President’s Message

by Thor Larsen, P.E., President

A Lesson In Engineering Economics
One of the most useful life skills that I received in my college engineering was engineering economics, and in particular, the concept of the cost benefit ratio. To use the cost benefit ratio, one performs a cost analysis of possible financial costs and assigns a weighted benefit to each to find the most beneficial cost/benefit ratio. I find that I use this cost analysis in my day-to-day life, whether it is evaluating my home loan options or deciding on whether or not to lime treat roadway base material at a given time of year.

There is one economic decision that American’s have the opportunity to make every day on two products, Product A and Product B, that we consume. Product A has been slickly marketed to appear that it is healthier for us than Product B – although it is not. Product A is packaged in a container that is usually a petrochemical derived product. The packaging of Product A generally has more aesthetic appeal than the image associated with Product B. In regards to health, Product B is more stringently regulated by the Federal government than Product A. Other than the packaging, Product A has the same use as but no significant benefit over Product B, but Product A costs 250 to 10,000 times more than Product A. Product A is a $46 billion per year industry. The International Water Management Institute states that an additional investment of $1.7 billion a year over current spending would provide Product B to every person in the world. According to the World Health Organization, lack of Product B is the leading cause of death in developing countries, resulting in the death of 3.4 million people a year, 90% of who are children under 5 years of age. Also, Product B, according to my college environmental engineering professor, is the single largest factor of why American life expectancy dramatically increased in the 20th Century.

The more expensive end of Product A that costs 10,000 times more than Product B is usually shipped across the oceans in petrol loving engines from some place that we romantically wish we were vacationing in. In all American homes, Product B comes directly out of the tap for much less than a penny to a dollar when compared to Product A. There is a part of me that finds it distasteful to consume Product A at home when Product B (Product B = potable tap water) comes out of my tap – yet the Product A price per bottle is more than people in developing countries, who greatly suffer for lack of Product B, earn in a day. When Product A used to be consumed in my house, I was always amazed at how many opened but partially used containers of Product A would be opened to just be thrown away to a landfill. Using engineering economic analysis I discontinuing the use of Product A, Bottled Water, in my house due to it having no economic benefit, no health benefit, and environmentally inferior when compared to tap water from my faucet.

With that said, I wish you all a great Holiday season which will be upon us soon. Before that though, is our annual Officer Installation and Awards Banquet. We hope to see many of you there on September 25. It’s been a real honor and a pleasure to work with the fellow civil engineering professionals, students, and faculty. Of special note this year are two great conferences hosted by the Sacramento Section leaders. The Western Region Younger Member Conference was held in Sacramento and put together by our Sacramento YMF with assistance from the Nevada Truckee Meadows YMF. The Capital Branch hosted the 2013 Orthotropic Bridge Conference in Sacramento. And the students of UOP, UC Davis and Sacramento State had teams in the National competitions.

