PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Daren Gee, San Francisco Section President

Brent Siemer, our Region 9 Past-governor, is leading the efforts to bring the Annual Water and Transportation Infrastructure Symposium and Region 9 Awards Dinner to San Francisco on March 14th. He and his team are doing a fantastic job! The symposium team recently sent you information with event details and to sign up for this event. We look forward to seeing you there. Mike Kincaid, who recently published our local ASCE report card, is our Chairperson of our Symposium Sub-committee, and is leading our efforts to organize the lineup of high profile speakers.

At the symposium in March, Dr. Tina Swanson, Director of Science Center, National Resources Defense Center, will talk to us about our Bay Delta and the sensitive environmental concerns. Will Kempton, Executive Director of Transportation California, will discuss our transportation funding gap and how to close it. Tina and Will are going to join more than two dozen expert speakers that will engage and enlighten us on subjects most important to us professionally. Mike has organized the symposium speakers into a water track and a transportation track sessions. The two speaker tracks will have 4 sessions, with each session supported by multiple experts.

By attending the symposium, you’ll also learn about the many public improvements literally surrounding the new home of the 49ers, a.ka. Levi Stadium. This lunch time discussion is a keynote highlight of the day sessions. We’re also planning to have another keynote topic at dinner. At our dinner directly following the symposium, another keynote presentation will be highlighted. This will augment the many great California Projects and Engineers that will receive ASCE recognition in the evening. Mr. Kwame Agyare at this moment is leading the evaluation of our Region 9 (California) award applicants, and is managing the team of judges that will deliberate and determine who will receive our prestigious ASCE Region 9 awards.

For the symposium, a goal of ours is that each of our guests will benefit from the content they learn in some tangible way and realize this within the next few years. Our event attendees will be project managers, government specialists, university professors, students, engineering executives, and hopefully...you. Please hold March 14th open and register for the symposium event or for the awards event. Many of us will sign up for both events.

Our annual infrastructure symposium and awards dinner is organized by a combined team of Region 9 and San Francisco Section volunteers. The event rotates between the four sections of Region 9, and this year, the event will be held in San Francisco at the Delancey Street Foundation. This is a fantastic venue for our ASCE engineer’s and hosting the event here will help support the Delancey Street Foundation’s mission and history is fantastic.

President’s Message continued on page 2
2014 CA Infrastructure Symposium & Awards Banquet

Mark your calendar for a special one day event which will offer two tracks on the following broad and complex infrastructure topics:

1. **Transportation**: Sessions will discuss the important issue of transportation infrastructure.
2. **Water**: Sessions will discuss the state and future of California’s water infrastructure.

**Keynote Speakers**

- **Morning Keynote**: S. Bry Sarte, Founder, Sherwood Institute, “Sustainable Infrastructure - Green Infrastructure Engineering and Design”
- **Lunchtime Keynote**: Jim Mercurio of the 49ers, Bill Burton, AECOM Traffic Engineer and Jack Hill, Project Executive. “Levi Stadium Transportation Plan”

This event will conclude with the Region 9 (California) Awards Dinner, honoring outstanding individuals and projects from around California. This is an excellent opportunity to gain a fantastic perspective on our industry.

When:
- Friday March 14, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where:
- Delancey Street Foundation, 600 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

For more information and registration visit [www.CAIS.org](http://www.CAIS.org).

Sincerely,

Symposium Planning Committee

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On a completely separate topic, Fresno State will host the Mid-Pac Student Conference on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of April. Students representing 15 universities will be in locking in life-changing physical and intellectual completion. The concrete canoe challenge is the most famous event - although the steel bridge, geo-challenge, and transportation competitions are equally tough and engaging. Participation from international university participants is also highlighted. The international exchange aspect of this civil engineering competition makes the event much more meaningful. Last year the event was co-hosted by Santa Clara University and San Jose State University, and was won by University of the Pacific. Mid-Pac hosted by Fresno State this year is looking well on its way to being another great event.

Your direct or indirect support our university chapters, especially with much needed intellectual and financial support, is encouraged. In our past, branches have held two university chapter liaisons that bridged between the local branches the nearby universities. With the development of the YMF groups for the past decade or so, we have new opportunities to also have liaisons be assigned to university chapters from our YMF membership. The section would certainly encourage and support the identification and assignment of branch and YMF liaisons.

San Francisco Section supports both of these annual events. We hope that you would be able to participate in some way. Perhaps you or your company could find a way to participate in or to sponsor one of these two events. We appreciate your participation at our many branches, chapters, and institute presentations that are hosted at lunch or dinner in your local area. Participation at these events is a great way to stay involved with ASCE. Our members stay abreast of changes to our industry, build new business and professional relationships, and share their experiences with one another.

