then.

Much of Ray's County service has been spent in the field making sure that improvement projects are built correctly and within the County's right-of-way. His career has spanned five different County Surveyors and numerous Deputy County Surveyors.

In his free time, Ray enjoys playing soccer. He and his wife currently live down the street from the Government Center where they raised their two children.

We thank you for your expertise and public service to ensure the safety of our Ventura County neighborhoods.



Narda Garcia

25 Years

Human Services Agency

HS Client Benefit Supervisor

Narda Garcia is currently a Client Benefit Supervisor for the Community Services Department. She supervises a team of six employees who assist Ventura County residents with maintaining Medi-Cal and CalFresh benefits to meet their household needs.

During her 25-year career, Ms. Garcia has worked in the areas of support staff, eligibility, and supervision. Her team and clients appreciate her experience, positive attitude, and ability to speak to the heart of complex issues.

Congratulations and thank you for your service to the County of Ventura, Ventura County residents, and the Human Services Agency.



Griselda Gaytan

25 Years

Human Services Agency

HS Adult Protective Services Supervisor

Griselda Gaytan has worked in different departments and programs throughout her 25-year career with the County. However, her biggest accomplishments have occurred within the Adult Protective Services program.

Griselda has been a lead worker and has been supervising for the last five years. She has had the opportunity to mentor and lead many Adult Protective Services social workers in developing their skills and abilities while providing an excellent response to vulnerable adults. Griselda has brought a constant passion and dedication to her work that has led to many positive outcomes.

We congratulate Griselda on the positive impacts her 25-year career of service has brought to our community.



Eric Jones

25 Years

Health Care Agency

Clinical Assistant II

Eric Jones has had a long, distinguished career working for the County of Ventura for 25 years. He has worked as a Clinical Assistant in many departments, including the Family Care Center, Cardiology, Ortho, Dermatology, Neonatal, and Hematology/Oncology.

His colleagues describe him as always positive, humble, hardworking, committed, determined, patient, and thoughtful. He is also known as compassionate, kind and caring, having integrity, and being full of energy. What makes him stand out, some have said, is that he doesn't know the word "No," he is always willing to help, he never has a negative comment, and can always be found with a smile on his face.

Because of these characteristics, everyone agrees Eric is a joy to work with.

Congratulations and thank you for your wonderful outlook that brightens the workplace for your colleagues.



Michele Moline

25 Years

Health Care Agency

Alcohol/Drug Treatment Specialist II

Michele Moline started with the County of Ventura in 1996 as extra help, and has devoted her career to serving our community through her work with the Substance Use Services division of Behavioral Health.

Michele first worked as an Office Assistant and promoted to a Management Assistant before going back to school to obtain her alcohol and drug treatment counseling credential. Michele was instrumental in the success of the Proposition 36 program, and she continues to have a significant impact as a counselor in the Outpatient Treatment setting. Michele is highly respected by her colleagues.

We offer congratulations and thanks for your long career in service to the needs of our community members.



William Quest 25 Years Public Defender's Office

Senior Attorney

Recognizing 25 years of dedicated service, Willy Quest has been a pillar of the Public Defender's Office. For the past decade, he has served as the department's Appellate Law Specialist, one of the few attorneys in California to earn the prestigious California State Bar Certification in Appellate Law. His expertise led to his role as the attorney of record in over 15 published Court of Appeal and Supreme Court opinions, with two cases currently awaiting argument before the California Supreme Court, a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice.

Willy has been instrumental in the Public Defender's Office's efforts to effectuate post-conviction laws, offering relief to clients, including incarcerated individuals who have shown rehabilitation and are deserving of a second chance. His work has shaped a just, more compassionate legal system, and positively impacted the lives of many.

Reflecting on his 25 years of service, Willy takes pride in his dual achievements: being a successful trial attorney, having handled every type of misdemeanor and felony case, and excelling as an Appellate Law Specialist, advocating for clients at the highest levels.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone and thank you for 25 years of dedicated service.



