

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

ORANGE / SAN\_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN\_LUIS\_OBISPO / SANTA\_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT / SOUTHERN SAN\_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

*"The easiest thing to find is fault."*

— Anonymous

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rich Haller, P.E.  
Section President



It's student conference time! On behalf of the Los Angeles Section, I'd like to welcome the students attending the **Pacific Southwest Regional Conference** being held at UCLA March 30 – April 1<sup>st</sup>. Over 600 students from 17 schools, including the 10 schools from the Los Angeles Section, will participate in 15 events such as concrete bowling, concrete frisbee, steel bridge and concrete canoe. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about leadership and teamwork, and to develop practical knowledge. It's also a great opportunity for professionals to interact with students and witness incredible enthusiasm for civil engineering. Interested?

The **UCLA Student Chapter** is seeking **volunteers** to assist with the events and judging, and **material and monetary donations**. For further details, please see the conference website at <http://www.seas.ucla.edu/asce/pswrc2006>.

What a difference a Governor's "state of the state" message can make! It's exciting times for civil engineers when **infrastructure is the "hot topic" of the day**. We should take advantage of this opportunity to discuss infrastructure needs with the public and our government representatives, and participate in the prioritization of needs. Two pairs of bills the Section is closely watching are **Senate Bill 1165 and Assembly Bill 1838** (Transportation Bond Acts of 2006, 2008, and 2012) and **SB 1166 and AB 1839** (Flood Protection and Clean, Safe, Reliable Water Supply Bond and Financing Acts of 2006 and 2010). To read these bills and track their progress, go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.

The four ASCE Sections in California have played an important role in bringing the infrastructure issue to the forefront. One of the key tools has been the preparation of **infrastructure report cards**. A number of county report cards have been prepared and released with the preparation of a Sacramento County report card under way. The new Region 9 (see separate article in this issue by Carl Blum, P.E., F.ASCE, Region 9 Director) is beginning the preparation of a statewide report card to be released this fall.

On a personal note, I am a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Earlier this year I deployed to the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to participate in a military exercise which simulates wartime conditions and activities. Military civil engineering is keeping pace with the civilian sector, utilizing state of the art tools and attracting the best and brightest engineers. My flight to South Korea took me to Incheon International Airport. This is a relatively new airport located on an island west of Seoul; construction was initiated in 1992 and the airport started operations in 2001. This is an incredible facility featuring different levels for departures and arrivals from curbside drop-off all the way to the gate (<http://www.airport.or.kr/Eng/home.jsp>).

**The Section's newsletter is going electronic!!** After much research by our newsletter editor, Cris B. Liban P.E., M. ASCE, and Section Board discussion about the pros

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**Reminder:**

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



## Creating A Transition

The first month of our newsletter transition effort is underway. At this writing I have received 177 responses (both postcard and e-mail response) for our request for information on whether you want to receive our newsletter in electronic or printed version. I would like to think that this is encouraging, but considering that our circulation is more than 5,000, and our readership is about two to three times that number, I am somewhat hesitant to declare success in delivering the message at this time. We have included another postcard in this mailing soliciting the same information. If you have already responded last time, we already heard you. Please do not send another postcard.

There are some exceptions that I would like to point out regarding the cards and e-mails I have so far received. Some of us have sent in their postcard with no return address. They either checked "Yes" or "No" in the card, but without a mailing address, we would not be able to determine who they are. Some of us who have sent in responses by e-mail have not indicated their name, especially those whose e-mails are sent from public domain servers (i.e., Hotmail, Yahoo, etc.). Similar to the first set of subscribers, we do not know who you are and how to decipher your identity from the e-mail address. I also would like to request responders to please put on the appropriate postage on these postcards. The Post Office needs \$0.39 to send this from you to me. Unfortunately, for a number of these cards, there either was no postage or the postage is lacking. I am bracing for a bill from the Postmaster on the postage due for these cards with insufficient postage.

The month of March is another activity filled month. Noteworthy is the Trent Dames Lecture that will be held in the Huntington Library in April. Please pencil it in now in your calendars. This a truly worthwhile event. UCLA will also be hosting the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference this month. They are still in need of sponsors. Please contact them for additional details.