More information and details for our local presentations, or for our two upcoming special events, can be found at [www.asce-sf.org](http://www.asce-sf.org), and [www.ascemidpac.org](http://www.ascemidpac.org).

Sincerely,

Daren Gee, President, San Francisco Section, ASCE
REGION 9 GOVERNOR’S REPORT

2014 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner

By Kwame A. Agyare, P.E., MBA, M. ASCE Region 9 Governor, San Francisco Section

As the year 2013 draws to a close, it is always a good time to take stock of all the great work done being done in service to the civil engineering profession, by engineers all across the State. One of the many ways in which engineers may be recognized is through nomination or selection for an award at either the Section or Region level. ASCE Region 9 comprises the entire state of California, and consists of the four Sections (San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego and Los Angeles). I am honored to be the new Governor for Region 9 serving the San Francisco Geographic Region which spans from Monterey, Kings and Tulare Counties in the south, to Humboldt and Del Norte Counties in northern California. I am also pleased to be the current chair of the ASCE Region 9 Awards Committee whose task is to recognize engineers in fifteen individual awards categories, and twenty-one project awards categories, at the annual awards ceremony in 2014. The caliber of award nominations currently under review by the committee is a testament to the hard work and commitment that these engineers contribute on a daily basis, and I am thrilled that we have so many nominees worthy of being recognized at the Region level.

Next year’s 2014 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner will be held at the Delancey Street Foundation in San Francisco, on Friday March 14, 2014. The event is a partnership between the San Francisco Section, Section Institutes, and ASCE Region 9, and is generally envisioned to rotate through each of the Section’s jurisdiction every four years. The San Francisco Section is pleased to be hosting next year’s event, and efforts are well underway towards putting on a successful program in early Spring.

The Symposium will be an all-day event that is typically attended by engineers, educators, elected officials, professionals and the general public. I hope that many of you reading this will save the date and plan to attend this event that will primarily comprise two tracks:

Transportation track:
• Regional Transportation Projects including the Transbay Terminal and Bay Bridge
• New home to the 49ers, Levi Stadium – Transportation Plan
• Ports and Waterways “Goods Movement in the 22nd Century”
• Future Vision for Regional Transportation
• State Transportation Overview

Water track:
• California H2O The First 100 Years; How Did We Get Where We Are?
• California’s Bay Delta Improvements: Continued Future Water Supply or Pipe Dream?
• Integrated Regional Water Management: A Path to Sustainability?
• Vision of Water for Next Century

The Symposium will be immediately followed by a networking reception that will precede the Annual Awards Banquet where outstanding Projects and Individuals in Region 9 will be presented with awards. These award recipients were selected by the Region 9 Awards Committee from almost 70 nominations received. Several past Region 9 Project Award nominees have gone on to be considered for, and win, the ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) award at the National level. In general, all engineers in Region 9 whether nominated or not, should be proud of the accomplishments they have achieved throughout the year, and Region 9 thanks you for your continuing commitment and service to the engineering profession.

For more information and to register for the Infrastructure Symposium or Awards Banquet, please bookmark the San Francisco Section website, www.asce-sf.org, or the Region 9 web site, www.asce.org/region9. We hope to see you in San Francisco on March 14!

Exploratorium Recognized for Sustainability

San Francisco Section President Daren Gee personally presented to the 2013 Outstanding Sustainable Engineering Project to Exploratorium Executive Director, Dennis Bartels on December 9th. The Exploratorium’s goal is to have a net-zero energy operation and become the largest net-zero energy museum in the U.S. The environmentally-friendly design incorporates a bay water heating and cooling system, rooftop photovoltaic arrays, rainwater collection, and high-performance windows and glass. Rutherford + Chekene led the engineering effort on this iconic project.
Sacramento CI Section Annual Event Report

The ASCE Construction Institute (CI) Sacramento Section held its annual event on May 1, 2013 titled “Construction Forecast and Outlook for 2013 and Beyond” at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Sacramento. Over 200 engineers, contractors, vendors, and local, state and federal officials attended the event to network and gather information related to future projects planned in the region.

The evening was kicked off with a keynote address by the Honorable Congresswoman Doris Matsui. She indicated that although there are differences on Capitol Hill regarding spending, she is focusing to gain increased support of her fellow members of congress to understand the importance of funding infrastructure projects, especially those related to flood control in our region.