Leticia Villarreal

25 Years

Health Care Agency

Community Health Worker

Letty Villarreal started her career with the Human Services Agency in 1998 as an Office Assistant. In 2006, she transferred to Public Health as a Community Service Worker III, working in Health Care for All, assisting clients in completing state-funded program applications. She obtained certification as a Counselor Educator for Covered California. In 2015, she transferred to the Public Health TB and Immunization program as Direct Observe Therapy and doing home visits. In 2016, she worked with Community Nursing, assisting Public Health Nurses in home visits to interpret and facilitate Mother and Daughter Workshops.

In 2022, she promoted to Community Health Worker and transferred to California Children Services, where she provides care coordination to clients living with complex medical conditions. She takes pride in helping clients access the services they need. She is creative in solving complex case management problems and working to help streamline program procedures. Letty is professional, compassionate, and excels in providing culturally sensitive customer service to all clients.

Congratulations, and thank you for 25 years of service and dedication to the clients and families in these programs.



Yolanda Angeles

30 Years

District Attorney's Office

Administrative Assistant I

Yolanda Angeles began her County of Ventura career with the Sheriff's Office in 1993 as a Sheriff's Cadet, promoting to a Record Tech and Management Assistant. She transferred to the District Attorney's Office in 2001. Since then, Yolanda has been a Legal Processing Assistant, Investigative Assistant, and currently holds the role of Administrative Assistant.

As a member of the District Attorney's Office's Human Resources team, Yolanda faithfully serves the community by working her magic in scheduling all witness travel throughout the country for our prosecutors for trials, out-of-the-area employee training and travel, procurement, and she keeps all employees updated with information on our television boards. Her historical knowledge of all things DAO has played a critical role for newer employees.

An avid traveler, Yolanda exemplifies the "you only live once" life. On her days off and vacations, you will find her taking quick trips to Palm Springs or longer trips to Europe and beyond.

Thank you for your commitment to the community of Ventura County during your 30 years of service.



Maribel Ayala

30 Years

Department of Child Support Services

Senior CSS Customer Service Representative

Maribel Ayala started out planting and picking tomatoes and strawberries in the fields all around Ventura County. After taking a course on computer operations, she landed her first County job as an Office Assistant with the Human Services Agency's GAIN program. From there, she transferred to the Probation Agency, where she worked for the Work Release program.

In 1996, Maribel joined the Department of Child Support Services as a frontline worker answering phones. Then she rotated briefly to a case opening team, and then came back to the phones. When the DCSS Call Center opened in 2009, Maribel promoted to Senior Child Support Services Customer Service Representative and has been there ever since as a lead worker, helping the Call Center grow from serving just Ventura County callers, to support for child support program customers from all over California.

Maribel says she loves interacting with people, helping them, and answering their questions—both our customers and our staff—and jokes that she has been a phone person since she was little girl, and that is probably why she still loves what she does.

Thank you for 30 years of service and support to help the children and families of Ventura County and California.



Toni Ayres-Hampton
30 Years
Human Services Agency

HSA Administrative Specialist III

We would like to thank and congratulate Toni Ayres-Hampton for 30 years of service to the Human Services Agency and to the County of Ventura.



Graciela Diaz

30 Years

Health Care Agency

Hospital Nurse Manager II

Gracie Diaz's journey at Ventura County Medical Center is truly commendable, showcasing her dedication and growth over the years. Starting as a Medical Office Assistant in 1992 and working her way up to Clinical Nurse Director of the Medical Surgical and Detox Departments highlights her commitment and leadership in healthcare. Her achievements are great examples of employee development and loyalty within the organization.

We offer our congratulations and thanks to you for 30 years of service to the Health Care Agency and the County of Ventura in support of the health and well-being of our community members.



