

Dec. '10

Happy Holidays to All!!!

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In This Issue	page
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....	1
EDITORIAL .....	2
ASCE REGION 9 UPDATE .....	2
EWRI 2011 CONGRESS .....	4
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3-6
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	7
PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY.....	8-9



# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greg Heiertz, P.E.  
Los Angeles Section President



## Election 2010

*"Entrusted by society to create a sustainable world and enhance the global quality of life, civil engineers serve competently, collaboratively, and ethically as master leaders in discussions and decisions shaping public environmental and infrastructure policy"-ASCE Vision 2025.*

As leaders in these discussions and decisions, we civil engineers naturally take note of the recent election on both the national and state level. The results of the November election were, on balance, clouded for the advancement of public environmental and infrastructure policy. The national trend favored the Republican Party and the earmark hawks in congress, which likely means less Federal aid for state and local public works projects. No significant public works construction initiatives were presented to California voters. The proposed Water Bond was withdrawn at the last moment. Two measures approved by California voters seem generally favorable for future environmental and infrastructure advancement. An attempt to roll back environmental legislation was rejected. The ascendancy of the Democratic Party in California countered the national trend. The stunning restoration of Jerry Brown as Governor of California, in particular, may advance environmental policy but has uncertain effects on major state infrastructure initiatives.

The House of Representatives will be controlled by the Republicans, probably intensifying gridlock and inaction on important infrastructure legislation. The Republicans in the House are organizing to boycott future use of earmarks for local projects, although earmarks account for only about 2% of Federal spending. The danger is that their zeal to create transparency in the appropriations process by eliminating earmarks, will spill over and negatively affect other Federal capital spending. The good news is that an ASCE member will be among the freshman members of the House when the 112th U.S. Congress is sworn in this January. David McKinley, 63, M.ASCE, was elected to the House from West Virginia's First District. The lifelong Wheeling resident has said he wants to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Governor Schwarzenegger withdrew the water bond from the November ballot at the last possible moment because of its poor prospects for passage. This had been the only substantive infrastructure proposal for this election cycle. Planning for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta solution is continuing at the statewide level, and a revived water bond will likely be brought to voters in 2012. Funding for the ultimate delta fix is as uncertain as what that fix will be however. It is likely voters will eventually be asked to approve a water bond measure that will be paid back through a mixture of taxes, fees, and water rates to finance the solution.

California voters approved Proposition 25, which changes the legislative vote requirement to pass the state budget and budget-related legislation from two-thirds to a simple majority. This puts the Democrats firmly in charge of the budgeting process. It could streamline budget approval while at the same time creating an ongoing funding shortfall since a two-

*continued on page 3*

## Winds of Change

We have seen a new revolution in the highest level of our government. Across the nation, we have recently seen the voice of change permeating through the system, constituents clamoring for change. "Enough is enough!", a lot of us said. A new beginning is set.

With this renewed momentum, we should however be careful in the questions we ask. Is this sea of change a reflection of our desire to finally move on to do what needs to get done in those critical issues that face us as a country; or is it a reflection of our impatience over leadership that had a lot of constituent expectations but has a perception problem of not being able to deliver. We have seen all of these before: economy, jobs, healthcare, neglect of the middle class and the poor, and all sorts of challenging issues whose solutions remain to defy us.

But this wind of change is different. A freshman congressman from West Virginia is an ASCE member whose intentions would include advocacy of what we as engineers constantly struggle with: infrastructure, environment, transportation, water, and highways. Locally, we see a growing number of our Regional and Section officers getting more actively involved and being more vocal in exposing these issues. We see an increasing base of new ideology that is neither right nor left, normal folks who are just tired of the status quo. But we circle back to our original question: is getting tired of the status quo and electing new blood and getting more involved really translate to getting more challenges solved. Not necessarily unless this momentum is sustained.

We cannot afford to be complacent again. Instead, we need to move forward and actually get more involved in our advocacies. If we truly believe that we can effect change, we need to be instruments of change: not only in the beginning but from the beginning.

