

T C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. TRACKS



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A built-up dirt pad for the new Vincent Grade Acton station platform sits directly across from the existing platform.

Acton Station Construction Taking Off on the Right Track

Rasmussen continues to chug along with work on the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Vincent Grade Station in Acton. The job consists of extending the existing siding by about 5,000 feet, as well as building a second platform with amenities and a pedestrian at-grade crossing.

Work began on the project in August, with Rasmussen performing all earthwork, including subgrade for the tracks, station and other structures.

Rasmussen is also responsible for a majority of the concrete work, which includes the station platform, drainage structures and pedestrian grade crossing. Lastly, Rasmussen will install a

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New Software to Aid Company Efficiency

Viewpoint to help management 'make intelligent decisions better and sooner.'

C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. has started operations under a new cloud-based software that will help the company to function faster and more efficiently.

The software, called Viewpoint, replaces the StreetSmarts platform that Rasmussen has used for more than 10 years. StreetSmarts was purchased by Viewpoint, and would eventually no longer be supported.

"We did our research on the Viewpoint software, took advantage of the situation and negotiated a deep discount to purchase the software sooner than later," said Rasmussen CFO Skip Sorenson.

"Our goal from the beginning was to put in place a soft-

ware product that would allow our business operations to make intelligent decisions better and sooner than our competition, which will continue to assist our mantra of Building The Rasmussen Way," he said. "Rasmussen will become more efficient as Viewpoint will eliminate many of the redundancies that exist within the company's operations today."

The biggest change with the new Viewpoint software, which went live on January 1, is the process by which all employees submit their timecards.

"The new HR Portal, in which our office staff now submits their paperless timecards, and the Mobile Field Manager solution that our foremen will eventually be using while submitting field timecards will streamline our capturing of payroll," Sorenson said.

Additionally, he said, because the software operates in a cloud environment, the immediate availability of up-to-

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From the Desk of ...

Adam Rasmussen



The Path to Success Means Working Together as a Team

Our company, like many others, is diverse. I'm not just talking about men or women or culture or religion. I'm talking about engineers, accountants, laborers, project managers, administrators, and more. With our company, in many cases we have a handful of people – or even just one person – who performs any given job. We each excel at something different, while at the same time, contributing to a much larger team effort.

What sets us apart is not just how well we work together as a team, but how that work ethic has become second nature.

You may not notice it as it has become the norm. You see this teamwork every day. The equipment department working or fueling equipment making sure it's ready when needed, or the structures crew teaming with the grading, concrete or even traffic control crews as our structures work progresses on any particular job. This teamwork and communication is vital to the success of the company.

I am always impressed at the ability of our concrete and paving crews to rotate from site to site, and back again. It takes days of preparation and planning ahead; communicating with other job sites to coordinate scheduling; and of course, the ability to dispatch and mobilize our equipment and man power. From the first load to the last, our guys are working to achieve their goal for that day. All the while planning for the next day, possibly at another site or location.

This teamwork goes all the way to our corporate office. It's put into practice in paying the bills, coding invoices, and making sure each one of us gets paid on time.

One of the best examples of teamwork in our company is the estimating department. It's not just one guy putting a bid out. It is a team effort to bid every one of our jobs. From completing take-offs and bid documents, estimating the job costs and schedule, performing outreach to subs, taking quotes on bid day, to reading our final numbers over the phone and pushing our bid runner to run up to the counter and turn our bid in at the very last second – there is no room for error. If there is any broken link in that chain, there is no team and there is no way to be the low bidder.

At the end of the day, our team has the best track record around of producing quality work, on time and under budget. We've got to keep that in mind as we each go about our jobs. You're not working here alone, we're all part of a team. And as long as we keep this team working well together, we'll continue to be a success.

Company Celebrates Retiree Tim Scott

After decades of working for Rasmussen, the company said goodbye as grading foreman Tim Scott worked his final day February 26, before retiring and moving to Michigan.

