PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello San Francisco Section and greetings from the Redwood Empire Branch.

We really are nothing without our volunteers. We just had our annual Engineers Week Banquet. We joined up with the North Coast Chapter of ACEC to host a scholarship presentation and celebration of engineering. As a group, in addition to two private donors, we were able to present $8,200 in scholarships to Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) students pursuing degrees in engineering, surveying and civil technology. Our scholarship committee, who has been the same for the last 7 years, in coordination with SRJC Professors did the majority of the work to obtain said recipients. We are grateful for our silent auction item donors and banquet participants, but like all engineers we over analyze the real price in order to get a better price when in reality it is a fund raiser, so relative price is not real; bid more, be happy, think less, feel good, repeat.

My message for this year is Thank you Volunteers. It feels good to volunteer, it feels good to spend your hard earned money and time by giving it to ambitious folks pursuing a career you love. Or if you don’t love it you should really think about doing something else, because life is way too short to spend a third or more of your day not engaged in your work. If you have had any encounters with death via loved ones I’m sure this hits home close to the bone. Stay positive, you could just be worm castings, but instead you get to have influence on how the world around you functions, is shaped and ultimately this forms our culture.

Recently I thought to myself, why do I volunteer? In my interpretation of Ashley Lucas our Scholarship coordinator, she volunteers because it is a way to give back to a process she went thorough when she was in school. I volunteer with ASCE because I like to be engaged in my community. What this volunteering has done however has far exceeded my original expectations. It has expanded my network of colleagues, friends, and possible business partners which in turn has brought me greater awareness of what is going on in the engineering community. It has given me opportunities to interview for jobs that I wasn’t necessarily on the short list for. It has provided me with leadership training and real life leadership experience. I’ve often found that what you put in you get out.

For me ASCE provides a foundation for our community to gather around and be a community. When you volunteer you get to be more involved with that community. So get out there and volunteer and be passionate about what you do because it really does matter.
Responding to California’s Drought and Beyond

By Mark R. Norton, P.E., F.ASCE, Chair, ASCE Region 9 (California) Water Committee

On Saturday, March 1st the media announced the signing by the governor of new Emergency Drought Legislation SB 103 and SB 104, as California grapples with one of the driest periods in its recent history. This legislation received broad, bipartisan support and provides $687.4 million to support drought relief, money for housing and food for workers directly impacted by the drought, bond funds for projects to help local communities more efficiently capture and manage water and funding for securing emergency drinking water supplies for drought impacted communities.

To support our State’s long term water portfolio and serve as a voice for water infrastructure, ASCE Region 9 Board of Governors established a Water Committee back in March 2009. The Committee is composed of ASCE water management professionals from each of the ASCE Sections across the State. Our main role is to actively participate in monitoring and development of legislative bills and policies that affect water infrastructure. We conduct this work by working closely with our ASCE Region 9 lobbyist, Richard Markuson, to review new legislation and policies each year and provide recommendations to the ASCE Region 9 Board of Governors to take action. This action may be in the form of letters of support, opposition, or suggestions for new text to legislators to better reflect the needs of water infrastructure for the State of California.

The Water Committee conducts this work through monthly conference calls as well as visits each year to the State Capitol with the key legislators and Administration staff who oversee water and natural resource legislative committees and departments. The work that the Committee conducts is often done in tandem with other California water associations on an issue so that resources can be maximized to greater effect and action.

Our Committee is supportive of the recent legislative action that authorizes expedited funding for projects and programs to address the dire water needs of communities hit so hard by the drought across the State. Still we recognize that more, much more needs to be done. The $11.1 billion California Water Bond originally proposed for the State ballot back in 2010 has been postponed twice and will again be considered for Nov. 2014. Legislators are hard at work to see if it can be modified to reach electorate approval levels. If passed, such an influx of funding would go a long way to boost water infrastructure. As pointed out by the 2012 ASCE California Infrastructure Report Card, significant investments are still needed to conserve water, build storage, capture storm flow, recycle water and better use the water we have.

With the extreme drought conditions that we are experiencing and concerns arising over adequate water supplies to meet demands, one may well ask “Aren’t there drought contingency plans in place to deal with this crisis?” In 2010, the State Department of Water Resources did release the California Drought Contingency Plan to address the possibility of continuing dry conditions as called for in the California Water Plan. This Plan contains strategies and actions that State agencies must take to prepare for, respond to, and recover from droughts or water shortages. On a regional and local basis, most major retail water agencies have been involved in integrated regional water management planning and have plans in place to deal with drought conditions. Further, legislation was passed back in 2009 that mandated that water demands of retail water agencies statewide be reduced by 20% by the Year 2020. Progress to achieve these goals is being made.