In 2008, we believed in the message of "HOPE". Yes, that message remains. We just need to make it happen within our immediate environment. If not us, who? If not now, when?

As the new year peeks through and the new political beginning commences, we are given a new chance. Will we take that chance and really make use of everything that it brings. We're smart, we're engineers. We can, but will we?

Enjoy your 2010 holiday season!!!

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

### Reminder:

*Copy deadline for the Jan. 2011 issue is Dec. 1, 2010; copy deadline for Feb. 2011 issue is Jan. 1, 2011.*

## ASCE Region 9 Update

*By Fareed S. Pittalwala, P.E., M. ASCE, Governor*



It is my pleasure and honor to be writing this article to you as the newly elected Governor for Region 9, representing the greater Sacramento Region, and the State of California. I look forward to serving on the Board of Governors for the next three years, and helping enhance our professional standing while serving the needs of our membership.

The new ASCE year has started with a lot of action for me, both at the local and national level. I recently visited ASCE's headquarters in Reston, Virginia, where I was introduced to the operations of the ASCE and the amazing ASCE staff that makes our organization the well-oiled machine that it is. Gaining this insight into the operations of ASCE enables me to better serve our local membership by providing a conduit to the plethora of services that ASCE offers. There are too many to list in this article, but I encourage you to contact me at any time if you have any questions regarding how ASCE can help you in any of several areas. These include career development, continuing education, student outreach, codes and standards, certification and licensure, and political advocacy.

While visiting the Reston office, I also took advantage of an opportunity to visit ASCE's government relations headquarters in Washington D.C. This office, located right across the street from the United States Capitol building is staffed by our diligent and motivated government relations crew. They have been instrumental in setting the standard for motivating the thousands of ASCE members across the country into involvement in public policy. For several years now, I have been writing about the virtue of civil engineers having a greater voice in public policy, and have been proud to stand by my colleagues as we continue to have a greater and greater impact on infrastructure legislation.

There is no doubt that recent involvement from ASCE membership and staff has made an impact on decision making at local, state and national levels. From the release of the Infrastructure Report Card, the ever-expanding Key Contact Program, and various other grass-roots efforts, ASCE's voice is being heard at the highest levels. Recent initiatives at local and national levels have pushed for increased infrastructure spending, and it has also been a hot topic among many political campaigns across the country. Candidates have included plans for reviving public infrastructure in their

*continued on page 3*

## ASCE's 2010 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

thirds majority will still be required for the Legislature to approve new taxes. A less protracted budget process will, hopefully, allow the legislature to focus on more important legislation including critical infrastructure measures.

Voters also approved Proposition 22, which prohibits the state from borrowing or taking local funds used for transportation, redevelopment or other local projects and services. Proposition 22 was supported by ASCE as a way to prevent diversion of funds from redevelopment, transportation and other public works infrastructure projects.

Proposition 23, which would have suspended implementation of California's landmark climate change legislation known as AB 32, was rejected by voters. Opponents of the proposition argued that rolling back AB32 would forestall sustainable energy development and inhibit the creation of future "green" jobs. ASCE Region 9 joined in the opposition to Proposition 23 on these environmental and sustainability grounds.

Jerry Brown, governor of California during the latter days of the Age of Aquarius, was restored to office by a new generation of California voters. Known back then as Governor Moonbeam, he promoted "small is beautiful" policies that substantially deferred major infrastructure development in what was then an economically vibrant and rapidly growing state. Many of the infrastructure deficiencies of today can be attributed to short sighted decisions made at that time to limit infrastructure development. Brown's ideas for infrastructure development and job creation now include an eight-point action plan for investment in renewable energy technology and the creation of more than half a million "green" jobs. He has also promised to make investments in both water infrastructure and natural ecosystems, and he pledges to provide leadership to end divisive wrangling and solve California's longstanding water problems.