Delfina Becerra

30 Years

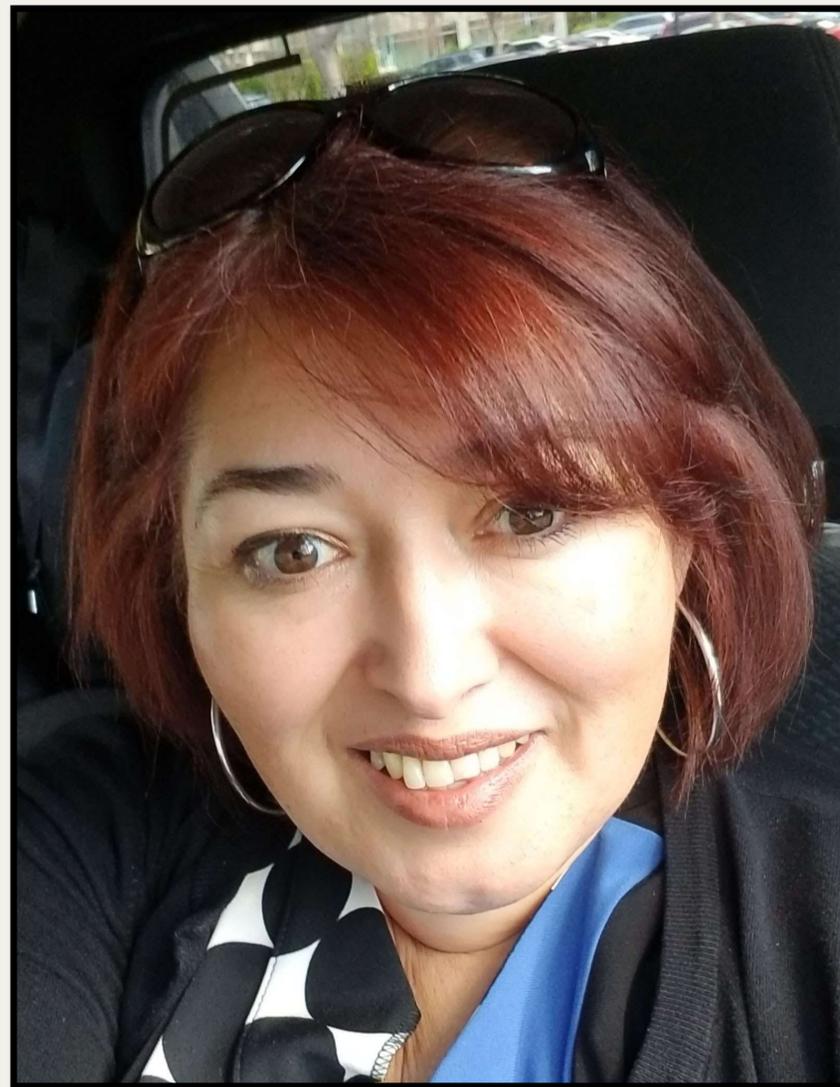
Human Services Agency

HSA Administrative Specialist III

Delfina Becerra began her career with the Human Services Agency in 1994 as an Eligibility Worker helping vulnerable families to ensure they had shelter and food security. She went on to become a Supervisor, and now in her current role as Administrative Specialist, in which she currently gives policy support to staff who provide employment and supportive services to members of our community most in need.

Delfina is very proud to work for an organization that strives to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Delfina has made a tremendous difference in many lives.

We thank you for your 30 years of service in support of the employees and clients of the County of Ventura's Human Services Agency.



Charles Genkel

30 Years

Resource Management Agency

Deputy Director II Resource Management Agency

Charles Genkel started his County of Ventura career with the Environmental Health Division, as a part-time Mosquito Technician in the Vector Control Program. Over 30 years, he held various roles in Environmental Health, gaining valuable experience and earning the respect of his peers and stakeholders. His dedication and expertise led him to his current position as Director of Environmental Health.

Outside of work, Charles enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and son and assisting a charity that enables outdoor adventures for individuals with physical challenges.

Charles could not be here with us today, but we would like to congratulate and thank him for his 30 years of service and leadership to our County and community.



Pamela Grothe
30 Years
Human Services Agency

Division Manager - HSA

We would like to thank and congratulate Pamela Grothe for 30 years of service to the Human Services Agency and to the County of Ventura.



Theresa Hart
30 Years
Probation Agency

Manager – Probation Agency

We would like to thank and congratulate Theresa Hart for 30 years of service to the Probation Agency and to the County of Ventura.



Alan Hartkop

30 Years

Sheriff's Office

Commander

Upon graduation from the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center, Commander Alan Hartkop joined the Ventura County Sheriff's Office in 1994, starting his first assignment in Detention Services at the Main Jail.

