

Nov. '10

Happy Thanksgiving to All!!!

VOL_XLX NO_11

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Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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SOUTHERN SAN_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greg Heiertz, P.E.
Los Angeles Section President



Who You Gonna Call?

The work of civil engineers is usually preventive and preemptive. We plan, design and build things so they do not fail, even under extreme conditions such as earthquakes, floods, or damaging winds. This role of the engineer is captured in the ASCE Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025 as "Entrusted by society to create a sustainable world and enhance the global quality of life, civil engineers serve competently, collaboratively, and ethically as master managers of risk and uncertainty caused by natural events, accidents, and other threats." But sometimes accidents happen despite our best efforts and intentions. Then society relies on engineers to respond in another role: that is the role of remediating and mitigating the damage after accidents or natural disasters have occurred. That is what happened in Chile last month.

Last August, 33 miners were trapped in a gold and copper mine in the Atacama Desert of Chile. Three days after that disaster, President Sebastian Pinera of Chile summoned an engineer, Andre Sougarret, to save them. At that point no one knew if the 33 men were even still alive, but President Pinera was betting his political career that this skilled mining engineer from southern Chile could find them and rescue them. Sougarret is the successful manager of the El Teniente mine operated by the Chilean state owned copper company. El Teniente is the most productive underground copper mine in the world. Now, in an ironic reward for this success, he had been assigned a fiendishly complex and risky rescue mission that seemed to have little chance of success.

Sougarret immediately accepted the challenge and flew to the Atacama. When he arrived, the mine was a seething cauldron of disorganization and confusion. Miners, rescue workers, firefighters, police officers, volunteers and relatives were all desperate for word about the fate of the men trapped beneath the earth.

The grim faced and straight talking Sougarret began to formulate his plan. He ordered the rescue workers out of the mine until there was, in fact, someone to rescue. He then assembled a team of other engineers including Rene Aguilar, his risk manager from El Teniente. In the weeks that followed, the two men built an operation that grew to more than 300 people.

The first order of business was to locate the trapped miners. Sougarret researched the outdated maps and other information about the mine. He concluded after his early inspection and research that it was too risky to try to reach the men through the original mine opening. Drilling a new access was the only solution.

The next step was to probe the suspected refuge areas of the mine with small diameter bore holes. After several disappointments, success finally came 17 days after the collapse. The drill broke through to the miners' refuge. The drillers could hear the miners banging on the drill pipe. Elated, they pulled up the drill bit and found a message in a plastic bag tied to it. The message said, "All 33 of us are OK in the refuge." Sougarret's team could now construct additional boreholes to send down food, medicine and messages of encouragement to the miners.

continued on page 4

A Reason to Give Thanks

In this time of tremendous challenges, most of us see ourselves privileged to have a job, a future in infrastructure development, and a future in building a livable and sustainable community around us. In Los Angeles County and some other jurisdictions, we are grateful to the voters for giving us an opportunity to build a much needed infrastructure transportation network through Measure R. Such is not true, however, in other aspects of our infrastructure. We are not doing well in those other parts, and especially here in California, we have not done well at all for a very long time!

Who you gonna call to solve complex problems "to do what seems impossible"? Our Section President suggests that you call an engineer. And if that is true, it begs the question, how many of us engineers are really out there solving complex societal problems that affect our everyday life. How many of us are in positions of authority to effect significant change in society.

There has been an on-going call for more engineers to go into public service, run for office, or simply get politically involved. Working in the government sector now for almost a decade, I know how challenging it can become. This is not a lucrative career, but it is a very fulfilling one.

Michael Thornton, P.E. is ASCE Region 9's State Government Relations Committee membership committee chair. Like Uncle Sam, he is pointing at you who is reading this newsletter and he asks, why not you? Why not be involved in becoming effective infrastructure stewards. Run for office. We need you!

As we move ahead into the holidays, we should realize what we as an organization has achieved and what is ahead of us. With hundreds of thousands of us all over the world, isn't that enough number and muscle to effect needed change? Maybe yes, but only if we truly believe that we could effect change.

