



Capital Branch



Central Valley Branch



Feather River Branch



Shasta Branch

November 2011

# The Engineerogram

Volume 73, No. 11

## President's Message

by Jon Balzer, P.E., President



### ESTABLISHING THE ROAD MAP

**S**ynergy is the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. It is the premise that individuals alone cannot accomplish what they can when working together as one group, as one team. It is no different for ASCE, as great successes require collective and collaborative efforts. For this reason, it is important that in establishing our basic objectives for the year, we also must identify and communicate definable goals to help reach those objectives.

Last month we discussed the importance of defining success and established four basic objectives that create the framework for our success this year in ASCE. These objectives include: Maintaining a Strong Workforce, Increasing Membership Engagement, Growing the Community to Outreach more of the Profession, and Increasing Student and Younger Member Outreach. For these objectives to progress we must identify definable, measurable goals and establish road maps to meet these goals. For ASCE Sacramento Section, one such definable goal, or point of interest on our road map, is the Project Awards Dinner scheduled to occur February 2012.

### ASCE Project Awards Dinner:

Last month's issue of the EOG contained applications for ASCE Outstanding Project Awards, with entry forms due no later than Janu-

ary 6, 2012, and an Awards Dinner for the winners planned to occur in February 2012. These Outstanding Project Awards are not only an opportunity to recognize outstanding achievement in the industry; they are also an opportunity to further network the profession. Through sharing ideas, recognizing excellence, and building relationships, this event ultimately is a chance to further the profession, and not only maintain the workforce, but engage the workforce.

Amongst today's challenges, recognizing excellence, sharing successes, and networking more of the profession become increasingly important. The Project Awards should provide recognition to the many different aspects of the Civil Engineering profession. It is an opportunity for representation of the many different disciplines, institutes, project locations, and branches of our Section and profession. Our definable goals, as they pertain to Maintaining a Strong Workforce and furthering our profession, should include strong representation of the many Civil Engineering and Construction projects and companies in our industry. In February, for those projects that are selected, the room should be filled with the many people and community who are there to invest in furthering the profession, furthering the industry, and sharing the ideas and nature of excellence.

It is essential to realize the importance and impact each of us has, and the difference we can make when working together. There are many challenges and opportunities to get involved and make a difference in the world and our profession today. For this reason, it is perhaps more important than ever to find opportunities to align efforts, identify and pursue noteworthy causes, and recognize exceptional performances.

Thank you, and please let us know what you think at: [asce@asce-sacto.org](mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org)

Sincerely,  
Jon Balzer

### IN THIS ISSUE

2011 Outstanding Engineering Project Award Entry Form	6
2011 Outstanding Engineering Project Award Entry Criteria	7
ASCE Region 9 Legislative Update	3
ASCE Region 9 Governor Positions Are Open	1
ASCE Region 9 Update	11
Advertising Rates	2
Calendar	3
Capital Branch	3
Capital Branch News	8 -9
Central Valley Branch	3
Feather River Branch	3
New Members of the Sacramento Section, September	12
Officer Contacts	2
Outstanding Projects and Leaders	4 - 5
President's Message	1
Shasta Branch	3
The Law and Civil Engineering	9
YMF	10

## ASCE Region 9 Governor Positions Are Open

by Fared Pittalwala,  
Governor, ASCE Region 9, Nominating Committee Chair

Attention all ASCE members . . . ASCE Region 9 has two open positions for the 3-year Governor term (2012 to 2015). The two open positions are:

- San Diego Section Governor (Elected Position)**
- At-Large Governor (Appointed Position)**

ASCE Region 9 is looking for experienced ASCE leaders who have been engaged with their local ASCE entities and have a passion for improving and enhancing the civil engineering profession within the state of California. A letter of intent to pursue office is due to Fared Pittalwala at [fpittalwala@rbf.com](mailto:fpittalwala@rbf.com) by December 1st. Additionally, information regarding the timeline and nomination process can be found on ASCE Region 9's website, or by contacting Fared Pittalwala via email.



**The Engineerogram, P.O. Box 1492, Lincoln, CA 95648-1441**  
**(916) 961-2723 (phone and fax) • e-mail: [asce@asce-sacto.org](mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org) • Web site: [www.asce-sacto.org](http://www.asce-sacto.org)**

The Engineerogram is the official publication of the Sacramento Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and made available to ASCE members paying local dues to the Section. It is published regularly at the beginning of the month. **To contribute articles, mail, fax, or e-mail to ASCE/Sacramento Section Executive Secretary, Vivian Mevorah, at [asce@asce-sacto.org](mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org). Deadline for articles is on the 20th of the month prior to the issue.**

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**(To our contributing writers: The Engineerogram reserves the right to make revisions, correct spelling and grammatical errors, to prioritize information and to summarize content. Articles may be shortened as editorial requirements dictate. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the President of the Sacramento Section. Thank you for your understanding. Editors.)**

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University of California, Davis	Alex Wong and Joe Novielli	Co-Presidents	<a href="mailto:ucd.asce.president@gmail.com">ucd.asce.president@gmail.com</a>

For more ASCE activities if you wish to be active in a committee, career opportunities, complete text for the legislative activities, go to the Sacramento Section web site at [www.asce-sacto.org](http://www.asce-sacto.org), or contact a current officer. To MAKE CHANGES OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, go to website: [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org). For MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, please e-mail to [memapp@asce.org](mailto:memapp@asce.org).