After rotating to Patrol, Alan discovered his true passion was detective work. He held several assignments in the Patrol Services Division and Criminal Investigations as a Detective, then promoted through the ranks to his current position of Commander overseeing the Special Investigations Division. In this role, Alan manages the Sheriff's Major Crimes Unit, Narcotics, Intel, Crime Analysis, and Aviation Unit.

Alan has a true passion for serving the public and safeguarding the lives of Ventura County residents. He is committed to his staff and strives to lead them positively and provide them with every opportunity to excel in their careers. He feels honored to work around so many talented professionals who give their best every day.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your career and thank you for 30 years of service to the safety of our community.



Maria Maestro

30 Years

Human Services Agency

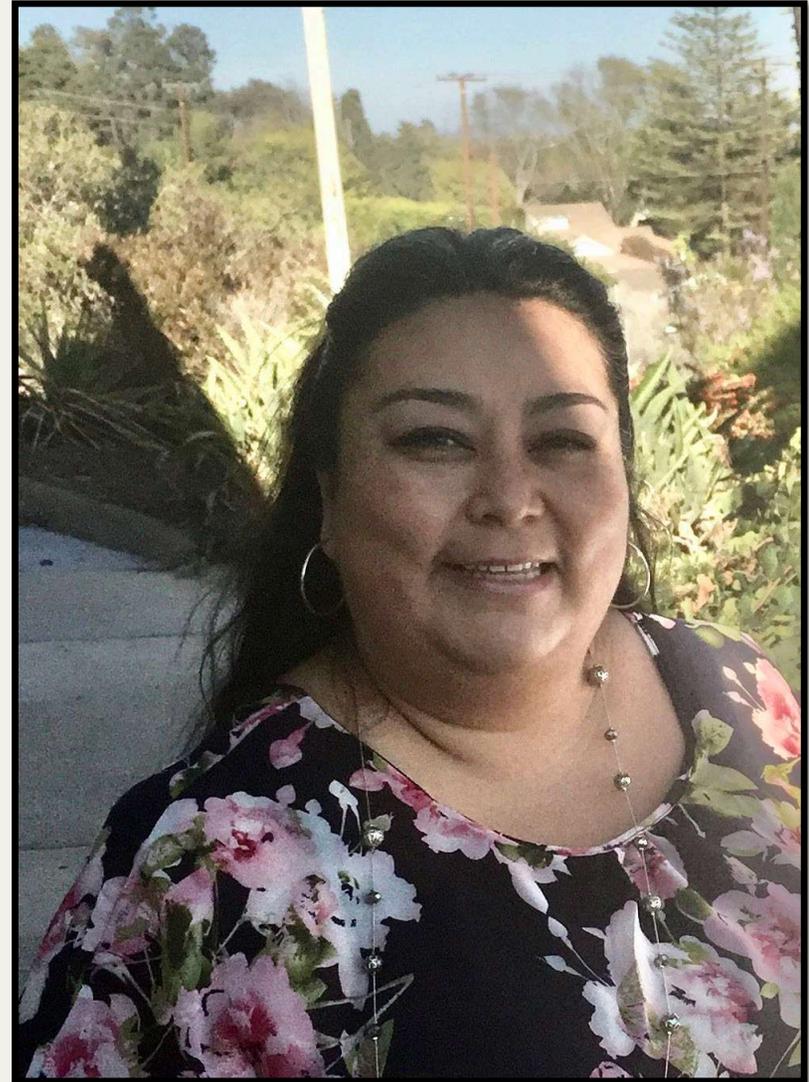
Human Services Manager

Mrs. Maria Maestro has had a remarkable 30-year journey with the Human Services Agency. She has provided dedicated service to the Ventura County community in many different program areas, including CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, General Relief, and Employment Services.

Mrs. Maestro has had many different roles in her career, which she says are a blessing and an opportunity to help others, ranging from Eligibility Worker, Eligibility Supervisor, Program Analyst, and currently, as an operations Human Services Manager.

