

In This Issue	page
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
EDITORIAL	2
ASCE REGION 9'S LEGISLATIVE DAY	2
ASCE PRESSES FOR LONG-TERM INFRASTR.....	3
ASCE DONATES TO HAITI RECOVERY.....	3
ASCE NEWS SEEKS ARTICLES	3
OBITUARY - DR. JAMES ROBERTS.....	4
INSIGHTS PODCAST	5
INT'L COMMITTEE CONGRESS IN CAIRO ...	6-7
ANNOUNCEMENT.....	8
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	9
PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY.....	10-11



Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jay Higgins, P.E., M.ASCE
Section President

Legislative Activities – March is the Month for the ASCE Washington Fly-In



You are probably wondering, “Why is he writing about Legislative Activities again?” If you think that I am focused on legislative activities as a priority for the Section over the coming year, I am. It is one of the top three goals adopted by the Section Board this year and a major focus of the Society. March is the month of one of ASCE’s most important events, the Washington Fly-In and one of the ways ASCE reaches legislators. Each year Section and Branch representatives throughout the U.S. come to Washington to participate. This year the Fly-In is on March 24th and 25th.

What I believe is pretty straightforward - construction of infrastructure is desperately needed; it puts people back to work and stimulates the entire economy. It is common sense. I do not have any authoritative source to quote with numbers to support this statement, but I can speak from firsthand experience. For example, I worked on a construction site (an emergency repair project of a concrete-lined bypass channel in the California Aqueduct) which employed approximately 120 construction trade workers on two 12-hour shifts with three civil engineers. That is a ratio of 40 to one. As civil engineers we realize that our vision, plans, and designs could not become reality without these skilled individuals and that the work we do creates jobs and stimulates business. The trade workers make a comfortable living and will spend their money buying new trucks, tools of the trade, and work clothing, not to mention that new washing machine, furniture, and the other goods and services that go with supporting a comfortable lifestyle for their families. In addition, you have all the other spending associated with construction projects such as materials and purchased or rented construction equipment. It is pretty clear to me that construction of infrastructure projects will kick start the economy.

Over the past few years, the legislators have gotten the message about the deteriorated state of our infrastructure and do see the importance of taking action. The real issue with infrastructure projects is coming up with ways to finance these projects that is equitable and reasonable for those who pay the bill, us. Part of the answer lies in one of ASCE’s five key solutions - increasing federal leadership in infrastructure to address the crisis. What can you do? Become a “Key Contact” (go to www.asce.org) and let your legislator know the importance of these issues and encourage them to support the legislation based on ASCE’s position. The more we voice our opinion, the more likely we will become a potential resource for the legislators to help sort through the best approach of financing and prioritizing the needed infrastructure improvements. We are the experts in the infrastructure arena and need to provide input to the decision making process.

If Not Us, Who?

When I started my career, I asked my mentor about what it would take to be a successful engineer. He looked at me puzzled and wondered why I was asking the question. I told him that I wanted to someday be an engineering great myself, taking my place among the gods of engineering that I have only read about. He cautioned that being an engineering "great" is a relative term. Would I really want to be a great technical person, or something else? His point is that a lot of the engineers, especially the more famous ones like President Herbert Hoover, Yasser Arafat, Carlos Slim, Boris Yeltsin, and Leonardo Da Vinci among others, have become famous in some other way.

It has become apparent to me that as one grows in one's career, the engineering facts that one has learned at school may not necessarily be as useful. What would be useful are the non-technical principles of engineering: the discipline to not give up in solving simultaneous problems and the determination to build something that will last several lifetimes [including that of my own]. This is not to downplay the technical aspects of our profession. That is our bread and butter. However, it begs the question: How could we make better use of the conventional practice of engineering to create a greater difference in the world we live in?

