

# The Civil Engineer

Monthly Newsletter for Members of the San Francisco Section, ASCE

Golden Gate / San Jose / Redwood Empire / North Coast / Fresno

Celebrating Our 109th Year

March 2014, Volume 61, No. 3

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Yoash Tilles, P.E., President, North Coast Branch

It has been a great year for the North Coast Branch ASCE. To date we enjoyed a number of activities including our monthly lunch presentations and our annual pizza event and crab feed. The North Coast Branch has also begun preparing the first Infrastructure Report Card for Humboldt County and there's still much



more to come before the season ends. All activities this year have been planned with three goals in mind. The first goal has been to offer more activities to ASCE members; with the benefit of increasing participation. The second goal has been to encourage Humboldt State University (HSU) engineering students, through the Environmental Resources Engineering Student Association (ERESA), to become acquainted with local professionals and to become familiar with possible engineering careers after graduation. The third goal has been to support our local community while continuing to strengthen our relationship with the San Francisco Section and ASCE National.

Fulfilling these goals has required steady effort from the North Coast Branch officers; and as usual, this season's officers have been more than up for the challenge. This season's group of Branch officers includes three officers from last season and three new officers. The three officers from last season include Josh wolf (Director), Jordan King (Multimedia Coordinator), and myself (President). I would like to welcome Nathan Stevens (Treasurer), Wes Nickerman (Student Practitioner Advisor) and Cody Long (Secretary) as our newest branch officers. We were also fortunate to have Matt Love and Becky L. Dower serve as branch officers for the first part of the season. All of these officers consistently provide leadership, contribute to the various activities, and make coordinating the season's events enjoyable.

Activities the Branch has coordinated this season include four lunch presentations, our annual crab feed and our first Infrastructure Report Card meetings. In September, Tom Mattson, Director of Humboldt County Public Works presented on the California Statewide Local Streets and Road Needs Assessment Report. This presentation was scheduled early in the year as we were gearing up to prepare our own ASCE Report Card for Humboldt County. To further support the Report Card effort, in October, Oona Smith a senior planner with the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) presented the Draft Humboldt 20 - Year Regional Transpiration Plan updated in 2013. In November, Tyler Duncan with Engineer's Without Borders presented on the Nicaragua Well Project this organization is involved in. In February, Mike Foget, P.E., with SHN Consulting Engineers presented on the Remediation of Tuluwat Village that is a sacred site to the Wiyot Tribe. SHN prepared Brownfield-required plans for this 6-acre site that is located in the mudflats of Humboldt Bay.

In January 2014, we hosted the first Humboldt County ASCE Report Card meeting at HCAOG. To prepare the assessment, we assembled a team of experts from both the public and private sectors including representatives of Humboldt County, five cities, four tribes, Bureau of Land Management and local consulting engineering experts. The first infrastructure Report Card for Humboldt County will focus on transportation including roads and bridges. The team of experts with the assistance of an editing committee composed of engineers from Humboldt County, HCAOG, ASCE officers and HSU ERESA Engineering students will help assemble and edit the report as we progress. Overall, we have approximately 40 local engineers involved in this effort. In our upcoming February meeting, we will discuss and define the criteria and grading used in the evaluation of the infrastructure. We have obtained a \$1,000 from the State Public Affair Grant (SPAG) to support this effort. We are scheduled to meet monthly until August 2014, when the Report Card will be completed and presented to the public and policy makers by our ASCE Report Card Communication Committee.

In February, the Branch hosted the annual crab feed at Merryman's Beach House near, Trinidad, CA. The event was well attended by professionals, students, and family members who enjoyed fresh Dungeness crab and an excellent presentation. This year's keynote speakers were, Carol Rische, P.E., the General Manager of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and Pat Kaspari, P.E., and Patrick Sullivan, P.E., with GHD the engineering consultant. The project included the replacement of the laterals of one of four Ranney Wells located in the Mad River, which provide water to approximately 80,000 customers in Humboldt County. The event was well attended by over 50 students and professionals. We were also fortunate to have in attendance Region 9 Governor, Kwame Agyare and San Francisco Section President (Elect) Matt Kennedy. The Branch's next event is scheduled for March 20th at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center in Eureka. Bob Merrill, the California Coastal Commission North Coast Regional Manager from the Eureka office will present a slide show explaining the rolls the Coastal Commission plays in the permitting process, suggestions how engineers and commission staff can work better together, and will show case a number of projects that have been permitted and executed.