Mrs. Maestro has enjoyed every moment of her career, growing up as a first generation and low-income resident raised in a deeply rooted agricultural and farming community, she understands firsthand the transformational and life-altering experiences that our Human Services Agency's mission-centered, equitable access, and values-driven services bring to our community.

Congratulations and thank you for your leadership and service in support of our clients and the Ventura County community.



John Reilly

30 Years

Sheriff's Office

Undersheriff

John Reilly is a 30-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office who holds a Bachelor's Degree in History from California State University at Northridge and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from American Military University.

John has a diverse law enforcement background in a variety of disciplines from tactical operations to investigations. John spent a majority of his career working in Special Enforcement Units and as a Detective and Detective Supervisor. A highlight of John's career was as the Chief of Police for the contract City of Moorpark.

As a Commander, John supervised the East County Patrol Division, the K-9 Unit, Department Chaplin Corps, and the Tactical Response Team. John last oversaw the Crime Lab and Property Room before his promotion in January 2023 to the rank of Undersheriff.

John has been active in the community and spends much of his off-time coaching youth sports and volunteering at community events.

The Board of Supervisors thanks you for your commitment to safety and service and for your work on and off the job in support of the safety and well-being of our Ventura County community.



Soledad Sampilo

30 Years

Health Care Agency

Supervising Therapist I

Soli Sampilo discovered her passion for pediatric rehabilitation while working as a student intern in Public Health's Medical Therapy Program. After graduating from California State University, Northridge, with her degree in Physical Therapy, Soli returned to the program to pursue a career as a Pediatric Physical Therapist.

For over 30 years, Soli has been providing evidenced-based physical therapy services to pediatric clients throughout Ventura and Oxnard. Her clinical expertise has allowed her to help advance her clients' mobility skills, functional independence, and increase their access to the community. Soli's nature is one of calmness, compassion, and empathy that provides comfort and allows her to truly support her clients and families facing complex medical conditions.

In 2021, Soli promoted to a Supervising Therapist, where her never-ending kindness, patience, and positivity keep her team and clients motivated. We are grateful for Soli's years of dedication to the Medical Therapy Program and look forward to many more!

Congratulations on your 30 years of service and thank you for your dedication to our pediatric physical therapy clients.



Patricia Sanchez

30 Years

District Attorney's Office

Victim Advocate II

Patty Sanchez has dedicated 30 years of service to the County of Ventura, starting in 1991 as extra help in the Outpatient Unit, then becoming a full-time employee in Behavioral Health's Inpatient Unit. She was promoted to Office Assistant II with the Probation Agency and later to Office Assistant III, serving from 1993 to 2023. In 2023, she became a Victim Advocate II with the District Attorney's Office's Crime Victims' Assistance Unit.

Known for her compassion and dedication, Patty has a huge heart for serving survivors and community members, always providing vital support and services to those in need.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your career and thank you for 30 years of service to the County of Ventura and our community members.



Mandi Basaldua

35 Years

County Executive Office

Personnel Analyst III

Mandi Basaldua is an inspiration, both professionally and personally. With 35 years of dedicated service, Mandi's compassion and dedication truly reflect the mission and values of the Human Services Agency (HSA) and the County Executive Office Human Resources. She consistently goes above and beyond, and is always ready to assist those in need, whether clients or colleagues.

As Staff Services & Development Manager embedded in HSA, Mandi is the driving force behind the Agency's Learning Management System, HSA Café. She is known for introducing innovative solutions to streamline processes and enhance efficiencies. Mandi's focus extends to improving onboarding services, managing telework administration, and overseeing internal DSW management, among other essential responsibilities.

Mandi also finds joy in spending time with her husband Martin and their three children, Dacia, Brenen, and Ryan. Her favorite words are "GO CHARGERS!"

Mandi's leadership fosters a culture of growth and inclusion, making every day both challenging and rewarding.

Thank you for your County of Ventura career of 35 years in service to your colleagues and our community.



