

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jerry Burke, P.E., M.ASCE, APM, QSD, ENV SP  
Los Angeles Section President

VOL. LVIII NO. 2

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## Healthy Conflict



Early on in our marriage my wife and I were preparing to visit friends. She came out, took one look at what I was wearing and said “you’re not going to wear that shirt with those slacks are you?” To which I responded in a Tennessee drawl “well its clean ain’t it?” From that point on the conversation pretty much went downhill. If we will stop and think before we speak, the world would be a much better place simply due to less conflict.

But, conflict in and of itself is not necessarily a bad thing. **As long as** its handled appropriately. In fact, I’ll go so far as to say a certain amount of conflict is healthy. **As long as** its managed cordially, with respect. From the view point “what is best for the client?” “what is best for the company?” “what is best for the city, utility, etc.”, you fill in the blank. **As long as** we’re all working toward the same end goal it’s a good thing to have a certain amount of conflict back and forth to make sure we are considering all options.

Considering all the options (aka Planning) is often what we don’t take the time to do in the beginning. When we do seek to understand the view of our team members in the work place that come from various backgrounds and cultures different from we think is “normal”, we discover that there could be another course of action to resolving a problem (conflict) than what we thought. Then we can collaboratively work together to arrive at the best solution.

In the end, there can be only one resolution to solving a conflict and moving a project, relationship, etc., forward. But leading up to it is when we must take the time to go through the process of learning and understanding the reason behind the different views or solutions before deciding on the final path forward. If we take time to do so we become better engineers for it. If we manage conflict in such a way that all persons involved are allowed to express their point of view, **and they feel heard**, it is much easier for the group to move forward in unity when the final direction is set and must be carried out.

Unresolved conflict (especially in good times when jobs are plentiful) can result in a valued employee leaving a company because they feel miserable. Or worse, they stew and simmer until they erupt in the middle of a meeting causing a full blown crisis which will take weeks, months, or perhaps never to resolve. If we don’t take the time to deal with conflict in a healthy manner, we **will** spend more time down the road, trying to replace a great employee and/or putting the pieces back together after a total meltdown.

Adapted from an article in Forbes Magazine, here are 5 things to promote healthy conflict which can then be resolved:

- 1.) Build a culture of trust and respect within your circle of influence.
- 2.) Don’t finger-point - work toward perceiving, understanding, and respecting where others are coming from.



# The State of Sustainability 2017, Orange County Sustainability Committee, ASCE Orange County, California Branch

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-OC) Sustainability Committee's State of Sustainability 2017 Report - a comprehensive picture of how sustainability is being approached by a wide range of organizations and agencies in Orange County.

Our respondents told us that the great majority of firms and agencies are now convinced of sustainability's value. The sustainability discipline has started to slowly escape from its silo and is becoming a vital aspect of strategic planning, engineering, construction and even operations and maintenance. This is especially true for public agencies that have the greatest reputational and operational risks as they build and operate long-lived infrastructure. In addition, the regulatory requirements in the State of California are forcing agencies and businesses to develop a strategy to minimize their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, promote healthy living, create green jobs, and contribute positively to socio-economic qualities of life.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Events in 2017 are likely to make it a crucial year for sustainability and environmental protection in United States due to changes in regulatory requirements and federal funding levels for projects with sustainability elements. This State of Sustainability 2017 report, therefore, comes at an important time. It tells us something about the level of preparedness of firms and agencies on a local level to rise to sustainability challenges.

In this respect it was encouraging that we found that:

- Leaders and senior management in Orange County are **increasingly persuaded of the value of sustainability**.
- Sustainability is becoming increasingly important as a strategic and tactical business concept **to gain competitive advantages**.
- It is gaining momentum at all levels of **corporate and municipal government**.
- **Budgeting and spending** for sustainability efforts is expected to increase in the coming years.
- Sustainability is already **driving business revenues directly or indirectly** and it is becoming a key marketing theme.
- Continued emphasis on **the role of sustainability in healthy communities** is a key to increased focus on sustainability.
- **Significant opportunities exist** for firms in sustainable innovation, resource conservation and cross-industry collaboration.

However, we also found that:

- Firms in OC are slowly beginning to understand that *"sustainable" is more than a synonym for "green"*.
- The industry still finds it **difficult to quantify the benefits of sustainability**.
- **Sustainability is still perceived by many as an additional cost**.

