

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Sepulveda, P.E., F.ASCE  
Section President



## Ideas on Volunteers

Earlier this month the Los Angeles Section had the annual Life Member Brunch. Each year ASCE honors those with long-term membership in ASCE and in the profession with life membership. The Section honors the inductees each year with a luncheon celebrating this event. I have been attending these for years and I am still in awe at the accomplishments of these engineers. When the bios and

accomplishments are read, we all hear about many of the infrastructure projects that we and others depend on for day to day tasks.

When I looked around at those in attendance; the life members, the student members, the younger member, I cannot help but be impressed by the people that make our Society work. This is not a Society of just CEOs or CFOs, or even Senior Managers. This is a Society of ordinary people working for the good of the Society (capital "S") and society (small "s"). Perhaps I should clarify the difference. When we refer to Society we are actually referring to ASCE and its membership on the national and international level. When I refer to society I am referring to the society in which we all live.

People that take on engineering as a profession tend to be engineers for life. These are the folks that have engineered some solution for a problem at their house after they have retired or the railroad engineer that has a model train setup in his garage, to name only a couple of examples. I believe that engineers can point to various events in their life where they engineered solutions such as play toys, sand castles, and endless other endless types of structures. As engineers, we look at things when we are on vacation and discuss each item's poor or fine engineering. In some cases we offer solutions – invited or not.

I believe that engineers accept the lifelong learning that goes along with the profession because they are inherently curious. They want to know how to make things work better. They constantly ask questions to ensure they have all the information to put the pieces together. Engineers tend to look beyond the smoke and mirrors to reach conclusions that are well thought out, analyzed and then re-analyzed. Is it any wonder why engineers are rarely on juries in high profile cases?

In the Los Angeles Section, we have volunteers from all levels in of the engineering profession. These are folks that are looking for a better way of doing things. They are looking for a better way of informing the public about the need for infrastructure. They are looking for a better way of helping students through those tough years as a student, then the transition into our Society. They are looking for a way to solve the problems of the world through EWB and other organizations. In fact, engineers are all around us working hard to improve the profession and society through activities outside of their normal work day. We continue to see younger members reaching out to students and other younger people in bringing the message of engineering. We also see life members involved with legislation, disaster preparedness training, and mentoring.

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### Reminder:

Copy deadline for the May 2009 issue is April 1, 2009; copy deadline for June 2009 issue is May 1, 2009.



## Engineering Volunteerism

The month of April brings with it many things but the one sense I am having is that of hope. That is, hope for our nation to finally come out of this economic nightmare [stronger, more powerful, humbler]. We engineers have a lot to contribute. Our underlying social fabric creates the opportunity for others to follow.

Engineers have a knack for analyzing any situation to the hilt, providing unsolicited solutions to issues, ensuring that some control be brought in and implemented to better existing conditions. With all the talk about bailouts, irresponsibility, greed, and blame; it is quite refreshing to read specifically our Section President's Message as well as those of USC's Kyle Burnham on the topic of volunteerism and creating good for nothing.

Don Sepulveda, P.E., F.ASCE discusses the beauty of our Section membership's involvement in uplifting not only the Society (i.e., ASCE) but most importantly society. He talks about the contributions of our recently installed Life Members as well as the continuing contributions of everyone in this Section; and how those achievements, both on a civic and professional level, actually change lives.

While still a junior at USC, Mr. Burnham has already recognized the value of volunteerism and challenges not only his fellow students but all of us professional engineers to rise to the challenge in assisting our fellow international citizens.

"Who will rise up and meet this challenge?", Mr. Burnham asks. Are you it?

Our other articles in this issue include those of Region 9 Governor Shahnawaz Ahmad, P.E. on the recently concluded California Infrastructure Symposium. Key to his article is the recognition of the importance of engineers' contributions in our path towards economic recovery. Many of those are Region 9 Award winners who are recognized in this issue (see page 4).

Finally, we re-introduce to you this month how to access INSIGHTS, a monthly podcast series with noted civil engineering industry leaders discussing their perspectives and insights into the successful practice of civil engineering. I have listened to some of these talks. They are short, to the point, but indeed simultaneously inspirational and informative. Try it out for yourself.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

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

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**ASCE's 2009**  
**Member-Get-A-Member**  
**Drive Depends on You!**

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## THIRD ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

*by Shahnawaz Ahmad, P.E., Region 9 Governor*



Last month, Harvey Gobas, Region 9 Governor-at-Large, wrote a timely article on "Our Failing Infrastructure and What You Can Do About It". With the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009, infrastructure is currently on the nation's radar screen. Of the \$787 billion Stimulus Package, \$150 billion has been allocated for infrastructure needs. Although this may seem like a large amount, but when compared to ASCE's current estimate in

the 2009 ASCE Infrastructure Report Card of \$2.2 trillion over the next 5 years, it is merely a downpayment. It is nonetheless a welcome investment in our country's infrastructure needs.