Daniel Romero

35 Years

Public Works Agency

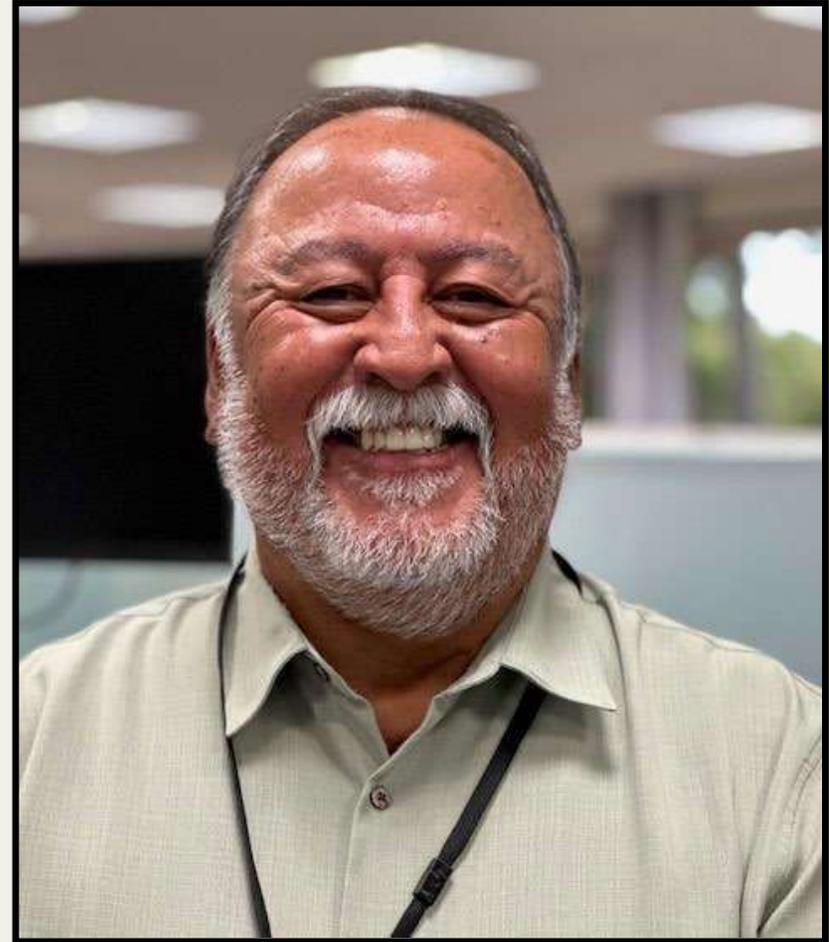
Senior Public Works Inspector

Dan Romero is a Senior Inspector in the Design and Construction Division for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, with experience in a variety of Public Works projects. Dan started in 1989 as a PWA Inspector I in Roads and Transportation. Dan gained a wealth of knowledge there and in Engineering Services. Dan finally found his home in Design and Construction for the Watershed Protection District where he has thrived for 28 years, promoting from a PWA Inspector III to Senior Inspector.

As Senior Inspector for the West County, Dan works with contractors, regulators, engineers, biologists, permittees, and developers. His attitude is of a teammate dedicated to making projects successful while ensuring the maintenance of Watershed Protection's facilities and mission. Dan is most proud of his contributions to the Santa Rosa Road Widening, Warring Park, the Medical Examiner Building, Arundell Barranca Detention Basin, and the Arroyo Simi from Hitch to Peach Hill projects.

Dan constantly encourages and mentors his colleagues, helping them to gain as much experience as possible in policy and construction methods.

We thank you for 35 years of service to the Watershed Protection District and the safety of our community and those who live here.



John Spykerman

35 Years

Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief

John Spykerman started his career as a Reserve Firefighter at Fire Station 53 in the City of Port Hueneme. He spent a short time working in the Fire Annex, before joining the Hand Crew. In 1989, he was hired as a Firefighter as a member of the 30th Fire Academy. Over his 35 years, he has promoted through the ranks to his current position as Assistant Chief overseeing the Support Services Bureau.

The Spykerman Family has had multiple generations serving within the Ventura County Fire Department. Their combined time in the Fire Department and service to the citizens of Ventura County totals over 100 years. Their family's dedication to the fire service is not limited to just Ventura County. They also have members serving in the Los Angeles County and City Fire Departments.

John feels fortunate to have lived and had a career that has challenged him, was exciting, fulfilling, and most of all, fun!

