

Los Angeles Section

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greg Heiertz, P.E.
Los Angeles Section President

Best of All Possible Careers



We who have worked as civil engineers for more than a few years already know what *Money Magazine* and *US News and World Report* recently concluded: civil engineering is one of the best possible careers. Money magazine ranked the top 100 careers based on pay and growth potential as well as intangible factors such as stress level, job satisfaction, and a sense of making a contribution to society. Civil engineering was ranked sixth overall among the top 100 careers.

We all know that business and the economy have been slow for the last few years. Layoffs, pay cuts, and furloughs have become a fact of life for many of us. Prospects in the job market have been grim at best. Some of us, especially younger engineers, may have despaired that they made the wrong choice by pursuing a career in civil engineering. Let me assure you that that is not so. *Money Magazine* and my own experience back me up on this.

Civil engineers do some of the most important work in the world. We are responsible for planning, designing, building and managing the infrastructure that makes modern life possible. In the words of ASCE's Vision 2025, civil engineers are the "planners, designers, constructors, and operators of society's economic and social engine—the built environment; stewards of the natural environment and its resources; innovators and integrators of ideas and technology across the public, private, and academic sectors; managers of risk and uncertainty caused by natural events, accidents, and other threats; and leaders in discussions and decisions shaping public environmental and infrastructure policy." In short, civil engineers work to make the world a better place. No other work could be as important.

The prospects of growth in civil engineering have been dimmed by the general economic slowdown the last few years. This is an inevitable part of the economic cycle that I have witnessed several times during my career. Long periods of astounding opportunity and growth are often followed by relatively brief intervals of consolidation and recession. Overall, the outlook for the future is sanguine. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts that job growth for civil engineers will be 24 percent for the ten year period from 2008 to 2018. That's approximately 68,000 new jobs. The related professions of environmental engineering, project engineering, structural engineering, and transportation engineering are forecast to have similar growth prospects. Things may be slow at the moment, but there are huge projects worldwide that are already creating shortages of local engineers as well as opportunities for professionals from the US. The electorate and our elected representatives are finally beginning to comprehend that America's infrastructure is crumbling and desperately needs renovation and replacement. Natural population growth and continued immigration to the US will require the expansion of existing communities and the development of new ones. These factors will create incredible new opportunities for civil engineers. The job market may seem dark and cold today, but the sun will be coming out soon for civil engineers.

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Civil Engineering

Civil engineering is one of the most fulfilling careers. I am not only saying that because of the statistics and surveys that Los Angeles Section President Greg Heiertz, P.E. has explained in his President's message this month; but also based on personal experience. I have been quite fortunate to work in organizations or participate in projects that not only create visual monuments to the work of my team, but also have significant benefits to the lives of others. Such is the power of this profession.

In addition to the technical aspects, effecting change can also be done through the political process. Our ASCE Government Relations Committee has been organizing fly-ins in both Sacramento and Washington, DC to ensure that our voices are heard in the halls of our state and national legislative houses. The challenge is to get more engineers to participate in this effort and in the legislative process. ASCE is doing everything it can to ensure that opportunities are available to anyone who wishes to be more actively involved. Are you up for it?

Each one of us is the lifeblood of our profession and our organization ASCE. We make use of the opportunities that our organization provides for the betterment of everyone.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

- Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.

ASCE's 2011 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

A Great Idea From the Life Members

The ASCE Life Members' Public Image Committee request that members take their (to be discarded) Civil Engineering magazines to their doctor's office or barber shop and merge them with the stack of magazines. We feel that this will be an effective way to make the general public more aware of what civil engineers do.

Reminder:

Copy deadline for the May 2011 issue is April 1, 2011; copy deadline for June 2011 issue is May 1, 2011.