ASCE released a portion of the 2009 Infrastructure Report Card on January 28, 2009. The Nation's infrastructure received a grade of "D".

The vitality of California's infrastructure is an essential key to economic growth and prosperity and investments in this infrastructure continues to be restricted due to California's poor fiscal condition and other interests competing for the available funds. In light of the above, ASCE Region 9 held the 3rd Annual California Infrastructure Symposium on February 24 in Sacramento. This Symposium assessed the State's infrastructure, particularly on water and transportation issues, as well as fiscal concerns. The Symposium focused on the magnitude of the infrastructure problem and identified the sources and opportunities available to meet the demands of California.

The following topics were addressed:

- Bay-Delta Process
- Proposition 84 Funding
- California Levee Program
- Water Reclamation
- High Speed Rail
- Public Private Partnerships
- Federal Stimulus Package.

Some of the presentations are posted on the Region 9 website (<http://region9.asce.org/Symposium2009.html>) and I invite you to visit the site. However, I would like to share the following information regarding ARRA as it pertains to California. These numbers are a moving target and subject to change with time.

- Highway /Local Streets and Roads
  - National \$26.81 billion
  - California \$ 2.57 billion.
- Transit:
  - National \$ 7.48 billion
  - California \$ 1.07 billion.

*continued on page 5*

## INSIGHTS (Into the Engineering World's Greatest Minds)

Insights is a monthly podcast series with noted civil engineering industry leaders discussing their perspectives and insights into the successful practice of civil engineering. Featuring honest, straightforward viewpoints, based on unique experiences and interests, these discussions tackle a wide range of compelling issues. The series is sponsored by the ASCE Industry Leaders Council.

Insights is presented as a series of discrete episodes – audio files that can be downloaded for listening anytime from portable devices such as iPods or from any personal computer.

The latest guest in last March's Insight's programs was Vice Admiral Michael K. Loose, P.E., M.ASCE, Civil Engineer Corps, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4). Vice Admiral Mike Loose became the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (DCNO) for Fleet Readiness and Logistics in January 2007. As the DCNO for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, he is responsible for the policy, assessment, and resourcing of the operation and maintenance of the Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft, and shore infrastructure; naval logistics support; afloat and shore environmental readiness; and the Navy energy strategy.

Prior to this assignment, he was assigned as the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Chief of Civil Engineers, where he was responsible for the leadership of 17,000 military and civilian personnel and the annual execution of \$11.6 billion of facilities planning, design, engineering, acquisition delivery, and maintenance. Mike is a registered Professional Civil Engineer in the state of California, a Fellow in the Society of American Military Engineers, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In the episode, VADM Loose talks about the challenges facing civil engineers in leveraging infrastructure to build community-wide quality of life and serving as innovative change agents. The whole episode can be downloaded from <http://insights.asce.org/>.

## ASCE Official Roster

The Official Register is published annually to provide ready access to governing documents, statistics, and general information about ASCE for leadership, members, and staff. It includes the ASCE constitution, bylaws, rules, and code of ethics; as well as information about member qualifications and benefits; section and branch contacts; technical, professional, educational, and student activities; committee appointments; past and present officers; honors and awards; CERF/IEEC; the ASCE Foundation; and staff contacts.

There are also sections with constitution, bylaws, and committees for Geo-Institute; Structural Engineering Institute (SEI); Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI); Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI); Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI); Construction Institute (CI); and Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI). The Official Register be downloaded from <http://www.asce.org/or/>. For the convenience of those who do not wish to download these files, the print version is available for purchase.

## Bringing Society Policy to a Student Level

*By Kyle Burnham*

For students in ASCE it is easy to get wrapped up in Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge and the regional conferences. While these are admirable projects, they represent only a small portion of the opportunities available to students through ASCE. In October of 2007, the Society formalized a relationship with Engineers Without Borders – USA in support of their activities for struggling communities around the world.

This event went largely unnoticed among students at the University of Southern California. Most members of our ASCE student chapter remained woefully ignorant of the efforts of EWB on our own campus. This being said, EWB – USC has been in existence for only three short years and in that time has blossomed from two or three dedicated students to two full-scale water supply/distribution projects near Marcala, Honduras. Their presence on campus has been largely unnoticed by the student body at large as well. In the summer of 2008 members of the EWB – USC and USC ASCE executive boards began talks of formalizing relationships between the two organizations to reflect the relationship that had already begun at the Society level. Unfortunately, this new relationship quickly shed light on a problem that is occurring at USC and in the surrounding engineering community at large.

