

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

ORANGE / SAN_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN_LUIS_OBISPO / SANTA_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT / SOUTHERN SAN_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

"I've always felt it was not up to anyone else to make me give my best."

— Akeem Olajuwon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Neil D. Morrison, P.E.
President, Los Angeles Section, ASCE

We Need to Pay More Attention to the Children

Congratulations to the San Bernardino/Riverside Branch for joining the Los Angeles Section and Orange County Branch in producing a well prepared and meaningful Infrastructure Report for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Having participated in the preparation of the original Orange County Infrastructure Report, I am aware of the monumental effort and planning that goes into such a project. Again, congratulations to all of those who participated.

One of the great things about being a civil engineer in Southern California is being able to look around and see all of the amazing things civil engineers have done or are doing to improve our lives by improving our communities. Civil engineers are problem solvers extraordinaire and, as such, are sorely needed to help make a course correction in priorities related to education, including its infrastructure.

Just look at the grades given to public school systems throughout Southern California: Inland Empire, C+ and Orange County, D+, If we can't convince our elected leaders to spend the money to fix our infrastructure, how will we, as civil engineers, be able to convince future generations to spend money on infrastructure, after so many have had to spend their school years in broken-down facilities?

We are told that we spend on educating our young citizens—our future leaders—only one-fourth of the amount spent to incarcerate individuals in this State's prisons. What is wrong with this picture? The average K-12 schoolteacher makes about the same salary as that of a civil engineering graduate with less than two years experience, and most teachers have a minimum of five years of college, a certificate, continuing education credits, and at least five years experience. Teachers are the people we entrust our children to all day, five days a week, for nine to ten months of the year. While I believe that civil engineers are worth every penny they're paid, I also think that schoolteachers are worth a whole lot more than they are paid. School administrators and the State of California can and must do a much better job in providing our children a good learning environment, and be a little more creative in teaching our children to value learning, and aspire to higher education.

In more affluent areas of California, it seems that local and State education officials rely on their knowledge that many parents will make additional sacrifices to assure their children's education, and so feel comfortable cutting programs to cut costs and reduce budgets while hoping for parents to come to the rescue. Education is on the line and, along with it, the future of civil engineering and other professional livelihoods.

The enrollment of civil engineering students in universities across our nation has been decreasing, I am told, but there is a corresponding influx of civil engineers from outside the country, and outsourcing of work to civil engineers abroad. Is this because we are not doing a good enough job of preparing our K-12 students to pursue higher education and earn professional degrees; and is there any relation between that and the poor condition of our school facilities? Classrooms are

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the April 2005 newsletter is March 1, 2005; copy deadline for May 2005 issue is April 1, 2005.



PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

By

Tony Antich, City Engineer
City of Santa Monica, California

and

Joyce Klenner, J.A.K. Networks Unlimited

This is the eleventh in a series of articles dealing with keys to successful project management of a public works project. A status report is to be completed on a regular periodic basis by the Project Manager to keep information on the project schedule and budget current and easily accessible. It is important that the Project Manager takes a collaborative approach to the information collected and is responsive to the problems and concerns of the Client Department. It is equally important to provide proper and accurate information.

The Project Manager should review the dates for the following events to assist in completing the Project Status Report. Typically, items included in the report are:

Environmental Review: This date should be marked "N/A" for a project determined to require a Categorical Exemption or have the date listed that the final Negative Declaration or EIR is to be completed.

Design & Design Review Complete: Date of signature/approval of Final Plans by the Client. This date takes into account time for corrections of plans after the review.

Preparing Bid Documents & Final Review Complete: Date of approval of final, corrected set of Bid Documents by the Client. This date takes into account time for corrections after the review.

City Attorney/City Manager Review Complete: Date of signature approval of Bid Documents by the City Attorney, followed by the City Manager's signature.

Advertisement: Dates of publication of the Notice Inviting Bids.

Bids Due: Date established for receiving and opening construction bids of a project.

Award by City Council: Date the City Council awards the contract to the contractor. General Law cities award to the lowest responsible bidder. Some may be aware that the law recently was clarified by the state legislator by defining the term "responsible bidder". State of California, Public Contract Code § 1103 states "Responsible bidder," as used in this part, means a bidder who has **demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the public works contract.**

Project Schedule: This is sometime presented in the form of a bar chart or milestones.

Monies Paid to the Contractor: This includes the project accounting, monies paid to date, change order status, etc.

Notice to Proceed: Date the notice was issued.

Scheduled Completion: Date of completion of project construction, including completion of all work per the Contract Documents and submittals of all outstanding certified payrolls and other labor compliance documents, unless otherwise approved by the Client Department.

