

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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"In the face of uncertainty, there is nothing wrong with hope."

— O. Carl Simonton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rich Haller, P.E.
Section President



On behalf of the Los Angeles Section Board I'd like to wish you a **Happy Engineers Week (February 19 – 25)!!** Each year, the National Engineers Week Foundation (www.eweek.org) in conjunction with over 100 societies and corporations including ASCE, organizes a week to promote the engineering profession. In the spirit of the week, I would like to encourage your participation in activities publicizing civil engineering including our accomplishments, opportunities and future needs. Some specific ideas for your consideration:

- Talk about exciting civil engineering career opportunities to pre-college students;
- Make a presentation about CE accomplishments to a local group;
- Write a letter to the editor or an article for a local newspaper;
- Discuss infrastructure needs in your local community.

Two exciting Section activities are being conducted in conjunction with Engineers Week, the **New Life Member Induction Luncheon (February 25th)** and Region 9's (all four California Sections) **2nd Annual Legislative Day (February 22nd)**. I will be honored to participate in the induction of new life members. This important event recognizes the careers and accomplishments of our most experienced members. **Please plan on attending!** I hope our new inductees will be active in ASCE to mentor younger members and guide the profession in the future. We have a number of critical infrastructure issues facing the state requiring your participation to solve.

Our Legislative Day will deliver critical infrastructure messages to our local legislators. With the combined energy from four sections, we will meet in Sacramento with state senators and assembly representatives from around the state to discuss "message points" and advocate for infrastructure programs and funding. A few points for you to consider:

- During the 1950's & 60's, 15 to 20% or \$150/person/year of the general fund was dedicated to infrastructure. California was the nation's infrastructure model. Today less than 2% or \$20/person/year is spent resulting in California being rated near the bottom nationally.
- According to California Rebuild Coalition, "Every \$1 spent today saves as much as five times that amount in just a few years."
- For every \$1 billion spent on infrastructure, 40,000 high paying jobs are created.
- Every \$1 spent on infrastructure creates \$4 for California's economy.
- According to the U.S. EPA, "The cost of protecting water quality from degradation is one tenth (1/10) to one hundredth (1/100) the cost of cleanup."
- According to the Automobile Club of Southern California, "... drivers spend between 50 and 140 hours a year stuck in traffic jams as a cost of up to \$2,500 in wasted time and fuel."

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the March 2006 issue is February 1, 2006; copy deadline for April 2006 issue is March 1, 2006.



Engineers Get Ready

With California's Governor recognizing the need for new infrastructure throughout the state, engineers in general should be getting ready for the influx of new public projects in the near future. ASCE National, and the Los Angeles Section in particular, have been advocating this message in the last few years. It is about time that someone has heeded the call. It is about time that someone recognizes the problems a lot of us engineers have tried to get attention to. It is about time that we renew these infrastructures!

We celebrate this month Engineer's Week. As our Section President has indicated in his message, we are celebrating this week with two very important events: New Life Member Induction Luncheon and the 2nd Annual Legislative Day. The first event helps us remember our achievements of the past. The Life Member Inductees themselves serve as inspirations for the future. With the new infrastructure and development directions provided by the California Governor, we as Civil Engineers would be of utmost influence to our State Legislators to convince them of the value of this new direction relative to the approval of bonds to finance the projects. There are of course conflicting ideas regarding the issuance of these bonds. However, how effective could it be if the actual people who will be designing and building these infrastructure projects speak out? We offer great credibility on a controversial item.

In this issue, we are enclosing a tear out postcard for you to send back to me. As we have indicated in the past, we want to transition to an electronic version of this newsletter. However, past that transition, we want to continue sending paper copies of the newsletter to subscribing members who prefer paper copies. We are working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible. We need your support to make this a reality. An article is included on the same page as the postcard outlining the instructions for filling out the postcard and the implications of not sending back any response.

Finally, we have seen a resurgence in advertising from firms outside of the Los Angeles Section. This is very positive news! Not only does this increase the visibility of our current advertisers, but most importantly increases the visibility of our Section and its activities.

Have a safe February to all. Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

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

ASCE's 2006

Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

Having participated last year, I know first hand that ASCE is not known by our legislators. Our long term goal is to become a non-partisan advocate for infrastructure, viewed as the "go-to" source for accurate information. Our work will be consistent with the policies established by the ASCE National Board and the limits placed on a non-profit 501(c)3 agency. **Help make this the year of infrastructure by getting involved!** We are still seeking individuals to establish and maintain contact with the local office of each senator and assembly representative within the Section. Contact Michael Thornton, P.E., M. ASCE (mthornton@tkeengineering.com) if interested.