Activities ASCE has held in conjunction with the Humboldt State University Engineering Student Association (ERESA) included the annual one-on-one pizza with professional's dinner in October at the Jambalaya in Arcata. This was a great event for both students and professionals that gave students the opportunity to sit down in a relaxed en-

vironment and talk to professionals about engineering careers. This event was free to students and we had a great turnout with over 50 students and professionals. In January, Branch officer Wes Nickerman and three ERESA members attended the Region Conference in Arizona. On February, the Branch held its annual student design competition where teams of students researched, designed, constructed and tested water treatment filters made only of supplies found at a hardware store. The contest is intended to help the students prepare for the 2014 ASCE Mid-Pac Student Water Treatment Competition.

ASCE/ERESA activities still to come this season include mock interviews for HSU engineering students as well as our annual awards banquet where the engineer and project of the year will be announced.

This truly has been an active and fun season for the North Coast Branch of ASCE. A few additional items not mentioned above but which are activities completed every season include coordinating an ASCE commercial which airs during engineer's week and organizing proclamations at cities and counties throughout the North Coast. The commercial was funded through donations from local engineering and construction firms and was aired on a local TV channel. The proclamations, which declared February 16th through 22nd as Engineer's Week, were organized in every city and county in our area and were received by ASCE officers and members.

I appreciate this opportunity to discuss the talents of the North Coast Branch ASCE officers and the accomplishments they've made this season. This has been and continues to be a great season with many more activities to come.

http://www.northcoastasce.org/

## **REGION 9 GOVERNOR'S REPORT**

## **Excellent Civil Engineering in California**

## By Jay Higgins, P.E., F.ASCE, Region 9 Vice Chair and Governor for Los Angeles Section

As I brainstormed about what to write for this article with so many examples of excellent civil engineering projects throughout our four California Sections, I thought: Where do I begin? With our 15 designated National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks? Perhaps our many State and Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks? How do I choose? I finally came to the conclusion that as the ASCE Region 9 Governor for the Los Angeles Section which just completed their 100th anniversary year, I would talk about the final project of the Los Angeles Section Centennial Committee.

This final effort, chaired by our Governor-at-Large, Mark Norton P.E. F.ASCE, is a book which will compile the many infrastructure articles written throughout Centennial Celebration year for the Section newsletter with many interesting facts and history of the L.A. Section. The newsletter articles captured the essence of the civil engineering achievement in the ten county area of the Los Angeles Section. These include great projects designed and built by our civil engineers of yesteryear that benefited our society and helped make the Los Angeles region what it is today. Other sections have great projects too, but 100 years doesn't roll around that often and the other sections will also have the opportunity to showcase their significant projects during their Centennial Celebration in the coming years (San Diego in 2015 and Sacramento in 2021). San Francisco has already celebrated their Centennial back in 2005. Maybe with the publishing of a successful L.A. Section Centennial Commemorative book, it could serve as a model for other Sections. Wouldn't it be great if we have a 100th anniversary series of history books for all four Sections in the ASCE Region 9?

Mark has proposed the following outline for the ASCE L.A. Section Centennial Commemorative Book 1913-2013:

- · Nicely designed soft cover
- Foreword from the Centennial Celebration Honorary Chair, Bob Bein, and Chair, Don Sepulveda
- Table of Contents
- Centennial Committee and Book Contributors
- ASCE Los Angeles Section Timeline 1913 to 2013
- Centennial Year Overview ASCE News Society article and photo collages of Centennial year activities
- Newsletter articles published during the Centennial Year:
  - Past Leaders including a complete list of all past Section Presidents

- ~ Historic Landmarks
- ~ Transportation Infrastructure
- Water Infrastructure
- Runoff Management in Southern California
- ~ Development of Commercial Aviation Infrastructure
- Long Beach & Los Angeles Harbors Infrastructure
- ~ Wastewater Treatment, Collection and Recycling
- ~ Urban Development and Sustainable Infrastructure

The book is envisioned to be in a 8 ½" x 11" format with a nicely designed color soft cover with about 120 pages with plenty of photos. It will also be available in digital format. It will be on sale through the book retailers and online through major book distributors (e.g. Amazon and Barnes and Noble). Keep an eye out for publication of the book about mid-year 2014.