Project Closeout and Audit: Date following completion of work on which the following items are complete (the number of days are those required, from the date of the Notice of Completion to project closeout,

continued on page 3

EDITORIAL

Our Infrastructure Needs

I just came from a meeting the other day where we received an overall outlook of where transportation dollars are generally heading. Unfortunately, we were told, the prospect of getting additional funds for future transportation projects will diminish as these have become scarce from both Federal and State sources. So bad is this situation that there is no guarantee that any of the upcoming and planned transportation projects will ever push through.

In general, transportation and much needed infrastructure projects have not been given much attention lately and despite high profile publicity of needs through "Infrastructure Report Cards" by ASCE and its Sections and Branches, the issue always boils down to, which sectors should be prioritized for funding. It is a toss-up and I could not agree more that education needs the dollars right now. However, in this ever-dynamic world of funds juggling, when a certain sector is left unfunded for a very long time, like infrastructure development, then the overall return from funding other sectors, such as education, is reduced.

Everyone needs money but should we allow ourselves to get taxed more to increase government revenues. Some say cutting spending is the answer. But in our case, we already have or are in the process of cutting deeper. Some say it does not really matter, as any increase in government revenues or additional cuts will translate to more money available for the Middle East anyway. Who is saying that our local needs are as important as foreign spending? The flow of money in support of others (not Americans) does not really justify a positive answer to that question.

Please do not get me wrong in this commentary. I realize the funding issue is much more complicated than this and there is no panacea that will quickly resolve any of our funding issues. This forum is also not the most appropriate venue to discuss solutions to such issues. Why bring it up then? Simply because of the human element associated with unfunded priorities. All of us suffer, one way or another if a necessary infrastructure project remains unfunded, and thus unfulfilled. No one wants to be the recipient of any bad news associated with the same. But hey, given the current financial crisis across the board and the litany of bleak projections, we can surely spare another one.

Here's hoping for the best. Enjoy this month's issue.

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

Younger Member Forum (YMF)

Everyone is welcome to attend our upcoming events!!

SB/RC YMF General Meeting, 3/7/05, Riverside, CA

LA YMF Board Meeting, 3/8/05, Alhambra, CA

OC YMF Board Meeting, 3/15/05, Irvine, CA

LA YMF Speaker Series, 3/22/05, TBD

Pacific Southwest Regional Conference, 3/31/05 ~ 4/02/05,
Cal State Fullerton

SB/RC YMF Speaker Series, TBD

Contact Greg Sommer at gsommer@ladpw.org to be added to the Younger Member e-mail distribution list and receive announcement on all upcoming YMF events, tours, and other activities.

Please visit our websites:

LA YMF - <http://www.asce-laymf.org/>

OC YMF - http://www.ascelasection.org/ymf_main.cfm?ID=9

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President's Message *continued*

overcrowded; many classes must be held in portable "trailers" or rundown school rooms, without enough books, computers and supplies. Is it any wonder that many see education in other countries as being superior, and a much higher priority than it is here, and that parents in other countries demand more of their children when it comes to study and preparing for the future?

What can we do? Let's get some civic-minded and creative civil engineers to run for school board seats. Let's try to get the priorities straight once again for the sake of our children's education, their future, and the nation's future.

P.S. Congratulations to Dick Hunsaker, who, after more years than I can count, hung it up this past December.

PROJECT STATUS REPORTS *continued from page 3*

to complete the following):

- Notice of Completion (recorded and returned from the County Recorder).
- All Stop Notices have been resolved.
- Retention payment has been made. If the Contractor requests a reduction in the retention amount make sure that you get the consent of the City Attorney's office.
- The project files have been filed in the specific project folders.
- All expenditures from the project account have been documented, remaining funds unencumbered, the Client Department notified of remaining funds, and the accounts closed.

Total Calendar Days: Summation of calendar days from the date of "Start Work" to the date of project closeout.

Days Ahead/Behind: List the number of calendar days which the project is ahead or behind schedule.

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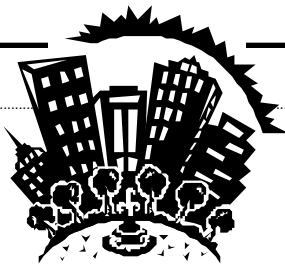
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Dear Colleague:

The Engineering and Technology Committee of the APWA Southern California Chapter is pleased to announce the **6th Annual, 2005 Streets & Technology Conference**. The conference is designed to bring the latest developments in street maintenance and technology in a day of workshops at an affordable price. This event has proven to be very successful in the past. The conference will take place in the City of Carson at the Community Center, 801 East Carson Street, in Carson on Wednesday, April 13th between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and will feature opportunities for vendor exhibits. Take advantage of this excellent opportunity to talk to your peers, suppliers, consultants and representatives from professional associations.