Legislature Up and Running

By Richard Markuson

The California State Legislature has returned to work in earnest and have taken early steps to address the State's budget "imbalance." Perhaps cognizant of the new requirements of Prop 25, or simply in response to Governor Jerry Brown's entreaty to pass a budget package by the middle of March, the Legislature, at the time of the writing of this article, have completed their preliminary work and will be voting soon on a budget package to submit to Brown. For the first time in recent history – the Legislature will be able to pass the budget with only a majority vote. Proposition 25 – passed last November makes this change and provides that if the Legislature fails to pass a budget bill by June 15, all members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the day the Legislature passes a budget bill. What didn't change is the super majority vote required to pass NEW taxes. In an interesting plot twist, however, the Governor has proposed extending some income, sales and use taxes that are scheduled to expire in July. In a letter to the Senate Minority Leader, the Legislative Counsel has opined that the Legislature COULD place a tax extension on the ballot with a simple majority. Both Governor Brown and Assembly Speaker Perez have said they want Republicans "on board" with the tax extension – something the Republicans are resisting.

Tax Swap Pending

A comprehensive strategy is being considered by the Legislature to preserve transportation funding in the wake of Proposition 26. The strategy combines legislation to reaffirm the new taxes enacted under the swap with a proposal to shift vehicle weight fees to the General Fund to help pay for transportation bond debt service.

This proposal would help address the General Fund's \$25 billion deficit, while also providing local and state transportation programs with a predictable level of funding similar to that which was assumed at the time of the gas tax swap. Additionally, because of Proposition 22, funding for State Transit Assistance, the STIP and local streets and roads is now more secure and predictable than ever. Given the severity of the budget deficit there is an expectation that transportation funding will, in some form, be used to pay for debt service on general obligation bonds for transportation.

At issue is a provision in Proposition 26 that throws into jeopardy the taxes that were raised as part of the gasoline tax swap that was enacted by the Legislature in 2010 by less than a two-thirds vote. The swap eliminated the sales tax on gasoline and replaced it with an equivalent, and annually adjusted augmentation of the gasoline excise tax. It also reduced the diesel excise tax in exchange for raising the sales tax rate on diesel fuel by 1.75 percent in order to provide additional public transportation funding. Under a provision of Proposition 26 that is retroactive to January 1, 2010, any state tax increase enacted by a majority vote is repealed on November 2, 2011 if not reaffirmed by a two-thirds vote. Therefore, in order to retain the tax provisions of the gasoline tax swap, the Legislature would need to act by a two-thirds vote before November 2, 2011.

There is significant uncertainty regarding how Proposition 26 affects the gas tax swap that may ultimately only be clarified by a court decision. However, the worst case scenario is that the elements of the swap that lowered the sales tax would remain in effect, while the new excise tax and higher diesel sales tax would be repealed, leaving transportation accounts short by over \$2.5 billion.

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Region 9 Government Relations Committee (GRC) Annual Legislative Day: "Infrastructure is the foundation to economic recovery!"

by Chair of Region 9 GRC, Dolores Ventura, P.E., P.M.P., M.ASCE



Last March 8, 2011 marks the Seventh Annual Legislative Day in Sacramento! California's Legislative Day is an all day event in which we raise awareness about ASCE's priorities and advocate for infrastructure funding. Many ASCE members have developed relationships with their legislators as a result of these efforts and we continue to raise the issue of California's crumbling infrastructure. This year, the Water and Environment Policy Committee have scheduled an additional visit to the capitol to meet with committee chairs to help shape public policy and plan for the future. This is a very exciting time to get involved because we are experiencing positive results from our initial efforts!

ASCE has been issuing infrastructure report cards for over a decade now. In 2009, America's Infrastructure overall GPA was an unfortunate D and ASCE estimated that an annual investment of \$2.2 trillion was needed in the next five years to bring our Nation's infrastructure back to safe and reliable standards. Civil engineers realize that critical infrastructure systems are vital assets and that their

destruction or incapacitation would disrupt the security, economy, safety, health, or welfare of the public. We have chosen to take action against our crumbling infrastructure.