Congresswoman Matsui’s address was followed with presentations by Mr. Gary Bardini, Deputy Director for the California Department of Water Resources, Mr. Joe Calcura, Director of Programs for the US Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division, and Mr. Malcolm Dougherty, Director of Caltrans. All three emphasized funding as a major challenge in navigating a project from inception to design and then to construction.

Mr. Bardini discussed the importance of the Bay-Delta program and the related projects regionally and statewide that are all tied together. Mr. Calcura illustrated how funding on infrastructure and defense has decreased over the past 75 years while spending on domestic entitlements has increased over the same period. He described projects related to flood control and infrastructure. Mr. Dougherty described California as a major transportation hub in traffic where it was essentially the gateway for commercial traffic to the interior states and presence of major metropolitan “megacities.” He also highlighted the completion/near completion of complex projects in the region including Devils Slide, Doyle Drive, Caldecott Tunnel, and the iconic new span on the eastern segment of the Bay Bridge.

The event was sponsored by Magnus Pacific Corporation, Construction Testing Services, Kiewit Construction, Granite Construction, Vali Cooper, The Dutra Group, Northstar Construction and Engineering, Sunbelt Rentals, Myers and Son Construction, and URS. All proceeds of the event will benefit the Scholarship fund.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the ASCE Construction Institute contact Louay Owaidat, the Sacramento Section CI chair, at Lowaidat@magnuspacific.com.

January Dinner Meeting:

Silicon Valley BART Berryessa Extension Project

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2014
Time: 6 p.m. Social Hour with private wine/beer bar, $4 each inclusive; soft drinks $2 each inclusive; all proceeds to Scholarship Fund; 7 p.m. Dinner; 8 p.m. Program; 9:15 p.m. Scholarship Fund Raffle and adjourn.

Location: Restaurant Peony: 388 Ninth Street, Suite 288, Pacific Renaissance Plaza, Oakland – VIP Banquet Room; 510-286-8866

Menu: 10 Course Chinese Banquet Dinner

Parking: Street difficult or building garage; $2.00 for evening; no validation. Garage entrances on Webster and Franklin Streets; elevator to 2nd floor. Pay at first floor booth prior to exiting.

Directions: Downtown Oakland; north side of 9th Street between Franklin & Webster. Take escalator or elevator to second floor, NW corner. BART: 12 Street Station, exit to south. AC Transit, various bus routes.

Cost: $30; students $10; credit card/Paypal pre-paid by January 20th; $35; students $15; cash/check at the door.

Register at: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=tynn6tjab&oeidk=a07e8oo6c14e9cb29e2

Pre-registration closes January 20th. No refunds after January 17th.

The program will conclude with the CI Section Scholarship Fund raffle. Please remember to bring donations of raffle prizes to this event so we can insure the success of this important fund!
Redwood Empire Branch

January Luncheon: Advancements in Rockfall and Landslide Mitigation Technology

The presentation is a summary of 40 years of geotechnical research in retaining walls, bridge abutments, open bottom culverts, reinforced soils, landslides and rockfall. This research was performed by Colorado DOT, the US Forest Service, the Federal Highway Administration and several agencies and universities. Several new tools, methods and techniques will be presented that are not as yet in standard practice. The presentation concludes with recent California case studies.

The speaker is James Chinchiole of GeoStabilization International. James earned his degree at the University of the Pacific in California. James has repaired over 50 landslides throughout California in the past 8 years for several state and local California agencies and in the private sector.

Date/Time:
Thursday, January 9th, 2014 at Noon
Location:
Cattlemen’s, 2400 Midway Drive, Montgomery Village, Santa Rosa
Menu:
A) Sirloin Steak; B) Teriyaki Chicken; C) 3-Cheese Pasta.
Each choice includes salad, bread, coffee, and tea
Cost:
$20 ($10 for students)
RSVP:
Email Blake Caricato at Blake@summit-sr.com with your lunch order by Tuesday, January 7th.

San Jose Branch

Happy Holidays!

The San Board would like to wish all ASCE members a Happy Holidays! We look forward to serving the ASCE San Jose Branch members for the upcoming New Year.

January Monthly Joint Lunch Meeting with APWA

The January lunch meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at Michaels @ Shoreline Restaurant in Mountain View. This joint lunch meeting will feature a presentation by Dan Child from the South Bay System Authority (SBSA) on the Wastewater Pipeline Improvement Project. The 48-inch Force Main Reliability Improvement Project will consist of two main types of installation: traditional open cut and microtunneling. Mr. Child has over 25 years of experience in the management of various municipal, industrial, and public works facilities. Before joining SBSA, he served five years as area manager/vice president of operations for Veolia Water North America West LLC, the nation’s leading water services provider for local and federal governments and business and industry.