Three seminar tracks –

- Pavement Maintenance
- Sidewalk Maintenance
- Fleet Services
- Productivity & Performance Mgmt.
- Prevailing Wages for PW Contracts
- Breakdown & Specifics to Prepare Professional Service Contracts
- Are you ready for the next natural disaster?
- NPDES
- ADA

Streets & Technology 2005 is a conference organized by the Southern California Chapter, American Public Works Association geared to provide information to solve everyday problems. This is your opportunity to network with your peers, to hear others with the same problems and what they have done to solve them. There will be a drawing for door prizes at the end of the event. The speakers are selected by their field of expertise and experience. Presentations focus on successful, practical ideas that have been tested and implemented.

To request additional information or a copy of our flyer, please contact Sylvia Robles at (714) 647-5674 or email at srobles@ci.santa-ana.ca.us. **Early registration fee is \$135.00 if paid by April 1, 2005. Late registration fee is \$150.00.** The fee includes lunch and material handouts.

If you are interested in speaking on any of these topics, please contact Dean Lehman at (323) 776-7552 or email at dlehman@dpw.co.la.ca.us.

We look forward to seeing you at Streets & Technology 2005.

REGISTRATION FORM

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Mail completed form to: Sylvia Robles
Santa Ana Public Works Agency
20 Civic Center Plaza, M-21
P.O. Box 1988
Santa Ana, CA 92702



ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

**Orange County Branch
ASCE Seminar
Water Quality Management Plan Update
Friday, March 4, 2005
8 AM to 12 PM**

PRESENTERS:

Ruby Maldonado, Sr. Staff Analyst
County of Orange, RDMD

Lea Umnas, Planner IV
County of Orange, RDMD

Grant Sharp, NPDES Coordinator
County of Orange, RDMD

Richard Haimann, P.E., Sr. Regional Mgr.
Stormwater Management, Inc.

Ken Susilo, P.E., CPSWQ
GeoSyntec Consultants

This 4-hour seminar will cover:

- What is a WQMP?
- Why is a WQMP required?
- How do you prepare a WQMP?
- Case study of what can happen when things go wrong
- Project examples illustrating key strategies and elements of effective WQMPs
- Various available proprietary & non proprietary structural post construction BMPs, their methods of pollutant removal, general effectiveness & applicability
- Sizing of Treatment control BMPs

When: Friday, March 4, 2005

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Save the Date!
SAVE THE DATE!**

Friday, March 4, 2005

Where: Orange County Social Services Bdg.
1337 Braden Court
Orange, CA 92868

Car Pooling is encouraged because of limited parking

**Cost: \$90.00 per person with paid reservations by
Monday, February 21, 2005**

\$100.00 after February 21, 2005

Get your reservations in early! SPACE IS LIMITED!

The proceeds of the seminar will be donated to support ASCE Student Chapter at CSULB, CSUF, and UCI, and to Student Scholarships

**Water Quality Management Plan Update
March 4, 2005**

Make checks payable to ASCE, Orange County

Please fill in the following information below and **mail with check to:**

**Sam Ali / Martha Woodworth
Pomas**

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Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Title: _____ Years of Experience: _____

Type of Work you do? _____

SAVE THE DATE:

ASCE Metro Los Angeles Branch March 2005 Meeting Presentation on the City of Los Angeles' Santa Monica Blvd Transit Parkway Project

The Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project is a \$70 million reconstruction and reconfiguration of 2.5 miles of Santa Monica Boulevard between I-405 on the west (Beloit Avenue) and the Beverly Hills city limit on the east (Moreno Drive). The new boulevard will have three eastbound and three westbound travel lanes. The project includes a new street lighting and traffic signal system, a landscaped median, bicycle lanes and bus priority features. Additionally, the on-ramps to the northbound and southbound I-405 Freeway will be improved by adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) bypass lanes onto the freeway.

Date: March 24, 2005

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Location: Plummer Park Community Center
7377 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood

\$5 for snacks and beverages

RSVP: Sharon Perlstein at spperlstein@weho.org
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 Typesetting & Layout: The Center Quickprint



Please send all copy to the Editor by the first of the month preceding publication.

Identification Statement

ASCE Newsletter, (ISSN 0273-6233) is published monthly by ASCE, Los Angeles Section, 1405 Warner Avenue, Tustin, California 92780. Subscription price included in Section dues of \$45.

Circulation

Circulated monthly (except for a joint July/August issue) to the 5,000 subscribing members of the Los Angeles Section, ASCE.

Advertising Rates (NEW RATES)

EMPLOYMENT ADS	DISPLAY ADS
\$75/column inch	1/8 page \$150
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 L.A. Section web site at: www.ascelasection.org

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 U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT NO. 1441
 SANTA ANA, CA

Los Angeles Section
 Monthly: Est. 1913
 1405 WARNER AVE.
 TUSTIN, CA 92780

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