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GUEST ARTICLE

The Roadmap to Strategic Planning Political Engagement, Elections, and Other Strategic Topics

By Richard Haller, P.E., M.ASCE, Region 9 Governor-at-Large



ASCE published "The Vision for Civil Engineering 2025" (Vision 2025) which resulted in the following bold vision: "Entrusted by society to create a sustainable world and enhance the global quality of life, civil engineers serve competently, collaboratively, and ethically as:

- master planners, designers, constructors, and operators of society's economic and social engine – the built environment;
- stewards of the natural environment and its resources;
- innovators and integrators of ideas and technology across the public, private, and academic sectors;
- managers of risk and uncertainty caused by natural events, accidents, and other threats; and
- leaders in discussions and decisions shaping public environmental and infrastructure policy.

How will we develop engineers and the profession to meet these aggressive goals? That process was defined in the just published "Achieving the Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025, A Roadmap for the Profession" (Roadmap). The Roadmap is defined by a series of supporting results for each of the desired Vision 2025 statement outcomes. The Vision 2025 and Roadmap documents will be the focus of future ASCE activities and is being implemented in part through the strategic planning process. Document electronic copies can be found at <http://content.asce.org/vision2025/>.

The 18,000 ASCE members in California are part of Region 9. The Region 9 Board of Governors coordinates issues with the Society Board and the four Sections (Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco). I am the ASCE Region 9 Strategic Management Coordinator, serving as a corresponding member of ASCE's Strategic Planning Committee and it is my job to participate in the new, streamlined strategic planning process coordinating with Region 9 members and providing specific input to the Committee. The process, which is focused on ongoing delivery of value to members, consists of identifying and defining strategic issues, Society Board prioritization of issues and definition of desired outcomes, local (Branch, Committee, etc.) development of actions to achieve desired outcomes, budgeting by the Board for strategic priorities, and periodic progress checks of the process and results. This entire process is fast paced and will ensure efforts are focused on Vision 2025. To date the following seven priorities have been identified:

Professional Strategies

Infrastructure
Competency
Role of the Civil Engineer
Sustainability

Association Strategies

Competition
Student Transition
Leader Involvement

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Be Involved!

As I write this, we are about to end our spring and begin our summer months. The challenges that are around us are still here: oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, economic issues, Europe, state budget deficit, unemployment, among others. But what makes these challenges exciting, in my opinion, is that they temper us. They make us more resourceful and more thoughtful of how we need to do things to go in the right direction. We control our own destiny, BUT, we need a roadmap to help us get there.

Our guest article is from Rich Haller, P.E., former Los Angeles Section President and currently Region 9 Governor-at-Large. Rich's article on the Society's vision for the future [i.e., The Vision for Civil Engineering 2025] not only provides that insight on a roadmap for a successful organization, profession, and society; but also challenges us to be involved in the implementation of these strategies at the local level. "Be engaged!...Be involved!", he says.

In this context, we provide you with a snapshot of what Sacramento has been doing in the past few months. While some of the pieces of legislation that we mention may have already been acted on by the State Legislature by the time you receive this newsletter, we are still confident that your awareness of these bills will spur some thoughts for action.

Finally, we provide you with an update of our Society's Sustainability Strategy. ASCE is currently developing a comprehensive action plan, and in cooperation with the American Public Works Association and the American Council of Engineering Companies, is also developing a project rating system and a training and certificate program to assist in furthering the sustainability discipline.

In these very challenging times, we need to value more what we have. We move ahead with the thought that one day, all of this will pass. Your Society is here to help. Use it!

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

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

Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Sept. 2010 issue is Aug. 1, 2010; copy deadline for Oct. 2010 issue is Sept. 1, 2010.



Update on ASCE's Sustainability Strategy

In November 2008, the ASCE Board raised sustainability to a priority strategy. Following that action, then-President Wayne Klotz appointed a Task Committee on Sustainable Design to develop a plan.

Now changed to the Committee on Sustainability, with the guidance and support of ASCE's leadership, the committee is working to make ASCE a leader in promoting the goals of sustainable civil infrastructure. The committee believes that as stewards of the built environment, civil engineers must lead the way in planning, designing, and constructing sustainable infrastructure.

Sustainability consists of "a set of environmental, economic, and social conditions in which all of society has the capacity and opportunity to maintain and improve the quality of life indefinitely...without degrading the quantity, quality or the availability natural resources and ecosystems."