The election of November 2010 is over. Its impact on state and national infrastructure policy is still ambiguous and unclear. What is clear is that we as civil engineers must continue to advocate for more attention to our crumbling infrastructure. We must promote legislative and agency action through the ASCE state and national legislative fly-ins, by developing contacts with state and federal legislators, and by taking official positions on infrastructure and sustainability questions when they come before the legislature and the electorate. Civil engineers must become master leaders in shaping public environmental and infrastructure policy.

I wish all of our members and their families and friends a joyous and safe holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.

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## **ASCE Region 9 Update**

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*continued from page 2*

campaigns, including funding key projects, while others call for the formation of a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank or leveraging private investments to help fund public improvements. I urge you, as practicing professionals, to stay informed about these proposals and to join ASCE's efforts to educate our elected officials on the need to upgrade our aging infrastructure. During my term as Governor and as a member of our newly formed Government Relations Committee, I will be looking to enhance and expand our efforts in legislative action. Our political leaders are anxiously looking for good technical information and advice, and this is the time for the civil engineering community to bring our expertise to the forefront.

This has been quite a year for civil engineers in our nation and our state, and we have seen our profession thrust to the forefront of politics and public interest. I've seen my colleagues step up to the challenge time and time again, putting forth our collective expertise, shifting public policy and gaining the trust of our fellow citizens as professionals and experts. I am proud to be an engineer and look forward to our collective continued success in these efforts. As always, I encourage you to participate in our legislative actions here in our state's capitol. With that, I wish you all happy holidays and look forward to a great 2011.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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## **DISASTER TRAINING**

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Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspicious 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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## 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 web-site, contact the Congress Technical Chair at [ewri2011tc@asce.org](mailto:ewri2011tc@asce.org), or send inquiries to [ewri@asce.org](mailto: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](mailto:sscully@asce.org) or Kira Simonson at 703-295-6349 or [ssimonson@asce.org](mailto:ssimonson@asce.org).

## REGION 9 Fall 2010, Winter 2011 Continuing Education Calendar

Region	DATES	SEMINARS AND COMPUTER WORKSHOP LINKS	Technical Division
9	Dec. 9-10, 2010	Construction Contract Management	Construction/Development
9	Dec. 9-10, 2010	Pipe Selection for Municipal Facilities	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	Dec. 9-10, 2010	Wind Loads for Buildings and Other Structures	Structural
9	Jan. 13-14, 2011	Design and Installation of Buried Pipes	Geotechnical
9	Jan. 20-21, 2011	Leadership Development for the Engineer	Management & Leadership
9	Jan. 20-21, 2011	Progressive Collapse Mitigation: Practical Analysis Methods and Proven Solutions	Structural
9	Jan. 26-28, 2011	Dam Breach Analysis using the Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System HEC-RAS	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	Feb. 2-4, 2011	GIS for Hydraulic and Hydrologic Modeling Using ArcGIS Desktop ~New	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	Feb. 3-4, 2011	Modern Detectors for Traffic Surveillance Management, and Traveler Information ~New	Transportation
9	Feb. 10-11, 2011	Stormwater BMPs That Work: Effective Analysis, Design and Maintenance	Environmental
9	Feb. 17-18, 2011	Financial Management for the Professional Engineer	Management & Leadership
9	Feb. 23-25, 2011	Introduction to Tunnel Design and Construction	Geotechnical
9	Feb. 24-25, 2011	Aluminum Structural Design with the 2010 Aluminum Design Manual	Structural
9	March 8-11, 2011	Pumping Systems Design for Civil Engineers	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	March 17-18, 2011	Design Build Contracting	Construction/Development
9	March 17-18, 2011	Water Hammer in Transmission and Distribution Systems	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	March 24-25, 2011	Risk Assessment in Geotechnical Engineering	Geotechnical/Transportation

## ASCE Now Offers PE and FE Review Classes

### P.E. Exam Review Online Course/CD ROM (P03)

To help you prepare for the P.E. Exam, ASCE and SmartPros, Ltd. have created this multimedia electronic learning course in cooperation with the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section (BSCES), featuring seven of the nation's top civil engineering instructors.