January Monthly Joint Dinner Meeting with SFGI: Red Top Landslide

The San Francisco Geo-Institute (SFGI) and the San Jose Branch will be having a joint dinner event on Thursday January 23rd at Massimo’s in Fremont. The speaker is Tom Whitman from CalTrans and the topic is the Red Top Landslide located along I-80, west of Cordelia. The Red Top

BRANCH REPORTS
Landslide is a deep-seated 250-acre landslide complex developed in Markley Formation mudstone and Nortonville Formation shale. To drain the landslide of water, CalTrans designed and constructed two 20-foot diameter shafts (315-feet deep and 141-feet deep) with hundreds of horizontals drains. The landslide has effectively stopped moving. The cost for each shaft and horizontal drain system was about $7M. Please put this blurb in your newsletter. My colleague Jeff will update the Google calendar.

### THIS MONTH IN SACRAMENTO

**By Richard Markuson, Region 9 Advocate**

#### Legislative Update

November and December are traditionally slow months in the Capitol – with holidays, recess and FBI investigations occupying most of the time (not to mention media attention). The Legislature reconvenes on January 6, 2014 and the two houses must act on all two-year bills by the end of the month. February 21, 2014 is the tentative deadline for new bill introductions.

#### Appointments

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. made the following Water Board appointments. These appointments may require Senate confirmation.

- As deputy director of the **California Department of Toxic Substances Control Safer Products and Workplaces Program**: Meredith Williams, 51, San Francisco, Democrat, interim executive director at the San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center.
- As deputy secretary for environmental policy at **California Environmental Protection Agency**: Grant Cope, 43, Washington, D.C., Democrat, senior council for the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
- As deputy secretary for transportation at **California State Transportation Agency**: Chad Edison, 41, University Park MD, Democrat, transportation industry analyst at US Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration.

#### Senate Rules Committee Appointments:

- To **California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program Scientific Guidance Panel**: Carl Cranor (reappointed), Riverside, Democrat, professor of philosophy and a faculty member of the environmental toxicology graduate program at UC Riverside. Term begins January 1, 2014 and ends January 1, 2017.
- To **San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority, Board of Directors**: Jeff DelBono (reappointed), Pleasant Hill, Democrat, firefighter, City of Alameda. Term ends January 1, 2018.

#### Recent Reports

  [http://eetd.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/lbnl-6451e.pdf](http://eetd.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/lbnl-6451e.pdf)

- California Research Bureau releases report, “California’s Gender Gap in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education and Employment,” findings include female employment trails male employment in life/physical sciences 42% to 58%; in technology 24% to 76%; in engineering 15% to 85%; and in math 49% to 51%.

- Caltrans Dir. Malcolm Dougherty has released annual “Project Delivery Report” for Fiscal Year 2012-13, says Caltrans “delivered a total of 450 projects valued at $2.134 billion from all funding programs.”  

- The California State Auditor has released its report, “Salton Sea Restoration Fund: The State Has Not Fully Funded a Restoration Plan and the State’s Future Mitigation Costs Are Uncertain.”  

- Caltrans has released an updated version of its “Main Street California” guide, outlines “concepts for the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of California highways that serve as a community’s main street.”  
Read Your Contracts Carefully

by Eugene Bass, Esq.

Most engineering is done pursuant to a written contract. The form of the contract, however, can vary from a simple letter to a multi-page document filled with legalese. Although everyone knows better, often the full contract is not read or understood before signing. It is obvious that such a practice can be dangerous both because of what the contract may say and what it may not say.

A well-written contract serves to establish a clear understanding between the parties at the beginning of the engagement. It should define the rights, duties and responsibilities of the parties and should accurately describe the expectations of the parties.

Until one is fully comfortable with the language in a contract, including all of the small print, and understands the meaning and interpretation of the terms, it is advisable to have the agreement reviewed by your attorney and insurance advisor. There can be requirements in a contract for which there may be no insurance coverage. You need to know this. You or your attorney may not be aware of those provisions and an insurance review will be critical. Extreme or unfair provisions should be identified and negotiated out of the agreement if possible. As alternatives, indemnity and hold harmless terms could be included. In addition, additional fees could be added to compensate for the increased amount of risk involved. The option of not entering into the contract should always be maintained if compensation and terms commensurate with the risks cannot be negotiated.