By the way, if you would like to learn about the first 50 years of L.A. Section history, the Section has produced a pamphlet for our 50th Anniversary, which is posted online at the L.A. Section's website. If interested go to http://46.105.251.113/Centennial/fiftieth/pamphlet.pdf# zoom=80 (or copy and paste the link in the address bar). The first article in the pamphlet was written by Trent Dames, a major worldwide figure in the field of geotechnical engineering. The pamphlet titled "A History of the Los Angeles Section" includes a description of major activities of the Section from 1913 through 1963.

I am very excited about the publication of the upcoming ASCE L.A. Section Centennial book. I'm sure it will of interest to all of the civil engineers in the Region and what a great way to wrap up our Centennial Celebration year. A big thank you to Mark Norton for taking on this task.

If you have any questions about this article, please contact Jay Higgins at jayhiggins896@gmail.com.



## **CONSTRUCTION INSTITUTE**

## March Dinner Meeting: Microtunneling under Bair Island

The project involves installing a 60" casing and pulling a 48" fused High-Density Polyethylene pipe under several sloughs on Bair Island in Redwood City. The Owner is the South Bayside System Authority. The line runs 40 to 50 feet below grade and includes the construction of several deep jacking and receiving shafts.

#### Speaker:

David Mik, President, Power Engineering Construction Company

#### Date:

Tuesday, March 18, 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 March 14th; \$35; students \$15; cash/check at the door.

## Register at:

## http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event ?oeidk=a07e8zx72kt3dc1d228&llr=tynn6tjab

Pre-registration closes March 14th. No refunds after March 14th.

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!

## **GEO-INSTITUTE**

#### **SFGI Workshop Meeting**

Date:

Thursday March 20th, 2014 at 6 PM

Program:

**Graduate Student Research Presentations** 

Speakers:

PhD Candidates from UC Davis and UC Berkeley

Location:

Caltrans District 4 Auditorium, 111 Grand Ave., Oakland

Cost:

\$10 Non-student (Student: free)

## **EWRI**

### **March Dinner Meeting:**

The SFPUC's Regional Water System: Successfully Improving Its Delivery Reliability, but Will There Be Enough Water In the Coming Years?

The speaker, Steven Ritchie, AGM, SFPUC, is Assistant General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Water Enterprise, responsible for overseeing water system operations and planning from Hetch Hetchy through the Regional Water System to the City Distribution Division and the management of SFPUC lands and natural resources. He was the Manager of Planning at the SFPUC from 1995 to 1998. Prior to his current assignment, he managed the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, a multi-agency effort to restore 15,100 acres of valuable habitat in South San Francisco Bay while providing for flood risk management and public access. In addition, he has worked at management positions at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (1987-1995), the CalFed Bay-Delta Program (1998-2000), and URS consultants (2000-2004). He has a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.

Date and Time:

Monday March 17, 2014, 6:00 - 6:15 - Networking;

6:15 - 6:30 - Light Dinner; 6:30 - 7:30 - Presentation;

7:30 - 8:00 - Q&A

Where:

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, 525 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco

Cost:

Pre-paid by 03/16/14 - \$20.00

Register at:

https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e8zmit1943b279ab&oseq=&c=&ch=

## **BRANCH REPORTS**

### Fresno Branch

#### **February Luncheon**

Benjamin Ruiz, Jr, SE, is the Design Division manager for Tulare County, which is the Division responsible for designing and managing the County's major road and bridge projects. Benjamin provided a presentation on the Avenue 416 Kings River Bridge.

#### **Fresno Branch Annual Award Banquet**

Fresno Branch will hold its Annual Awards Banquet on March 27th. Please contact Noelle Willbanks at **nwillbanks@bskinc.com** to submit your nomination and to RSVP.