As civil engineers we are entrusted by society to create sustainable conditions and enhance our quality of life. It is our role to be that advocate for water infrastructure but also to serve as a voice for the need to use water wisely. The public does not typically understand where their water comes from, how it is used - indoors and outdoors, and what happens after they use it. A greater awareness of this water use cycle needs to occur. We, as civil engineers, can be advocates of not just new water infrastructure but also for increased water demand reduction and water use efficiency which studies have shown as the most cost efficient and effective means to stretch the available water supplies. By working together through collaborative approaches, developing multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional water solutions that leverage available resources and maintaining the infrastructure that we currently use, we can be well on the path for sufficient water in dealing with our needs for today and tomorrow.
Reserve the Date
Our next monthly luncheon will be on April 17th. Watch your email for the program announcement and to sign up.

Fresno Branch Annual Award Banquet
Fresno Branch held its Annual Award Banquet on March 27th, 2014. The event was well attended and the branch had a good time as always. Congratulations again to all award recipients again.

Golden Gate Branch
March 13th Dinner Meeting: Dismantling the Old Eastern Span of the Bay Bridge
On March 13th the Golden Gate Branch was treated to a lively presentation on the dismantling of the old eastern span of the Bay Bridge by Dr. Brian Maroney, Principal Bridge Engineer with Caltrans and Technical Director of the Dismantling Project. The evening program was held at Sinbad’s Restaurant in San Francisco and sparked plenty of local interest, with over 80 guests in attendance. Dr. Maroney’s presentation outlined the challenges behind deconstructing the early 20th century structure and featured many detailed photos from the original construction. Construction crews are currently working to remove the last few pieces of steel which connect the large piers and within a few months the intricacies of the project will be clearly visible to the public.

April 24th Dinner Meeting: A Historical Perspective on Bay Area Infrastructure
Our April program features a guest with whom the ASCE regulars have shared many stories. On April 24th the Golden Gate Branch welcomes Jay Murphy to present “A Historical Perspective on Bay Area Infrastructure” which will be held at Scott’s Seafood in Oakland. Mr. Murphy’s presentation outlined the challenges behind deconstructing the early 20th century structure and featured many detailed photos from the original construction. Construction crews are currently working to remove the last few pieces of steel which connect the large piers and within a few months the intricacies of the project will be clearly visible to the public.

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Date and Time:
Thursday, April 24th, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Location:
Scott’s Seafood, Jack London Square, 2 Broadway, Oakland
Entrée choices:
Grilled Salmon, Chicken Breast, Pasta Primavera
RSVP:
Russ Moore, goldengate@asce-sf.org

Branch Reports continued on page 4
administering Federal-Aid construction projects. Mr. Jurrens also serves as a County Project Manager and is experienced in Pavement Management Systems, development plan reviews, and developing improvement standards.

Date/Time: Thursday, April 10, 2014 at Noon
Location: Cattlemen’s, 2400 Midway Drive, Montgomery Village, Santa Rosa
Menu: A) Sirloin Steak; B) Teriyaki Chicken; or 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

April Monthly Lunch Meeting
The April lunch meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9th at Bella Mia Restaurant in San Jose. This lunch meeting will feature a presentation by Thomas Grey from Caltrans involving the construction of the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil’s Slide on State Route 1, south of Pacifica.

Mr. Grey earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering at Gonzaga University in 1988, and has worked on variety of projects throughout California. He is now the senior bridge construction engineer for structure projects on the state highway system in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties and has worked at Caltrans for approximately 13 years.

Mr. Grey’s presentation will feature a $342 million project which includes a 30 foot span tunnel excavated using the sequential excavation method for more than 4,300 feet. The northern end of the tunnel connects directly to a pair of 1,000 foot long bridges. The tunnel creates a long-term solution related to the infamous Devil’s Slide which has historically created havoc for commuters over the past 70 years.

We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events: The Tech Challenge 2014

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

Volunteer: [link]
Questions: Contact torme@thetech.org, or call 408-795-6205.

Last year’s highlights video: [link]

Web Site: [link]
Like: [link]
Follow: [link]

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

Get Involved! YMF Info Session & Officer Meeting
Have you been wondering how you can get more involved with ASCE? Here is your chance to learn more about the organization and the important role of YMF.