The committee developed a Sustainability Action Plan, approved by the ASCE Board of Direction in October 2009. One key deliverable in the action plan is: in partnership with others, establish a viable sustainable infrastructure rating tool valued by owners and owner agents.

ASCE, the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) are developing and implementing a web-based Sustainable Infrastructure Project Rating System (System). The overall mission of the System, and the related Professional's Training and Certificate Program, is to enhance the sustainability of the nation's civil infrastructure, excluding occupied buildings. The System will provide guidance to practitioners, project owners and regulators on the development of civil infrastructure projects that provide greater sustainability benefits for owners and society. Further, the System will provide the ability for owners, agencies, operators, designers and constructors to rate the sustainability of civil infrastructure at any point throughout its life cycle, in a manner that is understandable, easy to use and affordable.

The recognition that greater degrees of sustainability are a critical and necessary element of civil infrastructure is broadly acknowledged throughout our three organizations. The purpose of a project rating system is two-fold. First, the rating system will provide guidance through identified performance standards, management practices and project delivery considerations that the project contributes to higher levels of sustainable performance. But second, the project rating system must also ensure that the project itself is "doing the right thing" (right solution for that community).

The new system is intended to be:

- performance-based (outcomes) rather than prescriptive
- scalable for size and complexity of projects
- provide a basis for self-assessment, as well as independent verification of attainment by certified third-party engineering companies or peer groups
- voluntary

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Region 9 Legislative Affairs

By: Richard Markuson

The Legislature continued to work through hundreds of bills, even as the State's finances continued to worsen. Early in April, hopes were buoyed that State revenue would meet or exceed the admittedly optimistic projections used when the 2011 budget was released earlier in the year. These hopes were dashed when State personal income tax revenue fell more than \$3.0 billion short of expectations which did not bode well for the May budget revisions. Personal income taxes for the 2008-09 fiscal year comprised 51.31% of all State General Fund revenues. You can watch State revenue at the Controller's web site: http://www.sco.ca.gov/april_2010_revenue_tracker.html

The Legislature did take time to confirm State Senator Abel Maldonado as the new Lieutenant Governor. The Governor's decision to schedule a special election to fill Maldonado's seat did not please the Democrats in the Legislature – or the local officials who will have to pay the costs of the special election. The Governor called the special primary election on June 22nd – two weeks after the June statewide primary. The five counties that comprise the 15th reportedly had to pay more than \$2.5 million to hold the extra two elections to fill the now vacant seat. These who ran were Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee from San Luis Obispo and former Assembly Member John Laird from Santa Cruz.

Below is a status report on bills of interest to ASCE members:

	Summary	Status
AB 1431 (Support)	Updates the name of Engineers Board and expands membership to include one licensed geologist or geophysicist and one additional public member.	Senate Appropriations Committee
AB 1594 (watch)	Prohibits the construction of a peripheral canal unless certain requirements are met	Assembly Water Parks & Wildlife Committee
AB 1760 (watch)	Reenacts, until January 1, 2016, Caltrans' authorization to enter into design-sequencing contracts.	Assembly Floor
AB 1793 (Support)	Makes the governing documents of a common interest development (CID) void and unenforceable if they prohibit the use or include conditions that effectively prohibit the use of artificial turf or any other synthetic surface that resembles grass. Author accepted ASCE recommendation that allows a CID to apply design and quality standards for artificial turf.	Senate Rules Committee
AB 1975 (Support)	Requires multi-unit residential structures or mixed use residential and commercial structures that are permitted after January 1, 2011, to add, as a condition of new service, water meters or submeters that measure the water supplied to each individual unit.	Assembly Appropriations
AB 2092 (OUA)	Allows the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) to levy a fee upon the State Water Project and Central Valley Project contractors to pay a portion of the Council's planning and administrative costs. ASCE has suggested the bill capture all beneficiaries of Delta water as well as those whose practices impact Delta water quality.	Assembly Appropriations
AB 2336 (Support)	States Legislative findings and intent regarding striped bass, and requires the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) to assess the adverse impacts of invasive species predation on native species, to evaluate predator suppression options, and to recommend changes in laws and actions by state agencies.	Assembly Appropriations
SB 1215 (Watch)	This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to establish prequalified lists of firms providing architectural and engineering services.	Senate Appropriations
SB 1284 (Support)	Provides an exception to the imposition of mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for a violation of an effluent limitation if the waste discharge complies with a certain time schedule order and other requirements are met.	Senate Appropriations

OUA = Oppose Unless Amended

ASCE Region 9 is a member of the Alliance for Clean Water and Jobs to help convince the public of the merits of spending on water infrastructure and to support the Water Bond at the general election in November. The Alliance website <http://www.waterforca.com/> has information on the Water Bond.