At a small happy hour celebration, Scott's co-workers past and present gathered to honor him for all his years of service. Charlie Rasmussen took the opportunity to present Scott with his official retirement jacket.

"You've been a real asset to the organization," Charlie said. "The least we can do is buy a few drinks and acknowledge your years with us and all you've done for C. A. Rasmussen."

Scott worked continuously for Rasmussen since 1995, following a shorter stint with the company years before.

He said he's worked with the company so long that he's probably worked either with or for almost everyone at this point.

"There are a lot of good guys who work here," he said.

He described Rasmussen as being a good company to work for, for so long. "You guys kept me busy and I appreciate the hell out of it," he said.

Charlie said Scott's spirit about working at Rasmussen has left an imprint on so many other employees.

"If it wasn't for Tim, I wouldn't be here," said grading foreman Howard Brewer.

Operator Ed Eckert said, "Tim, I learned a hell of a lot from you, and I appreciate it, man."

Superintendent Marty McGough described Scott as "a foreman who needed little to no direction."

"Just hand him the plans and a brief overview of the job and away he went. Always looking for the most efficient way to get the job done, and get it done right.

"Excellent operator on every machine that he sat on and our best blade operator. It was a pleasure to work with him all those years," McGough said. "He will be missed."



Retiree Tim Scott wears his new retirement jacket, presented to him by Charlie Rasmussen in February.

Pavin' in the Rain

With the end in sight for Rasmussen's City of Industry project, a little rain didn't stop our paving crew from doing their job. The crew paved a 4" lift of 1/2" asphalt concrete along the trap channel road. Pictured at right: Paving Superintendent David Ortiz, Foreman Hector Cuellar, Paving Operator Curtis Coakly, Sreet Operators David Hernandez and George Garcia, Roller Operators Rick Dominguez and Robert Fenton, Asphalt Raker Tony Carrillo, Laborers Joseph Perez and Manny Prado.



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the-minute job costs will be at the fingertips of any and all decision makers from anywhere in the world and accessible from a number of devices.

The departments most impacted by the new software system include Operations staff and their interactions within Contract Administration. It will also allow project managers and executive management to make better and quicker decisions when needed. "The transition, and/or elimination of duties, will seem like night and day after CAR is 100 percent operational within Viewpoint," Sorenson said.

Training has been an ongoing process within the accounting department. "We have held a few operational training classes and will have one more two-day session for our project managers and project engineers," Sorenson said. "One of the last training sessions will be for our foremen and mechanics once we finalize the updated version of our MFM time-keeping system."

Viewpoint will interact with the company's existing estimating software, HardDollar, just as StreetSmarts had in the past, but with the added feature of importing completed project information to provide the estimating department historical costs to assist them in future bids. Viewpoint will also eliminate the majority of Rasmussen's dependence on certain Microsoft Word and Excel documents.

"An added benefit is that Rasmussen will also become more environmentally friendly as we begin our quest to become paperless – a quest we may never truly achieve, but will definitely make major progress toward," Sorenson said.

Since the implementation of Viewpoint, there have been no major issues with the transition. Sorenson said that there may have been "a few minor glitches so far, but Lisa Dubois, Jill Hurst and Jeremy Francis have been amazing with their time and competency in making the transition feel seamless to everyone."

Did you hear?!?

- Welcome new hire **Jonathan Gonzalez** to the estimating department, and to our intern at the Port of LA job, **Nathan Hirschfeld**.
- **Ines Guevara** is now the company's new receptionist.
- Congratulations to **Alex Ptolemy**, who finally discovered he has an office at corporate headquarters. It only took him nine years to find it. He's also joined the 21st Century, successfully working with electronic timecards and invoices. Rumor has it he really likes his iPad.

Got news to share? E-mail it to sklein@carasmussen.com

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gravity block retaining wall and lay reinforced concrete pipe for the drainage structures.