#### Golden Gate Branch

## February 18th Joint Dinner Meeting with the Construction Specifications Institute

On February 18th the Golden Gate Branch enjoyed a lovely waterside dinner at Scott's Seafood in Oakland where we strengthened ties with our partners from the Construction Specifications Institute. We were treated to a fantastic presentation by Mr. Mark Zabeneh of the Joint Powers Authority regarding the Transbay Transit Center. The Megaproject, which covers several city blocks in San Francisco, involves nearly all facets of engineering and construction and was a sure treat for those in attendance. When complete, the Transit Center will be a welcome boost for public transportation in California and will serve passengers of High Speed Rail, Caltrain, AC Transit, Sam-Trans, Golden Gate Transit, SF Muni, and Greyhound

## March 13th Dinner Meeting: Dismantling the Old Eastern Span of the Bay Bridge

Our March program will be held at Sinbad's Restaurant adjacent to the Ferry Building and Embarcadero BART station in San Francisco. With the construction of the new Bay Bridge complete, the dismantling of the old span is underway, and Dr. Brian Maroney, Caltrans Lead Bridge Engineer, will present the challenges and engineering behind deconstructing the early 20th century structure. Since many of the materials and construction methods used to erect the old Bay Bridge are no longer applicable in modern construction, the process of dismantling the old span is even more complex than the original construction. Dr. Maroney's program promises to walk us through the incredible feats required to accomplish this project. The evening presentation coincides with the ASCE Infrastructure Symposium being held the following day in San Francisco on March 14th. If you are one of the many visiting for the Symposium, be sure to join us for this exciting

program. If the presentation alone doesn't pique your interest, Sinbad's offers fantastic views of the Bay Bridge light show!

Date and Time:

Thursday, March 13th, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Location:

Sinbad's Pier 2 Restaurant, 141 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

Entrée choices:

Salmon, Chicken, Snapper, London Broil, Shrimp Louie Salad

RSVP:

Russ Moore, goldengate@asce-sf.org

### **Redwood Empire**

### March Luncheon: Full Depth Reclamation

Members will see a dynamic presentation about the economic, environmental, construction schedule and structural advantages of Full Depth Reclamation (FDR). When streets require complete reconstruction, the existing pavement materials are typically removed and replaced with new Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) and aggregate base. FDR is a process where existing pavement materials are mixed with cement and water and then compacted. This material serves as a support base for new HMA. Construction costs for the "remove & replace" method are often 70% more expensive than FDR.

The speaker is Anthony N. Lusich, P. E., G. E., F.ASCE. Tony comes from a family of civil engineers. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering for the University of Southern California in 1975. He is the Principal Engineer and Vice President of HSI Engineering. HSI specializes in soil stabilization for transportation and other projects. They are currently working on Highway 580 Westbound and Eastbound projects in Livermore, Highway 680 San Ramon, and the BART extension south from Fremont. He has served as the President of the ASCE Southern San Joaquin Branch, Kern County Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Kern County Branch of the American Public Works Association. He has been active in legislative review activities for these and other organizations. Tony has a Distinguished Service Award from the ASCE Southern San Joaquin Branch and an Outstanding Civil Engineer Award in Legislative Activities from the ASCE LA Section.

Date/Time:

Thursday, March 13, 2014 at Noon

Location:

Cattlemen's, 2400 Midway Drive, Montgomery Village, Santa Rosa

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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, March 11th.

### San Jose Branch

#### March Lunch Meeting: Full Depth Reclamation

Speaker:

Anthony Lusich, PE, GE, F.ASCE from HSI Engineering. See the Redwood Empire for details on the talk and the speaker.

Date:

Wednesday, March 12th

Location:

Bella Mia Restaurant in San Jose We hope to see you there!

#### **Upcoming Events: The Tech Challenge 2014**

Looking for ways to support S.T.E.M education? Celebrate teams of student innovators by volunteering for The Tech Challenge 2014 on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13 at The Tech Museum of Innovation.

At last year's event we had over 500 volunteers help us over two days and we couldn't have done it without them!