This is not a teaching course; it's a review course, a refresher. This is reflected in its design. First of all, it's up to you to choose the topics you want to review for the exam. These topics are divided into modules, each presenting a series of problems in exactly the format you will encounter them on the actual P.E. Exam. The course materials are updated regularly to ensure that they conform to the current P.E. Exam format and content.

### P.E. Construction Engineering Module

Effective with the April 2008 Civil P.E. Exam, Construction makes up 20% of the breadth portion and is now offered as a topic in the depth portion of the exam. To assist you in studying for the upcoming exam, ASCE is pleased to offer the new P.E.-Construction Engineering Module as a review for the Construction portion of the Civil P.E. Exam. It includes everything you need to prepare for the new Construction module and content in the exam, including theory and practice problems with step-by-step solutions for the practice problems.

\* Please note, the P.E. Construction Engineering Module is included when you order the P.E. Exam Review (P03)

### F.E. Exam Review Self-Paced Course

ASCE's F.E. Exam Review Course contains multimedia presentations on 11 topics using interactive quizzes, audio, and animated slides. It covers topics most likely to be included on the F.E. Exam.

### P.E. and F.E. Exam Review Printed Materials

Through a strategic partnership with Kaplan AEC Education, ASCE members can now receive a 10% discount on all Kaplan exam preparation materials for the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam (F.E.) and the Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam (P.E.). Visit their website to get your discount. Kaplan has nearly 70 years experience as the nation's leader in standardized test preparation. Kaplan AEC Education, part of the Kaplan professional division, is dedicated to exam preparation for Engineering, Architecture and Contracting licensure.

If you order over the phone, or through Kaplan's general website, please be sure to provide the ASCE promotion code (ASCE05) at checkout to receive your 10% discount.

Please visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) or call 1-800-548-ASCE to order or for more information.

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### Younger Member Forum



## P.E. REVIEW COURSE SPRING 2011

Advance in your civil engineering profession by earning your license and becoming a Professional Engineer. Our courses are taught by practicing professionals. Our PE Exam instructors review the following subjects: Environmental, Geotechnical, Construction, Water, Transportation, Structural, and the specialized topics of Surveying and Seismic.

The PE Review Course will be located in the heart of Los Angeles. Meetings occur twice a week on Monday and Wednesday nights. The Surveying and Seismic courses are each offered on three different Saturdays.

**Please share this announcement with co-workers and colleagues.**

For more information, please contact us:

Maria Miranda at (562) 889-4982 or [mlmiranda3@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiranda3@gmail.com)

Omar Sanchez at (714) 319-0552 or [oasanchez25@yahoo.com](mailto:oasanchez25@yahoo.com)



## Post Your Resume or Job to Multiple Web Sites

ASCE in collaboration with other top engineering societies has formed the Engineering & Science Career Network (ESCN). The ESCN allows job seekers to post their resume, and employers to post their jobs, to the ASCE Career Connections website [http://careers.asce.org/search.cfm] and have it automatically posted to partner websites. ESCN partners include ASME, ACEC, AREMA, AEG, ASCE.



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## PE Review Course

RBF Consulting will present the Professional Engineering License Review Course for 2011.

This educational experience prepares applicants for the 2011 Civil Engineering License Examination.

The training is centrally located in

Irvine and takes place on 13 consecutive

Saturdays from January 8 - April 2, 2011.

The course fee of \$1800 includes textbooks, practical exercises and over 100 hours of instruction. This program is accredited: Participants will earn CEUs.

*For more information or to apply please visit our website  
[www.rbf.com/Outreach/PE\\_Review.asp](http://www.rbf.com/Outreach/PE_Review.asp) or please contact  
 Lori Schnaider at [lschnaider@rbf.com](mailto:lschnaider@rbf.com) or (949) 330-4138.*

## 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.

National ASCE (800) 548-2723 (ASCE)  
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### For Pasadena:


Ms. Tamara Kealty  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
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