MASTER CALENDAR

Date(s) (Times)	Event	Location	Information
	Central Valley Branch Meeting, Page 3		Anthony Mazzei, <a href="mailto:amazzei@condorearth.com">amazzei@condorearth.com</a>
Thursday, 3rd 5:30 pm	YMF Mixer, Page 10	Luigi's Slice, 1050-20th Street #150, Sacramento 95814	<a href="http://www.sacymf.org">www.sacymf.org</a>
	Feather River Branch Meeting, Page 3		Amie McAllister – 530.228.6003; <a href="mailto:amie.steel@gmail.com">amie.steel@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday, 16th 6:00 pm	Engineers Without Borders Meeting	TBA	<a href="mailto:sacproresident@gmail.com">sacproresident@gmail.com</a>
Monday, 21st	Sacramento Section Board Meeting	Department of Transportation, El Dorado County, 4505 Golden Foothills Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762	Thor Larsen, 916-358-3676 <a href="mailto:thor.larsen@edcgov.us">thor.larsen@edcgov.us</a>
Tuesday, 29th	Capital Branch Meeting, Page 3	Radisson Hotel - Hwy 160 at Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA	Alfred Mangus, 916-205-1962 <a href="mailto:mangusalf@yahoo.com">mangusalf@yahoo.com</a>

December

Wednesday, 7th 5:30 pm	YMF Holiday Party, Page 10	Old Spaghetti Factory 1910 "J" Street, Sacramento 95811	<a href="http://www.sacymf.org">www.sacymf.org</a>
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Conferences	Section Officer Meetings	Seminars	YMF Events
Section Meetings	Region 9 Events	Outreach Events	Student Events
Branch Meetings			

**Shasta Branch**

The Sacramento Section is currently looking for volunteers who would like to take a leadership position within ASCE and re-invigorate the Shasta Branch. For more information, contact Section President Jon Balzer at [jon.balzer@gcinc.com](mailto:jon.balzer@gcinc.com) or Region 9 Governor Fareed Pittalwala at [fpittalwala@rbf.com](mailto:fpittalwala@rbf.com).

**Feather River Branch**

For more information about the Feather River Branch meetings, please contact Amie McAllister at [amie.steel@gmail.com](mailto:amie.steel@gmail.com).

**Central Valley Branch Meeting**

For more information about the Central Valley Branch meetings, please contact Jason Tokheim at [jtokheim@ksninc.com](mailto:jtokheim@ksninc.com).

**Capital Branch**

Registration through Eventbrite will be sent to you all soon; or, you may call or email Alfred R. Mangus at 916-205-1962, or [mangusalf@yahoo.com](mailto:mangusalf@yahoo.com).

**ASCE Region 9 Legislative Update**

**This Month in Sacramento (ASCE)**

*By Richard Markuson*

The Governor had until October 10, 2011 to act on the myriad bills sent to him – mostly in the waning hours on this legislative session.

What we do know is that despite some of the Governor’s statements about the relative merit of the bills being sent to him – he is signing the vast majority of measures – over 90% so far.

**Still Awaiting Action**

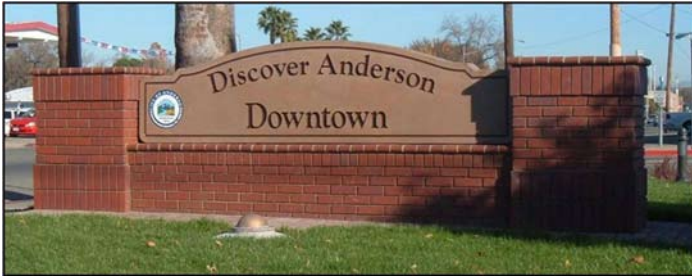
**AB 1210** (Garrick) that exempts Civil Engineers from the requirements imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is on the Governor’s desk. Region 9 of ASCE joined the supporters of the bill to argue that the qualifications to practice engineering should be established by the Engineers Board and that the SWRCB and other regulatory bodies should not set standards and enforce additional requirements on what are fundamentals of the practice of Civil Engineering. If the Governor signs AB 1210, it would go into effect immediately.

Also awaiting the Governor is Region 9 supported **AB 275** (Solario). The bill would allow homeowners to install, or hire a licensed

*Continued on Page 12*

**Outstanding Projects and Leaders**

*by Omni-Means, Ltd., Redding, CA*



**This month's outstanding project: East Center Street Improvements, Anderson, CA**

Communities around the country have built many miles of streets and roads that are unsafe for people traveling by foot and bicycle. These roadways often lack sidewalks, crosswalks, space for bicyclists, and make no accommodation for people with disabilities.