If you have any questions, comments, or interest in becoming more involved in ASCE, please feel free to contact me at thor.larsen@edegov.us
## MASTER CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s) Time(s)</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 4</td>
<td>Engineers without Borders</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Doug Ganey <a href="mailto:sacpropresident@gmail.com">sacpropresident@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.ewb-sac.org">http://www.ewb-sac.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento Valley Professional Chapter Grant Writing Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 5</td>
<td>YMF Social – NFL Season Kickoff</td>
<td>Bulls Restaurant and Bar 1330 H Street</td>
<td>Bryan Perrin 916-856-0816 <a href="mailto:Bryan.perrin@usace.army.mil">Bryan.perrin@usace.army.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday-Friday</td>
<td>ASCE Seminar: Risk Assessment in Geotechnical Engineering</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Sacramento 1230 J Street</td>
<td>Martin Farber 707-253-9606 Click here for link to event registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 10</td>
<td>Capital Branch Luncheon</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Mario Carreon <a href="mailto:Mario.Carreon34@gmail.com">Mario.Carreon34@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 16</td>
<td>ASCE Sacramento Section Board Meeting</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Thor Larsen 916-806-9098 <a href="mailto:thor.larsen@edcgov.us">thor.larsen@edcgov.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Keith Jukes 916-213-8717 <a href="mailto:keithjukes@yahoo.com">keithjukes@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 18</td>
<td>Engineers without Borders</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Doug Ganey <a href="mailto:sacpropresident@gmail.com">sacpropresident@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.ewb-sac.org">http://www.ewb-sac.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento Valley Professional Chapter Chapter Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 20</td>
<td>The Engineerogram - Deadline</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lori Campbell 916-961-2723 <a href="mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org">asce@asce-sacto.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 25</td>
<td>ASCE Sacramento Section Individual Awards Banquet</td>
<td>The DoubleTree 2001 Point West Way</td>
<td>Thor Larsen 916-806-9098 <a href="mailto:thor.larsen@edcgov.us">thor.larsen@edcgov.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
<td>Natalie Calderone <a href="mailto:Natalie.Calderone@aecom.com">Natalie.Calderone@aecom.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 8</td>
<td>Capital Branch Luncheon</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Mario Carreon <a href="mailto:Mario.Carreon34@gmail.com">Mario.Carreon34@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 20</td>
<td>The Engineerogram - Deadline</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lori Campbell 916-961-2723 <a href="mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org">asce@asce-sacto.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 21</td>
<td>ASCE Sacramento Section Board Meeting</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Kimberly Brown <a href="mailto:kimberly.brown@hdrinc.com">kimberly.brown@hdrinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 25</td>
<td>Region 9 Awards Due for Projects &amp; Individuals</td>
<td>For more information and application forms, visit <a href="http://www.asce.org/region9">www.asce.org/region9</a></td>
<td>Kwame Agyare <a href="mailto:agyare.kwame@gmail.com">agyare.kwame@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lori Campbell, Region 9 Administrator <a href="mailto:lkc.consulting@sbcglobal.net">lkc.consulting@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday-Thursday</td>
<td>USHSR Conference</td>
<td>Metro Headquarters Los Angeles, CA Sheraton</td>
<td>David M. Schwegel <a href="http://www.ushsr.com/events/losangeles2013.html">http://www.ushsr.com/events/losangeles2013.html</a> Martin Farber 707-253-9606 Click here for link to event registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5-7</td>
<td>ASCE Seminar: Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Structures</td>
<td>Grand Sacramento 1230 J Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday-Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21-22</td>
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<tr>
<th>Section Meeting</th>
<th>Conferences</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>YMF Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section Board &amp; Officer Meeting</td>
<td>Region 9 Event</td>
<td>Outreach Event</td>
<td>Student Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section Event</td>
<td>Branch Meeting</td>
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<td>EWB Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Shasta Branch**
For more information about the Shasta Branch meetings, please contact Susan Goodwin at sgoodwin@vestra.com

**Feather River Branch**
For more information about the Feather River Branch meetings, please contact Annie McAllister at annie.steel@gmail.com

**Capital Branch**
For more information about the Capital Branch, you may e-mail or call Mario Carreon at 916-802-6470, Mario.Carreon34@gmail.com

**Central Valley Branch**
For more information about the Central Valley Branch meetings, please contact Kevin Seeman at 916-684-5534, K.Seeman@conteches.com

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**Please Keep Your Membership Information Updated**
Have you changed your membership information lately? Please go to the membership page of the ASCE National website to join, renew, or change your membership information. Please note that this is the only way that the Sacramento Section is able to receive your information in our database so that we may keep you informed about Section activities. [http://www.asce.org/ppcontentwide.aspx?id=9641](http://www.asce.org/ppcontentwide.aspx?id=9641).

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**SAVE THE DATE**
**SACRAMENTO SECTION AWARDS BANQUET**

**ASCE Individual Awards Banquet**

September 25, 2013
5:30 p.m. No Host Reception
6:15 p.m. Dinner & Awards

**The DoubleTree**
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, CA 95815

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**CALL FOR ASCE REGION 9 2013 AWARD NOMINATIONS**

**Outstanding Project Awards**
Outstanding Individual Awards
**Due: October 25, 2013**

**Project Awards:** ASCE Region 9 Project Awards recognize outstanding Civil Engineering projects in California. Projects that received an award from one of the four ASCE Sections in Region 9 (Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, or San Diego Sections) during 2013 are eligible for consideration for the 2013 ASCE Region 9 Awards.