We have the skill set to achieve the impossible, we have the numbers to collectively make the impossible dreams real, and we have the support of a great organization that has done so much for us. We are thankful to our profession and what it brings to us as a people. We are challenged to do more.

Volunteer. Become a political candidate. Advocate. Whatever it is that you do, think of the greater things you can do as an engineer. There are a lot of reasons to be thankful for just being who you are.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

Reminder:

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

Society's State Government Relations

By Michael Thornton, P.E.



As you know, our Society, formerly known as National, has a veritable cornucopia of committees with the goal of meeting ASCE Strategic Planning objectives. One of these many committees includes State Government Relations (SGR). On behalf of Region 9, I serve our membership as chair of the committee. For those of you who didn't know such a committee exists, we do! For those of you wondering what the committee does, read on!

ASCE Society's Government Relations (GR) efforts are well documented e.g. report card efforts, This Week in Washington, key contacts (<http://www.asce.org/PPLContent.aspx?id=18068>), and relationships that ASCE staff has developed with National elected officials; they are doing a great job. SGR's goal is to replicate the national program in every state as much as possible, and where possible, to improve it.

In many States, with my home State of California being the greatest culprit, funding for infrastructure has moved in the wrong direction. Our primary goal is to put the brakes on these crazy policies. To do so, we must first develop a network of members to get involved. Second, we plan on educating these volunteers to become effective infrastructure stewards. Third, we must develop personal relationships with State legislators making sure they understand that infrastructure investment is vital to both our economy and to our future. Fourth, we need to make sure our voices are heard in numbers (i.e., State Key Contacts). Lastly, we must promote members to key State Committees or elected positions.

SGR is working hard to develop our network. As Uncle Sam said, "I (we) need you", get involved! During the Society's regional management conferences in January and February, the Society will be presenting State Government Relations as a breakout session. Sign-up for the conference and don't miss this breakout session. In addition, sections and the Region are working on GR workshops. They will be invaluable. These are the first steps to objectives 3 through 5 presented above.

It is clear that the efforts we have been making in the past are not cutting it, resulting in legislators cutting infrastructure. A new effort is needed and it is up to all of us to get involved. The profession has been good to us ... it is our turn to be good to it!

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

Legislative Update from Region 9

By Richard Markuson

In 2010 ASCE Region 9 tracked 54 state measures and took positions on 17 bills – supporting ten, opposing six and co-sponsoring SR 33 commemorating Engineers Week. Of those 17, the Governor signed six, vetoed two and eight died in the legislature.

The Governor signed six ASCE supported bills including: **AB 1431** that adds a geologist or geophysicist to the Engineers and Land Surveyors Board to reflect the merger of the Geology board and **SB 294** that extended the sunset of the Engineers Board. **SB 346** that with certain exemptions, limits the use of copper in motor vehicle brake pads to no more than five percent by weight on or after January 1, 2021, and no more than 0.5 percent by weight on or after January 2025. **SB 1008** that authorizes engineers and land surveyors to operate within their scope of licensure, and to conduct business as a limited liability partnership (LLP) similar to that of architects, certified public accountants and attorneys. **SB 1284** that exempts certain waste discharge reporting violations from existing mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs). **SB 1349** that amends the State Endangered Species Act to allow an experimental population of Chinook salmon to be reintroduced into the San Joaquin River as part of a settlement approved by Congress.