Another way to be involved and grow as a civil engineer is through **participation in a local community board or committee**. Speaking from personal experience as a City of Highland Planning Commissioner, this is a tremendously rewarding experience. I have learned about the land use planning process and how it should interface with infrastructure planning, and the importance of public participation in this process. I've enjoyed discussing issues such as "no growth", "smart growth", sustainability, the General Plan Housing Element, "low income housing", rental properties, no "through streets", "walls" at city boundaries, etc. I would like to encourage civil engineers to participate in the process. **I would also like to learn of those who are already serving on local community boards and committees so experiences can be shared.**

Looking forward to seeing you in Sacramento February 22nd, and at Monterey Hill Steakhouse in Monterey Park February 25th for the new Life Member induction luncheon!



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The Los Angeles Section

Cordially Invites You and Your Spouse to

Life Member Brunch

February 25, 2006

In Honor of those members who have advanced to Life Member status in the society and in recognition of their career achievements.

Keynote Speaker:

ASCE National President, Dennis R. Martenson, P.E., F.ASCE

Members & Guests: \$25.00 per person

Table Sponsor: \$250.00 (4 seats for Sponsor & 6 for Honored Life Members)

Reception: 11:00am Brunch: 11:30am Program: 12:30 – 2:00pm

Reservation must be received no later than Friday, February 10.

<p><i>Monterey Hill Steakhouse</i> 3700 W. Ramona Blvd. Monterey Park, CA 91754 323-264-8426</p>	<p><i>For reservations, please send checks to:</i> <i>ASCE, Los Angeles Section</i> 1405 Warner Avenue Tustin, CA 92780</p>
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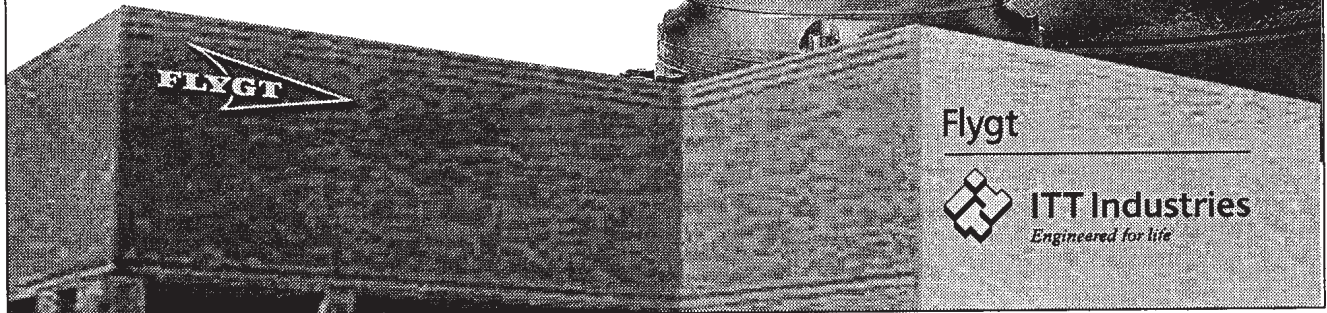
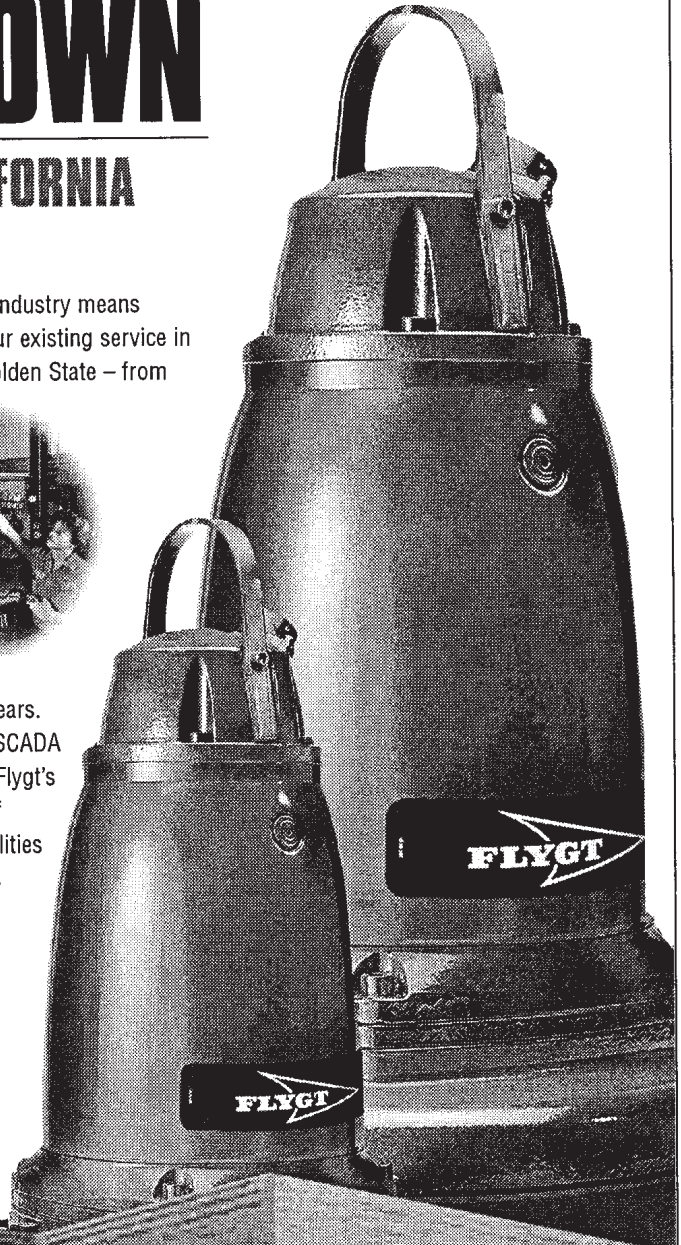
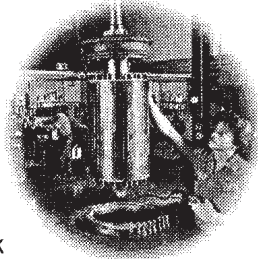
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Registration fee includes seminar, reference materials, continental breakfast, lunch, break refreshments, and hotel parking. Class size is limited; early registration is advised. On-site registration will be on a space available basis. Gregg In Situ, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any seminar. If a course must be cancelled, a full refund will be issued. If registrant is unable to attend, a charge of \$75.00 for any cancellation within 10 business days of the seminar will be assessed. No refund for cancellation within three business days of the seminar will be offered. Notice of cancellation or substitution must be submitted in writing, listing attendee name and seminar date.