**Individual Awards:** ASCE Region 9 Individual Awards recognize individuals for outstanding achievements or leadership in civil engineering, or who through their work, support and advance the profession.

Application materials are available on the Region 9 web site: [www.asce.org/region9](http://www.asce.org/region9)

For more information, please contact:
Kwame Agyare, Chair
ASCE Region 9 Awards Committee
agyare.kwame@gmail.com

Lori Campbell, Region 9 Administrator
lkc.consulting@sbcglobal.net

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**Save the Date!**

**California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner**

Friday March 14, 2014
San Francisco, CA
### ASCE Sacramento Section Announces New Board and Officers for 2013-2014

*By Jon Balzer, ASCE Sacramento Section Past President*

The balloting is complete and we are pleased to introduce the ASCE Sacramento Board of Directors and Officers as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kimberly Brown, P.E.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kimberly.brown@hdrinc.com">kimberly.brown@hdrinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Director</td>
<td>Kristy Chapman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kristyc@blackburnconsulting.com">kristyc@blackburnconsulting.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Director</td>
<td>Kenny Dosanjh, P.E.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kenwarjit.dosanjh@hdrinc.com">kenwarjit.dosanjh@hdrinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Keith Flaherty, P.E.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keith.flaherty@valicooper.com">keith.flaherty@valicooper.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kyle Sanford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kyle.sanford@hdrinc.com">kyle.sanford@hdrinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President 2012-2013</td>
<td>Thor Larsen, P.E.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thor.larsen@edcgov.us">thor.larsen@edcgov.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Oscar Serrano</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oserrano@colusa-nsn.gov">oserrano@colusa-nsn.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMF Board Representative</td>
<td>Marie Silveira</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marie.silveira@jacobs.com">marie.silveira@jacobs.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 9 Governor</td>
<td>Oscar Serrano</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oserrano@colusa-nsn.gov">oserrano@colusa-nsn.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>Lori K. Campbell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org">asce@asce-sacto.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Wallace Kuhl & Associates**

3050 Industrial Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 372-1434
Fax: (916) 372-2565
www.wallace-kuhl.com

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The Law and Civil Engineering

By Eugene Bass, Esq.

Potential Liability for Work of a Consultant

A pedestrian on a public sidewalk in Oregon, was injured when a high wind caused a masonry wall to fall on him. He sued the architect and other participants involved with the construction of the wall: A jury returned a verdict against the architect.

The architect for the project had hired a consulting structural engineer to design the wall portion of the work and the wall design had been approved by a city building inspector.

The injured pedestrian argued that the masonry wall as designed did not comply with a city building ordinance and was therefore negligently designed.

The architect contended that, whether or not the wall as designed actually met code specifications, it was approved by a city building inspector and the approval of the city's officer was conclusive proof that the wall did meet the requirements of the city ordinance. The court did not accept the argument stating that, If the law required a certain standard to be met in order to protect the public and that standard was not in fact met, it would make no sense to hold that a building inspector's approval of negligent work could deny relief to injured persons for whose protection the law had been enacted.

The architect also argued that, as a professional man, the standard of care applicable to him was measured by the practices of the reasonably prudent architect in the same locality and since it was the custom of architects in the town to refer engineering work to consulting engineers, he argued, his only obligation was to select a reliable engineering firm. This he did, thereby fulfilling, according to his view, his duty of exercising due care. The court again disagreed with the architect noting that selecting a competent engineering firm only indicated that the defendant himself was not negligent in the selection of an engineer.