Find out about open board positions, outreach events, and future activities. You don’t need to dedicate your life to ASCE to become more involved, YMF has lots of opportunities to fit your schedule and interests. So come check it out! All young members are welcome!

Food and refreshments will be provided. RSVP required for building security.

Date and Time:
Tuesday, April 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location:
ARUP, 500 Mission St, SF (Montgomery BART)
RSVP:
Jennifer de Bruijn, jennifer.debruijn@arup.com

GHD Office Tour
Our very popular office tour series continues with an inside look at one of world’s leading engineering, architecture and environmental consulting companies, GHD. Established in 1928, GHD employs more than 5,500 people across five continents and serves clients in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings, and transportation. Join us for an evening of networking and learn about the projects GHD is currently working on in the Bay Area, meet GHD managers and staff, and get a tour of their brand new office! Food and refreshments will be provided.

Where:
GHD, 505 Montgomery St., Suite 2300, SF
When:
Tuesday, April 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
RSVP:
[link]
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
Five-Year Infrastructure Plan Update

In January the Brown administration released its Five-Year Infrastructure Plan, that reported statewide deferred maintenance need totaling $64.6 billion. “By far, the largest deferred maintenance is for roads ($59 billion). The Budget starts addressing critical deferred maintenance needs with an $815 million support allocation for maintenance in state parks, highways, local streets and roads, K-12 schools, community colleges, courts, prisons, state hospitals, and other state facilities.”


Subsequent to its release the Legislative Analyst reviewed the plan and concluded “the plan raises some important policy issues related to the financing and maintenance of state infrastructure and serves as a valuable starting point for legislative discussions.” The Analyst noted “that the plan does not include some key information and suggest some changes that could make the plan more helpful to the Legislature.” Finally he reiterated a Region 9 long-term goal, “[w]e further suggest that the Legislature consider how, as an institution, it addresses infrastructure issues—for example, by creating a joint infrastructure committee.” The Assembly Budget Sub-committee #4 held a televised hearing on the plan—focused on deferred maintenance—on February 25.


Legislative Update

February 21, 2014 was the “bill introduction deadline.” The Legislature introduced 2,031 new bills in 2014—down from 2013’s 2,540. Last year Governor Brown signed 1,003 of the bills and vetoed 96—leaving 2,181 bills active in 2014. ASCE Region 9 committees are reviewing 113 measures.

The Legislatures only civil engineer, Senator Anthony Cannella, introduced SR 27 to commemorate National Engineers Week.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SR27&search_keywords=

Assembly member Nate Holden is the author of AB 1551—sponsored by ACEC. It would prohibit a person from using an engineer’s submittals without the written consent of the engineer. It would also prohibit a person from using a land surveyor’s maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other documentary evidence without the written consent of the land surveyor. The bill would prohibit an engineer or land surveyor from unreasonably withholding consent to use these documents.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1551&search_keywords=

Senator Jerry Hill introduced SB 1433 that expands the use of design-build for transit projects and deletes a sunset date for the existing authorization.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1433&search_keywords=

The Governor’s Five Year Infrastructure plan has prompted a number of Legislators to introduce new measures.

AB 2290 by Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez would require the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (iBank) to serve as the primary state agency for purposes of developing an application for, and applying to, any federal infrastructure bank or financing authority.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB2290&search_keywords=

AB 2729 by Assembly member Medina would create in the iBank the California Infrastructure Development Center as an appropriate means for partnering with private sector infrastructure developers in a way that ensures workers, residents, and small businesses are able to participate in the broader economy.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB2729&search_keywords=

Senate Bill 969 by Senator DeSaulnier would amend his peer review bill from last year (Public Works Project Peer Review Act of 2013). It would rename the program the Public Works Project Overview Improvement Act and would define a “megaproject” as a transportation project with total estimated development and construction costs exceeding $1,000,000,000. The bill would require the agency administering a megaproject to establish a peer review group and to take
specified actions to manage the risks associated with a megaproject including establishing a comprehensive risk management plan, and regularly reassessing its reserves for potential claims and unknown risks.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20132014058969&search_keywords=

AB 1855 by Assembly member Melendez would include in LS & PE Act determination of the position of an easement as a engineering or surveying act.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1855&search_keywords=

Appointments

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

- To Building Standards Commission (all reappointed): Erick Mitiken, 50, Berkeley, Democrat, president of Mitiken Architects; Cheryl Roberts, 44, Alta Loma, Republican, has held multiple positions at the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District including battalion chief; Kent Sasaki, 49, Walnut Creek, Democrat, unit manager and principal at Wiss Janney Elstner Associates Inc. (engineering and architectural consultants).