Finally, we have seen a significant increase in employment ads in our Section. I have been receiving quite a few calls not only locally but throughout the nation from employers wanting to either expand into Los Angeles or hire engineers from the Los Angeles area. As I mentioned in the previous month's editorial, this is quite encouraging. As our profession becomes scarce, demand increases, and consequently, pay hopefully increases. I have seen this phenomenon in the accounting/financial or in the health care fields. Whereas a few years ago, I was earning a lot more than my wife, nowadays it is significantly reversed. No regrets though, money is not everything or else I would have chosen to work somewhere else.

Enjoy this issue of our newsletter!

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

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**ASCE's 2006  
Member-Get-A-Member  
Drive Depends on You!**

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## ASCE'S NEW REGION 9

In the summer of 2005, ASCE members voted to change the governance of ASCE. The 4 Zones and 16 District Council's were eliminated, and in its place 10 Regions (9 in the US and 1 International) were formed. In addition, the National Board of Direction was reduced from 28 to 17 members.

How did that change affect us here in California? The answer is "not much, but quite a bit". Let me explain. We previously were known as District 13 and our previous boundaries were the State of California. Our new Region 9 boundaries are still the State of California. We currently have 3 District Directors on the National Board. We had our own State Council, the California Society of Civil Engineers, often referred to as CASCE, which was made up of 4 people - one representatives from each of the 4 Sections in California - San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento. We now have a newly formed Region 9 Board of Governor consisting of 7 members. The Region Director (who will also be a member of the National Board of Direction) and 6 Governors. 4 of the Governors will represent each of the 4 Sections in California. There will be two "at-large" Governors. All terms of office will be three years. The Region Director and the 4 Section representative Governors will be elected by all ASCE members in California. The two "at-large" members will be appointed by the entire Board of Governors. Obviously the terms will be staggered to assure continuity of the Board.

Existing District Directors and CASCE representatives formed the primary core of the new Region 9 Board of Governors that was officially formed on Oct 25, 2005. We are now starting the transition and will be electing the Governor which represents the San Diego Section and appointing one "at large" Governor to replace one of the District Directors for 3-year terms beginning in October 2006.

While any ASCE member is eligible for an appointment to the 'at large' Governor's position, we are looking for strong leadership to help guide the new Region during its first years of existence. Past Branch, Section, YMF officers, or those who have served on National Committee's or in a leadership position with one of ASCE's 7 Institutes would be good candidates. Nominations can be made by any ASCE unit in Region 9, or you can self nominate yourself. We are encouraging nominations by April 1. Please send resumes to District Director John Pulver at 3933 Five Mile Drive, Stockton, CA 95219. If you have any questions, contact John at [jmpulver@aol.com](mailto:jmpulver@aol.com).

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

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and cons of different alternatives, it was decided to deliver electronic copies of the Section newsletter beginning in May 2006. You will be notified by e-mail and postcard of newsletter availability which will be posted on the Section website ([www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)). For those who would like to continue receiving a paper copy, you can do so by filing out the postcard contained in this newsletter and mailing it to Cris. **We would ask for your patience as we implement this process.** We believe the process will result in faster delivery to you, allow for new newsletter features, and save paper and costs!

- Rich Haller, P.E.

## Build California Initiative

Hamid Bahadori, P.E.

Governor Schwarzenegger recently announced his big "Build California" initiative in his State of the State address. Although the details are still sketchy, and the legislators in Sacramento have already started recommending amendments and changes, here is what we know so far about this proposal as it relates to transportation projects.

The Governor has proposed \$222 billion in infrastructure improvements over the next 10 years. \$107 billion of that will be in transportation/air quality, the rest in water, education, higher education and public safety/criminal justice.

\$68 billion of the \$222 billion will come from 5 separate general obligation bond issues to be placed on future ballots (maybe as soon as June 2006), the rest from existing and new sources (not specified).

### Of the \$107 billion for transportation –

- ◆ \$47 billion will come from existing sources including Prop 42 (a permanent "fix" is part of the package), fed/state gas taxes, local sales taxes, etc.
- ◆ \$60 billion will be new revenue –
  - \$12 billion from two \$6 billion bond issues on the 6/06 and 11/08 ballots, tentatively planned for.
  - \$48 billion from new sources including to-be-enacted local sales taxes, public-private partnerships, "savings" such as design-build and design-sequencing delivery improvements, and a future revenue bond backed by fuel excise taxes.