The city had previously adopted the uniform building-code. The court addressed the question of whether an architect was required to comply with the building-code provisions concerning the structural engineering of walls in designing a building and concluded that, If he was, then he could not avoid responsibility by subcontracting that part of his work to others. The evidence in the case showed that the architect assumed and was paid for assuming the over-all responsibility for designing the building, including the wall. He contracted with the owner to provide all the drawings and specifications necessary for the construction of the building. The building permit was issued upon the architect's plans, and the building was constructed according to those plans. Any engineering work incorporated in the plans became a part of the architect's design. Since the architect assumed the benefits and burdens of designing the building, he assumed the responsibility of meeting the building-code design provisions, including the structural engineering requirements. His duty to meet the minimum safety standards of the building code was, therefore, nondelegable and he could be liable for the negligence of the engineer.
Outstanding Projects and Leaders

This Month’s Outstanding Project
Elk Grove Rain Garden Plaza

Story by Connie Nelson, CFM, Willdan Engineering; Photos by the City of Elk Grove

On, May 1, 2012, the City of Elk Grove (City) opened to the public the State’s most comprehensive Rain Garden Plaza (Project). The City transformed a blighted one-acre vacant site into an inspiring outdoor educational experience that mimics a natural approach to retain and cleanse urban stormwater runoff, to protect the environment, and to promote future sustainable development practices. The Project is one of the first large-scale rain garden’s in California; and it demonstrates the connection between a small urban space and innovative stormwater management practices through simple and cost-effective eco-engineering techniques.

A growing concern for communities statewide and globally is preserving small urban open spaces and protecting water quality. It has been projected that, by 2050, over 75 percent of the population will live in urban cities worldwide, and the economic well-being of thriving communities will hinge largely on the sustainable nature of small urban environments. In addition, recent State regulations have mandated local agencies to address the impacts caused by hydromodification on aquatic resources and to promote water conservation by improving water-use efficiency.

Along with a new focus to treat stormwater as a resource rather than a nuisance, the City recognized the need to develop a public project to demonstrate the array of benefits that can be realized by implementing low impact development (LID) techniques and sustainable stormwater practices. The Project went from a simple beautification project to a unique, useable small open space to educate the community about the role of urban development in stormwater pollution and...
what individuals can do to reduce pollutants flowing into our habitat-friendly creeks. Significant public input was received during the design process to incorporate suggestions such as art and an overall organic design.

One of the design goals was to highlight several different ways that stormwater moves through natural terrains. This was accomplished by treating the entire site as a micro-watershed that mimics Mother Nature. The features used in the Project effectively slow the flow of stormwater and allow it to be absorbed by native plants before making its way toward the lowest point of the site, the rain garden. By increasing the time of concentration, the Project tries to simulate the natural processes that occur in undeveloped forests, mountains, valleys, rivers and lakes systems.

In addition, the design included water harvesting rain chains from the roof of the shade structure to replace typical roof downspouts. The rain chains are used to capture the roof runoff and convey it to a rain barrel to hold water for later irrigation. California native drought-resistant plants are used throughout the Project to encourage sustainable landscaping, attract wildlife and promote water conservation. Fitness equipment is placed on synthetic lawn with a drainage permeability rate of 30-inches per hour. Fact-filled colorful interpretive signs illustrate and provide information on various stormwater management techniques.

The final design of the Project resulted in an inspiring site featuring a ¼-acre rain garden with a dry well to enhance groundwater recharge, a paved plaza area comprised mostly of pervious pavers, and a shade structure for a social gathering place for the community. As a focal point, an interactive art sculpture showcasing the difference between the various types of pervious and impervious surfaces is displayed.

The Project’s stormwater management system used runoff control LID techniques, such as early site planning to locate the pre-existing lowest spot on the site, disconnected downspouts (rain chains), a rain barrel, a rain garden with a dry well, pervious pavers/pavement, and water efficient landscaping to dramatically reduce the post-development flow rates and keep new flows close to the pre-development rates. The entire Project, including the shade structures, drains to landscaped areas, and no part of the site is directly connected to an impervious surface. During the first year storm events, the Project was able to successfully retain all water on the site for storm events of 1-inch or less during a 24-hour period. Small frequent storm events (0.5 inches of rain and less) on the average represent over 80% of the total average annual rainfall for the Sacramento area.

To enhance the quality of stormwater runoff, all surface rainwater is channeled into vegetated bioswales, pervious paver/pavement, or the rain garden, to increase the treatment contact time, and to allow silt and debris to filter prior to infiltration into the ground. As a result, 100% of the site runoff is treated in the stormwater quality features of the site and avoids costly underground mechanical devices. The stormwater management system for the Project is an exceptional example of what residents and business owners can do to improve water quality on their own properties.