The Governor vetoed two ASCE supported bills: **AB 1793** (Support) that clarified the ability of Common Interest Developments (CIDs) to prohibit artificial turf for use in water conservation programs. ASCE obtained amendments to make more explicit the ability of CID governing entities to adopt design standards. The Governor said: *"CIDs provide a system of self-governance through a community association, responsible for managing, maintaining, and repairing the common areas, and have the authority to enforce special rules. Decisions such as these regarding the use of artificial turf can be made by the homeowners and amended into their governing documents."* **AB 2304** (Support) that would have required local agencies to map groundwater recharge areas and identify and describe areas that substantially contribute to the replenishment of the groundwater basin. His veto message stated: *"I am concerned about the impact this bill could have on privately-owned properties, ... Once mapped ... the bill intends that these lands will be rezoned to restrict their use to being a groundwater recharge area. Property law in California already allows landowners and water districts to ... come to a private agreement about how they can manage both their land and water resources ... maintaining this current system allows them to work together to develop solutions. Unfortunately, this bill would eliminate this type of flexibility and negotiation between a landowner and a water district."*

Two bills ASCE did not take a position on were also signed. Engineers in public and private practice are encouraged to review these measures with their legal counsel as the bills affect solicitations, indemnities and the design professional's lien (DPL) rights.

SB 972 revises the existing indemnity statute regarding public works contracts with design professionals to clarify that the duty to indemnify, including the duty and the cost to defend, is regulated by the statute. The bill further requires that all contracts and all solicitation documents, including requests for proposal, invitations for bid, and other solicitation documents between a public agency and a design professional are deemed to incorporate the foregoing statute by reference. **SB 189** is a comprehensive revision to mechanics lien law and makes changes to Civil Code §3319, 3320 & 3321. While the bill does not make substantive changes to the DPL, the bill makes changes to notice requirements and any engineer who deals with the DPL needs to be aware of the changes.

In 2010 Governor Schwarzenegger has signed 726 bills and vetoed 298.

For more information on ASCE's legislative program, contact Dolores Ventura – Chair of ASCE Region 9 Government Relations Committee, Mark Norton – Chair of the ASCE Region 9 Water and Environment Committee or Richard Markuson – ASCE Region 9 Lobbyist (richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com).

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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Engineers Are the Key to a Better Future

ASCE's new Raise the Bar Network to urge states to heighten educational, licensure standards.

No one plays a more important role in designing, building and renewing America's infrastructure than civil engineers, a role that will only increase in the years ahead. The future depends on expert engineers who are also skilled leaders, able to transform our infrastructure with forward-thinking solutions.

America's engineers will need a range of knowledge that involves not only technical expertise, but leadership and communication skills as well. Enriched by this education, engineers will continue their position as trusted problem-solvers who can be relied on to maintain our infrastructure, and also act as key influencers of sound public policy.

Citing a 2005 report by the National Academy of Engineering, which states "the exploding body of science and engineering knowledge can not be accommodated within the traditional 4-year degree," ASCE supports a plan that calls for "raising the bar" of educational and licensure standards to ensure that tomorrow's engineers are best able to meet the infrastructure challenges America faces. These changes were recently incorporated into a new model law adopted by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

Show support for higher standards

ASCE is forming a broad Raise the Bar Network at the state level that will help implement the new model law, and seeks your interest in supporting the efforts. Members of the network will periodically receive information and alerts related to the Raise the Bar initiative, as well as information on how they can actively contribute to the initiative.

Interested? **Go to www.asce.org to sign up.**

In addition to the Network, ASCE is also seeking key individuals to provide leadership, management and continuity for the Raise the Bar initiative at the state level. These Champions will play a significant and historic role in reforming the engineering profession to lay the foundation for a stronger future for America. Through active participation in the Raise the Bar Network, Champions will also expand their professional and personal networks at the state and national levels and create opportunities to further develop their leadership skills.

Champions who have been selected will attend a workshop hosted at ASCE Headquarters with travel and hotel expenses paid. The first is slated for April 2011. Get more details on becoming a Champion and **download an application** at www.asce.org.

Join ASCE in improving the world around us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

Once the miners were found alive, Sougarret mobilized three large diameter drills. Each of these drilling operations utilized a different technique for reaching the miners. They became known as Plan A, B and C. Sougarret, the master manager of risk and uncertainty, noted that, "Now with three plans it was enough for the two objectives we were looking for: shorten the time and minimize risks. There were many factors that I couldn't control, and the only way to minimize risks is to have alternatives."