Fast forward to 2010 and we are indeed faced with a multitude of problems that primarily threaten our current and our progeny's quality of life. Our Region 9 Government Relations Committee Chair and our Los Angeles Section President echo this sentiment and call an action for us to be active in advocating for the infrastructural causes that we now are quite familiar with. Our Society's Report Card has been instrumental in creating awareness for all who care to listen. The Report Card outlines the major infrastructural categories that need to be addressed and where we are in taking care of the issues. It is not a pretty sight, and the message has been consistent: it is not a matter of if, but of WHEN we come face to face with the realities of this issue.

We are not saying here that we should panic. What we are saying is that the time has come and that time is now for us to be proactive in resolving our infrastructure needs. ASCE has various avenues at all levels of our organization for us to get involved. The articles we included on this matter outline those ways.

The opportunities are tremendous. However, these opportunities would not bear fruit if none of us take action ourselves; even in a small positive way. We as engineers have the ability to do so. I believe we do. We just need to increase our numbers, now!

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

Reminder:

Copy deadline for the April 2010 issue is March 1, 2010; copy deadline for May 2010 issue is April 1, 2010.

ASCE Region 9's Legislative Day

By: Michael Thornton

Chair, Region 9 Government Relations Committee

During these challenging budget times (\$20 plus billion deficit), our State legislature faces very difficult decisions to balance the budget. And, as in every year, infrastructure funding, and cuts thereto, is always being considered. As our Society, Regions, Sections and Branches have advised, through our report card efforts, infrastructure is fast approaching failure. The catastrophic earthquake in Haiti in January is a clear message that when, not if, such an event occurs here (combined with our neglected infrastructure), grave results will likely occur.

In spite of the budget challenges, the legislature and Governor worked together to produce historic water bond legislation this past year during a special session to begin the enormous task of fixing the State's crumbling water system. Although not perfect in view of many, the \$11.14 billion bond funding program will be matched with federal funds and local funds producing an estimated \$40 billion for repair of the delta and related conveyance facilities as well as regional and local water infrastructure funding.

With all of that said, over 40 ASCE members made our annual trip to our State Capitol February 10th. Members met with representatives from Governor Schwarzenegger's office and over 100 legislators. We first thanked the members for their exhaustive efforts on the water legislation and advised that any diversion of infrastructure funding may result in dire consequences. In addition, members asked the legislature to oppose the Governor's proposal to end the gas sales tax, effectively gutting Proposition 42 transit funds. Lastly, we advised our leaders how important a new significant investment in our infrastructure is needed. The investment will create jobs, improve the State's economy, and will provide better communities for our children and grandchildren.

The next step for members will be to identify important legislation and meet with legislators locally, encouraging sponsorship of infrastructure legislation and opposing legislation that diverts funding from infrastructure, and to begin planning for next year's program. In addition, the Government Relations Committee will actively support the water bond ballot measure with a radio campaign to inform the electorate on National Public Radio. Listen to your local stations come summer.

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.

ASCE Presses For Long-Term Infrastructure Solutions

In response to President Obama's comments on infrastructure in his State of the Union address, ASCE has issued this statement by 2010 President Blaine D. Leonard, P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE:

We appreciate that the president mentioned in his address that railroads and the Interstate Highway System are critical investments in American infrastructure. He also spoke about how investments in infrastructure are investments in nation building. But the fact is, in recent decades we've stopped investing in our future. We are still driving on Eisenhower's roads and sending our kids to Roosevelt's schools.

The broken water mains, gridlocked streets, crumbling dams and levees, and delayed flights that come from failing infrastructure have a negative impact on the checkbook and on the quality of life of each and every American. Investing in America's infrastructure will support and create jobs – an essential function for economic recovery – as well as bring tangible personal benefits to Americans, like safer communities, less money spent on gas and more time with our families due to shorter commutes.

The President's leadership on infrastructure is essential for our future prosperity. We need a bipartisan commitment to create a long-term plan for our infrastructure; one that includes sufficient funding levels and dedicated revenue sources. Without that, anything we do now will be nothing more than a band-aid.