One of the outcomes of ASCE's Vision 2025 was that Civil Engineers would be "Leaders in Public Policy". ASCE has excellent programs in place to train, develop, and connect you with your government representatives. The GRC members take trips to Sacramento, Washington D.C., City Council offices, and we collaborate on a monthly basis as a Region to get involved with politics.

One of our goals this year was to bring advocacy training to the local level. The vehicle in place to accomplish this has been the Metro Los Angeles Branch's traveling workshop, "Engineers and Politics." This all day seminar provides tools and techniques on how to become advocates for infrastructure in local, state, and federal government.



Infrastructure is the foundation to economic recovery!

- For every \$1 spent on infrastructure creates \$4 for California's economy.
- According to California Rebuild Coalition, "For every \$1 spent today saves as much as five times that amount in just a few years."
- According to the U.S. EPA, "The cost of protecting water quality from degradation is one tenth (1/10) to one hundredth (1/100) the cost of cleanup."

2009 ASCE National Report Card:

- 30% of California's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete
- 69 of California's 1,247 dams are in need of rehabilitation to meet applicable state dam safety standards.
- California ranked 11th in the quantity of hazardous waste produced and 1st in the total number of hazardous waste producers.
- 66% of California's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
- 68% of California's urban interstates are considered congested.
- Vehicle travel on California's highways increased by 27% from 1990 to 2007.
- Driving on roads in need of repair costs each California motorist \$590 a year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs.

Legislative Day Agenda

8:30 AM	– 10:00 AM	Continental Breakfast/Training
10:00 AM	– 12:00 PM	Meetings with Legislators
12:00 PM	– 12:45 PM	Lunch Break
12:45 PM	– 1:00 PM	Group Picture on Steps of the Capitol
1:00 PM	– 4:00 PM	Resume Meetings with Legislators
5:00 PM	– 6:00 PM	Happy hour/recap session at the Hyatt

Hope to see you in Sacramento next year!



“Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls & Reinforced Soil Slopes: LRFD and ASD Design Approaches”

This course presents the latest national recommendations for design and construction practice for reinforced soil structures. It includes the latest on reinforced wall and slope design based on LRFD and ASD plus hands-on use of two powerful software packages, MSEW and ReSSA, licensed to the FHWA as well as State DOT's.

Date: June 1-3, 2011
Instructors: Professor Dov Leshchinsky and Dr. Jim Collin
Location: Los Angeles, California
Details: <http://www.geoprograms.com/shortcourses.htm>

EWRI 2011 Congress Call for Abstracts

The organizing committee of the World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2011 welcomes abstract submissions for this year's event, being held May 22-26, 2011, in Palm Springs, California.

A variety of tracks and sessions will be hosted at the 2011 Congress. The Environmental and Water Resources Institute anticipates strong participation and a diverse sampling of technical content in the conference program.

Visit the Congress website for a list of sub-topics to supplement the above-listed subject matter. The website also provides additional information on housing, international attendees, tours, and opportunities to sponsor or exhibit in Palm Springs.

For questions, or more information about the 2011 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress, visit the website, contact the Congress Technical Chair at ewri2011tc@asce.org, or send inquiries to ewri@asce.org.

If you would like to exhibit or cosponsor the conference please contact Sean Scully at 703-295-6154 or sscully@asce.org or Kira Simonson at 703-295-6349 or ssimonson@asce.org.

29th Annual UCB/SFGI Distinguished Lecture Series

May 6th 2011 – Registration link: http://peer.berkeley.edu/geoen지니어ing_lecture/Event is held on the UC Berkeley Campus, CA, at Sibley Auditorium in the Bechtel Building with an optional dinner held at the Hearst Memorial Mining Building. Registration is required.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued

The societal importance of civil engineering and its prospects for future growth are only two of the reasons it was selected as one of the best careers by Money. Many of us happily continue in our chosen field because of the variety and content of the work. Civil engineers work in an incredible variety of jobs. There are dozens of specialties and sub-specialties within the profession. Civil engineers work on buildings, roads, bridges, pipelines, water-systems, railroads, industrial facilities, dams, tunnels, and airports. They may be responsible for planning, designing, building, operating and maintaining all of these facilities. Civil engineers may work for federal, state or local governments, or they may work for private sector. They may be technical experts, master constructors, portfolio managers, sales professionals or upper managers, and everything in between. There is no limit to the variety in the field.