The construction of the Project was constrained by the surrounding development of the one-acre site and with only a 15-foot construction access entrance. All staging of equipment and materials
had to be completed on site, and only one major controlling operation could occur at any one
time due to the limitations of the space available. A significant construction challenge was that
the art sculpture delivery date was delayed. This created a negative impact on the construction
sequence and caused contractor change order claims. Once the fountain finally arrived on site, a
creative solution had to be considered to protect the existing construction; and a crane company
was hired to lift the 7-ton concrete art piece safely into place from a distance of 80 feet away.

The Project proves that water quality protection can be beautiful as well as functional. The
Project resulted in a model for the community, state agencies and other local municipalities by
providing a real life example of what can be done to raise community awareness, conserve water
resources, improve water quality, attract wildlife habitat, and promote watershed stewardship
through both passive learning and hands-on fun interactive components. The Project acts like a
living scientific laboratory, teaching visitors of all ages about LID techniques and sustainable
stormwater practices that work with nature to manage urban runoff. The Project also promotes
social gathering and neighborly interaction, offers a safe place for children to play, showcases
local artwork, provides opportunity for free-time fun, and promotes a healthy lifestyle through
exercise.

The community has embraced this unique Project
that has created values to the City by enhancing
natural outdoor open spaces in urban areas. On any
given day, families and groups can be observed
figuring out the interactive art sculpture, watching
the hummingbirds and butterflies that frequent the
garden, enjoying the aesthetic beauty of the large
variety of native flowers, walking the boardwalk,
using the fitness equipment, enjoying lunch under
the shade structure, checking out the water
harvesting technologies on display, or discovering
new facts about stormwater pollution prevention
from the colorful interpretive signs. The Project
has become a destination for many families and
professionals; as a site for educational tours, it has
received various sustainability Project awards, and
significant media coverage.

The Project exemplifies what a community can accomplish by transforming a small urban space
into a beautiful, inviting, serene space and providing the information needed to modify public
behavior concerning sustainable stormwater management practices through innovative
engineering techniques that will help preserve the environment and benefit future generations.

At the annual awards dinner on February 20, the Elk Grove Rain Garden Plaza Project was
honored as the ASCE Sacramento Section’s “Outstanding Project of the Year” for Sustainability
in 2012. It has also received awards from the California Parks and Recreation Society, the
California Stormwater Quality Association, the Laguna Creek Watershed Council, Sacramento
The ASCE Region 9 Board is comprised of six Governors and a Director (who also represents ASCE Region 9 on the Society Board of Direction). ASCE Region 9 Committee Chairs and the four Section Presidents play an integral role in the Region’s activities. The ASCE Region 9 Board for 2013-2014 is:

- Jennifer Epp, Director/Chair
- Jay Higgins, Los Angeles Section Governor
- Mark Norton, At-Large Governor
- Larry Pierce, San Diego Section Governor
- Oscar Serrano, Sacramento Section Governor
- Gregg Fiegel, At-Large Governor
- Kwame Agyare, San Francisco Section Governor

ASCE Region 9 includes over 18,000 ASCE members distributed among the four California Sections: Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The Sections include 17 Branches, 11 Younger Member groups, and 25 Student Chapters. Over the last couple of years, ASCE Region 9, with input and support of our four Sections, has been developing and implementing goals and priorities. Our priorities focus our activities on three main areas: supporting members, promoting the profession, and supporting public policies that benefit society. Our goals and priorities for the upcoming year are described below.

Facilitate collaborative activities between all ASCE groups within Region 9
Each of the entities within ASCE Region 9 faces and addresses challenges with membership, fund raising, member engagement, leadership succession, and promoting the civil engineering profession. ASCE Region 9 will facilitate activities and promote collaboration and communication among ASCE groups to help address these common challenges.

Examples of planned ASCE Region 9 activities include: regular contact and sharing of advice by ASCE Region 9 Governors with Sections and Branches; coordination between Section Presidents through monthly meetings; bringing engineers and advocates together to discuss issues related to infrastructure at the Infrastructure Symposium; recognizing outstanding projects and individuals at the Awards Banquet; facilitating training for ASCE officers at the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference; and conducting periodic conference calls with Section and Branch leaders to offer advice and support in addressing common issues of concern.