The intent of the project is to reduce current delays to trains and eliminate restrictions in operating additional trains. It is scheduled to wrap up this summer.

Rasmussen was given 420 calendar days to complete the project. According to Project Engineer Thomas Tan, the only issues Rasmussen has experienced with regard to delays were some material changes that had longer lead times than expected.

One of the most complex aspects of the job was the installation of the drainage RCP beneath the track, Tan said.

"This was performed under a track shutdown and due to the efforts of Rick Rustad and Howard Brewer, the RCP was constructed ahead of schedule, allowing us to finish the work in the shutdown several hours ahead of schedule," Tan said.

Tan said the only remaining anticipated challenge Rasmussen faces with the project is in the form of three up-

BY THE NUMBERS

3,766 FT	Track w/ Concrete Ties
4,926 FT	Track w/ Wood Ties
10,000 TN	Ballast
10,400 TN	Sub-Ballast

coming track shutdowns in order to tie the mainline track into the new track on the project. All the work must be

completed within a 48-hour window to avoid costly liquidated damages.

Tan said working with subcontractor H&H Engineering, Inc., has been a great experience. "Their input on the phasing, Metrolink standard regulations, methods and requirements has been invaluable," he said.

The project's next major milestone will be when the turnouts and cross-overs arrive on site. "This is the long lead item that is controlling the critical path of the project," Tan said.



Rasmussen crews installed a four-barrel, 36-inch RCP culvert headwall running underneath newly laid tracks in order to carry storm-water runoff.

**Employee Spotlight**

1. How long have you worked at

C. A. Rasmussen? 14 years.

2. What project are you currently working on? The Agoura Road Widening.

3. What is your relationship status? Happily married.

4. How old were you when you had your first beer? 18 years old.

5. What do you like to do on weekends? I coach soccer and like to watch professional soccer -- ¡Arriba Las Chivas!

6. Do you have any nicknames? My family calls me Chuy.

7. Do you have any tattoos? No, never been interested.

8. What has been your most challenging project working at Rasmussen? Every new project seems to be more challenging than the previous one.

9. What is your favorite word? I don't have one.

10. Where were you born? Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico

11. Do you have any pets? Yes, we have two dogs, Coco and Chispita.

12. Name one thing on your bucket list. I'd like to keep going to the World Cup every four years.

13. What is your biggest phobia? As a coach, I'm afraid of any of my soccer players getting injured during games.

14. What are your favorite TV shows? The Walking Dead

**20 Questions with:
Jesus Garcia**

15. What is your best memory of working at

Rasmussen? "The Big Fish!"... While fishing in Alaska, I caught a 148 lb. halibut.

16. If you didn't work in this industry, what would you do instead? I would be a math teacher.

17. What is your favorite food? Burritos.

18. Which is your favorite animal in the zoo? The Lion.

19. When was the last time you rode the bus? In Brazil, in 2014, during the World Cup.

20. Which Rasmussen employee would you like to see in the next spotlight?

Dave Dubois.



SAFETY CORNER

with Joe Mack

Distracted Driving: Stay Focused When on the Road

It's 8 a.m., and you jump in your car or truck to drive to work. You have every intention of driving safely, but within minutes of merging onto the freeway you've already checked your email, fiddled with your car radio, programmed your GPS for a meeting location, made two calls on your cellphone and sent a text message to your sister.

You might not realize it, but you're a distracted driver.

Each time you take your focus off the road, even if just for a split second, you're putting your life and the lives of others in danger. An emerging and deadly epidemic on the nation's roads, distracted driving-related crashes caused at least 5,500 deaths and nearly 450,000 injuries in 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

However, since many local law enforcement agencies don't routinely document distraction factors in crash reports, federal safety officials believe the numbers are actually much higher.

"Driving a vehicle is a very complex task," says Barbara Harsha, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, which estimates that distractions are associated with 15 percent to 25 percent of crashes at all levels. "It requires your complete attention. All it takes is a glance away for more than two seconds and you can get into serious trouble."

