

OBITUARY

Remembering Gonzalo Acosta

Transportation employees hold fundraisers in memory of Gonzalo Acosta, who died trying to save his daughter in a swift river.



Lorraine Acosta.

Story and photos courtesy Zaki Mustafa, Transportation

On June 28, Gonzalo Acosta, Assistant Signal System Electrician, Transportation, lost his life in a swift river incident. He was 38 and was assigned to the Central Yard Traffic Signal Construction Division at the time of his death.

Gonzalo, his wife, Lorraine, and their four children were attending a weekend getaway at the Kern River with family and friends. His 16-year-old daughter and his wife, Lorraine, were enjoying their time at the river when his daughter

accidentally got swept into the rough waters. Lorraine and several others attempted to make a human chain to reach her and pull her out of danger. Gonzalo jumped into the water and pushed her toward her mother. He managed to get his daughter to safety, but he tired from his efforts and succumbed.

The Kern County Sheriff's office conducted a search and rescue effort, and within a day, his Transportation family and friends took personal time off to go to the river and assist in the search. At press time, his body has not been recovered.

His extended Transportation family found ways to support the Acosta family. A Department-wide bulletin was e-mailed, and many donations were collected. At the Transportation picnic July 19, his coworkers set up a memorial table, and funds were raised for the Acosta family.

On July 23, his extended Transportation family — Signal Systems Electrician, Lou Barrera, his wife, and the rest of the Central Yard family -- held a lunch fundraiser. This luncheon was a huge success. Other departments participated, including the LAPD; the LAFD; the DWP; Public Works Engineering, Street Lighting, Street Services and Sanitation; and General Services. Lou Barrera raised more than \$11,000 for the family that day.

A future pancake breakfast fundraiser at Transportation headquarters is pending.

An account has been established for the Acosta family at Wells Fargo Bank to accept donations. Please make checks payable to: Acosta Family Support Fund, memo line: Account # 5307321116. You may walk in to any



Gonzalo Acosta
Presumed drowned in Kern River

Wells Fargo Bank or mail to the Atwater Branch:
Wells Fargo Bank
3250 Glendale Bl.
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The department and the Club continue to pray for the Acosta family at this time of need.



At a fundraiser for the Acosta family.



At a fundraiser for the Acosta family.

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