Old road building habits are changing such that road projects take into account the needs of everyone using the roads. By completing our road network for all travelers, we improve safety, help reduce automobile emissions, and provide opportunities for physical activity. Safe, multi-modal streets in business districts also become engines for economic revitalization.

Complete streets are streets that work for all users - not just those using a car. These streets balance the need for vehicle travel with the need to accommodate a vibrant pedestrian, bicycle and transit environment. More than 100 jurisdictions spanning all regions of the country have adopted complete streets policies through legislation, internal agency policies, and design manuals.

In 2008, AB1358 was signed into law in California creating new requirements for transportation planning to address Complete Streets.

East Center Street was constructed as a series of projects that embraced the Complete Streets goals and provided an opportunity for a vibrant multi-modal environment in downtown Anderson.

The City of Anderson was the implementing agency for the



projects on East Center Street. Each project incorporated Low Impact Development and Complete Streets features.

**Project Features:**

The East Center Street projects provide the following features:

- Decorative sidewalks, benches and railings
- Pavement rehabilitation
- Storm water infiltration systems
- New landscaping and irrigation systems
- New decorative street lights
- Electrical outlets for street fairs and a band-stand
- ADA accessibility



*The completed East Center Street project spurred development on the corner of East Center and South Streets. This resulted in two new and successful businesses (Burrito Bandito and Toppings Yogurt) moving into Anderson.*

**Community Relations:**

Planning and implementation of the project involved the following public outreach:

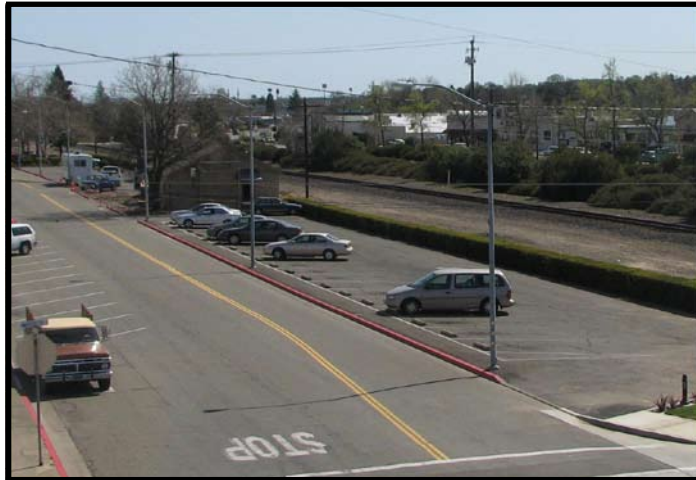
- Door-to-door visits with neighboring businesses to obtain their input during the planning and design stages.
- Community outreach meetings during the City's concurrent General Plan update process with special focus on downtown "visioning".
- Numerous project update reports at City Council meetings.
- Numerous stories in the Valley Post newspaper.
- Door-to-door visits with neighboring businesses during construction.



*Continued on Page 5*

Outstanding Projects and Leaders - Continued from Page 4

**Before Construction**



**After Construction**



Detailed stage construction and traffic handling plans were prepared that resulted in very little delay to public traffic during construction. The stage construction plans also addressed the need for providing temporary access to local businesses at all times during construction.

**Environmental Considerations:**

**Preservation:** Landscaping, benches, sidewalks and amenities were carefully designed to preserve mature trees.

**Low Impact Development:** The immediate downtown area does not have a storm-drain system. Extensive roadway flooding was the norm prior to the projects. Three storm water infiltration systems were designed and constructed to handle rainfall events. With the implementation of the infiltration systems, almost no rainfall runoff leaves the East Center Street area via the roadway gutters during rainfall events (i.e. all rainfall recharges the groundwater via infiltration systems).

**Coordination with Historic Properties:** Special attention was given to protecting and preserving a historic fire hall, Shasta County historic jail and numerous historic businesses. All work was designed to minimize impacts and enhance the historic environment.

**Unusual Accomplishments:**

The most significant accomplishment for this project is the fact that all construction was accomplished “right on top of” existing businesses in a downtown core. The best comparison is doing a kitchen remodel while living in your house. Through good planning and coordination – businesses, traffic, bicycles and pedestrians were accommodated.

*[The project received the Small Project of the Year Award from the Sacramento Section of ASCE. ~ Ed.]*



*Before-and-after photos of the preservation of the City's historic Fire Hall*





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## 2011 ASCE Outstanding Engineering Project Award Entry Form

**General Information:**

Please complete the following information *and submit 5 copies with a letter explaining the project and stating why you feel this project should receive this award.*

**Entries Due:** January 6, 2012

**Please send this information to:**

Kimberly Brown, Senior Director  
ASCE Sacramento Section  
c/o HDR Inc., 2365 Iron Point Rd., Suite 300  
Folsom, CA 95630-8709  
E-mail: [Kimberly.Brown@hdrinc.com](mailto:Kimberly.Brown@hdrinc.com)

Entries should meet the entry criteria stated for this award, will not be returned, and will become the property of ASCE, Sacramento Section.