### ◆ Of the \$12 billion in transportation bonds –

- \$5.6 billion for highway projects,
- \$500 million for intercity rail,
- \$200 million for park-and-ride, pedestrian, bicycle projects,
- \$4 billion for trade infrastructure - \$1 billion for port-related air quality improvements, \$3 billion for goods movement infrastructure, and
- \$1.5 billion for safety improvements and maintenance (the SHOPP program).

- ◆ Highway projects are on an already-developed list; goods movement projects have not yet been selected. Projects are those in approved Regional Transportation Plans with a "high return" but are not necessarily already on the STIP. The CTC will approve all projects to be funded and may swap projects if needed.

Stay tuned for future developments.

## 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.

## HANDS-ON SEMINAR

April 28, 2006 (Costa Mesa Holiday Inn)

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Gary Guymon, Ph.D., P.E., *Professor Emeritus, UC Irvine*.



# **ASCE** American Society of Civil Engineers

**Orange County Branch  
ASCE Seminar**

**UNDERSTANDING THE CONVERSION FROM "AR" (AGED RESIDUE) SPEC  
ASPHALT CONCRETE TO "PG" (PERFORMANCE GRADED) SPEC ASPHALT CONCRETE**

**Friday, March 17, 2006  
8 AM to 12 PM**

**PRESENTER:**  
**STEVE R. MARVIN, P.E.**  
PRESIDENT OF LABELLE-MARVIN

**DONALD GOSS**  
MANAGER OF PRODUCTS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES  
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## **Save the Date!**

**Where: Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 Sand Canyon, Irvine  
Multipurpose Room**

### **Cost:**

- \$100.00 per person with paid reservations by Friday, March 10, 2006
- \$110.00 after March 10, 2006
- \$20.00 for full-time students

**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.

### **This 4-hour seminar will cover:**

- Overview of asphalt cement grading history starting with penetration grading and processing through AC and AR graded asphalt binders
- PB graded binders (Caltrans area of desire)
- Present the PG grading model and history. Discussion through technical aspects of grading binders, Q/A certification program for binder suppliers, etc.
- Review present map of recommended binder users throughout the State.
- Current changes in the Caltrans Standard Specifications
- Proposed changes in the Greenbook
- Practical comparisons, special uses with pavement reinforcing fabric, grades, etc.

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**UNDERSTANDING THE CONVERSION FROM "AR" (AGED RESIDUE) SPEC  
ASPHALT CONCRETE TO "PG" (PERFORMANCE GRADED) SPEC ASPHALT CONCRETE  
March 17, 2006**

Make checks payable to **ASCE, Orange County**

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**2006 Trent R. Dames Lecture**

by

**Benjamin Weiss**

***Empires Old, New and Ambivalent:  
Moving Obelisks in the Nineteenth  
Century***

**Thursday, April 13, 2006**

**7:30 pm**

**Friends' Hall  
Huntington Library**

The challenge of moving of obelisks—tall, four-sided stone pillars like the Washington Monument—had important ramifications for 19th-century engineering. Benjamin Weiss of the Boston Museum of Fine Art will discuss the technical and societal impact of this engineering work. Weiss is the former curator of science and technology at the Burndy Library at MIT.

**Reception to follow talk  
Free to the public**

**For additional information call 626-405-2206 or email  
dlewis@huntington.org**

**Please enter at the Allen Avenue Gate**



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

For the past year, the ASCE UCLA student chapter has been preparing for the 2006 **Pacific Southwest Regional Conference (PSWRC)**. The PSWRC is a three-day conference (3/30/06-4/1/06) in which approximately 600 students from 17 distinguished schools in Hawaii, Arizona, Southern California, and Nevada gather to compete in a variety of engineering-related events.

We need support in several ways, and you can help! We offer several sponsor plans.

- Level One (\$250): Display company name/logo on conference programs, website, and t-shirt.
- Level Two (\$600): In addition to Level One, sponsors are invited to attend the Regional Job Fair held March 31, 2006.
- Sponsor an Event: For a minimum of \$500, your company can sponsor an event (i.e., all events are listed on our website). Your company name and logo will be displayed during the event and on our conference website, t-shirts and programs.

We would also appreciate your support as a volunteer or judge during the conference.

Please visit us at [www.seas.ucla.edu/asce/pswrc2006](http://www.seas.ucla.edu/asce/pswrc2006) or contact [pswrcucla2006@hotmail.com](mailto:pswrcucla2006@hotmail.com) for more information. Thank you!