The USC ASCE executive board voted to reimburse membership dues for members who became actively involved in the EWB – USC Projects. Moreover, they extended full access to USC ASCE's contacts and resources. This effort boosted membership from three to 60 members who became actively involved, providing all of the civil and structural expertise for the project which includes 1500m of pipeline, 1,200 cubic yards of excavation, three concrete structure including two in a river and the selection and installation of a water wheel pump to overcome the 80 meters of head difference between the low lying intake and the storage tank. Sadly, the majority of members of USC ASCE continued to focus on their projects, their schoolwork and life as a college student.

This lack of interest is not limited to students. It is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day hustle-and-bustle, worn down Monday through Friday by the grind of work. It is easy for many of us to forget the reason we became civil engineers was to help make the world a better place for generations to come. EWB – USC has now been through two Professional Engineers as mentors, and grows more desperate to find a Professional Engineer willing to travel to Honduras in the beginning of June. The design complete, grants in place and students ready to travel will be wasted for another year if the time frame before the rainy season begins is missed.

Recognizing this, the ASCE USC executive board has renewed its challenge to our members. Look outside of the coursework, the design projects, and the everyday stress to adopt a cause bigger than USC, bigger than Los Angeles, in fact, bigger than the United States. They have challenged their members to take Society level policy and adopt it as their own, recognizing that our ethical responsibility as engineers has grown to include the global community, not just the one around the block. They have challenged their members to be leaders among engineers in Los Angeles, that by their example, they might inspire the larger engineering community to give back more locally, nationally and internationally. Now the only question is: who will rise up and meet this challenge?

*Kyle Burnham is a junior majoring in Civil Engineering at the University of Southern California. He is President of the University of Southern California student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and plans to travel to Honduras in June to help oversee the implementation of the EWB – USC project there. USC ASCE can be contacted at [www.uscasce.com](http://www.uscasce.com) or [uscasce@usc.edu](mailto:uscasce@usc.edu). EWB – USC can be contacted at [ewb-usc.org](http://ewb-usc.org) or [ewb@usc.edu](mailto:ewb@usc.edu).*

# 2008 REGION 9 AWARDS WINNERS

## **Project of the Year**

40 Million Gallon Twin Oaks Reservoir No. 2  
San Diego Section  
Owner: Vallecitos Water District  
Engineer: Infrastructure Engineering Corp.

## **Geotechnical Project of the Year**

Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Project 2  
San Diego Section  
Owner: North County Transit District  
Engineer: Smion Wong Engineering

## **History & Heritage Project of the Year**

Tower Bridge Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements Program  
Sacramento Section  
Owner: City of Sacramento Dept. of Transportation  
Engineer: Parson Brinckerhoff

## **Structural Engineering Project of the Year**

Millennium Tower - 301 Mission Street  
San Francisco Section  
Owner: Millennium Partners  
Engineer: DeSimone Consulting Engineers

## **Architectural Project of the Year**

LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project  
Los Angeles Section  
Owner: County of Los Angeles  
Engineer: KPFF Consulting Engineers

## **Bridge Project of the Year**

Illinois Street Intermodal Bridge  
San Diego Chapter  
Owner: Port of San Francisco  
Engineer: Creegan + D'Angelo Engineers

## **Sustainable Technology Project of the Year**

Solara  
San Diego Section  
Owner: Community Housing Works  
Engineer: Nasland Engineering

## **Water Supply Project of the Year**

Coachella Canal Lining Project  
San Diego Section  
Owner: U.S. Dept. of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation  
Engineer: MWH in association with GEI Consultants, Inc.

## **Flood Control Project of the Year**

Bear River Setback Levee Project  
Sacramento Section  
Owner: Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority  
Engineer: GEI Consultants, Inc.