**Project Information:**

Project name (exactly as it should appear on a plaque):  
Project location (city, state):  
Completion date:  
Enter up to three (3) categories to be considered for in addition to Project of the Year:

Small Project \_\_\_ Structural \_\_\_ Water/Wastewater \_\_\_ Environmental \_\_\_  
Geotechnical \_\_\_ Architectural \_\_\_ Transportation \_\_\_ Sustainability \_\_\_ Bridge \_\_\_

**Entrant Information:**

ASCE Member: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No      Sacramento Section Member: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Owner Information:**

Project owner (attach addendum for more names) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

## ASCE Sacramento Section 2011 Outstanding Engineering Project Award Entry Criteria

The Sacramento Section Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Award is presented by the Sacramento Section of ASCE to a project that demonstrates the greatest engineering skills and represents the greatest contribution to civil engineering progress and to society. In addition to the Outstanding Project of the Year award, additional subcategory awards will be given to projects of significance for their particular category of civil engineering. The sub-categories are listed on the Entry Form and below. Given to the project rather than to an individual, the Award(s) honor the outstanding work of the many engineers who have contributed to the project.

### Rules:

1. The project must be predominantly civil engineering work.
2. The project must be located in the Sacramento Section area.
3. The project must meet one of the following eligibility criteria:
  - Bridges, tunnels, waterways, structures, roads: eligible when carrying traffic.
  - Water supply, flood control facilities: eligible when ready to take the full design head of water.
  - Power dams: eligible when the major civil-engineered construction is completed.
  - Fuel power plants, heating or cooling facilities: eligible when power goes on-line.
  - Buildings and structures: eligible when ready for use.
  - Airports and other similar large developments: eligible when initial phase is 75% operational.
  - Water supply, waste disposal: the entire project is eligible when its initial phase is 50% operational.
  - Military projects (such as bases, launching units and harbor facilities): eligible for their engineering aspects.
  - Urban development or recreation facilities: When open for public use.
  - Natural resources restorations: When restoration is complete

The judging committee will determine the eligibility of projects not categorized above.

### Judging Criteria:

1. Contribution to the well-being of people and communities.
2. Resourcefulness in planning and solving design challenges.
3. Pioneering in use of materials and methods.
4. Innovations in construction.
5. Impact on physical environment.
6. Beneficial as well as adverse effects of the project, including aesthetic value.

### Entry Format:

The award entry should inform the reader about the project and emphasize the appropriate items listed in the judging criteria above as well as any significant features of the project. Photos and/or drawings of significance should be included.

### Nominations:

1. Nominations may be submitted by any ASCE - Sacramento Section member.
2. Nomination materials must be received by January 7, 2011, for projects meeting eligibility in 2010.
3. Five (5) copies of the nomination must be submitted and accompanied by the Entry Form.
4. A non-winning project from an earlier year may be renominated if it meets the eligibility rules.
5. Send applications to: Kimberly Brown, Senior Director, ASCE Sacramento Section, c/o HDR Inc., 2365 Iron Point Rd., Suite 300, Folsom, CA 95630-8709, or by e-mail to: [Kimberly.Brown@hdrinc.com](mailto:Kimberly.Brown@hdrinc.com)

Nominations will be judged by a panel comprised of Awards Committee (made up of past presidents or other section officers) of the Sacramento Section. A plaque for permanent display will be given to the project owner and a certificate to the designer by the Section in an award presentation ceremony as part of Engineers Week in February. For further information, contact the ASCE office at 916-961-2723 or [asce@asce-sacto.org](mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org).

Additional Categories:	Small Project (under \$5.0 million)	Structural	Water/Wastewater
	Environmental	Geotechnical	Architectural
	Transportation and Development	Sustainability	Bridge

## Capital Branch News

by Alfred R. Mangus, P.E.  
President, Capital Branch

### Diamond Anniversary:

**Introduction:** For those of you who do not know me, my name is Alfred R Mangus PE, and this is my second time as President of the ASCE Capital Branch (last 2003-2004).

**Brown Bag or Hotel Meal?:** That is the question we (Thor, Past President; Mario, President Elect; Dick Weitzenberg, our Treasurer; Bob Luscombe, our Secretary; Vice President of Education, Ajay Sehgal, and I) have been discussing. We may be able to secure a government auditorium space with fire code limit of 80 attendees. Attendance at monthly luncheons have ranged from 25 to 50 attendees for the \$25 luncheons at the Radisson. The brown bag site could allow us to do a group sandwich order for those who want ASCE to coordinate the food selected. Others could bring their brown bags. ASCE was founded in 1852 by a few engineers to share technical knowledge. Please email us any feedback or comments to our President-Elect, [Mario.carreon@att.net](mailto:Mario.carreon@att.net).

**Hats off to:** Bruce J. Blanning, PE life member of our Capital Branch, for winning the 2011 *Stephen Bechtel Energy Award* from ASCE National. I will elaborate in a future issue.

**We Want you:** to provide us with a speech on a diversified ASCE topic. We need speakers from each and every ASCE Institute. Please email us any topic(s) or commitment to [aksehgal@comcast.net](mailto:aksehgal@comcast.net). We are open to out-of-town visitors who can provide high quality talks.