- Many firms in OC **do not have sustainability staff** and will not bring one onboard unless there is a specific project requirement.

- **External consultants** that help firms and agencies with advanced sustainability services are not easy to locate in OC.

- Most of the **professionals work in silos**, and OC being spread out does not help, either.

- Educational institutions need to develop programs that **integrate sustainability in technical fields such as engineering and architecture**.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Sustainability is emerging on the periphery of business issues as an important concern that is starting to reshape the rules of competition. Despite its simplicity, however, our findings indicate that sustainability is a concept people have a hard time wrapping their minds around, let alone succeeding in fully integrating into all aspects of their organization's activities.

We see a myriad of opportunities for sustainability in the coming years. However, to tap into them we need to invest in developing skill sets, foster multidisciplinary learning and sharing settings, and earmark adequate financial resources. Recommendations that will promote the further adoption of sustainability efforts and programs in OC are:

1. Showcase **successful case studies** of best practices and lessons learned.
2. Focus more on education and effective communication. Increase **awareness of sustainability**; work in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary/multi-functional way; and work with multiple stakeholders to maximize returns on investment.
3. **Conduct cost/benefit analyses** on projects, including identifying tangible returns on investment to drive increased internal investment.
4. **Inform clients and owners of the tangible and intangible values of sustainability** in the short and long terms to include well-being and health benefits.
5. **Educate organizational leaders** on why it's important to be sustainable even when it may appear to cost more now, but will actually be far cheaper in consideration of total life cycle risks and costs.

Our broad conclusion is that firms and agencies in OC are making progress in incorporating sustainability into their strategies and business practices even though it is still mostly driven by external factors such as legal mandates and client requirements. However, there is **still a huge amount to do in moving from theory to practice** by fully operationalizing sustainability through an understanding of its business case and impacts on overall organizational performance. There is a need for **challenging the status quo** with open mindedness to solve some of the 21st Century challenges. This can best be done by, **leveraging multidisciplinary** approaches to constantly look for **synergies and win-win opportunities**. Grappling with these issues will be the key challenge in the years ahead!

3.) Everyone's opinions matter. Team members must be able to express them without fear of being bullied.

4.) There must be an understanding that if you don't 'win' you must respect that and get on board with the opposition. *(Engineers who don't understand this concept generally spend their entire careers as junior engineers. But if you really want to be successful, jump in with both feet and work to make the chosen solution a success. Even when you see that it won't work, you put in extra effort to make it work.)*

5.) Healthy conflict and a culture that supports it go hand-in-hand. You really can't have one without the other.

My personal favorite is to build relationships with your team members. You get to know your team. You understand your team and they you. That in itself goes a long way to resolving conflict.

**And here are some opportunities to build relationships in ASCE!!**

- o Feb 7th – San Luis Obispo Branch – Dream Big Showing 6pm Spanos Theatre SLO Campus cpsce@gmail.com
- o Feb 8 – 11th - Annual Joint L.A. Section YMF Ski Trip - Mammoth Mountain (woodskevinm@gmail.com)
- o Feb 15th – Orange County Branch Awards dinner – Bowers Museum
- o Feb 21st – Inland Empire Branch Joint dinner w/IECEES Redlands
- o Feb 23rd – Inland Empire Branch Engineers day @ RCFCWCD (volunteers needed contact jeff@valued-eng.com)
- o March 3rd - Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition @ CSULA details soon at MLAB website/Facebook page
- o March 3rd – Annual L.A. Section Life Member Induction Lunch

To attend any of these events, visit the Section/Branch website or call Gayle Stewart Enterprises for information at (714) 258-8306.

It is a pleasure to serve as your President.

*Cordially Invites You to the*

## **ANNUAL LIFE MEMBER BRUNCH** **March 3, 2018**

*In honor of those members who have advanced to Life Member status  
in the society and in recognition of their career achievements*

*Keynote Speaker:*

***Robin Kemper, P.E., LEED AP, F.SEI, F.ASCE***  
*ASCE Society President-Elect*

**Monterey Hill Steakhouse**  
3700 W. Ramona Blvd.  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Reception: 11:00 am Brunch: 11:30 am Program: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch: Chicken Chardonnay, Vegetarian available

**Members & Guests: \$35.00 per person**  
**Students: \$25.00 (\$20.00 refunded after event)**

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**Half Table Sponsor: \$175.00**  
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To register and pay by check, please complete and mail registration form along with payment to the ASCE LA Section office.