Distracted driving is any activity that takes your attention away from the road. In everyday driving, however, distractions are common: talking with passengers, eating, turning around to

check on your load, and more. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describes three main types of distractions while driving. Visual distractions cause you to take your eyes off the road, manual distractions cause you to take your hands off the wheel. Cognitive distractions, such as listening to a talk radio show, cause you to take your mind off what you are doing. Driving is a great privilege, but with that privilege also comes responsibility.

Manage your Distractions

The good news is that distracted driving crashes can be prevented.

"The first thing I would tell you is to put your electronic device away," Harsha says. "Just don't use it. All it takes is a

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Rasmussen Earns SCCA Safety Award

C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. took home an award for Excellence in Accident Prevention from the Southern California Contractors Association Safety Awards on March 9.

(From left)

Project Manager Adam Rasmussen, Safety Director Joe Mack, Superintendent Marty McGough and Vice President Doug Miskey accepted the award on behalf of the company.



Safety Awards

Congratulations to recipients of Rasmussen's safety awards for the third and fourth quarters of 2015.

For the third quarter, foreman Jesse Camarillo won \$500 for taking the initiative to correct a problem with a piece of equipment that was parked unsafely on the State Route 126/Commerce Center Drive job. Safety Director Joe Mack said the action was "remarkable, since he was working that night on our I-5 repaving job, and was passing the Commerce Center job on his way to work when he noticed the problem."

Camarillo's timely intervention removed a potential hazard to motorists on Henry Mayo Drive.

Foreman Brandon Medema was awarded \$100 for recognizing a traffic control problem that was confusing to passing traffic on his jobsite in Calabasas, and for implementing the necessary corrective measures. Medema's corrections helped facilitate the safe flow of traffic through our job on Mulholland Highway.



For the last quarter of 2015, Foreman Brian St. Germain was recognized for his "careful and competent implementation" of traffic control measures for the I-5 job in Glendale. "His consistently excellent performance has helped keep our workers safe in a very high-risk environment," Mack said.

Cement Mason Daniel Gomez was nominated for a safety award for providing his co-workers a better technique for setting up steel forms on the State Route 126/Commerce Center Drive project.

DISTRACTED, from front

glance that's longer than two seconds for you to get into a crash."

Some distractions can't be eliminated, but most can be managed. For example, turn your cellphone off or silence it before you start the engine. Don't eat or drink on the road. Set your GPS before starting the engine.

A New Distraction: Texting While Driving

While driver distractions come in many forms, texting while driving is especially dangerous.

"It seems so common sense not to text while driving, but people are so connected to their electronic devices that they kind of forget themselves," Harsha says.

According to research from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, texting while driving is associated with the highest risk of all cellphone-related tasks.

The research found that text messaging causes drivers to take their eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds over a six-second interval. That means at 55 miles per hour, a texting driver would travel the length of a football field without looking at the road.



C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. is building a team of volunteers to join Friends of the Los Angeles River for its 27th Annual Great River Cleanup.

The event is on April 23 from 9 a.m. to noon, and we'll be cleaning a section of the river near Dodger Stadium. Kids are welcome to participate, so sign up the whole family! To join the Rasmussen team and to receive your waiver, contact Stacey Klein at 661.367.9075 or sklein@carasmussen.com. For more information, visit <http://folar.org/cleanup/faq>

2016 COMPANY CALENDAR

Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Saturday, June 4	Operating Engineers Holiday
Monday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 5	Labor Day
Friday, November 11	Veteran's Day – Holiday
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 25	Day after Thanksgiving Day
Saturday, December 3	Operating Engineers Holiday
Friday, December 23	Floating Holiday
Monday, December 26	Christmas Holiday

PLAY BALL!

FOUNDER'S DAY 2016. More information coming soon ...