Communicate with all ASCE groups within Region 9 to ensure that we are serving member needs
Improved communications between Region 9 and ASCE groups within the Region will increase members’ awareness of ASCE Region 9 activities and of civil engineering issues that are of statewide significance. The ASCE Region 9 leadership will also benefit from the enhanced communication by ensuring that Region activities are consistent with members’ needs.
Examples of planned ASCE Region 9 activities include: participation and interaction of ASCE Region 9 Governors with ASCE members at meetings; publishing monthly articles in Section newsletters about recent or upcoming ASCE activities of statewide significance; and providing education about ASCE Region 9’s role and obtaining feedback from attendees at the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference.

**Infrastructure advocacy, including legislative and policy support**

ASCE Region 9, working with its Legislative Advocate (lobbyist) and with input from each of the Sections, will continue to support and promote statewide policies that benefit the public through enhanced quality of life, safety, and support of sustainable systems.

Examples of planned ASCE Region 9 activities include: funding a Legislative Advocate to champion Civil Engineering issues; tracking legislation and advocating our position on issues related to water and transportation infrastructure and policy; continuing to share the ASCE National Infrastructure Report Card, the California Infrastructure Report Card and other public outreach tools about the importance of investment in infrastructure; organizing Legislative Activities Day for our members; publishing monthly articles (“This Month in Sacramento”) in each of the Section newsletters; seeking opportunities to appoint ASCE members to State registration boards for the civil engineering profession; and assisting with designation of ASCE civil engineering landmarks of Statewide infrastructure significance.

If you’d like to get involved in an ASCE Region 9 Committee, are interested in serving on the Board, or would like to provide input on ASCE Region 9’s activities, please contact Jennifer Epp at jennifer.b.epp@gmail.com.

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### This Month in the State Capital – September

*By Richard Markuson*

**Legislative Update**

The two houses of the State Legislature will return from their summer hiatus in August albeit on two different dates. This “first time ever” phenomena either represents the “independence” of the two co-equal houses or is another example of a malfunction in California governance. You decide. But here is where some key ASCE legislation stands.

Governor Jerry Brown has signed **AB 116** (Support) (Bocanegra) that will extend for 24 months any tentative map, vesting tentative map, or parcel map for which a tentative map or vesting tentative map, as the case may be, has been approved that has not expired on or before the effective date of this bill, and that will expire before January 1, 2016.

**AB 243** (Support) (Dickensen) creates infrastructure and revitalization financing districts (IRFDs) (modeled after infrastructure financing districts (IFDs) in existing law), broadens the range of projects and facilities they can finance, lowers the voter approval threshold necessary to form an IRFD and issue bonds to 55%, and extends the life of districts to 40 years. **AB 243** is on Senate third reading.

**SB 152** (Support) (Roth) that would delete the provisions allowing for a temporary authorization to practice as an engineer is awaiting final passage in the Assembly.

**SB 425** (Support) (DeSaulnier) is on the floor of the Assembly. It allows a public agency that is principally charged with the administration, planning, development, and operation of a public works project (administering agency) to establish a peer review group of qualified persons, as specified, to give expert advice on the scientific and technical aspects of the public works project. Specifically, this bill:

1. Permits an administering agency of a public works project to establish a peer review group of qualified persons, as specified, to give
expert advice on the scientific and technical aspects of the project.
2. Requires an administering agency that chooses to create a peer review group to develop a transparent process for selecting members of the group and draft a charter that contains specified information:
3. Requires the charter in 2) above to be posted on the administering agency's Internet Web site.

**AB 401** (Support) (Daly) has died in the Senate. It would, until January 1, 2018, have authorized the Orange County Transportation Authority to utilize design-build procurement for the Interstate 405 Improvement Project on the state highway system, based on either best value or lowest responsible bid. The bill would require the Department of Transportation to perform construction inspection services for the project, as specified. This provision has resulted in a Legislative Counsel opinion that this provision violates Article XXII of the constitution – passed as Proposition 35 in 2000. This provision is what killed the bill.