Volunteer now! Help us make The Tech Challenge 2014 the best it can be! Thanks for any help you can give and I hope to see you at The Tech Challenge in April!

http://thetechchallengereg.thetech.org/VolunteerSelect.aspx Questions?

Contact torme@thetech.org, or call 408-795-6205.

Visit:

**thetech.org** Also, feel free to check out last year's highlights video here.

Like:

facebook.com/TheTechChallenge

Follow:

twitter.com/#!/TheTechMuseum

## KPFF Portland is looking for motivated Structural Project Engineers interested in opportunity for growth.

#### **Position Summary**

As a Structural Project Engineer, you will work individually and collaboratively in the design through construction process for some of the most challenging projects in the Pacific Northwest, as well as nationally and overseas. You'll work closely with talented engineers, BIM/CAD technicians, architects, contractors and client teams. KPFF's current projects include:

- Airports
- Long-Span Structures
- Government Facilities
- High-Rise Structures
- Corporate Campuses
- Education Facilities

- Arenas/Stadiums
- Bridges
- · Commercial Developments
- Mixed-Use Developments
- Healthcare Facilities
- · Convention Centers

#### **Preferred Qualifications**

- 3+ years of structural engineering experience
- PE and MS / MEng engineering degrees
- Revit Structure experience
- Strong verbal/written communication skills
- Creative, proactive, and detail-oriented
- · Individuals who thrive when working directly with architects, contractors and engineers

#### Apply

Please submit a cover letter and resume to our website:

http://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH10/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=KPFF\_2&cws=51&rid=73 KPFF is an equal opportunity employer. www.kpff.com.

#### Location

"Portland has been described as America's most European city...a great walking city with tons of public transportation, a progressive atmosphere that celebrates the arts, a culture of great food, artisan coffee, beer and wine, and neighborhoods full of shops selling handmade clothes, crafts and furniture. As fantastic as Portland is to spend time in, it's one of the easiest cities to spend time outside. The mountains, waterfalls, wine country and other assorted outdoor goodies Oregon is so famous for are all a short drive away." www.traveloregon.com

## THIS MONTH IN SACRAMENTO

### By Richard Markuson, Region 9 Advocate

#### **Five-Year Plan Released**

The Department of Finance has released *Five-Year Infra-structure Plan*, that assumes "\$25.6 billion will be available from various funds including federal funds, Cap and Trade funds, Prop 1A bond funds, and other sources" to help accomplish the High Speed Rail Authority's goals over the next five years.

The plan includes a \$1.7 billion in new transportation funding and \$815 million for "deferred maintenance" projects.

"With a decade of intractable deficits behind us, California is poised to take advantage of the recovering economy and the tens of thousands of jobs now being created each month," Brown said. "By finally addressing this backlog of deferred maintenance, the state will keep its assets functioning longer and reduce the need to build costlier new infrastructure."

#### **Transportation:**

The budget increases transportation funding over current levels by \$1.7 billion, including \$300 million in "rail modernization" funds for the high-speed rail project. Most (\$250 million) will be from the state's cap-and-trade program, the funds remaining from the 2006 Proposition 1B, and the proceeds of early loan repayments from the General Fund. The use of cap-and-trade is not without controversy; Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor said, "It's a little hard for us to justify how you can use huge sums of money to pay the large capital costs when (cutting emissions is) a relatively small reason of why you're doing it."

#### Water:

The plan calls for spending more than \$600 million on water storage and water quality, but Brown said he would "reserve judgment" on whether a larger, \$6.5 billion water bond should be put on the ballot. Brown has formed a drought task force to determine how the state should address the serious drought now gripping much of California.

#### Local infrastructure:

The budget includes a proposal to dramatically expand Infrastructure Financing Districts (IFDs), to allow cities to invest in local infrastructure projects. The budget would expand the types of projects IFDs can currently fund, while also lowering the vote requirement to create these local authorities and issue debt from two-thirds to 55 percent.

#### **Deferred maintenance:**

The budget also creates a new one-time \$815 million package of funds intended for deferred maintenance projects.

http://www.dof.ca.gov/documents/2014-Infrastructure-Plan\_WEB.pdf

#### **Legislative Update**

The Legislature reconvened on January 6, 2014 and the two houses must act on all two-year bills by the end of the month. February 21 is the bill introduction deadline.