With three drills advancing toward the men, it was only a matter of time. While President Pinera had promised to have the miners home by Christmas, Sougarret calculated the progress of each drill more precisely and determined that Plan A would reach the men on December 1, Plan C on October 30, and Plan B on October 10. The Plan B crew broke through on October 9, one day early.

The success of the rescue mission was unprecedented. It was the deepest anyone had ever drilled to rescue trapped miners. An NBC news reporter called it, "Chile's moon landing", because it was conducted like a NASA mission, with precision, expertise, commitment and teamwork. Sougarret was the engineer at the center of the mission. His management of the crisis was so successful that nearly all the rescued miners walked out of the mine perfectly healthy.

Sometimes we engineers bemoan the fact that our profession does not get the same respect as the medical profession. We appear almost envious of the status and material success of doctors and other health professionals. These men and women deserve our respect, but Andre Sougarret and his team of engineers did something that no physician could ever do. He brought 33 men back from the dead. The 33 rescued miners, and many others around the world, now know that when you need someone to do what seems impossible, call an engineer.

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, 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.

2010's New Faces of Civil Engineering



John Barry



Yaye-Mah Boye



Veronica Cedillos



Kenwarjit Dosanjh



Raissa Douglas Ferron



Alexandra Iannitelli



Jennifer Jacka



Erica Jensen



Todd Wilson



Melissa Wu

Salute Engineering's Bright Young Stars -- Nominate a 'New Face' for 2011 Award

Do you work with or know a civil engineer who's 30 or under, yet is already making a name for himself or herself? Does he or she show the potential for a long and distinguished career in the profession and a commitment to excellence in everything he or she does? If so, nominate him or her for the National Engineers Week Foundation 2011 New Faces of Engineering award.

Nomination for the National EWeek Foundation New Faces recognition program is open to young engineers of all disciplines, including civil engineering. The program promotes the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and noting the direct and positive effect they have on people's everyday lives. The national campaign promotes the profession of engineering by:

- Showcasing and honoring a diverse group of young and talented engineers, who are making a difference through their work, in a profession that is innovative, forward thinking and open to everyone.
- Introducing college engineering students to inspiring engineers in hopes of encouraging them to explore the many career options their engineering degrees open up for them, as well as encouraging high school students to study engineering in college.
- Providing role models for engineering students to help them understand the global reach of their profession.

ASCE will be accepting nominations for New Faces from the civil engineering community through Monday, Oct. 11. Nominees must be ASCE members. ASCE will forward five top nominees to the National Engineers Week Foundation, which will select one nominee from each engineering field and announce their names in February 2011. Winners will be recognized in a full-page ad in USA Today during Engineers Week, Feb. 14-20, 2011, and highlighted in other ways, including possible feature profiles in engineering trade publications.



Younger Member Forum



P.E. REVIEW COURSE SPRING 2011

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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

Omar Sanchez at (714) 319-0552 or oasanchez25@yahoo.com

REGION 9 Fall 2010, Winter 2011 Continuing Education Calendar

Region	DATES	SEMINARS AND COMPUTER WORKSHOP LINKS	Technical Division
9	Nov. 4-5, 2010	Design and Strengthening of Shallow Foundations for Conventional and Pre-Engineered Buildings	Structural
9	Nov. 4-5, 2010	Finite Elements in Geotechnical Engineering	Geotechnical
9	Nov. 18-19, 2010	Bridge Rehabilitation	Structural
9	Nov. 18-19, 2010	Risk-Based Seismic Design and Evaluation ~New	Structural
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

**www.
ascelasection.org**

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.

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.

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For Los Angeles:

Ms. Krystle Tabangcura
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Ph: 310- 665-1536
Fx: 310-665-9070
Email: ktabangcura@kpff-la.com

For Pasadena:


Ms. Tamara Kealty
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