The Senate Health Committee passed **AB 145** (Oppose) (Perea) that consolidates the Drinking Water Program (DWP), currently at the Department of Public Health (DPH), with water supply and water quality programs at the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

**Governors' Appointments**

To Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (all reappointed): Margaret "Peggy" Hellweg, 61, Orinda, Democrat, research geophysicist at Berkeley Seismological Laboratory; Emir Jose Macari, 55, Carmichael, Democrat, dean of engineering and computer science, CSU Sacramento; Timothy Strack, 43, Riverside, Democrat, fire captain, City of Riverside; Randall Goodwin, 56, Davis, Democrat, city architect, City of West Sacramento; Tracy Johnson, 52, Oakland, Democrat, acting assistant superintendent of way and facilities at the Bay Area Rapid Transit District; Helen Knudson, (reappointed) 71, Alameda, Democrat, disaster response consultant at the Lutheran Social Services of Northern California from 2004-1012. At CA State Transportation Agency, As undersecretary: Brian Annis, 44, Sacramento, Democrat. As Assistant Secretary for Rail and Ports: Ben DeAlba, 26, Sacramento, Democrat. As Deputy Secretary of Policy Coordination: Carol Farris, 52, Sacramento, decline-to-state. As deputy secretary of communications and strategic planning: Gareth Lacy, 31, Sacramento, Democrat. As Deputy Secretary of Legislation: Ronda Paschal, 50, Sacramento, Democrat.

**To Regional Water Quality Control Boards, by area:**

**San Francisco Bay:** Newsha Ajami, 37, San Francisco, Democrat, senior research associate at the Pacific Institute. **Lahontan:** Kimberly Cox, 53, Helendale, Republican, general manager at Helendale Community Services District. **San Diego:** Stefanie Warren, 35, San Diego, Democrat, attorney at McKenna Long and Aldridge LLP. As executive director, CA Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development: Teveia Barnes, 60, Tiburon, Democrat, senior deputy commissioner, CA Dept. of Business Oversight, Division of Financial Institutions. As deputy executive director: Ruben Rojas, 50, West Covina, Democrat, executive vice president of global operations and sustainability, Dansure Inc.

**Other Appointments**

By Speaker. To CA High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors: Patrick W. Henning, 66, Fair Oaks, Democrat, former director of Employment Development Dept.

**Recent Reports**

CA High-Speed Rail Authority released "Contribution of the High-Speed Rail Program to Reducing California's Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels," findings include that High-Speed Rail will achieve, "an estimated 4 to 8 million metric tons of CO2 saved by 2030."

State Treasurer Bill Lockyer released report on the Foothill-Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency, findings include that the Agency "could eventually default on its bond payment obligations without a proposed $2.21 billion restructuring of the Agency's debt."

Department of Finance has released a summary of budgetary loans to the General Fund, says "the current (as of June 30) total balance of $4.6 billion is scheduled to be paid down to $500 million at the end of 2016-17."
Sacramento Section

Awards Banquet

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Sponsored by the
ASCE Sacramento Section

The DoubleTree, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA

5:30 PM No Host Reception
6:15 PM Dinner & Awards

Awards Including:
Civil Engineer in the Private and Public Sector | Life Member | Section, Branch, and Younger Member Officer | Journalism |
Lifetime Achievement | Faculty Advisor | Practitioner Advisor |
Younger Civil Engineer | Civil Engineering Student |
Legislator of the Year | ASCE Event

Institute Awards Including:
Charles C. Pope Construction Award | Francis N. Hveem Geotechnical Award |
Frederik W. Panhorst Structural Award | William H. Hall Flood Control Award |
Stewart Mitchell History and Heritage |
David N. Kennedy Environmental and Water Resources Award

For more information please contact:
Natalie Calderone, Natalie.Calderone@aecom.com

Individuals: $65
Full Table Sponsorship (9 seats and 1 Student Award Winner): $650
Half Table Sponsorship (5 seats): $325
(Note: Table sponsorship includes preferred seating and recognition during program)
Registration is now open. Register Now!
SACRAMENTO CAPITAL BRANCH BALLOT 2013 – 2014 OFFICERS

Please vote for one person for each office (write-ins accepted) and return this Ballot to the ASCE Sacramento Section, Capital Branch by September 18, 2013. You may email or fax your vote to the ASCE Capital Branch.