Please contact the ASCE LA Section office with any questions.  
ASCE LA Section | 714-258-8306 | gstewart@gsecorp.org | www.ascelasection.org

# 2018 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner Preview

by Matt Kennedy, P.E., T.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE, Region 9 Governor, and Awards Committee Chair



The 2018 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner will be held at the San Francisco War Memorial Center on Friday March 23, 2018. The 2018 California Infrastructure Symposium is a partnership between the ASCE San Francisco Section and ASCE Region 9. The Symposium will be an all-day event attended by engineers, educators, elected officials, professionals and the general public. Please plan to join us and register for these events at <http://www.caisregion9.org/2018>. I am really excited about this year's Symposium and Awards! Here's why:

### **The War Memorial Center is a Region 9 Award winning venue:**

Last year, *The San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade & Improvements* project was the recipient of the ASCE Region 9 *Outstanding Historical Renovation Project*. Owned by the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, and designed by Engineer Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, the project addressed seismic upgrades, earthquake damage repair, facility preservation and modernization improvements.

### **The War Memorial Center is an international historic landmark:**

During the spring and summer of 1945, the United Nations was born in the two original buildings of the War Memorial Center. Most of the plenary sessions of the U.N. Conference took place in the War Memorial Opera House (home of the San Francisco Opera and Ballet), and President Truman and other heads of state and dignitaries signed the United Nations Charter on the stage of the Veterans Auditorium (now the Herbst Theatre) on June 26, 1945.

**The Symposium program is one you don't want to miss:** The Symposium will be comprised of two infrastructure tracks with the following speaker topics:

#### Transportation Track

- Hot Topics in Roadways, Pathways, and Ports – Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Active Transportation Plan; The Latest in Development on Treasure Island; The Latest Developments at the Port of San Francisco; and Roundabouts: An Innovation for Congestion Management.
- Station Area Development/Technology – The "Grand Central Station of the West"; Station Area Development, Economic Stimulation, and Technology; Bringing BART to the Silicon Valley; and Development Around Diridon Station.
- Implementation of SB1 Transportation Funding – SB1 and the State of California; SB1 and Caltrans District 4; SB1 and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; SB1 and the City of San Francisco.
- Rail/Mass Transit – Bringing High Speed Rail and Caltrain to San

Francisco; Caltrain Electrification Project; The Vision for BART; Connecting Sonoma County and the Larkspur Ferry Terminal via SMART.

#### Water Track

- Water Infrastructure Resilience – Update on ASCE Infrastructure Resilience Initiatives; Water More or Less; Resilience by Design - Life Safety in the City; and Smart Infrastructure.
- Sustainability/Envision – California Water Plan - System of profiling Sustainability of Projects; ISI - Envision Update, New Developments in Envision; and Nigiri Project - Rice Fields to Freshwater Ecosystems
- Dam Safety – Oroville Dam - Spillway Emergency, Response and Remediation; and Oroville Dam - Evaluation and Issues.
- Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Water Supply Infrastructure – Proposition 1 Grant Funding for Surface Storage; Winter Forecast and Latest Storm Tracking Technology; and Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations - Folsom Dam Water Control Manual Update.

Speakers from many public agencies and companies across California will be involved, including the Port of San Francisco, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, The Transbay Joint Powers Authority, Caltrain, BART, the Water Education Foundation, U.C. Berkeley, the California Department of Water Resources, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and Caltrans. I hope that many of you reading this will save the date and plan to attend this event.

The Infrastructure Symposium will be immediately followed by a networking reception, then the Awards Dinner Banquet and Ceremony.

The Annual Region 9 Awards Dinner Banquet and Ceremony will be held in the Green Room in the Veteran's Building. Originally designed in the graceful Beau-Arts architecture style and recently renovated, the Green Room is known for its distinctive color, soaring ceiling and russet tiled outdoor loggia overlooking San Francisco City Hall. Outstanding projects and individuals in Region 9 will be presented with awards in this beautiful venue.

Each year, the many members and individuals who form the foundation of the ASCE Sections, Branches, Institutes, Younger Member and Student chapter groups in Region 9, take the time to recognize the outstanding projects and the selfless efforts of their peers, who contribute to the growth and evolution of the civil engineering profession, and the improvement of the infrastructure we all depend upon. Each group's annual awards program nominates and recognizes praiseworthy individuals and projects within their geographic areas. Each Section's award winners (San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego and Los Angeles) are then nominated to Region 9 in October each year. Region 9 then recognizes about 21 outstanding projects and 15 exceptional individuals from across the State of California the following March, during the annual Awards Dinner Ceremony following the California Infrastructure Symposium.