#### **Appointments**

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

- To **State Water Resources Control Board**: *Dorene D'Adamo* (reappointed), Turlock, Democrat, former senior policy advisor to Rep. Jim Costa.
- To Central Valley Flood Protection Board: Jane Dolan (reappointed), Chico, Democrat, executive director at the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, and an independent probate referee; William Edgar (reappointed), Sacramento, Democrat, co-owner of Edgar and Associates LLP (tax services); Michael Villines (reappointed), Placerville, Republican, former Assemblymember now owner of consulting firm Villines Group LLC.
- To California Water Commission: David Orth (reappointed), Clovis, Republican, general manager of the Kings River Conservation District.
- To California Building Standards Commission: Larry Booth, Sacramento, Democrat, president at Frank M.
   Booth, Inc. (HVAC and mechanical engineering contractor); David Malcolm Carson, Los Angeles, Democrat, general counsel and policy director for environmental health at Community Health Councils; Elley Klausbruckner, San Diego, decline-to-state, owner and principal at Klausbruckner and Associates Inc. (fire and building code consultants).
- To the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors: Ryan Chamberlain (reappointed), Trabuco Canyon, decline-to-state, director of Caltrans District 12.
- To the Riverside County Transportation Commission: Basem Muallem, Chino Hills, Republican, director of Caltrans District 8.
- To the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors: Tom Richards (reappointed), Fresno, Republican, chief executive officer at the Penstar Group.

This Month in Sacramento continued on page 8

The Senate Rules Committee has made the following appointments:

- As a biostatistician on the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants: Stanton Glantz (reappointed), San Francisco, Democrat, professor of medicine at UC San Francisco. Term ends January 1, 2017.
- As public member on the Sacramento-San Joaquin
   Delta Conservancy Governing Board: Darla Guenzler
   (reappointed), West Sacramento, Democrat, executive director of the California Council of Land Trusts. Appointment effective February 3, 2014 and term ends February 3, 2018.
- As a public member on the Delta Stewardship Council: Patrick Johnston (reappointed), Stockton, Democrat, CEO of the California Assn. of Health Plans, and a former Senator and Assemblymember. Appointment effective February 3, 2014 and term ends February 3, 2018.
- To Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board:
   *James Famiglietti*, Irvine, Democrat, director of the UC
   Center for Hydrologic Modeling and professor of earth
   system science at UC Irvine School of Physical Sciences.
- To California Transportation Commission: James
   Madaffer, 53, San Diego, decline-to-state, president of
   Madaffer Enterprises (public affairs, etc.) and publisher
   at Mission Publishing Group LLC.

#### **Recent Reports**

California State Transportation Agency released *The California Department of Transportation: SSTI Assessment and Recommendations*, written by State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) from the University of Wisconsin, finds "Caltrans led the nation during construction of the interstate system after World War II, but has not adapted to modern trends in transportation including local control, more efficient land use, and demands for more mobility choices."

http://calsta.ca.gov/res/docs/pdfs/2013/SSTI\_Independent Caltrans Review 1.28.14.pdf

California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture have released the final *California Water Action Plan*, says "Governor's proposed 2014-15 budget lays a solid fiscal foundation for implementing near-term actions for the plan, recommending \$618.7 million in funding for water efficiency projects, wetland and watershed restoration, groundwater programs, conservation, flood control and integrated water management."

http://resources.ca.gov/california\_water\_action\_plan/docs/Final\_California\_Water\_Action\_Plan.pdf

The Legislative Analyst's Office has released its report, *The* **2014-15** *Budget: Overview of the Governor's Budget*, finds that Gov. Brown's proposal for a new rainy-day fund requirement "underscores the importance of regular state contributions to a larger budget reserve," and "overall, the Governor's budget plan would place the state on an even stronger fiscal footing."

http://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Detail/2819

Environmental Defense Fund has released *California Carbon Market Watch: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Golden State's Cap-and-Trade Program, Year One*, finds "The average price for allowances suggests that reducing emissions under the cap may be less costly than some expected."

http://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/cap-and-trade-one-year-web-version.pdf

The Legislative Analyst's Office has released *Counties and Design-Build*, a summary of reports received by the LAO from counties using the design-build construction management model in which "an agency contracts separately for the design and construction of a project," recommends the Legislature considers changes to the model such as "creating a uniform design-build statute for agencies that have design-build authority, eliminating cost limitations, and requiring project cost to be a larger factor in awarding design-build contracts."