Contact your U.S. Senators [<http://capwiz.com/asce/issues/alert/?alertid=14612226>] and urge them to include a major infrastructure component in job creation legislation.

ASCE Donates \$10,000, Works to Support Haiti Recovery



Reflecting the sympathy the American Society of Civil Engineers feels toward the victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti, the Board of Directors recently approved a \$10,000 donation to relief efforts through our longstanding partner, the American Red Cross. While ASCE coordinates with government and relief agencies to determine the best courses of action for restoring lifeline infrastructure, the Society encourages financial donations at this time as the most immediate means of help to relieve the suffering and loss. A team from ASCE's Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering, including experts from COPRI and EWRI, will be heading to Haiti in the coming weeks to assess the damage firsthand.

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How you can help

- Send \$10 immediately to the American Red Cross relief effort by texting **Haiti** to **90999** from your cell phone. The donation will appear on your cell phone bill. Or donate via the American Red Cross site [http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main].
- Nearly 1,000 ASCE members have signed up to volunteer in Haiti via the Society's Disaster Assistance Volunteer Directory [<http://ciasce.asce.org/ASCEDisasterAssistanceVolunteerProgram.html>]. The directory will be shared with qualified groups and agencies that are part of on-the-ground volunteer efforts. Note that during initial relief efforts, volunteers must already have specialized disaster volunteer training and experience, and be deployed as part of coordinated, official relief efforts. Above all, don't go on your own. To qualify for future relief efforts, take a disaster management course such as those offered by ASCE's Committee on Critical Infrastructure [<http://ciasce.asce.org/>], register with FEMA or your local Red Cross, and volunteer to help following floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters that occur each year.

ASCE News Seeks Articles from ASCE Organizations



ASCE News, the Society's monthly newspaper, invites sections, branches, student chapters, committees, and other ASCE organizations to submit newsworthy items for inclusion in the newspaper. Articles may cover service projects, research, educational outreach, human interest, and other timely activities that would be of interest to the Society's membership. In addition, ASCE News publishes

brief articles about member achievements as well as obituaries. Send queries or potential articles to ascenews@asce.org, or contact Brett Hansen, associate editor of ASCE News, at bhansen@asce.org or (703) 295-6041

ASCE
American Society of Civil Engineers

www.ascelasection.org

Dr. James Roberts, P.E., L.M.ASCE

By Don Sepulveda, P.E., F.ASCE



On January 5th we lost a great engineer, an excellent professor and a wonderful friend. Dr. James Roberts, P.E., Life Member ASCE passed away after a battle with cancer. I was a student of Dr. Roberts at California State University, Northridge. He was known for his precise requirements for homework and the amount that he assigned. That precision and attention to detail even made its way to the method of stapling the pages together. After I graduated and started volunteering at the school, Jim became a friend. When I scheduled assignments for the senior design class I would first ask about soils assignments. There was usually some multi-page problem that the students were working on that was taking a lot of their time. As for me, I was definitely not his best student, but he was one of my best professors. His way of teaching, coupled with his insight to the professional world and ASCE were some of the important factors in my student career, and subsequently my professional career.

When James was in high school, his academic record allowed him to pursue admission to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on a mathematics track. He was from a blue collar family, growing up in the depression era, so the ability to pay tuition was in question. In order to have the tuition for MIT, he worked and saved his money from the age of twelve by paper routes, counter boy at a newsstand, and numerous other odd jobs. When he graduated from high school, he had saved up enough money for the tuition at MIT for only one year. At the end of that first year, he joined the Navy so that he would be able to continue going to school on the GI Bill. Ironically, two weeks after he enlisted, he received a letter from MIT awarding him a full scholarship. Due to the Navy commitment, school got put on hold. One reason that he joined the Navy was to see the world. Instead, he and a number of others who had been studying engineering ended up being "journalist mates" stationed in Chicago writing articles about officers. He spent a total of two weeks on a ship. He returned to MIT after he got out of the Navy.