**Special Presentation Possible:** Dr Brian Maroney, PE of Caltrans has offered to provide us with a speech on the steel and welding issue topic for the new east spans of the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge. We have agreed to facilitate a special event with a goal of 100 to 200 attendees. Ajay Sehgal will take the lead in coordinating this venue, but will need others to assist and convince "other professional societies" to join us.

**What's up:** Please provide us with news about your project in our area. We are also seeking tours (including "hardhat" tours) of local projects. A portion of your section dues goes to funding this newsletter; let's all utilize this communication resource. Please email us any topic(s) or comments to our President-Elect at [Mario.carreon@att.net](mailto:Mario.carreon@att.net).

**Our international Bridge Event:** The third Orthotropic Bridge Conference will be chaired by Bob Luscombe. Bob's email is [R.Luscombe@comcast.net](mailto:R.Luscombe@comcast.net). Additional volunteers are needed for his committee. It's planned for 2013 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Precise dates and hotel / meeting rooms have not been selected. Suggestions are welcome. More details in our next newsletter.

**Presidential Pulpit:** My favorite quote is from Sir Isaac Newton, "I can see further because I stood on the shoulders of giants." The San Francisco / Oakland Bay Bridge (or Bay Bridge, or SFOBB) was the longest steel bridge in the world when built. Twenty-five men died building it. Our branch member, Matt Weil, has unpublished ironworker photos by his wife's grandfather. We are assisting Matt in getting high resolution scans. People have died driving on the bridge, and one during the partial collapse of the bridge. As I write this, I realize that the late Norman Root, PE, M.ASCE, was only one year, and a few weeks old when "SFOBB"

opened on November 16, 1936. I will write more thoughts about Norm and mentoring in a future issue of this newsletter. A few months later, the Golden Gate Bridge opened in March 1937. More about this icon in the March 2012 issue.

A lot has been written about the "SFOBB." Chief Engineer Purcell's choice was either build the world's longest suspension bridge at 5000 feet, or the world's deepest center pier at over 250 feet deep. This deepest pier was known as Moran's island, after the consulting engineer who designed the caisson (French for box). University of California Professor, Charles Derleth Jr., was assigned to build a scale model that ran between two rooms via the doorway of the suspension span. The scale load test and a microscope were used to test and confirm calculations. ASCE has an analysis award named after Leon Moisseiff, who had designed the George Washington Suspension Bridge. Moisseiff's name is on a copper plaque on the Golden Gate Bridge. Moisseiff was chief engineer for a plate girder suspension bridge that opened in 1940 across the Tacoma Narrows, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this type. Galloping Gertie Moisseiff's lasting legacy was a re-evaluation of wind loading and numerous suspension bridges.

The United States Steel subsidiary, American Bridge, built SFOBB. Later, USS sold off American Bridge, and this firm is building the SFOBB Self-Anchoring Suspension Bridge for the portion east of Yurba Buena (Spanish for good view) Island. The back-to-back suspension bridge's side, west of this rock island, was inspired by a Hungarian Bridge. So ideas evolve. The Japanese and others have copied ideas and solutions from SFOBB. A very similar suspension bridge was built in Lisbon, Portugal by American Bridge.

I thought about reproducing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Articles in 1986 by our friend and colleague Charles "Chuck" Seim, and the late Arthur "Art" Elliot, published in *Civil Engineering Magazine*. In 1989 the Loma Prieta Earthquake occurred, changing things by a big shake-up. The collapse of the Cypress Viaduct was to bring me back to a career in California.



(Figure 1) PECG Engineers receive Award (2009)  
Copyright Photo By ATC-ASCE

ASCE-ATC awarded the Caltrans Design Team, led by Dr. Brian Maroney, for the Seismic Retrofit for the West Suspension Bridge. No, the steel was not Chinese, it's from Brazil. Quite a few bridges in California are made of Japanese steel. SFOBB West Spans was awarded the ATC-ASCE Seismic Retrofit Project of the Decade in December 2009 at the ATC-SEI-ASCE conference. ATC-SEI-

Continued on Page 9

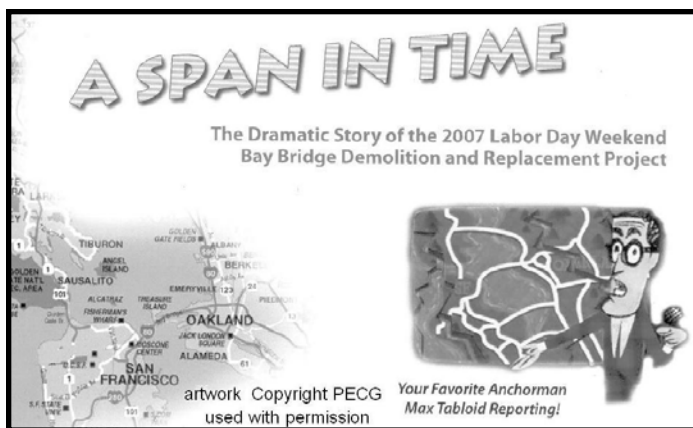
Capital Branch News - Continued from Page 8

ASCE awards chair, Dr. Jeremy Isenberg, presented the award to PECG members Dr. Lian Duan, Dr. Brian Maroney, Rodney “Rod” Simmons, John Fujimoto, and Ofelia Alcantara, the lead bridge design engineers. Awards Ceremony. (Figure 1). SFOBB West Spans are of the 2<sup>nd</sup> most photographed bridge in California.

