

President's Message: Returning to Walkable Communities

Since ancient times, towns and cities throughout the world have been built so that residents could walk wherever they needed to go. Today we call them "walkable" communities. California in the 1950s changed this by introducing the first freeway. Eventually most of the U.S. was built around cars and freeways — not people.

California's slow return to building housing, shops and resources so that they are located in the same neighborhood has been going on for decades. Some of this is called "mixed-use" or "multi-use" construction. Underwood & Rosenblum, Inc. is fortunate to have provided civil engineering and surveying for many such projects.

Recently, interest in bringing back walkable communities has gained more momentum. Plans for such neighborhoods are becoming larger and more comprehensive. At the recent statewide Walk and Roll California conference, advocates and professionals in vari-

ous fields focused on walkable communities. I presented the workshop entitled "New Developments in Re-engineering School Drop-off Zones to Keep Student Pedestrians Safer."

It is time for California to take the lead once more. We can be an example for the rest of the country by bringing back walkable communities. Then we can look forward to the resulting return to stronger communities, increased safety, improved air, mental health and physical health.

U&R is proud to bring a long record of success in serving the creation of walkable communities. We provide the creative, more detailed civil engineering and surveying needed for such projects. We also enjoy developing plans for making communities more inviting for walkers.

Frank Rosenblum, PE, PLS
Principal Engineer/President

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Project Highlight: New Dianne Feinstein Elementary School

San Francisco's future Dianne Feinstein Elementary School is named after a California senator. While located on a sloping and undersized site, with careful planning, it still offers the full range of amenities. Construction is scheduled for completion in spring 2006.

Specifically, the newly built Feinstein Elementary will span 64,400 square feet. It will host 28 classrooms, a large library, a

multi-purpose room and community facilities. Up to 500 students will be able to enroll when the school is at full capacity.

K2A Architecture + Interiors serves as the architectural firm on the project. U&R is proud to be the civil engineering and surveying firm.

Spotlight on Technology: Historic Maps

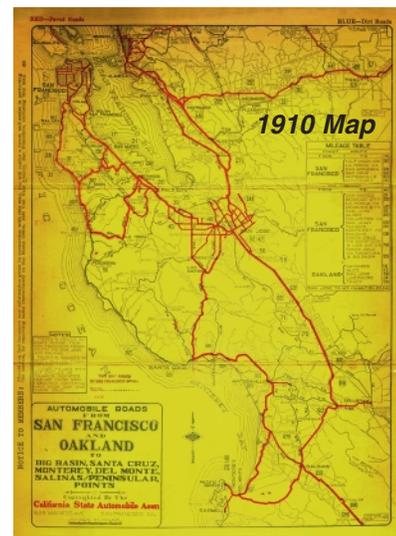
Historic maps of the Bay Area and California line the hallways of U&R's office. Dating from the 1860s to 1960s, these maps commemorate a time when every distance and angle shown was measured by hand.

Dedicated rugged individuals mapped out the land using optical measurement instruments of the day. Their maps were often hand drafted to a high standard of accuracy and detail. These maps show us how the State of California developed around wonderful natural geographic features into the special place it is today.

Expressing what's on the land in drawing form is the backbone of what U&R does. Today we benefit from new technologies: satellite imagery, aerial photography, global positioning systems, robotic total stations, computer-aided drafting and digital 3D modeling. Historic maps in U&R's office serve as a model of how to visually express and present the land on paper.

Our historic maps also help give us perspective on where we are in the human development of the State of California. These maps give clues to why roads and cities were placed in their current locations. Treasured through the years, natural and historic features have been preserved.

Pictured above is a map from the year 1910. It shows paved roads from San Francisco to Salinas.



Rosenblum with Senator Feinstein & her Granddaughter

U&R Volunteers to Make Beach More Accessible

Visitors who walk to the beach at scenic Andrew Molera State Park will be one step closer to accessing it year-round instead of only seasonally. This is because, for U&R's annual volunteer project, we provided a pro bono land survey. It helps California State Parks staff develop a plan so that they can apply for funding for an accessible, permanent year-round bridge.

Currently, a low plank bridge provides access to the beach. It is removed during each winter and spring. The current bridge is just two feet wide — a dif-

ficult crossing for families with children and others less stable on their feet. Hand railings, easy approach ramps and a wider surface will make a permanent bridge safer.

"U&R has been a great help to California State Parks," said State Parks Associate Civil Engineer Joan Carpenter. "Due to U&R's volunteer project last year at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and the resulting donation, we are about to construct a new culvert. It will improve fish passage and help save the steelhead trout in the Big Sur River."



To see the full story about U&R's volunteer project at Molera State Park with photos, visit the "News" page of www.UandR.com.

Recent U&R Projects

U&R's many recent projects include the following highlights, pictured here:

■ 550 Moreland at Rivermark Planned Community. Residential Podium Style Development, Santa Clara. Prometheus Real Estate Group, Inc.

■ Horner Junior High School, Fremont Unified School District (FUSD). Gymnasium and Traffic Separation. Architect – Deems Lewis McKinley.

■ Kennedy High School, FUSD. Athletic Field Complex. Landscape Architects – ANLA, Inc.

■ Smith Elementary School, LVJUSD, Livermore. School Reconstruction, Modular Buildings. Architects – Hardison Komatsu Ivelich & Tucker.



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