- To California Transportation Commission (both reappointed): Robert Alvarado, 61, Pinole, Democrat, executive officer at the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council; Frances Inman, 67, Santa Ana, Republican, founding president of the Majestic Realty Foundation and senior VP at Majestic Realty Co.

- To the Delta Stewardship Council: Frank Damrell (reappointed), 75, Sacramento, Democrat, has been of counsel at Cotchet Pitre and McCarthy LLP since 2012.

Recent Reports

Caltrans has released its first issue of “The Mile Marker: A Caltrans Performance Report,” findings include: Of the more than 13,000 bridges Caltrans inspects, the number of bridges that need repair has declined from 750 in fiscal year 2007-08 to 582 in fiscal year 2012-13.


High Speed Rail releases Draft 2014 Business Plan, finds that the “main components of this draft plan have changed little from the 2012 Business Plan, with capital costs effectively unchanged, down by 1%. Ridership projections are increasing and farebox revenue projections are decreasing, and continuing to cover operations and maintenance.”


Legislative Analyst’s Office has released its hearing handout “Financing the Bay Delta Conservation,” presented to Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee.


The Legislative Analyst’s Office released its report, “The 2014-15 Budget: Resources and Environmental Protection,” outlines the administration’s proposals to shift the state’s drinking water oversight program from the Dept. of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board and implement recent legislation related to hydraulic fracturing.


Contract Tips

by Eugene Bass, Esq.

There are clauses in contracts, often referred to as “boiler plate,” that one sees regularly and that never seem to present issues. Those clauses, however, can be very dangerous if a situation arises where they can be applied. No clause is so insignificant that it can be ignored. Every part of a contract should be understood so that there can be a realistic assessment of the risk or benefit of keeping it in the contract. Even where the application of a contract clause may later be shown to be unfair, it is more likely that the clause will be strictly applied where the contract is between two business entities. It is very important, therefore, to understand the full ramifications of all parts of your contracts.

Provisions where documents outside the contract are “incorporated by reference” are not uncommon. Much of the time, a contracting party may not have the documents that are incorporated and may assume that they are unimportant. They are important and should be acquired or made available, especially, if they will be applied to the performance of the work.

The contract should provide for the possibility that the work may be suspended and later resumed. In those cases there will be extra expenses in closing down and resuming the work as well as the possibility of increased costs to complete the work after a suspension. If early termination of the contract is provided, there should be adequate provisions for payment of the costs to wrap up the project as well as loss of the income that would have been realized if the work had continued to the end. Unexpected termination can have a significant negative financial impact that should be compensated.

A difficult issue arises when payment is delayed but the project must go on. Contract provisions that spell out the rights of the engineer under those circumstances can be very helpful and can serve as a basis to cease work without liability if fees are unpaid.

Notice provisions in contracts should be thoroughly understood and followed. It is particularly important that the field personnel be familiar with the notice provisions. There may be delays, differing conditions or changes where the contract requires that notice be given within specific times, to specific persons or in specific formats. One should not assume that the contract requirements will be satisfied if “they knew about it” or if some owner’s representative was told. Notice provisions are very important in that they allow an owner to take steps to mitigate the impact of the noticed condition. And, adherence to the notice provisions are important because payment can be denied where they are not followed.

IEC is seeking an experienced Senior Project Manager and Project Engineer for our Fremont, CA office to further develop our Bay Area engineering activities.

The ideal candidate(s) will be experienced with planning and design of public water, wastewater, and recycled water projects including pipelines, pump station, reservoirs, and similar facilities.

Ability to effectively communicate with clients, fellow staff, and other project stakeholders is essential.

Candidates must possess a current and valid registration as a Civil Engineer in California.

The Senior Project Manager position will entail business/project development, client interaction, schedule and budget management, and staff supervision, minimum 10 plus progressive years of experience required.

Project Engineer candidates should have minimum 5 years of relevant experience.

Competitive salary, benefits, and flexible work schedule. To apply, please send letter of interest and resume to hr@iecorporation.com.
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. Copy must be emailed to Ken Miles at kmiles@hp-assoc.com. The Society and the Section are not responsible for any statement made or the opinions expressed in their publications.

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