## **Land Development Project of the Year**

Del Sur Community at Black Mountain Ranch  
San Diego Section  
Owner: Black Mountain Ranch LLC  
Engineer: Rick Engineering Company

## **Transportation Project of the Year**

Cajon Pass Triple Track Project  
Los Angeles Section  
Owner: BNSF Railroad  
Engineer: URS Corporation

## **Riverfront Urban Transformation Project of the Year**

Centennial Plaza  
Sacramento Section  
Owner: City of Oroville  
Engineer: Green Valley Consulting Engineers

## **Transit Oriented Development Project of the Year**

Park to Bay Link Phase II/Smart Corner  
San Diego Section  
Owner: Centre City Development Corp.  
SANDAG  
Engineer: Nasland Engineering

## **Environmental Project of the Year and Small Project of the Year**

Cedar Creek Salmonid Brier Removal Project  
San Francisco Section  
Owner: California State Parks  
Engineer: Winzler & Kelly

## **Recycled Water Project of the Year**

Groundwater Replenishment System  
Los Angeles Section  
Owner: Orange County Water District  
Orange County Sanitation District  
Engineer: Camp Dresser and McKee

## **Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Private Sector**

Katherine Hon, P.E., Hon Consulting  
San Diego Section

## **Outstanding Engineer in Legislative Activities**

Mike Mohajer, P.E.  
Los Angeles Section

## **Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector**

Larry Smith, P.E.  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento Section

## **Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector**

Timothy Shell, P.E.  
City of Vista  
San Diego Section

## **Outstanding Civil Engineer in Community Service**

Jennifer Wheelis, P.E.  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento Section  
Lifetime Achievement Award  
Howard H. Chang, P.E.  
Change Consultants  
San Diego Section

## **Outstanding Life Member**

Pat O'Halloran, P.E.  
Sacramento Section

## **Outstanding Civil Engineer Faculty Advisor**

Gregg L. Fiegel, P.E.  
California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo  
Los Angeles Section

## **Outstanding ASCE Practitioner Advisor**

Thomas Poyer, P.E.  
Moffat & Nichol Engineers  
Los Angeles Section

## **Outstanding Younger Civil Engineer**

Fareed Pittalwala, P.E.  
RBF Consulting  
Sacramento Section

## **Outstanding ASCE Section Officer**

Martin Farber, P.E.  
Sacramento Section

## **Outstanding ASCE Branch Officer**

Karen Sepulveda  
Bob Hope Airport  
Los Angeles Section

## **Outstanding ASCE Younger Member Officer**

Kevin M. Gilton, P.E.  
Black & Veatch Corporation  
Sacramento Section

## **Outstanding ASCE Younger Member Officer**

Angela Juran, P.E.  
KPFF Consulting Engineers  
San Diego Section

## **Excellence in Journalism Award**

Steve Hymon  
Los Angeles Times

## **Outstanding Civil Engineering Student**

Colin Haynes  
University of California, San Diego  
San Diego Section

## **Outstanding Civil Engineering Student**

Joshua Wagner  
California State University, Sacramento  
Sacramento Section



Each time I look around, I see how the membership of our Section is impacting the lives of our society as well as our Society. We should remember that all of the groups in our Section are very active. In addition to our members serving in numerous local positions, both in and outside of ASCE, we have a number that serve at the Region and Society level in committees and other leadership positions. I am always impressed by the level of volunteerism that is seen within our Section. We also cannot forget that there are many that volunteer behind the scenes to get things done. People working hard to get a monument to a civil engineering landmark installed are all unsung heroes. In addition, there are those that participate in their local political organizations that we have to remember. In addition, let's not forget the veterans out there that have given so much for all of us.

The LA Section is a wonderful organization of volunteers, young and old, that makes our Society move forward. These folks also work closely with others to ensure that our society moves forward. When I see the fine work that all of you do, I realize that we not only build the quality of life in our careers, but we do so outside of our general working environment. We do so in retirement and as students. Thank you to all of you who continue to give, both above the board and below the board.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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## DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disasters under the auspicious of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES). Classes will be held in alternate 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 a charge of \$15 for the class.

The class begins at 9 or 10 and lasts 5 or 6 hours

Classes will be given for Volunteers to assess damage and /or Coordinators from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area of damage

To register for the class submit your name along with your Telephone number, Fax number, Zip code, and Email address. You will be contacted when 10 or more requests 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 contact person, phone, Fax, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support of the A S C E

Jack W. Rolston, Chair

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ascedisaster@earthlink.net

## THIRD ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

*continued from page 2*

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- Discretionary ARRA Funding:
  - Highways/Transit/Freight and Passenger Rail/Port Infrastructure \$1.5 billion
  - High Speed and Intercity Rail \$8 billion
  - AMTRAK \$1.3 billion
  - New Starts \$750 million
  - Aviation \$1.3 billion
  - Ferries and Other Programs \$900 million

There are certain time restrictions on using these funds where an agency may end up losing the money if the funds are not spent or obligated.

Blaine Leonard, ASCE President-Elect, was the luncheon speaker at the Symposium. He talked about ASCE's 2009 Infrastructure Report Card and possible solutions to raising the D grade that was reported. The Report Card has been cited in President Obama's FY 2010 Budget Proposal.