For more information and to register for the 2018 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner Banquet and Ceremony, please bookmark the California Infrastructure Symposium website at <http://www.caisregion9.org/2018>, the San Francisco Section website at <http://asce-sf.org>, or the Region 9 web site at [http://](http://regions.asce.org/region9/)

[regions.asce.org/region9/](http://regions.asce.org/region9/). Opportunities to get involved in the planning or to sponsor the Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner are available. We look forward to seeing all of you in San Francisco on March 23rd!



**SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 23, 2018**

# 2018 CA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS DINNER

[WWW.CAISRegion9.Org/2018](http://WWW.CAISRegion9.Org/2018)



San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center

## ASCE's Strategic Initiatives

In time for Engineer's Week 2018, we provide a review of what ASCE is up to and how our Society provides leadership in our communities and value to our members. Through the ASCE Board, our Society monitors key issues facing the civil engineering profession, addressing those that most demand civil engineers' attention through "strategic initiatives." Currently, ASCE pursues three strategic initiatives—Sustainable Infrastructure, the ASCE Grand Challenge, and Raise the Bar.

### SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES



As civil engineers, we are entrusted to maintain and modernize America's deteriorating infrastructure as well as make our communities sustainable. ASCE continues to lead in these areas through:

- o ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure, which depicts the condition and performance of the nation's infrastructure and sees the solution in terms of leadership, sustainability, resiliency, maintenance, and prioritized investment.
- o The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and its rating tool—Envision—that incorporates economic, social, environmental criteria in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure.
- o State and Regional Infrastructure Report Cards, which raise awareness about state and local infrastructure needs.
- o ASCE infrastructure policy reports, which highlight national infrastructure trends, innovations, and solutions to infrastructure challenges.
- o In-depth sustainable infrastructure courses, conferences, and publications that help professionals incorporate sustainability principles into their daily practice.

### ASCE GRAND CHALLENGE

The investments needed to improve our infrastructure continue to increase well beyond available funding. How do we close the infrastructure gap? ASCE has issued a grand challenge to civil engineers and the industry:

- o Significantly enhance the performance and value of infrastructure projects over their life cycles by 2025;
- o Foster the optimization of infrastructure investments for society. To reach this goal, the profession must influence major policy changes and infrastructure funding levels, while challenging civil engineers to focus on innovation, rethink life cycle costs, and drive transformational change—from planning to design to delivery.



As one of the first steps in this new ASCE Grand Challenge strategic initiative, the Society launched the ASCE Innovation Contest, which encouraged professionals, educators, and students to share their most creative ideas for reshaping our nation's infrastructure. ASCE has also introduced a four-part webinar series on strategies to close the gap between infrastructure needs and funding. It's time to align engineering education with a changing world.

The complex challenges facing 21st-century society will require professional engineers to advance their technical excellence and professional leadership. The engineering education of the present—a four-year undergraduate degree—will not be sufficient to prepare the licensed professional engineers of the future.

ASCE's Raise the Bar strategic initiative seeks to advance the civil engineering profession and the public welfare by actively supporting the national movement to raise educational requirements for licensure of future professional engineers.

Learn about ASCE's focus on these initiatives at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).

# 19TH ANNUAL COMPLETE STREETS & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHERN CA CHAPTER OF AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

**SAVE THE DATE** ▼

Wednesday  
April 18, 2018  
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE!**

TOPICS INCLUDE: ▼

GIS and Asset Management, Construction Management, PS&E Review, Digital Infrastructure, Smart Cities, Traffic Management, Pavement Management Advances, Alternative Funding, Sustainable Streetscapes and more!



## DETAILS

Carson Community Center  
801 East Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



## EXHIBITORS

If you are interested in being an Exhibitor, please contact:  
Alan Rigg  
(714) 890-4203  
arigg@ci.stanton.ca.us



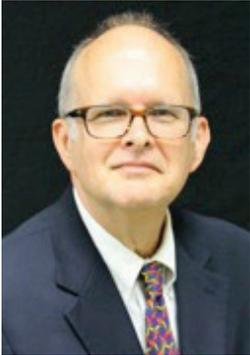
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\$145 Members  
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\$165 Walk-ins | \$595 Vendors  
Complimentary Student Entry - for first 10 to register! (\$50 thereafter)

For more information contact: Amie Drotning at [adrotning@laconsulting.com](mailto:adrotning@laconsulting.com) or visit [www.southernca.apwa.net](http://www.southernca.apwa.net)

# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



**Legislation:** The California State Legislature resumed its second year of the 2017-18 session. Several deadlines and events are in February:

- Feb. 16 - Last day for bills to be introduced.
- Feb. 19 - Presidents' Day holiday.

