



## *Sacramento Section*

September 26, 2009

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### Sacramento Section Officers

The American Society of Civil Engineers and the ASCE Sacramento Section stands at an exciting and challenging time in our history. Our economy is struggling; our infrastructure report card has not improved, and the need for new Civil Engineers is forecast to increase by 30 percent by 2013. ASCE must be able to make a unique and positive impact on the Nation. Our Section must be a leader in the engineering profession, and we must build ourselves to transition beyond our tenure in leadership. I sincerely thank all of our outstanding 2009-2009 officers for their leadership and service. We are a small yet a strong group of leaders. We are a diverse team of officers from all generations within our Section, Branches, Institutes, Committees, Young Member Forum and Student Chapters..

As I begin my term as Section President I want to present our strategic approach to four simple focus areas for the coming year. In order to build an organization to last and to continue to lead our profession, I charge each of you to support the following:

1. Build and Enhance Careers. Your professional affiliation with ASCE should continually motivate and recognize personal achievements both inside and outside the workplace. Each of you has an opportunity to improve your career or the career of your colleague by seeking out opportunities for leadership in our Section, Branches, Institutes, YMF, and Student Chapters. This year we have several vacant seats that need volunteers to fill. The opportunity of serving your profession will bring many rewards. What you get out of ASCE is directly related to what you put into ASCE. Reach out to all members and encourage young members volunteer to lead. I ask that each of you to host events that challenge and attract new members. Let's build excitement about ASCE and our profession.
2. Recognition. Last week the Sacramento Section recognized achievements of 15 outstanding Civil Engineers in the Sacramento Region. Civil Engineers have been thrust to the forefront of politics and public interest. We have stepped up to the challenge time and time again. Our collective expertise has shifted public policy. We gained the trust of our fellow citizens as professionals and experts. There is a nationwide renewed interest in our infrastructure. There is a gap between the number of engineers facing new challenges and number of engineers in professional practice. We need to keep our senior engineers excited about their work and we need younger engineers engaged and excited about their careers. We gain strength by continuing to recognize achievements of Civil Engineers. During Engineers Week in February 2010 we will recognize outstanding projects and project delivery teams within our Section. I challenge each of our Institutes to look for the best project teams and for our Section and Branches to look for the best Civil Engineers for future recognition.
3. Outreach to Young Members. Our profession is changing. Look around and you'll see young faces in engineering in the workplace and as your officers. We all need to work the transition of retiring baby boomers and the development of young engineers looking for increasing roles and responsibilities. Surround yourself with excitement by becoming a mentor for the many young professionals eager to learn from your years of experience. I challenge each of you to reach out to each of our four Section Universities. Attend a job



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fair, volunteer to support our scholarship programs, and support the ASCE Mid-Pacific Regional Conference at CSU, Chico.

4. Vision. ASCE Vision 2025 requires a focused effort over many years. We can support this vision by adopting a strategic approach with simple focus areas. Given the economy and the reality of our annual budget we'll feel the pinch of "belt tightening" this year. The Sacramento Section serves a vital role in Region 9 due to our geographic connection to the State Capital. I challenge all of us in 2010 to start and finish the year with a balanced budget. We have the responsibility to create excitement for ASCE members and to continue to add value to new and continuing member. Create your own vision for events that attract members to attend. Create events with purpose such as professional development, scholarship fund raising, and overall improvement of our interface with the community members and leaders.

I want to thank you for all that you do for your Section, Branch, Institute, Young Members and Student Members. Your leadership is vital to growing a strong and sustaining organization. We have a great history and we have a great future. Your efforts to building careers, recognizing individuals and teams, reaching out to young members, and creating your own vision for ASCE will allow us to make that positive and unique contribution to the nation and our Northern California region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry J. Smith, P.E., CCM, F.ASCE  
ASCE Sacramento Section President

Attachment  
Presidents Message

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Building and Transitioning for Tomorrow

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I am delighted to be the ASCE Sacramento Section President and I am looking forward to all that the next year holds in store for us. Before continuing, let me take a moment to thank all of our outstanding 2008-2009 Officers in our Section, Branches, Institutes, YMF, and Student Chapters for their outstanding leadership and service. Fareed Pittalwala exceptionally served and guided us in a transition for tomorrow. Continuing on with the goals and objectives developed by our Board of Directors, I will summarize our strategic approach to four focus areas for the coming year.

**Building and Enhancing Careers:** Many of you have heard me describe how professional associations build and enhance careers. Professional affiliations continually motivate and recognize personal achievements outside of the workplace and they provide experience and opportunities in leadership. Your next opportunity will come when you are asked to run for office or become appointed to serve in a vacant seat. Each opportunity brings a new reward from serving and representing your profession. What each of you will get out of an organization can often be traced to what one puts into an organization. Our goal for the end of 2010 is for each of our Subsidiary Organizations to host events that challenge and attract new members to participate. By involving individual members we'll grow excitement about ASCE and the civil engineering profession.

**Recognition:** Our profession faces new challenge caused by deteriorating infrastructure and the effects of natural and manmade disasters. These issues are creating a gap between the number of engineers required to face these challenges and the number of engineers in professional practice. Truly, we have a need to keep our senior engineers excited about their work and to have our younger engineers engaged and excited about their careers to come. We become stronger by recognizing our work and individual achievements to the public. Our goal for the end of 2010 is to recognize achievements of Civil Engineers within the Sacramento Section along with the Outstanding Projects of the Year. We will also strive to recognize our Life Members that continue to contribute to our profession and young members who are bringing new skills and talents to the workplace.

**Outreaching to Young Members:** Change is inevitable. It has never been more profoundly observed than with the four generations that currently make up our workforce. Our profession is in transition as boomers prepare to retire and give way to the development of younger employees into increasing roles and responsibilities. We must also mentor and give way to new leaders that will shape our tomorrow and future generations of civil engineers. Our goal for the end of 2010 is to continue our professional and financial support to ASCE Students on the four campuses in our Section. The Golze Scholarship is offered to students with a minimum of one year remaining in their Civil Engineering curriculum, and the Construction Institute Scholarships are offered to students enrolled in a Civil, Environmental or Construction Program as a Junior or First-Year Senior. We will also continue our support to schools attending and this year hosting the ASCE Mid-Pacific Regional Conference at CSU, Chico.

**Vision:** ASCE's vision for the profession (Vision 2025) will require a focused effort over many years. We will get there one step at a time. A strategic approach with simple focus areas provides a roadmap to move us forward to 2025. We must consider the importance of our geographic connection to our State Capital and the important role we serve in working with the ASCE Region 9 Board of Governors. Region 9 strives to establish a closer relationship with the California Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. We also feel the responsibility for some belt tightening as our Section and Branches struggle with the economy and the reality of our annual budgets. Our goal in 2010 is to start and end with a balanced budget. We are committed to continue to add value to your membership in ASCE.