Dr. Roberts received a Bachelor of Science, Building Engineering at MIT in 1951 and his Doctor of Science, Civil Engineering at MIT in 1965. He began his engineering career in 1951 as a structural designer. James was primarily a consultant until 1961 where he left his position as a chief soils engineer at a consulting firm to become a full-time professor. He remained a part-time consultant until 1996 working with soil engineering solutions to landslides, sanitary landfills, land developments, building foundations, highways, earth dams, construction on "Bay Mud", damage to residences and structures constructed in areas of expansive soils, and analyses of site response and foundation behavior for seismic loads.

Beginning in 1954, Professor Roberts became a professor of soil and structural engineering. He taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1954 to 1960. In 1962 he began teaching at San Jose State College continuing until 1980. He also served as the Dean of the School of Engineering, and the Assistant Executive Vice President at San Jose State. During that time he also was a guest lecturer at the Nuclear Defense Design Institute, University of Hawaii. In 1980, Professor Roberts moved to California State University, Northridge where he was a Professor and Professor Emeritus through Spring 2009.

Dr. Roberts was active in ASCE serving within the San Francisco Section as a Director in 1972-73 and 1975-76, and Vice President 1976-77. He was also the San Jose Branch President in 1975-76. In addition to his ASCE work, Professor Roberts was on the National Committee on Curricula and Accreditation 1973-1977, including serving as the Chair from 1975-1976. He was also a member of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Dr. Roberts was one of those professors that you remember throughout your career. It was not just the material that he taught but the way he taught it. He taught the practical application of engineering to solve problems. He emphasized the importance of clear and concise calculations and the proper preparation of the material. The lessons taught by Dr. Roberts were applicable to all disciplines in engineering and the value incalculable. He taught that ASCE was something that you did because it made you a better engineer. His insight into the real world of engineering was immeasurable to the hundreds of students that he has taught over the years and to me particularly.

Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Linda, and his family. Dr. Roberts was a great professor, a great engineer, and a wonderful friend. I will miss him and think of him each time I staple a piece of paper. He will be missed by all.

ATTENTION!

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You've got the control at your fingertips!

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(800) 548-ASCE (2723)
(703) 295-6300

Insights Podcast Features Black & Veatch Chief on Sustainable Engineering Solutions

A new Insights episode featuring Virginia Valentine, County Manager/CEO, Clark County (Las Vegas), Nevada, has been posted at www.asce.org/insights.

In this episode, Valentine talks about what most keeps her up at night, her greatest professional accomplishment and regret, as well as her admiration for Marie Curie. She also shares her thoughts on current threats and opportunities for the civil engineering industry in terms of the shifting focus from project design to a more holistic systems approach.

Note: Valentine is a current member of the ASCE Industry Leaders Council and was a former ASCE Board member.

Post Your Resume or Job to Multiple Web Sites

ASCE in collaboration with other top engineering societies has formed the Engineering & Science Career Network (ESCN). The ESCN allows job seekers to post their resume, and employers to post their jobs, to the ASCE Career Connections website [<http://careers.asce.org/search.cfm>] and have it automatically posted to partner websites. ESCN partners include ASME, ACEC, AREMA, AEG, ASCE.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

As stated by ASCE President Blaine Leonard recently on the ASCE web page:

"The President's leadership on infrastructure is essential for our future prosperity. We need a bipartisan commitment to create a long-term plan for our infrastructure; one that includes sufficient funding levels and dedicated revenue sources. Without that, anything we do now will be nothing more than a band-aid."

ASCE has been working with Congressional leaders and within our coalitions to press Congress to act before the nation's infrastructure crisis continues to deepen. The 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure graded the nation's infrastructure at a "D" and found that \$2.2 trillion is needed over the next five years to bring each aspect of our infrastructure up to a good condition. The following are just some examples of pending or proposed legislation that is on ASCE's radar screen:

- **ASCE Calls for Infrastructure Bank** - ASCE, the Building America's Future coalition, and a host of other supporting organizations, are urging Congress to create a national infrastructure bank (NIB). The NIB would invest in large projects of national importance to help improve the quality of infrastructure across the country and create jobs.

