

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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“Don't think of it as failure. Think of it as time-released success.”

— Robert Orben

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Morris, P.E.
Section President



My Initial Thoughts

Infrastructure – There is probably no other single word that means more to the civil engineering profession. Infrastructure spending represents one of the best investments our society can make to the quality of life. Most of this Country's greatest public works projects resulted from local visionaries with support and financing from state and federal monies. California has stood out in its commitment to building highways, railways, airports, harbors, waterways and other vital infrastructure that has made this State a worldwide leader in education, business, trade and commerce. As the region continues to grow, many of its key facilities are rapidly aging and are reaching their design capacity.

Hurricane Katrina and California's recent Bay Delta levee failure brought home the consequences of neglected and aging infrastructure. At the same time, these failures offer an opportunity to highlight the need to adequate fund critical infrastructure needs.

California is home to some of the largest and most prestigious civil engineering firms in the world. According to the July 2006 issue of Engineering News – Record, 6 of the top 13 Design Firms are headquartered right here in sunny southern California. These firms provide jobs to thousands of civil engineers in all of the following fields:

- Ports and Harbors
- Railways
- Mass Transit
- Water and Wastewater
- Educational Institutions
- Highways, bridges and freeways
- Airports
- Energy
- Environment

The vitality of our region (and our profession) can be gauged through the success and growth many of these key industry leaders.

Together with California's public sector, and universities, the civil engineering profession has a firm footing here in the region.

Here are just a few of the local civil engineering projects that highlight our regions contribution as worldwide industry leaders:

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach which handle nearly 60 percent of the Nation's ocean going freight.

The Los Angeles International Airport and the regional airports that handle nearly 80 million passengers per year.

California's water storage, treatment and distribution facilities, which supplies more water to agriculture, business and urban users than any other entity in the World.

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Nov. 2006 issue is Oct. 1, 2006; copy deadline for Dec. 2006 issue is Nov. 1, 2006.



EDITORIAL

A New Beginning

Almost five years ago today we took over the operations of our newsletter. I cannot believe how fast time has flown. I also had a lot more hair back then. We are beginning a new fiscal year in this issue and along with it new challenges.

What is our biggest challenge?

We would like to get more articles for publication for this newsletter. We would like our subscribers to exploit this publication as a forum for their opinions and ideas. This is an underutilized avenue and it has come to the point wherein someone joked at one time that the newsletter is actually not a newsletter. Instead, it is a classified ads publication acting and covered like a newsletter.

There is currently some truth in that statement. If not for the President's Message, the Editorial, and the occasional article, there is little in light of articles that our publication can offer.

Please. Please. Don't get me wrong here. We appreciate the full support of our advertisers and we would like them to continue advertising in the newsletter. What we are saying here, however, is the fact that our publication would be of bigger value to our subscribers if we have more articles in it.

This is not solely a critique of our subscribers, though, but it is also a critique of myself. While I can scan for more articles or write more articles for publication, we only have so much time and so many resources. I hope you will join me in this crusade to better this publication.

As you may have noticed, we have a new Section President in John Morris, P.E. His message means a lot to us as we vote this fall. We also have two articles calling for engineer volunteers who would want to help out in two excellent causes.

Our Installation Banquet slated at the Wrigley Mansion will be held this month. The notice containing additional information is again included in this issue.

Enjoy this month's issue.

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

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

REGIONAL US&R TEAM FORMING

The fire departments from Area "C" wish to thank the civil and structural newsletters for their help in filling the engineering needs of the regional team.

Now the Area "E" and "F" US&R Regional Task Forces are recruiting civil and structural engineers for emergency incidents. Area "E" includes Montebello, Vernon, Santa Fe Springs, Downey and Compton. Area "F" is Long Beach. Engineers will be trained in rescue systems, including: structure type and damages, interior and exterior shoring, heavy equipment rescue, and breaching and breaking.

The 29-member teams are composed of search, rescue, heavy equipment, medical, canine, and structure specialists. These are rapid deployment teams and personnel will be required to deploy within 45 minutes. It is important that you live within close proximity of the Area "E" or "F" region.

It is preferred that applying CE's and SE's be familiar with general structures in concrete, masonry, steel, and wood. The position requires exterior evaluation and possible entry into damaged structures to assist and protect the search and rescue teams from dangerous conditions.

Those engineers needing information or interested in applying can contact:

Area "E": Mike Wilson
email: mwilson@ci.vernon.ca.us

Area "F": James Underwood
email: james.underwood@longbeach.gov

and

Areas "E" and "F": Rodney B. Spears, SE
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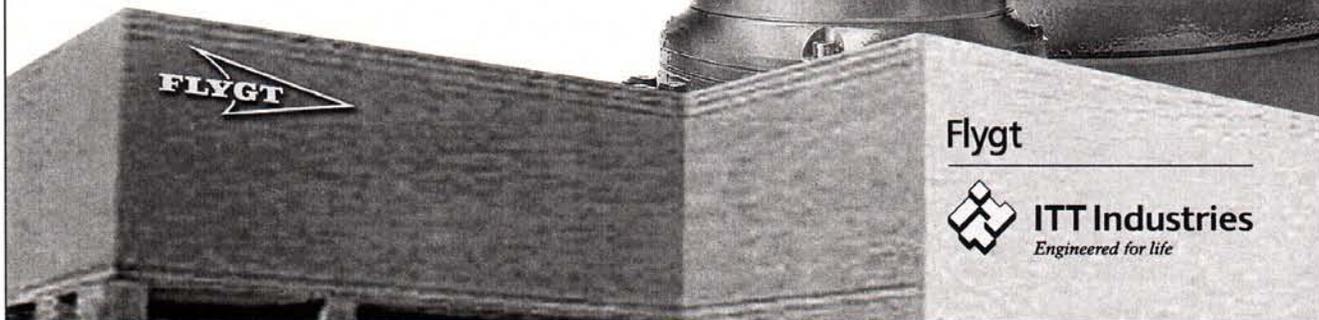
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Volunteer Engineer Needed: Drawings Only

My name is Don Michelson. I am the Executive Director of the American Society of Military History (ASMH). We have a Tank Museum in El Monte, CA. We are an IRS 501 non-profit educational organization (Tax I.D. #95-6093996). We are in good standing with the Federal Department of Charitable Trusts.