Money Magazine found that civil engineering is a relatively low stress field. Civil engineers ranked ninth among the top 100 professions for the absence of stress with about 53% of civil engineers claiming that their jobs were low stress. I suppose it depends on the job, and the day. Engineers in management experience stress due to budgets and financial performance. Facility failures and other catastrophic events can raise the blood pressure of any responsible civil engineer. Pressure to complete projects and proposals on tight schedules can also lead to stress. This is enhanced when projects are behind schedule or over budget. The overall lack of stress in the field however can be attributed to the autonomy, creativity, and flexibility offered by most civil engineering jobs.

These factors coupled with good pay, opportunities for advancement, good working conditions, and the opportunity associate with creative and dedicated colleagues through groups like ASCE make civil engineering the greatest of all possible professions.

Legislature Up and Running

Continued from page 2

Further muddying the waters, Proposition 22 repealed provisions of the gas tax swap that provided for transportation bond debt service to be funded by the new excise tax. This provision results in an immediate \$1 billion impact to the state's General Fund and is therefore of urgent concern to the Brown Administration and the Legislature.

There are various interpretations about what Proposition 26 means for transportation funding and what would occur if the Legislature does not reenact the tax portions of the swap by a two-thirds vote. The differences of opinion will undoubtedly give pause to the California Transportation Commission as it releases its draft fund estimate for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in March. The Legislative Analyst's Office has stated that it believes the retroactive provision in Proposition 26 is "self-executing" and would automatically repeal the entire gas tax swap by November 2011.

E Week Resolution Approved

Senate Resolution 6 – recognizing Engineer's Week was approved by members of the Senate in a floor ceremony attended by Region 9 Governor Fareed Pitawala. "As a civil engineer, I've had the opportunity to witness firsthand some of the incredible contributions engineers have made to the California economy, and I have no doubt that engineers will help lead the major advances of the 21st century," said Senator Anthony Cannella. "That's why it's so critically important that we begin educating the next generation of engineers now. That's also the reason I'm pleased to have earned my colleagues' support for this resolution acknowledging the important role engineers will play in our state and our nation's future and promoting the study of engineering among the next generation of leaders." You can watch the video of the presentation here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tq2G6HNwHHk>

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DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspices of the State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Classes will be held in ASCE Branch areas when there are sufficient requests. Qualified individuals are California Registered Civil, Structural, Geotechnical, Certified engineering Geologists, or Architects. If you are interested in attending a class, or are interested in arranging a class, please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman.

There is no charge for the class.

The class lasts 4 or 5 hours

The Class can commence as early as 8 AM or after work.

Monday through Friday or on Saturday

Classes will be given for VOLUNTEERS from professional organizations to assess damage, and COORDINATORS from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area. Coordinators may act as Volunteers outside of their area of expertise.

To register for the class submit your name along with your telephone number and e-mail address. You will be contacted when 10 or more request a class. The maximum number in the class should not exceed 20.

If your Branch, or Firm would like to offer the use of its facilities for a class, please register and provide the name of contact person, phone, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support.