To read more about the bank, visit ASCE's Our Failing Infrastructure blog (<http://www.blogs.asce.org/govrel>)

- **Surface Transportation Bill** - The nation's surface transportation bill has been operating under a series of extensions since the legislation expired on September 30, 2009. While Chairman James L. Oberstar has prepared a \$450 billion, surface transportation authorization bill, action on it has stalled over financing troubles. The Obama Administration and the Senate want Congress to extend the current surface transportation law until after the midterm elections this upcoming November, in order to avoid any tough funding decisions that could likely require tax increases.

Oberstar's draft bill, approved by the Highways and Transit subcommittee, included \$337.4 billion for highway programs, \$99.8 billion for public transit, \$12.6 billion for highway and motor carrier safety, and \$50 billion for high-speed rail over six years. It proposes a number of changes to facilitate swifter and better-coordinated approval of projects. However, the question of how to pay for the bill is up to the Ways and Means Committee, which has not taken up the legislation beyond a subcommittee hearing this past summer. The Senate on the other hand has yet to draft their own version of a surface transportation bill.

- **Clean Water, Drinking Water, and Wastewater Issues** - ASCE strongly supports legislation to reauthorize funding for the Clean Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). ASCE is working for the enactment of House and Senate bills to provide new funding assistance for publicly owned treatment works. The Water Quality Financing Act (H.R. 720), introduced in the 110th Congress, would authorize the appropriation of \$14 billion over four years for the construction and repair of America's aging wastewater treatment plants. It passed the House in March 2007, but did not receive consideration by the full Senate. S. 3500, the Water Infrastructure Financing Act (S. 3500), introduced in the 110th Congress, would authorize \$20 billion for the SRF over five years.

These are just a few examples of the legislation which ASCE supports. To stay up to speed on what is happening with the latest legislation become a Key Contact and receive "Key Alerts". If you support the ASCE position, send correspondence to your legislators.

If you have any questions and comments please feel free to send me an e-mail at jay_higgins@urscorp.com. Articles for the Newsletter may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, Cris Liban, at LibanE@metro.net. Enjoy your newsletter.

Note: This article was written one month before it will be published and there may be actions taken on some of the legislation cited above. To find out the current status go to www.asce.org/govrel

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



American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 6th International Engineering and Construction Conference

Advances in Affordable Housing & Green Construction

Cairo, Egypt-June 28-30, 2010

Under the auspices of

H.E. Eng. Ahmed El-Maghraby

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Green Building Council of Egypt

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CONFERENCE THEMES

- 1 - Affordable Housing & Innovative Building Systems (Materials, Structural Systems, Building Physics, Construction, etc.).
- 2 - Sustainability of Innovative Building Systems
- 3 - Eco-Village & City Planning
- 4 - Eco-Green Construction & Community Management
- 5 - Socio-Economical Impact of Adopting Green Innovative Housing Systems
- 6 - Long Term Performance, Maintenance and Monitoring of Innovative Housing
- 7 - Green Building Code Development
- 8 - Energy-Sustainable Constructed Facilities
- 9 - Multidisciplinary sustainability: Traffic Eng.-Environmental Eng.
- 10 - Advanced Technologies for Engineering: Nano Technology, FRP repair.
- 11 - Case Studies of Innovative Green Construction

GENERAL

The 6th International Engineering and Construction Conference (IECC'6) is a multidisciplinary forum with several symposia covering a wide range of engineering areas with emphasis on engineering design and construction. The goal of this conference is to enhance the lines of communication between researchers and technical professionals to exchange innovative research and technological advancements. This year's conference theme focuses on two major challenges: affordable housing and adoption of green building approach. This theme incorporates innovative building systems in which affordable sustainable construction is pronounced. The conference will cover most of the subjects associated with the above mentioned vision

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the conference is to focus on various topics related to affordable housing which incorporated innovative building systems. Those systems would combine the benefits of affordability and green construction and sustainability. The previous objectives cannot be separated from the wider objectives of eco-villages and cities planning, and green construction management on the community level. This would also require successful sustainability and energy efficiency code development. The conference will also deal with carbon finance in construction, renewable energy in construction, environmentally compatible engineering in design and construction, assessment and monitoring of long-term performance, recyclable construction materials and systems, and other state-of-the art papers related to built environment and energy conservation are also encouraged.