In the evening, a dinner was held for the 2008 Region Awards Winners. Jennifer Epp, Region 9 Governor-at-Large, moderated the program. The awards are outlined in this newsletter, with details provided in the ASCE Region 9 website (<http://region9.asce.org/awards.html>).

Several Sponsors helped with the Symposium. Their participation is appreciated. They are:

- APWA Southern California Chapter
- Akel Engineering Group, Inc.
- DiazüYourman & Associates
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
- RBF Consulting
- Psomas
- SA Associates
- Simon Wong Engineering
- TKE Engineering.

Members of the California Infrastructure Symposium Committee that helped organize the Symposium are:

- Karl E. Longley, Co-Chair, San Francisco Section, California Water Institute, CSUF
- Shahnawaz Ahmad, Co-Chair, Los Angeles Section, SA Associates
- Darren Adrian, Los Angeles Section, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
- Martin Farber, Sacramento Section
- Gary Gilbert, Los Angeles Section, DiazüYourman & Associates
- Harvey Gobas, Los Angeles Section, Psomas
- John Morris, P.E., Los Angeles Section, Morris Water Resources
- Fareed Pittalwala, Sacramento Section, RBF Consulting
- Don Sepulveda, Los Angeles Section, HNTB Corporation
- Larry Smith, Sacramento Section, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Find out the latest Section & Branch news @

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



METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES BRANCH  
YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM  
April 17<sup>th</sup> 2009, 4:30-9:00 PM at the  
Omni Los Angeles Hotel California Plaza



Civil Engineering Colleagues:

We are honored to have the privilege of inviting you to attend the American Society of Civil Engineers, Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch, Younger Member Forum (MLAB YMF) Student Night and Job Fair (SNJF). At this annual event the most stellar students are spotlighted from all of the Los Angeles area. Over 200 students will be attending from UCLA, USC, CSULA, CSUN, LMU, UCI, Cal Poly Pomona, CSUF, CSULB, and numerous other schools that are invited as well. They will arrive prepared, dressed professionally, and equipped to provide you the most efficient and effective method to represent your company.

We are well aware that hard times have fallen upon us, not just as an industry, but as a nation. However, we are solely responsible for the community that will rise from the adversity. Even if you are not hiring now, you will be in the near future. Even if you do not hire these students out of school, someone will, and you may be working with them either across a city/state/federal counter or on a similar project. You have the chance now, while they are fresh to establish a relationship and a good impression on the leaders of tomorrow. So when you do need employees they will look back and remember how impressed they were by YOU on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

There are three levels of sponsorship available to enhance your marketability. Platinum, Gold option 1, and Gold option 2. Each of which are detailed below:

Platinum (4 representatives maximum) \$1000 Sponsorship

- 1 premier banquet table with your logo, for your representatives and students
- 1 premier career fair table
- A resume collection of the students from attending schools
- Beverage coupons
- Sponsorship on [www.mlab-ymf.org](http://www.mlab-ymf.org) and 3 months job posting
- Free Parking for your representatives

Gold Option 1 (2 representatives maximum) \$600 Sponsorship

- 1 career fair table
- A resume collection of the students from attending schools
- Free Parking for your representatives

Gold Option 2 (2 representatives maximum) \$600 Sponsorship

- 1 banquet table with your logo, for your representatives and students
- A resume collection of the students from attending schools
- Free Parking for your representatives

We encourage you to sponsor this event for these students that have worked hard to reach this point in their life. The real reward for them is not only the awards they receive, but your support and attendance. We also have an option for a one person dinner if you just like to attend and interact with the students at this great event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you,

Julie Kentosh  
MLAB YMF  
2009 Student Night & Job Fair Co-Chairs

Erik Hoffman  
MLAB YMF  
2009 Student Night & Job Fair Co-Chairs

## KPFF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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### For Los Angeles:

Ms. Krystle Tabangcura  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
 6080 Center Drive, Ste 300  
 Los Angeles, CA 90045  
 Ph: 310- 665-1536  
 Fx: 310-665-9070  
 Email: [ktabangcura@kpff-la.com](mailto:ktabangcura@kpff-la.com)

### For Pasadena:

Ms. Tamara Kealty  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
 301 N. Lake Avenue, Ste 550  
 Pasadena, CA 91101  
 Ph: 626-578-1121  
 Fx: 626-578-9121  
 Email: [tkealty@kpff-pas.com](mailto:tkealty@kpff-pas.com)

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## 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.

## Semi-Retired Civil Engineer

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