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2014/infrastructure/counties-design-build-010714.pdf

Caltrans released reports on development of non-motorized transportation facilities for FY 2012-13, findings include 39 projects totaling \$11.9 million approved from the Bicycle Transportation Account and on projects funded through Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account that was created after Prop. 1B passed in 2006, states that "of the \$3.6 billion available for commuter or urban rail, bus, waterborne, or other transit projects in California, \$2.45 billion has been allocated."

http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/Non-motorized\_Transportation\_Facilities\_FY2012-13.pdf http://www.dot.ca.gov/docs/PTMISEA\_Report\_to\_the\_Legislat ure\_FY\_2012-13.pdf

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM



Rachel Coyner and Jennifer deBruijn at WRYMC

## Western Regional Young Member Council (WRYMC)

Two YMF board members, Rachel Coyner (President) and Jennifer deBruijn (Secretary), attended the annual WRYMC conference in Phoenix, AZ at the end of January and came back with a renewed enthusiasm as well as lots of great ideas and information to share. Conference highlights included presentations by national and regional leaders, technical tours, leadership training, and an awards banquet at the Phoenix Zoo. Networking with other YMF leaders from across the western region and building connections with bay area student members allowed the attendees to share experiences and strengthen relationships. YMF already has plans to implement some of the ideas they picked up at the event including STEM outreach initiatives and plans to increase member involvement.

## YMF "Makes a Difference" during Engineers Week 2014

In the spirit of the Eweek 2014 motto "Let's Make a Difference", SF YMF sponsored several presentations at Vallejo High School. Olga Beltsar and Jonathon Marshall volunteered to present on the topic of Careers in Civil Engineering to a group enthusiastic students. Vallejo HS teacher Dave Tillay, who helped organize the event, shared his appreciation with YMF President Rachel Coyner, "You could not have picked two more enthusiastic and well-prepared presenters for our Vallejo High School Engineering Week. Each presenter had a thorough presentation with unique perspectives on Civil Engineering."



Eweek Presentation with Jonathon Marshall

## THE LAW AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

#### What to Look For in Your Contracts

### by Eugene Bass, Esq.

In the "honeymoon" stage of any relationship between an client and engineer, there can be some discomfort in insisting on a carefully drawn written contract. There may be the feeling that one party does not trust the other or that one party wants to take advantage of the other. A well written contract is a great benefit to all the parties, however, in that it makes it clear to everyone what will be expected and provides for a course of action where the unexpected occurs.

A common source of problems between clients and engineers is where expectations are not met. The contract is the place where the parties can see their expectations clearly expressed in language that they can all understand. Each party should bear in mind that the other party may not perceive their language in exactly the same way as they do. It is therefore important for each party to know the other party's level of understanding of what is stated in the contract. The engineer should thoroughly discuss the scope of work and terms of the contract with the client to be sure the client has an accurate understanding. If in doubt, a good rule is to "say what it is and say what it is not."

Until you are fully comfortable with the language in a contract and understand the meaning and interpretation of the terms, including all of the small print, it is advisable to have the agreement reviewed by your attorney and in-

surance advisor. There can be requirements in a contract for which there may be no insurance coverage. Those provisions should be known and negotiated out of the contract. If that is not possible, indemnity and hold harmless terms should be sought as well as adjustment in the compensation to account for the added degree 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.

Contract changes can be a source of conflict with a client where they involve more money. The scope of work definition should be clearly stated so that changes from the original scope can be readily identified. There should also be clear provisions in the contract for adjustment of payment in the event of a scope change.

A review of regularly used contracts is necessary to assure that the engineer is fairly protected. A well-written contract can serve as a guide to dealing with unexpected issues that may arise during the performance of the work. A primary objective of the contract is to keep the parties out of court.

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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