Congratulations and thank you for your service to the Fire Department and the County of Ventura for 35 years.



Marnel Vanden Bossche

35 Years

Fire Department

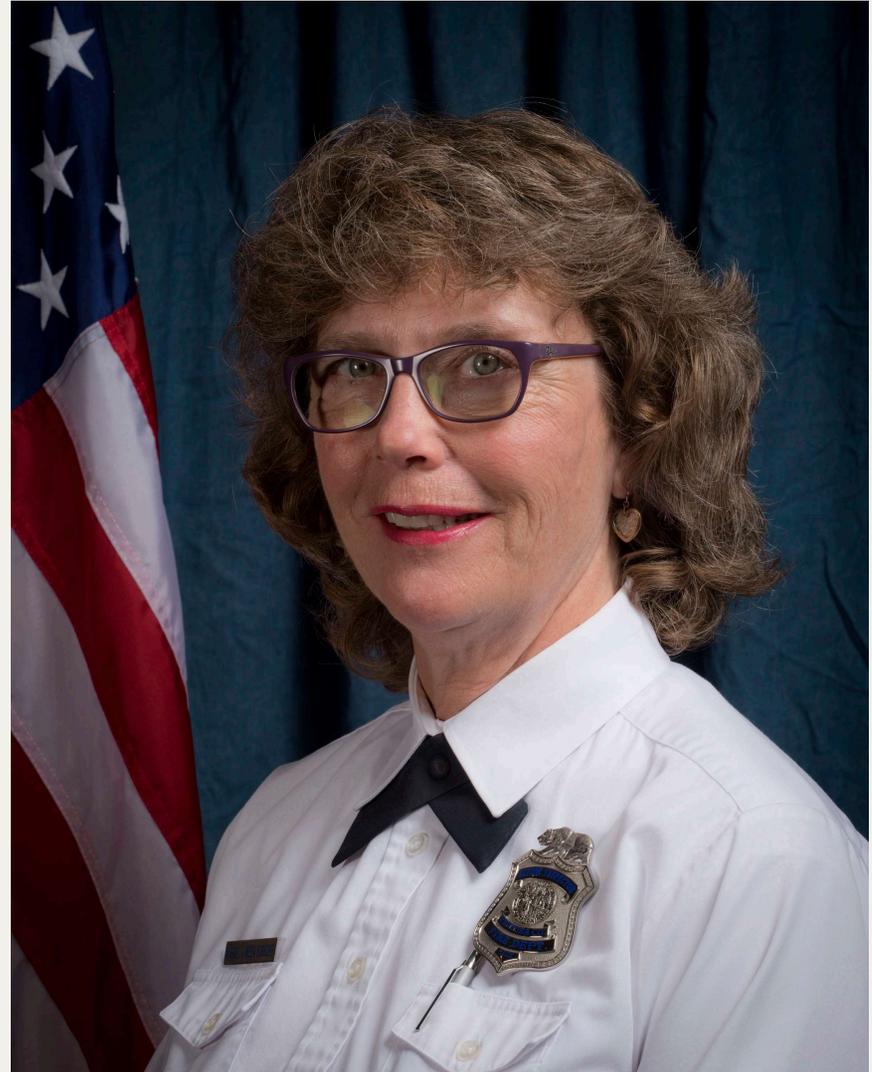
Senior Fire Inspector

Marnel Vanden Bossche has served as a Fire Prevention Inspector for over 35 years now and is still going strong. Her desire in choosing a career was to help others and to make a difference in fire and public safety. She found her niche following her brothers, Bryan and Daran, into the Ventura County Fire Department, where she became a Fire Inspector.

She has helped hundreds of businesses here in our county become safer for their employees and our citizens who patronize them. Fire prevention is a win-win duty for all of us.

Marnel has always taken her job seriously, but with a kind and helping hand. Soon to retire, she is honored to have had the opportunity and pleasure of serving and helping others while working for one of the highest-regarded fire departments in the country.

We thank you for your remarkable career of fire safety service to the County of Ventura.





To date, the careers of these 28 dedicated individuals represent a total of 805 years of County service.

Thank you and congratulations to all.