- E-mail: asce@asce-sacto.org
- Fax: 916-965-6234

Please include your ASCE Membership Number: ________________________.
You may call ASCE National at 1-800-548-2773 for assistance with membership.

I. PRESIDENT-ELECT

1) Natalie E. Calderone, PE (___)

I am a Bridge Engineer for AECOM with 14 years of experience and have lived in Sacramento for nearly 13 years.

I have been actively involved in the Sacramento Section of ASCE since 2004 as the Section Secretary, Junior Director, and Senior Director last year. Past activities include work on both the Sacramento and California Infrastructure Report Cards as Co-Chair and Committee Member, respectively. I was the Publicity Chair for the 2004 Orthotropic Bridge Conference (OBC), the Conference Chair for the 2008 OBC, and I served as Past-Chair for the 2013 OBC this summer.

As Capital Branch President, my goal will be to find new ways to get the membership involved in the Branch whether it is through new committees or more social and community service activities. And, of course, we are always looking to get younger member involved so I will be looking to work closely with YMF and the Universities to get more cross-over.

2) Write-In Selection: ________________________________________________

(ASCE membership must be current; verification required)
II. VICE-PRESIDENT

1) Ajay K. Sehgal, PE (___)

Incumbent Vice-President. Ajay is a Senior Bridge Engineer with Caltrans. He has his footprints on all the long span bridges that are owned and operated by Caltrans. He worked on the SAS Bridge. This assignment required him to make trips during construction to view orthotropic box girders in China, fabrication of spherical bearings in Pennsylvania, and assembly of bearings in South Korea.

Currently, Mr. Sehgal is a falsework specialist. In this assignment, he provides technical assistance to the Caltrans bridge engineers throughout the State. His other responsibilities are to update the construction practices pertaining to temporary structures that are required for building the bridges.

Ajay loves bridges, cathedrals, or any civil engineering construction. He loves dancing, reading, traveling and promoting unity in diversity!

2) Write-In Selection: ____________________________________________

(ASCE membership must be current; verification required)

III. SECRETARY

1) Mauricio Luna, PE (___)

I am a Geotechnical Engineer with Shannon & Wilson. I have been actively involved in ASCE, Sacramento Section for the past three years. I have attended monthly lunch meetings hosted by the Capital Branch and different events hosted by the Younger Member Forum. As a younger member of ASCE, attending these events has helped me develop new contacts and stay informed about projects in the region which will benefit me as I advance my career.

I have been looking for an opportunity to volunteer and be more involved within the Sacramento Capital Branch, and I believe the Secretary position is a good fit. I am aware of the general duties and expectations that the Secretary position entails. As Secretary I will ensure that Capital Branch members are informed of upcoming events, deliver appropriate correspondence in a timely manner, attend meetings and keep accurate minutes, maintain organized records of important documents, and be accessible to whomever may need the services of the Branch Secretary. I plan to meet these goals by meeting and maintaining communication with the past Secretary, developing a good relationship with fellow board members, and maintaining an updated calendar of important event and deadlines.

2) Write-In Selection: ____________________________________________

(ASCE membership must be current; verification required)
IV. **TREASURER**

1) **Richard Weitzenberg, PE (___)**

Incumbent Treasurer. “Dick” is a retired Civil Design Supervisor for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). He has been a member of ASCE since graduation from UC Berkeley. Dick is also a Past-president of the Sacramento Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). He has served as treasurer for many organizations, including SAME, Sacramento Youth Soccer League, Northern California Soccer Referees Association, and a local Toastmasters Club.

2) **Write-In Selection:**

(ASCE membership must be current; verification required)

**Note:**

Two positions on the Capital Branch Board will be filled by succession per the Capital Branch Bylaws as follows:

- Mr. Darren Mack will move from President-Elect to President;
- Mr. Mario Carreon will move from President to immediate Past-President.