Thanks for Joyce Copelan for leading a tour of the new SFOBB. Both the new SFOBB and Golden Gate Bridge have orthotropic steel deck system. [ 100% Steel deck without concrete or “battledeck” = built like a battleship.] Excellent resources on the new portion are: [www.newbaybridgeinfo.org](http://www.newbaybridgeinfo.org)

“The Bridge So Far – A Suspense Story” was the first of a series of documentaries developed by the union, PECG, Professional Engineers in California Government. The 59 minute documentary in addition to discussing the technical issues that surround a major bridge project examines the interplay involved in the development of a transportation mega project within the heart of the busy metropolitan San Francisco Bay area. The 3-D animation was by **Rick Pepper** and cartoon animation by **Charlie Canfield**. Movie stills can be viewed for free at [www.thebridgesofar.com](http://www.thebridgesofar.com).

The 2ND PECG documentary “A Span in Time,” illustrates how prefabrication on a grand scale can shorten the time necessary for structure replacement of the Yurba Buena Island portion of SFOBB. The story is told from the perspectives of the contractor the legendary Bay Area figure C. C. Myers, dedicated Caltrans engineers and designers, as well as by reporters who covered the story. The technical details are instructive in this documentary and there is a time lapse sequence that should be a part of any college course that discusses the use of accelerated construction. The project moves smoothly and completes 11 hours ahead of schedule, the 29-minute documentary makes this a captivating experience that illustrates how all involved must work together to make ABC = Accelerated Bridge Construction work. Award winning filmmaker David Brown filmed and produced the entertaining story with all the drama, comedy, optimism, dashed hopes, and plot reversals that can only happen in real life. The 3-D animation was by **Rick Pepper** and cartoon animation by **Charlie Canfield**. Movie clips may be viewed for free at <http://www.aspanintime.com>. Both movies have been shown on PBS =Public Broadcasting System.



(Figure 2) Movie poster art

Copyright PECG (Professional Engineers in California Government)

I am proud to be a Civil Engineer, and ASCE’s motto is “Building a Better Tomorrow.”

## The Law and Civil Engineering

by Eugene L. Bass, Esq.

### Think Ahead

In a prior article, the issue of the scope of liability of a negligent surveyor was discussed. The case involved a surveyor who was found to be liable to a future buyer of surveyed property even though the surveyor never had a contract with that future buyer. Several factors were cited in the decision that went into the determination of the liability for the negligent survey. Points mentioned were the extent to which the transaction was intended to affect the injured party, the foreseeability of harm to him, the degree of certainty that the injured party suffered injury, the closeness of the connection between the surveyor’s conduct and the injury suffered, the moral blame attached to the surveyor’s conduct, and the policy of preventing future harm.

An engineer should always be mindful of the potential extent of liability for any project undertaken. Not only must care be taken to avoid negligence in the performance of your own work but, where sub-consultants are engaged, their non-negligence must be achieved as well. Their work will be incorporated into your work and any errors by the sub-consultant will be your responsibility as well as the sub-consultant’s. And, if you are acting as a sub-consultant, you should be aware that any negligence by the prime consultant that results in litigation can readily cause you to be drawn into an expensive lawsuit for which you had no responsibility.

Bearing in mind the potential for liability associated with a project one should ask first if the project is one that should be undertaken at all. Will the fee be sufficient to compensate for the level of potential risk involved? Are present liability insurance limits sufficient and if not, should they be increased, and to what level? Will there be enough money in the job for an adequate level of pre-design investigation to provide a reasonable certainty that conditions will be known and that the design appropriately deals with those conditions. An example that comes to mind is the determination of the extent of subsurface investigation for a project. The more extensive the investigation, the more certainty there is that the completed project will function as intended. Bidders will not need to factor in as much contingency to compensate for the possibility of disruption and changes during construction that can be the result of an inadequate pre-design investigation. More money spent up front for a more thorough investigation will encourage bidders to reduce contingencies and give the owner better bids reflecting the true anticipated costs of construction.

Sometimes the best decision is to not get involved with a project. A low budget “you get what you pay for” may land the project initially but the potential for problems later is vastly increased. Clients can forget that the highest results do not always derive from the lowest price.