## Newsletter Transition: Postcard Response Instructions

We continue in this issue our effort to transition to the electronic form of the Los Angeles Section Monthly Newsletter. For the next two 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 two more 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](http://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 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](mailto:cliban@UCLAlumni.net) or (213) 922-2471.

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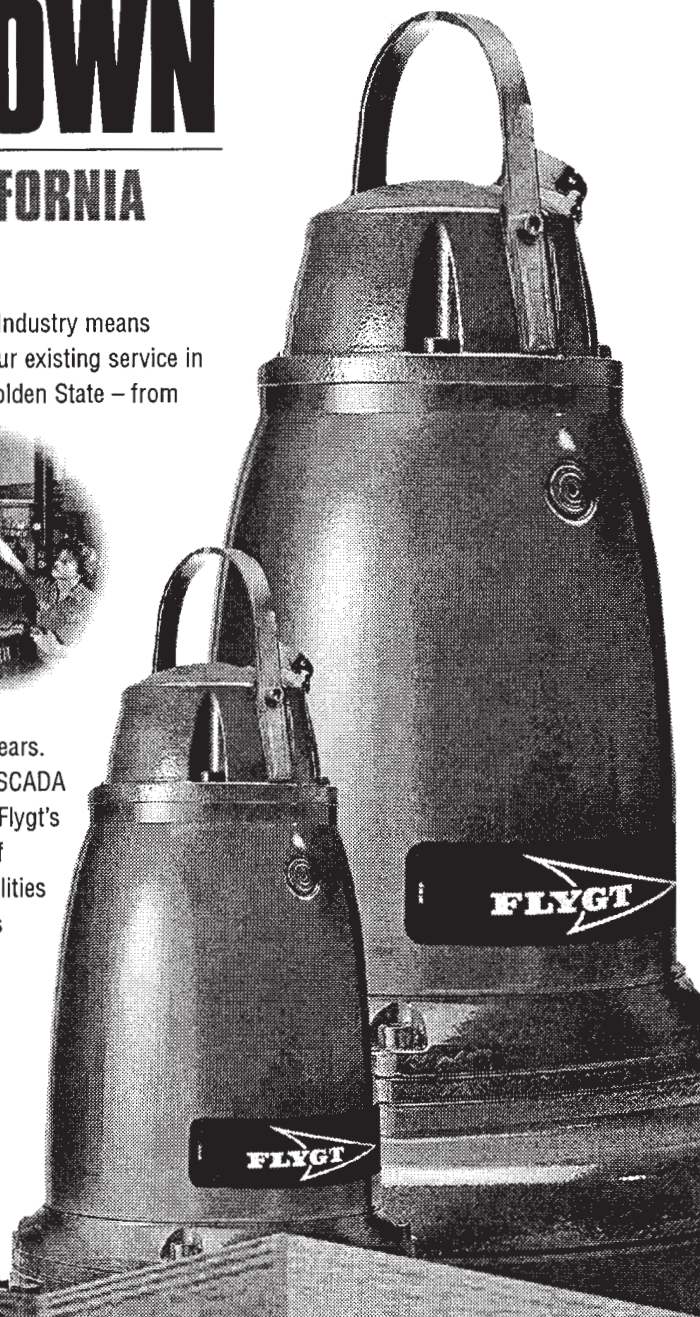
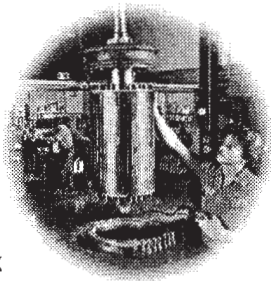
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Apply on line at: [www.longbeach.gov/civilservice](http://www.longbeach.gov/civilservice) or contact City of Long Beach, Civil Service Department at: (562) 570-6202. Filing will remain open until current vacancies are filled and may close without further notice. EOE

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## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

### Publisher

ASCE LA Section  
Christina Lucas  
1405 Warner Ave.  
Tustin, CA 92780  
Phone (714) 258-8306  
Fax (714) 258-8391  
E-mail: [clucas@associationplanet.com](mailto:clucas@associationplanet.com)

### Editor

Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.  
LACMTA  
One Gateway Plaza  
Mail Stop 99-17-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone (213) 922-2471  
FAX (801) 457-2687  
E-mail: [cliban@UCLAlumni.net](mailto:cliban@UCLAlumni.net)  
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