Contracts can include provisions for the engineer to be indemnified and held harmless by the other party. Indemnity is particularly appropriate where the project involves an inherently high level of risk such as when there is a long term potential for public injury or where the owner may reuse plans or where the contract may be terminated before completion of the engineer’s services.

Even if comprehensive indemnity and hold harmless provisions can be incorporated into the contract, the inherent limitations of such provisions must be borne in mind. They will not protect the engineer for damages arising out of sole negligence or willful misconduct. Finally, the promise of the other party to indemnify and hold the engineer harmless is only as good as the ability of that party to fulfill the promise if and when the time comes. If the owner is no longer financially viable, the best contract indemnity and hold harmless terms will be worthless.

Other contract pitfalls and advice will be discussed in future articles. In the meantime, take time to read your contracts, try to understand everything and if you don’t, ask.

This article is intended to provide general information regarding legal issues. It is not to be relied upon as specific legal advice or in place of the need to seek competent legal advice on specific legal matters. Eugene Bass is an attorney and registered Civil Engineer. He has offices in Redwood City and can be reached at 650-369-7990.

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YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

2014 Engineering Office Tour Series Kicks Off with URS Oakland

Come join us as we explore the URS Oakland office and get to know some of the staff. We will have a quick tour of the facility followed by refreshments in the main conference room. There we will get to meet some of the Engineers as they go through the projects they are working on and host a Q/A session.

Date: Tuesday, January 28th 2014
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Location: URS Oakland, 1333 Broadway, Oakland (near 12th Street Bart Station)
Please RSVP to Adrian.Gotauco@urs.com.

2013 Toys for Tots Holiday Social

In a joint effort between ASCE SF YMF and SEAONC YMF, our annual holiday charity social was held on December 12 to benefit the Toys for Tots organization. This year’s event was held at the Royal Exchange in downtown San Francisco where guests who donated toys enjoyed drinks and appetizers sponsored by ASCE and SEAONC. The event was a great success! We had total of 15 attendees and collected over 25 toys for children in need.
The Civil Engineer

Our readership includes 5300 Civil, Environmental, Geotechnical, Structural Engineers throughout the Golden Gate, Fresno, North Coast, Redwood Empire and San Jose ASCE Branches. We offer advertising as a combination newsletter and website ad. We also offer a WEB ONLY ad special.

Classified Job Ads for Newsletter and Website combo:
- $40 for first 35 words
- $20 for each additional 10 words
- All job ads will be posted on the web

Website Only Job Ads:
- $85 for a maximum of 150 words.
- $150 for a maximum of 250 words

Display Ads:

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Business Card Size:
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Submit finished ads via Email to:
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Display ads must be supplied by the advertiser and formatted as a PDF or jpeg document.

FULL PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF ORDER.

The Civil Engineer

Official monthly publication of the San Francisco Section-ASCE

The Civil Engineer is published regularly on the first day of each month. Articles are solicited from the San Francisco Section membership as well as the general engineering community. Articles, meeting notices, and photographs should reach the Civil Engineer Editor, Section Office (see below), BY THE TENTH OF THE MONTH. The Society and the Section are not responsible for any statement made or the opinions expressed in their publications.

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ASCE HOME PAGE
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Outstanding Career Opportunity
Chief Harbor Engineer
The Port of San Francisco

The Port of San Francisco is seeking a highly qualified Engineer for the position of Chief Harbor Engineer. Ideal candidates must have a proven track record of project management, including a proactive, hands-on, “jack of all trades” type background, and must possess excellent interpersonal, problem solving, communication, leadership, and financial management skills. Requires a Bachelor’s degree, California Professional Engineering License, and 10 years of increasingly responsible engineering experience including three years management experience. Submit resume, cover letter, salary history and six work related references via email to apply@ralphandersen.com. Apply Immediately. Brochure available at www.ralphandersen.com. Confidential inquiries welcomed to 916/630-4900.

Rockridge Geotechnical is looking for an experienced Project Engineer to join our team in Oakland. Five to eight years of relevant experience is desired. M.S. degree in geotechnical preferred. Position includes competitive salary, benefits, and flexible schedule. To apply, please email your resume to kaschenk@rockridgegeo.com.

Continuing Education

ASCE offers continuing education courses. Call 800-548-2728 for more information.

Parsons Brinckerhoff has an opening for Lead Geotechnical Engineer to join the California High Speed Rail Program Management Team in Fresno. 10+ years relevant experience in Design-Build, geotechnical design and construction, CA PE and MS degree preferred. For full description, see www.pbworld.com, job #18699.