**SB 1 Repeal.** The effort to repeal SB 1 continues. The Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance have estimated the fiscal impact on state and local government at: "Reduced annual state transportation tax revenues of \$2.9 billion in 2018-19, increasing to \$4.9 billion annually by 2020-21. These revenues would primarily have supported state highway maintenance and rehabilitation, local streets and roads, and mass transit. In addition, potentially lower transportation tax revenues in the future from requiring voter approval of such tax increases, with the impact dependent on future actions by the Legislature and voters." On December 15, 2017, the ballot measure proponents certified that they have collected 25% of the necessary signatures (total signatures required: 585,407) to qualify the measure for the November ballot. The circulation deadline is May 21, 2018.

## Recent Reports

The **Bureau of State Audits** released The Department of Water Resources: The Unexpected Complexity of the California WaterFix Project Has Resulted in Significant Cost Increases and Delays. "[T]his audit report [concerns] the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) management of the planning efforts for the California WaterFix Project (WaterFix). [T]he planning phase experienced significant cost increases and scheduled delays. [W]e also found that DWR did not follow state law when it replaced the program manager for the conservation and conveyance program. Additionally, DWR has not completed either an economic or financial analysis to demonstrate the financial viability of WaterFix. Finally, it has not fully implemented a governance structure for the design and construction phase, and has not maintained important program management documents for WaterFix."

The **Kern County Water Agency** released California WaterFix Overview (Draft) "This overview is intended to assist landowners, Agency Member units and the Board of Directors with making decisions regarding California WaterFix. [Kern County Water] Agency staff has compiled this overview from the best available information developed over 11 years of study and analysis. This overview attempts to provide an easy, yet complete reference for California WaterFix that may be used to help decision-makers determine whether to participate in the project."

The CA State Auditor's office has released its report, "The Bradley-Burns Tax and Local Transportation Funds: Changing the Allocation Structure for the Bradley-Burns Tax Would Result in a More Equitable Distribution of Local Transportation Funding," explains: "[Bradley-Burns] charges 1.25 percent on the retail sale or use of tangible personal property in the State, of which 1 percent is allocated to counties or incorporated cities to use at their discretion and the other 0.25 percent is allocated to county local transportation funds [LTF]... Revenue from the tax is generally allocated to the city or county that served as the place of sale for a transaction. However, retailers that make Internet sales or ship goods to customers across jurisdictional borders may identify the place of sale as one of their warehouses, which concentrates the tax's revenue into those warehouses' jurisdictions. Consequently, counties with relatively large numbers of warehouses generally receive disproportionately larger amounts of the tax's revenue and therefore LTF funding;" recommends: "The State could make the distribution of the tax more equitable by amending the Bradley-Burns tax law so that revenues derived from Internet sales are allocated based on the destination of sold goods rather than their place of sale."

The **Legislative Analyst's Office** has released its report, "A Review of Caltrans' Vehicle Insurance Costs," finds Caltrans' vehicle insurance premiums have "more than tripled in recent years, increasing from \$4.2 million in 2014-15 to \$14.6 million in 2017-18," concludes "increases are almost entirely due to a few recent multi-million dollar claims that have cost far more than any other claim over the last decade;" recommends Legislature consider establishing "statutory limit on the amount of damages for which the state can be held liable for collisions."



[www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)



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**LIFE MEMBER BRUNCH**  
**March 3, 2018**

In honor of those members who have advanced to Life Member status in the society and in recognition of their career achievements.

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**ASCE National President-Elect**  
**Robin Kemper P.E., LEED AP, F.SEI, F.ASCE**

**Members & Guests: \$35.00 per person**

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Monterey Park, CA 91754

**Reception: 11:00 am   Brunch: 11:30 am   Program: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**

Lunch: Chicken Chardonnay, Vegetarian available

**Reservation must be received by Friday, February 23, 2018.**

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Register online at [www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org).

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# Los Angeles Section

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