Jack W. Rolston, Chair

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2011 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING REVIEW SEMINARS & MANUAL

Following a decade of successful presentations BYA Publications is pleased to announce the 11th consecutive year of the most comprehensive and value added series of structural engineering seminars in California. The expanded 12 session program (78 hours) is comprised of detailed and interactive presentations of a selection of problems and topics targeted for the new NCEES 16 hour Structural Engineer exam and the CA specific exam. Also included are discussions of the most recent developments in structural and seismic engineering. **These seminars also provide the best in-depth review of the latest code provisions even for those not considering taking the S.E. exam.**

“Register early and save up to \$400”

All classes are on Saturdays or Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the La Quinta, 3 Centerpointe Drive, La Palma, CA 90623, Phone: (714) 670-1400

May 14	Wind & Seismic Provisions	Ben Yousefi, MS, SE
May 22	Advanced Analysis/Dynamics	Dr. Farzad Naeim, Ph.D., SE, Esq.
June 11	Concrete Design, Part I	Dr. Cheng Ming Lin, Ph.D., S.E
June 19	Steel Design, Part I	Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Ph.D., PE
July 10	Wood Design	Kelly Cobeen, MS, SE
July 16	Steel Design, Part II	Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Ph.D., PE
July 30	Concrete Design Part II	Chris Tokas, MS, SE
July 31	California (CBC) Amendments	Chris Tokas, MS, SE
August 6	Masonry Design	Dr. Chukwume Ekwueme, Ph.D., SE
August 28	Steel Design, Part III	Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Ph.D., PE
September 17	Concrete Design, Part III	Dr. Cheng Ming Lin, Ph.D., S.E
October 1	General Overview/ All topics	Ben Yousefi, MS, SE

For complete registration information please check our web site
www.strcuturalsolutions.com

COMPLETE STREETS CONFERENCE

Helping Communities Design, Build, and Operate Streets to Serve All Users



What are complete streets, and complete streets policies?

Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. Creating complete streets means transportation agencies must change their orientation toward building primarily for cars. Instituting a complete streets policy ensures that transportation agencies routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users.

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carson Community Center

801 East Carson Street, Carson, CA

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about complete streets from transportation planners, engineers, and MPO officials ! Topics will include:

- ⇒ Elements of complete streets
- ⇒ Examples of local roadway features
- ⇒ Local experience with upgrading roadways to include these elements
- ⇒ Complete streets from a regional perspective
- ⇒ General Plan Amendment for CEQA Compliance

Who Should Attend?

- *Traffic engineers, transportation planners*
- *Stakeholders and advocates for walking, bicycles, transit, health, and the environment*
- *Elected officials, planning commissioners, and MPO Board and staff members*

Registration Fee: \$145 members / \$165 non-members (includes materials and lunch)
This conference will be held concurrently with the 12th Annual Streets & Technology Conference.

For more information on the conference, please contact:
Sylvia Robles at 714-647-5674 or e-mail at srobles@santa-ana.org.

ASCE METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES BRANCH GEO-INSTITUTE and SEI PROUDLY PRESENT:

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHEET PILING STRUCTURES SEMINAR

Richard Hartman, Ph.D., P.E.
Hartman Engineering



The Design and Construction of Steel Sheet Piling Structures Seminar is a one day class covering topics ranging from design concepts, to practical field problems, through recent product advancements in the design and manufacturing of steel sheet piling.

The seminar will be presented by Richard Hartman, Ph.D., P.E., a leading international expert in the design and construction of steel sheet pile structures. Dr. Hartman is licensed as a professional engineer in 38 states and has over 40 years of experience in the subject. For the past 15 years he has been involved in the research and design of new sheet pile sections and, based on that research, holds four patents for sheet piling sections.

Seminar Content

- Design parameters, layout, and construction considerations for cellular cofferdams
- Design and construction considerations for bulkheads, open cell designs and combination walls
- Design and construction considerations for cofferdams and trenches.
- Properties of steel sheet piling, changes in steel pile manufacturing, concerns regarding performance, tranverse loads, stresses in sheet piling, and redesign of sheet piling sections
- Review of instability of the soil/rock in the bottom of an excavation for steel sheet piling structures
- Questions, answers and conclusions

Date: **July 13, 2011**

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: **CALTRANS**
District 7 –Training Room **#01.037**
100 S. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: 562-449-7990