*The author’s discussion of legal ramifications of the particular case(s) are provided only for educational purposes and should not be relied on as legal advice. If you have a specific legal problem, please consult with your attorney*

**ASCE** SACRAMENTO SECTION  
YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

November 2011



**OFFICER ELECTIONS**  
**AT OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING**

At October's Business Meeting new officers and chairs were elected for service in the 2012 year at YMF. With the new elections the YMF executive board now consists of:

- President:** Elizabeth Weeks
- Vice-President:** Marie Silveira
- Past-President:** Kristy Chapman
- Secretary:** Shauna England
- Treasurer:** Mike Konieczki
- Education Direction:** Guy Hopes



In addition to new elections, now Past-President, Kristy Chapman, presented awards of appreciation to the officers for year 2011. The second-annual Presidents Award was presented by Kristy to Elizabeth Weeks for her outstanding service as vice-president.

The meeting also consisted of discussion about developing a new and more modern YMF website, the upcoming officer retreat,

attendance at WRYMC 2012 in Portland, and the continuing development of plans to host WRYMC 2013 in Sacramento.

**NOVEMBER MIXER**

November Mixer is right around the corner on a different night! The November Mixer will be held on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-7:00. The meeting will occur at Luigi's Slice (1050-20th Street #150). Join as we hear a presentation from Jacobs Engineering's Theron Roschen. Theron will discuss Greenroads; how to build roads from recycled materials.

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY!**

Mark the Holiday Party on your calendars for December 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00. The event will once again be held at the Old Spaghetti Factory located at 1910 "J" Street. For YMF members the cost of the dinner is FREE! YMF members are encouraged to bring guests. The cost of each guest will be \$20. Make sure to RSVP to Elias Karam at [Elias.Karam@Jacobs.com](mailto:Elias.Karam@Jacobs.com) by Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>. A raffle will be held to raise funds for hosting WRYMC 2013. The winner will receive a table top air hockey table. Finally, don't forget to bring a toy for the Toy Drive through Toys for Tots.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- \* November Mixer:  
Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30-7:00PM  
Located at Luigi's Slice. 1050-20th Street #150,  
Sacramento 95814.  
Speaker: Theron Roschen from Jacobs Engineering
- \* December Holiday Party  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00PM  
Located at the Old Spaghetti Factory. 1910 "J" Street  
Sacramento 95811

*For more information, visit [www.sacymf.org](http://www.sacymf.org)*

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## ASCE Region 9 Update

by Jennifer Epp, P.E., M.ASCE  
ASCE Region 9 Director



With the start of the new (fiscal) year, I'd like to update you on ASCE Region 9 (California) activities. I'd like to extend a warm welcome and thanks to all the new ASCE Section and Branch officers. I'm very excited to begin my term as ASCE Region 9 Director and look forward to working with

and meeting many of you over the next three years.

Jay Higgins has joined the ASCE Region 9 Board this year. Jay is our Governor representing the Los Angeles Section. Jay brings many years of ASCE service to the Region 9 Board including terms as president of the Los Angeles Section and the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch. Those of you that know Jay know he will be an excellent addition to the Board. Jay will be our Region 9 Treasurer.

Kathy Haynes (Region 9 Governor from the San Diego Section), Rich Haller (At Large Governor), Fareed Pittalwala (Governor from the Sacramento Section), Camilla Saviz (At-Large Governor), and Brent Siemer (Governor from the San Francisco Section) comprise the remaining Board members.

Kathy Haynes will Chair our annual Region 9 Awards Dinner again this year. This event will be held on February 28th in Sacramento and will honor outstanding individuals and projects throughout California. The recipients of our project awards are selected from projects the four ASCE Sections in Region 9 gave awards to in 2011.

Chuck Spinks will Chair our Infrastructure Symposium that will also be held in Sacramento on February 28th. Save the date to participate in this informative annual event where we plan to have another top-notch line up of speakers on Water and Transportation issues in the State.

Camilla Saviz and Tony Akel will be Chairing our Committee on Communications with Sections and Branches. They plan to have more calls this year where Section and Branch leaders throughout Region 9 can share best practices with each other

and we can share information between the Region and the Sections and Branches.

Shahn Ahmad will be Chairing our Government Affairs committee. Our legislative Fly-In event to Sacramento will be held in February. Mark Norton and Ken Rosenfield, will continue as Chairs of our Water and Transportation Committees. They will be assisted by our legislative consultant Richard Markuson. These committees will continue to play a crucial role in impacting state legislative issues related to Civil Engineering. The Region is also working on updating the statewide Report Card and will continue to be involved with the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists to help position us to positively impact licensing issues.

A challenge the Region is facing this year is to determine how to balance our budget while continuing to provide the best service we can to our members, Sections and Branches. The Region has intentionally been operating in a deficit spending mode recently to spend down our financial reserves but will need to achieve a balanced budget in the near future.

I believe ASCE Region 9 is uniquely prepared and positioned to provide increasing value to the ASCE members in California. I'm extremely proud of what the Region has accomplished during our first 6 years of existence and believe we have built a solid foundation that can be leveraged to expand the Region's value to our membership. The Region will continue to advance Civil Engineering issues in the state, strengthen the link between our Sections and Branches, as well as the link from the local level to the Society.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with any Region 9 activities, you can contact me at 530-867-2663, or [jennifer.b.epp@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.b.epp@gmail.com).

