

Los Angeles Section

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Norton, P.E.
Section President



Are You Earthquake Prepared?

On May 12, 2008, one of the largest earthquakes in 30 years hit Sichuan province in China. The earthquake was measured by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) with a Richter scale magnitude of 7.9. The earthquake was felt as far away as Beijing (930 mi away) and Shanghai (1060 mi away) as well as nearby countries. The tremor left 69,016 dead and

368,545 injured and over 4.8 million people homeless as of June 1st. The major Sichuan earthquake was followed by several aftershocks in late May in the region causing many additional deaths, thousands of injuries and destroyed buildings in nearby provinces.

As we reflect on the devastation and loss of life of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, we may ask ourselves, being in prime earthquake country as well, have we done all we can to be prepared? Recently, my office decided to go through an hour of staff retraining on what should be done in case of a major earthquake in Southern California. I found the refresher helpful and even shared various websites showing earthquake training videos with my family. This issue is of particular importance to us here in California as we hear the results of a 2007 report entitled the Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast that was prepared by a multi-disciplinary collaboration of scientists and engineers including the USGS, CA Geological Survey and Southern California Earthquake Center. This report developed the first comprehensive framework for comparing earthquake likelihoods throughout all of California. It provides important new information for improving seismic safety engineering, revising building codes, setting insurance rates, and helping communities prepare for inevitable future earthquakes.

The results from the forecast were startling. California has a 99.7% chance of having a magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake during the next 30 years. The likelihood of an even more powerful quake of magnitude 7.5 or greater in the next 30 years is 46%. Such a quake is more likely to occur in the southern half of the state (37% chance in 30 years) than in the northern half (15% chance in 30 years). The probability of a magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake over the next 30 years striking the greater Los Angeles area is 67%. For the entire California region, the fault with the highest probability of generating at least one magnitude 6.7 quake or larger is the southern San Andreas (59% in the next 30 years). Events of this size can be deadly, as shown by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (magnitude 6.9) which killed 67 people and injured over 3,700, and 1994 Northridge earthquake (magnitude 6.7) which killed 72 people and injured over 12,000.

As civil engineers, we are well versed in understanding the impact of seismic forces. And as any registered professional engineer knows in California, the State deemed that this issue was important enough, that no matter what branch of civil engineering you practice, that all civil engineers must pass a seismic principles test in order to become registered as a professional engineer. But after passing the test, what more can we do to be prepared to serve in the event of an earthquake? Answer: Become a Disaster Service Worker Volunteer.

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Sept. 2008 issue is Aug. 1, 2008; copy deadline for Oct. 2008 issue is Sept. 1, 2008.



EDITORIAL

Hello Summer

We will not be around in the next two months. However, that does not mean that we would not be doing anything. Your newsletter and Section staff members will be busy this summer planning for the next fiscal year. This is necessary in order to ensure continuity of the ideas and programs that we began this year.

In this issue, our Section President Mark Norton, P.E. reminds us of the reality of living in California, specifically in Southern California. Earthquakes happen everyday, however, we need to be aware that we live in an area where strong ones like those most recently in China could occur. Preparation is imperative. In addition, we can also help during such a disaster by volunteering as a Disaster Service Worker. Information on becoming a Disaster Service Worker has been included in our newsletter almost every month. We hope you would be able to join us one day to become one.

We are also encouraging Section Members to nominate their employers if they have been very supportive of your involvement with ASCE in general and your Los Angeles Section in particular. Additional information on the 2008 Younger Member Employer Recognition Award is outlined in the article on this topic. We need to acknowledge and give gratitude to those who provide an avenue for our success.

The results are in. Mr. Jay Higgins, P.E., current Section Secretary, has won the election for Section President-Elect. Although his term for the position will only be for a year, his commitment as a leader of our Section actually extends for another two years as he will automatically transition to President, then Past-President in the succeeding two years. Quite challenging, but he is more than qualified to do so. Congratulations, again!

Finally, don't forget to cast in your ballots for the ASCE National and Regional elections. This year's candidates need your votes. Additional information on how to vote and where to learn about the candidates is outlined in this issue.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter in your hammock!

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

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.

Recognize Your Employer's Support

The Committee on Younger Members (CYM) is pleased to solicit nominations for the 2008 Younger Member Employer Recognition Award. The Employer Recognition Award was created to recognize employers who acknowledge that young engineers are today's leaders in the profession and provide support for and assistance with their personal development.

CYM will also award a Superior Employer Recognition Award to the nominee that best displays exemplary support of young engineers in their organizations. A list of winning organizations will be submitted for publication in ASCE News and included in the Younger Member Newsletter.

Nominations must be postmarked by August 1, 2008. The nomination form which describes the award in detail may be accessed on ASCE's website at http://www.asce.org/files/doc/2008_Employer_Recognition.doc.