Contact: Richard Morales **678.714.6730 x103**
Email: RMorales@LBFosterCo.com

Mail Checks to : **ASCE MLAB** c/o Richard Morales
130 Satellite Blvd., N.E., Suite A
Suwanee, GA 30024

Includes: Course Reference Materials, Certificate
for 7 Professional Development Hours
(Seminar is IACET certified for 0.7 Continuing
Education Units), Lunch and Two Breaks

Cost: \$200 before July 1, 2011
\$300 after July 1, 2011
\$ 50 for Student Members

RSVP: July 1, 2011 Early Bird Registration
July 8, 2011 Final Deadline to Receive Checks

Format: One Day Seminar, Business Casual Attire



12th Annual 2011 Streets & Technology Conference

Presented by: So. Ca. Chapter of American Public Works Association

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Carson Community Center

801 East Carson Street

Carson, CA

**REGISTER
NOW!!**

Don't miss out on the latest developments in public infrastructure as it relates to design, operations, maintenance and funding. Our potential topics are as follows:

➤ Plans, Specs, and Estimates (PS&E)	➤ Training Supervisors
➤ Right-of-Way 101	➤ Work Zone Delineation
➤ Environmental Permitting CEQA/NEPA	➤ Claim Avoidance
➤ Pavement 101	➤ New MS4 Permit
➤ Drought Tolerant Landscaping	➤ Balancing CIP Budgets
➤ Contracting vs. In-House	
	<u>Fees</u> APWA Member Price \$145.00 Non-Member Price \$165.00 (Cost includes notebook and lunch)

Lunch Topic: Grants & New Initiatives

**If you are interested in being an exhibitor,
please contact:**

**David Stuetzel at ((714) 665-4518 or email
at DStuetzel@hfinc.com.**

**For registration information on the conferences,
go to www.southernca.apwa.net or contact:**

**Sylvia Robles at (714) 647-5674 or email at
srobles@santa-ana.org.**

NEW!!!

Complete Streets Conference will be held *concurrently* with Streets & Technology Conference.

Legislature Up and Running

Continued from page 4

More than 2,000 Pieces of Legislation Introduced in February

Shattering its January output of 248 bill introductions, the Assembly and the Senate produced nearly 10 times as many measures in February – 2,023 to be exact. The deadline to introduce bills was February 18 although committee bills rather than those introduced by an individual members could be logged later.

The 80-member Assembly introduced 1,183 new bills during the 28 days of February – an average of 42.25 per day. For the 40-member Senate, its 792 new pieces of legislation represent a rate of 28.28 per day. Rounding out its total, the Assembly also introduced four bills in the special session called to cope with the state's budget woes.

AB 550 by Alison Huber, a Lodi Democrat, would require a peripheral canal that diverts water from the Sacramento River and delivers somewhere south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to be approved by the Legislature. The Legislative Analyst would be required to examine the feasibility of the project prior to passing a bill creating the canal. And, finally, if passed the bill would prohibit the "construction and operation of a peripheral canal from diminishing or negatively affecting the water supplies, water rights, or quality of water for water users within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed or imposing any new burdens on infrastructure within, or financial burdens on persons residing in, the Delta or the Delta watershed." According to the Legislative Analyst every bill introduced costs taxpayers at least \$30,000. Multiplying 2,023 by \$30,000 equals nearly \$60.7 million.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

KPFF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

KPFF Consulting Engineers seeks motivated and energetic structural engineers. 2+ yrs of structural design experience with steel, concrete, masonry and timber desired. B.S., M.S. degree; a P.E. license a plus. Excellent communication and teamwork skills are essential. Substantial growth opportunity for all levels, and the opportunity to work on a wide variety of interesting and challenging projects. Please contact, fax or email resume to the following:

For Los Angeles:

Ms. Krystle Tabangcura
KPFF Consulting Engineers
6080 Center Drive, Ste 300
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Ph: 310- 665-1536
Fx: 310-665-9070
Email: ktabangcura@kpff-la.com

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