The value of your service is Tax-Deductible. We will give you a Certificate as a receipt. We need your help because we recently acquired additional land, and we are re-designing our main entrance to accommodate school bus tours. This will allow buses to park safely in our new parking lot, so the children would not have to get off the bus on busy Rosemead Blvd.

We need to make up basic drawings for a standard entrance apron with culvert. The drawings must be made to the new Cal Trans specifications, which we will provide. Cal Trans requires that a professional Civil Engineer do the drawings. Then these drawings will be submitted to Cal Trans.

Other local companies & government agencies have already donated their time & service, or waived their fees.

We would appreciate if you or your company could help us with this project by donating your services. Please contact me at (626) 442-1776 or tankland@aol.com.

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.

Many of our great civil engineering projects helped to define our region (*the Golden Gate Bridge, the Interstate Highway System, Hoover Dam to name just a few*). Sadly, through age, population growth, and neglect, many have been tarnished and pushed to their limits. Environmental concerns such as air pollution and water contamination continue to offer the greatest challenge to our quality of life and economic growth.

Infrastructure Bonds

This November, California voters will be asked to consider passage of several propositions aimed at aging and underfunded infrastructure. Among the 15 propositions on the statewide ballot, there are six general obligation bonds totalling nearly \$43 Billion. If approved by a simple majority of California voters, funding will flow into a wide variety of public works projects.

ASCE's vision is to be a global leader in building a better quality of life. While this seems like a lofty goal, it should offer each of us a golden opportunity to reach out to our profession and local communities and educate them on the issues that we know best.

There wouldn't be a better opportunity for you and ASCE to take the "lead" in educating yourself and others on the benefits of well funded and maintained infrastructure. No single interest group has more credibility with the public than civil engineers and ASCE should take a leadership position on this and other important issues involving civil engineers.



The Los Angeles Section

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Please indicate how many drinks you would like to pre-purchase as there will be no tickets sold on site.
Drinks are 1 ticket and a bottle of wine is 4 tickets, each ticket is \$6.00*

Registration : 6:15 PM ❖ Reception/Tours : 6:30 PM ❖ Dinner : 7:30 PM ❖ Program : 8:30 PM

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If you'd like to have your business card or company information listed in the Professional Directory, please contact **Russ Ryan at (213) 217-6625** or email him at rryan@mwdh2o.com for rates and deadlines.

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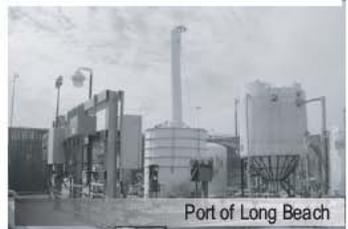
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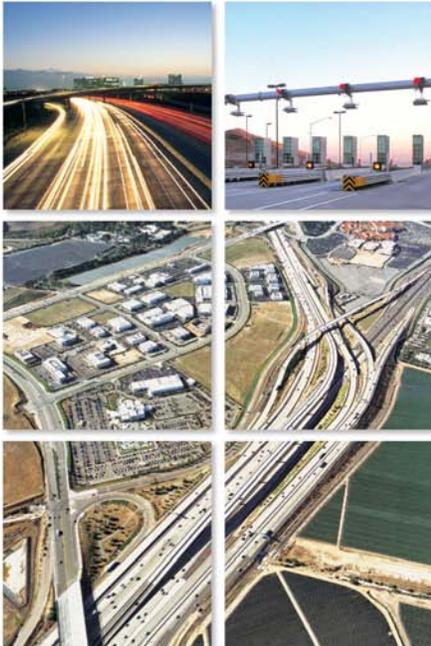
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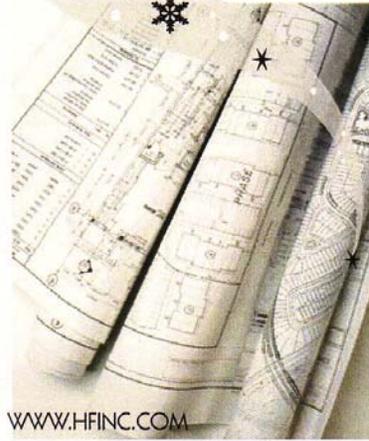
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A complete list of new Branch Presidents will be published in the November 2006 issue.

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

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
Typesetting, Layout & Printing: The Center Quickprint



Please send all copy to the Editor by the first of the month preceding publication.

Identification Statement

ASCE Newsletter, (ISSN 0273-6233) is published monthly by ASCE, Los Angeles Section, 1405 Warner Ave. Tustin, California 92780. Subscription price included in Section dues of \$45.

Circulation

Circulated monthly (except for a joint July/August issue) to the 5,000 subscribing members of the Los Angeles Section, ASCE.

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