What Is Unique About Humber Bridge, England?



For 16 years the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, Britain's Humber Bridge opened to traffic on June 24, 1981. Found in northeastern England, the bridge spans the Humber estuary between Hessle on the north bank and Barton-upon-Humber on the south bank, connecting North Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The Humber's total distance is well over a mile long at 7,283 feet (2,220 meters) with a center span of 4,626 feet (1,410 meters).

Today relegated to fifth place, the Humber Bridge was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge until the opening of the Great Belt Bridge in June 1997. The Humber was pushed to third place with the April 1998 opening of the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge. In recent years two longer span bridges have opened in China, the Xihoumen Bridge and the Runyang Bridge.

However, if you're looking to cross the world's longest bridge by foot, the Humber Bridge is still the span to come to.

Now that we got your attention, do you know what is the longest single-span suspension bridge in California? How about the Los Angeles area? Happy searching.

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The Roadmap to Strategic Planning Political Engagement, Elections, and Other Strategic Topics

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Through the Professional Strategies, ASCE will improve infrastructure and "raise the report card grades", raise the competency level in professional civil engineering practice, deliver the tools to civil engineers so they can be leaders for sustainable infrastructure, and create the change for civil engineers to expand their roles and impact in society (Vision 2025). Through Association Strategies, ASCE will be the premier source for producing and delivering civil engineering knowledge, ensure a smooth transition from a Student to Associate Member status, and develop engineer leaders who support participation in ASCE and share their insights.

One of the key focus areas of Vision 2025 is becoming leaders in shaping public policy. You can start this process today by being an informed voter and providing information to your friends, family, neighbors and elected officials. We had an opportunity to do this. In the June 8th Primary. There were five Statewide Ballot Measures, two of which are indirectly related to infrastructure (Proposition 13: Limits on Property Tax Assessment, Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings; Proposition 16: Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers). The November ballot will have several more. Be engaged!

Another important opportunity is to participate in your local ASCE Section Government or Legislative Affairs Committee which identifies issues of regional and statewide importance and provides input. Be involved!

Several ASCE Region 9 committees are engaged in statewide issues considered by the State Legislature and the activities of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS). The focus is to be engaged and effective through the entire legislative process conducting an annual Legislative Day, evaluating a finite number of infrastructure related bills and coordinating the activities of the four Sections in ASCE Region 9 (California).

I would welcome thoughts and comments on ASCE's Strategic Planning initiative. I will be maintaining an email distribution list of interested members and will be coordinating with the Section Presidents. I can be reached at rhaller@sawpa.org.

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

Update on ASCE's Sustainability Strategy

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Sustainable infrastructure project ratings will only be recognized after an independently verified performance assessment which will give the program a higher validity than self-verified programs that are frequently the standard in today's market. Recognition would be presented through an award program that will be concurrently developed with the rating tool. The System can be self-administered, but would not be formally recognized through the award program. In subsequent updates of the System, it will promote a more dynamic project delivery approach where the practitioner, agency and owner can consider alternative approaches to achieving higher degrees of sustainability and to use the approach to facilitate the regulatory approval process.

The three organizations will consider the applications and the actual tool (web-based decision support and risk management system in later versions) during development. They will also consider ease of use for the practitioner and consideration of Best Management Practices in the project planning stages. While these are goals, these items will only be considered while developing Version 1.0, with the expectation that they will be included in a later version.

To complete this program, ASCE and its partners will also be offering sustainability training and developing a certification program in an effort to further promote sustainable design and practice. The first phase of this program is expected to go into testing in the fall of 2010, and then to be publicly available in the spring of 2011.

For more information please go to <http://www.asce.org/ProgramProductLine.aspx?id=7085>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



Networking

ASCE Group on LinkedIn

Registered users of LinkedIn should note that there is an ASCE group on LinkedIn for your use. Search for American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) group.

LinkedIn is a business-oriented professional networking site with over 43 million registered members spanning 170 industries including civil engineers. Whether you are trying to make new marketing contacts, searching for new career opportunities or you have available positions LinkedIn is a valuable business tool. To learn more about LinkedIn visit the website at <http://www.linkedin.com>

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ASCE's Career Connections offers one-stop, online career advancement advice and access to current opportunities, qualified candidates, and job postings.

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