Section President-Elect Election Results

The election hard copy results have been tallied by our independent Teller Committee, composed of Garvin Pederson and Larry Lewis of the Life Member Forum, and certified by Gayle Stewart. The election electronic votes have also been compiled and delivered by our independent consultant, Lydia Chiu Pooler of JubJub Inc. The total results are as follows:

	Greg Heiertz	Jay Higgins
Electronic Ballots	57	78
Paper Ballots	44	85
Total Votes	101	163

Based on these results, **Jay Higgins** received the majority of votes and has been elected to the office of President-Elect. He will begin his term on October 1, 2008.

On behalf of the ASCE Los Angeles Section, we extend our congratulations to Jay Higgins. We also extend our appreciation to Greg Heiertz in participating in the election process, to the Teller Committee members and ASCE Section staff for assisting in this important process, and all those who took the time to vote.

Mark R. Norton P.E. F.ASCE
President, ASCE LA Section

ASCE's 2008
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Drive Depends on You!

DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers under the auspices of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to help in the event of a major disaster. 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 please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman. The class lasts 5-6 hours and the cost is \$15. Classes are midweek and start at 9 or 10 AM.

To register for the class, submit your name along with your telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and zip code. You will be contacted when 10 or more individuals request a class. The maximum number in a 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. The class should have at least 10 and not more than about 20.

Thank you for your support of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Jack W. Rolston

Chair, Disaster Preparedness Committee, ASCE L.A. Section
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Election '08 Is Under Way for ASCE National, Regional Races

Set aside the presidential battle between Barack Obama and John McCain for now and devote some time to studying and casting your vote for ASCE's leadership at the national and local levels in 2009. From National President-Elect and Technical Region Directors to Region Directors and Governors, get to know who's running, their backgrounds and qualifications, and their visions for what they intend to accomplish during their year's tenure. While a number of races are uncontested, several are not. Help ASCE have the best people in place for what promises to be a fascinating year. View the Region contests that matter to you and size up the nominees, then go to the secure online ballot site to cast your vote.

The election site is <https://www.directvote.net/ASCE>. Only voting members with a valid e-mail address on record will receive an electronic signature via e-mail starting **June 15**. If you are eligible to vote and have not received an electronic signature, you may contact ASCE Customer Service at **800-548-ASCE (2723)** and request that one be provided. No electronic signatures may be provided on the phone, so a valid e-mail address is needed. Election ballots have also been included in the June issue of ASCE News.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

If you are a professional engineer in California, I would encourage you to take a half day training class to be a volunteer Disaster Service Worker offered through the Safety Assessment Program administered by State of California's Governor's Office of Emergency Services. In essence, by taking this course, you can help emergency services ascertain whether any habitable structure can be reentered permanently, temporarily or not at all due to the high level of danger.

I took this class back in August of 2007 along with Rich Haller, past Section President.

I initially had some concerns since I am not a structural engineer and thought it might be over my head in taking this class. However, the class is very easy to understand with informative training manuals and guidelines based in laymen's terms. By taking this class, you are placed on a list of volunteers who may be called in time of a disaster. Typically, you will be only called to help areas far removed from where you live since if an earthquake hits your own community, your priorities will be most likely be the safety of your own families and friends. As a Disaster Service Worker, you may be asked to come to a disaster location away from where you live for up to three days. Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the service so there is very little out of pocket expense. Don't worry about forgetting some of what you are taught, refresher training sessions are provided to all volunteers prior to being deployed.

Having gone through this class and after doing all we can to be prepared in our homes and places of businesses, let's utilize our training as civil engineers to be prepared to serve. I encourage all registered civil engineers in the Los Angeles Section to sign up soon to become a Disaster Service Worker Volunteer. If you would like to attend a class or would like to host an event in your YMF, Branch or student chapter, contact the ASCE LA Section Emergency Preparedness officer, Jack Rolston. He can be reached at ascedisaster@earthlink.net. Also, we are looking for interested registered civil engineers to become trainers in the State of California Safety Assessment Program. All it takes is an 8-hour class. Let me know if you are interested. Together we can be there when it counts.



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Late registration fee of \$50 due after August 08, 2008.

DATE

Course Introduction, Thursday 8/21/08

Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

8/26/08 thru 10/09/08

(All students must attend the introduction)

TIME

6:30 ~ 9:30 pm

LOCATION

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Desired Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or related field, California professional registration or ability to obtain within six months, a minimum of 7 years of design/project management experience, and AutoCAD experience.

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- Plan, organize, assign, implement, and manage engineering projects in accordance with budget and schedule requirements;
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- Support development of work plans, safety guidelines, maintenance requirements, and operational needs for design projects;
- Participate in the engineering configuration management process to maintain current engineering records for bus and rail facilities and systems; reviews contract documents for compliance with design codes and standards, design criteria, and policies and procedures;

Requirements: BA degree in Civil Engineering and five years of professional transit engineering experience. California License as a PE is required and CA registration as a SE is desired. To apply, call Metro at (213) 922-7153 or go to www.metro.net. Bulletin #003806-035. Salary Range \$74,838 - \$93,538 - \$112,237 plus a 4% increase effective July 1, 2008. The recruitment will remain open until the position is filled. EOE.



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