TIME FRAMES

Abstract Deadline	January 30 th , 2010
Full Paper Deadline	April 15 th , 2010

LANGUAGE

The Conference will be conducted in English. Proceedings and presentations will be in English.

WEATHER

Cairo climate is fair at this time of the year. Average temp. in March is 35°C in the morning and 25°C by night.

EXHIBITION

The conference will provide an opportunity for international and local companies to display their latest products, services and projects in different engineering and construction disciplines. In particular, companies with products and systems related to affordable housing systems, green

building products and energy conservation environmentally friendly construction products are encouraged to exhibit at the conference. Companies interested in having a display booth should contact the IECC'6 Conference secretariat for details visit the conference website www.hbrciecc6.com.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

International Delegates:

US\$ 350.00 Full Conference
US\$ 400.00 On-site
US\$ 25.00 for all Students

Egyptian Delegates:

EP 350.00 Full Conference
EP 400.00 On-Site
EP 100.00 for all Students

Full conference registration fee includes a copy of the proceedings, welcoming reception, lunches. It does not include hotel accommodation or optional social events.

Bank accounts for registration sponsoring and exhibition please visit the conference websites: www.iecc6.org and www.hbrciecc6.com

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are four categories of conference sponsorships:

Platinum: \$2,500.00	Gold: \$1,500.00
Silver: \$1,000.00	Bronze: \$500.00

SOCIAL PROGRAM

A variety of interesting and entertaining events are planned for participants and accompanying persons. Detailed information will be given in the final invitation and in the conference



web site. Some of the nearby attractions include: Giza and Sakkara Pyramids, Egyptian Museum, Cairo Tower, Saladin Citadel, Al Azhar Mosque, The Hanging Church, and many other attractive sites. A trip to Alexandria, by car, bus or train, is about two hours and to Red Sea or Aswan, by plane, is about one hour.

VENUE

The conference will be held at the Housing & Building National Research Center (HBRC) of Egypt located in the beautiful Cairo Metropolitan area. Learn more about HBRC by visiting their website: <http://www.hbrc.edu.eg/ehbrc/default.asp>

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

There are several hotels near by HBRC campus. Hotel and transportation information will be available on the conference website at: www.hbrciecc6.com.

Local Organization Contact Information

Prof. Khalid M. ELZahaby
Dr. Mohamed A Zaki

Housing & Building National Research Center
87 El-Tahrir St. Dokki, Giza -Egypt

www.hbrciecc6.com

hbrcccontact@hbrciecc6.com

Phone: +20-2-37617102, 37617092

Fax: +20-2-33351564

DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspicious of the State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Classes will be held in 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 no charge for the class. The class lasts 4 or 5 hours
The Class can commence as early as 8 AM or after work.
Monday through Friday or on Saturday

Classes will be given for VOLUNTEERS from professional organizations to assess damage, and COORDINATORS from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area. Coordinators may act as Volunteers outside of their area of expertise.

To register for the class submit your name along with your telephone number and e-mail address. You will be contacted when 10 or more request 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 name of contact person, phone, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support.
Jack W. Rolston, Chair 818-903-5225 cell
818-345-9199 ph • 818-345-5283 fx
ascedisaster@earthlink.net

CPT'10



2nd International Symposium on Cone Penetration Testing

May 9 - 11, 2010 • Huntington Beach, California
Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa

THEME: The solution to geotechnical and geo-environmental problems using the Cone Penetration Test (CPT).

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