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ASCE Region 9 Legislative Update - Continued from Page 3

contractor to install rainwater capture systems (RCS) to store rainwater that has not yet collected urban pollutants for non-potable purposes. The installation of RCSs promotes water conservation and assists in stormwater management by reducing the amount of water load that enters storm drains, thereby saving consumers the cost of treating and transporting water before it reaches the user. The author agreed to ASCE amendments to clarify the scope of the RCS and role of design professionals.

Also on his desk is Region 9 supported **SB 263** (Pavley) that requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to make the reports that well drillers must submit when a well is constructed, deepened, re-perforated, or destroyed available, with certain restrictions, to governmental agencies for studies, college-level or higher academics for research, geologists, geophysicists, hydrologists, civil engineers, licensed well contractors or any person who obtains written authorization from the well owner. This bill makes any person who knowingly violates the restrictions on the use or sharing of a well completion report guilty of a misdemeanor violation punishable by up to \$25,000 per day, a year in county jail, or both.

#### Design Sequencing Bill Dead

The author of **AB 294**, which originally extended the authority of Caltrans to test design-sequencing – has dropped the bill for this year. Some opposition arose when he amended his bill with a mandate that Caltrans “perform all project development services and preparation of documents ... and construction inspection services” on any project on the state highway system. The bill allows those services to be performed by Caltrans staff or consultants under contract to Caltrans.

#### Vetoed Legislation

Brown vetoed **SB 834** (Wolk) that would have required that an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) that is voluntarily drafted so as to meet certain minimum requirements in order to be eligible for state funding must, for a region that depends on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), also include an identification of the way the IRWMP will further the statewide policy of reducing reliance on the Delta through investments in regional self-reliance. In a succinct veto message Brown said “*I am returning Senate Bill 834 without my signature because I do not believe it adds anything to current law.*”

Brown also vetoed **AB 750** (Hueso) that would have established a 13-member Investment Trust Blue Ribbon Task Force for the purpose of considering and issuing its recommendation of the viability of establishing the California Investment Trust (Trust) by December 2012. Brown observed “*I am returning Assembly Bill 750 without my signature. This bill would mandate yet another ‘blue ribbon’ task force: in this case to examine whether California should establish a state bank. This is a matter well within the jurisdiction and competence of the Assembly and Senate Banking Committees. Rather than creating a new entity, let’s use the resources we have.*”

#### ASCE Key Contacts

The California Legislature introduces more than 2,500 bills every year – many of them can directly or indirectly affect your practice of engineering. If you want to be more involved in representing your profession and ASCE – take the first step and become a key

contact. ASCE’s Key Contact program will notify you of important legislation – both here in California and in Washington DC and give you an easy way to make your position known to your elected officials. Join **today!**

For more information on ASCE’s legislative program contact Richard Markuson ([richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com](mailto:richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com)). For information on transportation measures – contact Kenneth Rosenfield and for water bills – Mark Norton.

### New Members of the Sacramento Section for September

#### Capital Branch

Lina Bernaldez	Aff.M.ASCE
David Curtis	S.M.ASCE
Lee A. Davis	S.M.ASCE
Akash Dhaliwal	S.M.ASCE
Kevan Ryan Forbes	EIT, A.M.ASCE
Bryan Gilmore Gallagher	S.M.ASCE
Damon Edward Hess	EIT, A.M.ASCE
Wine Thay Lar Iweh	S.M.ASCE
Elizabeth Rae Jachens	S.M.ASCE
S. M. Imrul Kabir	S.M.ASCE
Pauline To Lee	S.M.ASCE
Paul Robert Marshall	P.E., M.ASCE
Tanner Joseph McClain	S.M.ASCE
David Albion Palmer	P.E., S.E., M.ASCE
Khrystyna Marisa Platte	S.M.ASCE
Jignesh I. Rathod	A.M.ASCE
Brian Lee Reid	S.M.ASCE
Javier Rios-Farias	S.M.ASCE
Michael Brian Sanders	S.M.ASCE
Micaela Saqui	S.M.ASCE
Lucas Joseph Siegfried	EIT, S.M.ASCE
Nastim Tajmand	S.M.ASCE
Ryan Tom	EIT, A.M.ASCE
Yao Wang	S.M.ASCE
Rick Ivan Wilson	CEG, M.ASCE
Karyn Wong	A.M.ASCE

#### Central Valley Branch

Mark Robert Enfante	S.M.ASCE
Justin Rowell Esquivel	S.M.ASCE
Heydar Massoudi	P.E., M.ASCE
Justin Yoichi Sakai	S.M.ASCE

#### Feather River Branch

Albert Richard Guidice	S.M.ASCE
Lucas Holmes	S.M.ASCE
Christian H. Lopez	S.M.ASCE
Chris Alan Rockey	P.E., M.ASCE
Blanca H. Soto	S.M.ASCE
Richard Rolfson Wade	S.M.ASCE

#### Shasta Branch

Kyle Patrick Davis	S.M.ASCE
Alessandro Pietro Folchi	S.M.ASCE
Justin Shayne Millar	S.M.ASCE
Cameron Joel Nye	S.M.ASCE