Newsletter Transition: Postcard Response Instructions

We begin in this issue the initial steps of our effort to transition to the electronic form of the Los Angeles Section Monthly Newsletter. For the next three issues (including this one), you will see a postcard with a question asking if you want to continue receiving the paper copy of the newsletter. You could respond on the affirmative or negative. A non-response means that you do not want to continue receiving the paper copy of the newsletter.

If you checked the "No" response in the postcard or if you do not respond at all in the next three months, you will receive instead of the newsletter, a hardcopy postcard every month indicating the posting of the newsletter on the Los Angeles Section Website (www.ascelasection.org). At the same time, you will also receive an e-mail indicating where you can download or read a copy of that month's newsletter. We will use your e-mail address on file from ASCE National or any other e-mail address you specify for us to send you the electronic information.

We anticipate some challenges as we go through this transition. However, we want to assure you that we are doing our best to reduce if not eliminate those challenges during this three-month phase.

Please free to contact Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E., ASCE Los Angeles Section Monthly Newsletter Editor, for any questions or comments. He can be reached at cliban@UCLAlumni.net or (213) 922-2471.

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, 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.

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 sufficient number of applicants request a class.

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 American Society of Civil Engineers

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Los Angeles Section

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Who Should Attend?

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Conference Information

Location: Long Beach Convention Center
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2006
Time: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Cost: \$45.00

Program Topics

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- Emerging Southern California Jobs
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ANNOUNCEMENT

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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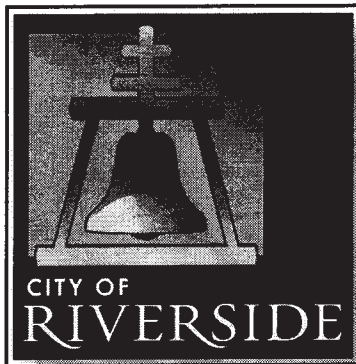
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