End of the Fiscal, End of an Era

This month the Bureau bids farewell to our Director and leader, Nazario Sauceda, who has chosen to retire after 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles. Nazario joined the Bureau of Street Services as a Field Engineering Aide and moved through the ranks becoming the first Latino Director of the Bureau of Street Services in February of 2011.

As Director, Nazario halted the 40 year decline in city-wide road quality and raised the City’s Average Pavement Condition Index from 62 to 69; a monumental effort and achievement that earned the Bureau the National Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation issued by the National Foundation for Pavement Preservation. During his tenure, the Bureau published the nationwide known State of the Streets Report versions 2011, 2015, and 2018 as well as the 2015 State of the Street Trees Report which currently is the main platform for the City’s Street Tree Sustainability Plan. Through the use of creative ideas and innovated technologies, Nazario led a BSS that was able to increase productivity and efficiencies despite a 40% reduction in staff that resulted from past fiscal deficits.

One of his most notorious trademarks was his willingness to work with Neighborhood Councils and organized groups to develop strategic local plans. He answered phone calls from residents in need regardless of the hour or the day of the week.

Nazario’s immediate plans include taking some time off before he officially retires. He will be spending some time at his son’s house overseeing beautiful Lake Champlain, Vermont, and then he will be traveling to his beloved Florence, Italy where he plans to spend the rest of the summer.