

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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*“The person who is not hungry says that the coconut has a hard shell.”*

— African Tribal Saying

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Rich Haller, P.E.  
Section President



Your new Board is trained and ready to go! In August, incoming Board members got together for a “crash course” on ASCE operations and management. They are now ready to “hit the ground running” October 1<sup>st</sup>. That’s important because the year will be busy beginning with the Section annual installation and awards banquet October 6<sup>th</sup> and general elections being held in November; the ballot includes important infrastructure bonds. “Welcome” to new Board members **Jay Higgins, P.E., M.ASCE** and **Sonia Nasser, P.E., M. ASCE**, incoming Secretary and Vice President of Technical Groups respectively. **Thanks to all the Board members for their commitment to the profession and to ASCE!**

The Section will hold its annual **Awards and Installation Dinner, Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Wrigley Mansion, also known as Tournament House. Tournament House serves as the permanent headquarters of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association. The 88-year old mansion is a majestic 22-room, 18,500-square-foot Italian Renaissance-style house designed by architect G. Lawrence Stimson. You won’t want to miss this rare opportunity so please sign up now (see announcement in this newsletter)!

Region 9, representing the four sections within California, is preparing a **California Infrastructure Report Card to be unveiled September 27<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento**. Grades will be provided on the different areas of infrastructure and will be similar to the National and local report cards previously presented by ASCE. The report card will provide timely information as voters consider infrastructure bonds on transportation, levees and flood control facilities, water, education and housing, and a constitutional amendment to “once and for all” end the diversion of transportation funds to other programs. The following is a listing of the Propositions on the November ballot:

- Proposition 1A**, Transportation Funding Protection
- Proposition 1B**, Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act
- Proposition 1C**, Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act
- Proposition 1D**, Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act
- Proposition 1E**, Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act
- Proposition 84**, Water Quality, Safety and Supply, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvements Bonds

For voter information, see the Secretary of State’s web page at the following link and be sure to vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>! [www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vig\\_publicdisplay.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_vig_publicdisplay.htm)

As my term as Section President winds down, **I’d like to thank the Section Board for an outstanding year!** We’ve accomplished a lot and raised awareness of infrastructure needs. The year started off with the Section **annual awards and installation dinner** at Disneyland’s

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**Reminder:**

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



## Another (Fiscal) Year Over

This is the last issue of our current fiscal year 2005-2006. It has been a very productive year for your newsletter. During this time, we have successfully transitioned to a publication delivery system that is quite unique: paper and electronic depending on which media our members want. It was confusing at first, but we finally got it right.

As you may have read in our President's Message, there was also an outside audit conducted on our Section's finances. Your newsletter came out of that audit unscathed. With one or two minor items of consideration, it was determined that we are functioning quite well.

This is again a great financial year for us. As you know, your newsletter is run by volunteers like myself and as a volunteer publication, we are once again able to generate excess funds that we will be giving back to the Los Angeles Section. Those funds will be used in many Section activities.

Since taking over the management of this newsletter, we have been able to send funds back to our Section for six of the last eight years. We are proud of our financial accomplishment and proud of our ability to support Section activities. To put this in perspective, over eight years ago, this newsletter was subsidized by the Los Angeles Section in the amount of approximately \$60,000 per year. The year your current newsletter staff took over, the newsletter was about to be axed by the Section. Because of our efforts but most importantly the support of our advertisers, we were able to turn around our publication to where it is right now. We forge ahead and continue in this journey.

We present in this issue an article written by a professional engineer who is also a financial planner. The article talks about the need to plan out our financial future. We hope you enjoy it. Also, we have several technical seminars that are worth going to. Our installation banquet is also around the corner. I hope you don't miss these events.

Finally, we say "thanks" to our outgoing officers. We had the luxury of having very dynamic individuals who have been tirelessly volunteering their time to ensure that our 5,000 Los Angeles Section members are energized and plugged in to the pulse of the Section and of National ASCE. You have seen them in your own Branches. You know who they are. Your involvement we hope remains the same as you support the incoming Section officers. This newsletter is the media bridging ideas hatched out in Section and Branch meetings to the realization of those ideas in the real world.

Enjoy this issue.

- Dr. Cris B. Liban

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

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## Financial Foundation

by Ruben Trigueros

This is the first of a series of articles I will be writing regarding financial solutions and investing. This article is written by an engineer who has developed an expertise in financial planning and has now been licensed in that field. This as well as other upcoming articles will hopefully make us more aware of the role of the financial planner and the importance of a financial plan in an engineer's life.

One survey asked adults (ages 40 to 64 with annual incomes of at least \$75,000) how much savings they would need in order to maintain their standard of living in retirement. Respondents working with a financial professional expected to need about \$2.5 million. Respondents who did not have professional guidance expected to need about \$3.5 million.

Setting realistic expectations is just one of many variables that could effect your retirement planning. Although there is no assurance that working with a financial professional will improve results, working with someone who focuses on your overall financial objectives can help you consider options that could have a substantial effect on your long term financial situation.

Survey respondents who worked with a financial professional were noted to have saved more for retirement than those who did not. On average, the group without a solid financial strategy had accumulated less than one-third of the savings they expected to need, compared with the financially strategized group, who had accumulated an average of 72 percent of what they expected to need.

A financial professional can remove some of the guesswork by helping you consider areas of your retirement future that you may have not considered. For example:

- What percentage of your pre-retirement income will you need to maintain your lifestyle?
- What sources of retirement income will you have?
- How might inflation affect your investment portfolio?
- How long can you expect to be retired?
- How will you pay for medical expenses or extended long term care?
- How protected are your assets from a severe market downturn?

Professional guidance can help you make informed decisions and manage the uncertainties inherent in preparing for retirement.

*Ruben Trigueros is a financial planner at Trilogy Financial Services, Inc.*

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## 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.

**CALIFORNIA GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEETING  
Wednesday, September 13, 2006**

Continuing its tradition of offering a forum for sharing practical experience to Professionals in the Geotechnical industry, the California Geotechnical Engineers Association (CGEA) will be presenting its Regional Membership Meeting on September 13th at the Embassy Suites in Santa Ana. Our evening will include the following:

**5:30 p.m.** - Social Hour  
**6:30 p.m.** - Dinner  
**7:30 p.m.** - Program

**Program: "YOU CAN STOP ROCK 'N ROLL"** – our speaker, **William F. Kane, PhD, PG, PE**, President of Kane GeoTech, Inc., is an award-winning professor, and has consulted and done research in the areas of rock and soil mechanics, ground subsidence, slope stability, and rockfall mitigations. This multimedia presentation discusses the development of engineered rockfall barriers from engineering concepts to prototype testing, and reviews the principles involved in field data collection, rockfall analysis, and design barriers and draperies.

**Location:** Embassy Suites  
1325 E. Dyer Road  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

**Time:** 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. (dinner provided)

**Cost:** \$45 CGEA Members ~ \$70 Non-Members

**Advance Reservations Due September 7, 2006**

**Contact:** o. 530.344.0644 f. 530.344.0834  
e-mail: [cgea@comcast.net](mailto:cgea@comcast.net)

**CALIFORNIA GEOTECHNICAL  
ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**  
In Conjunction With ASFE  
**PRESENTS:**

**PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE 101**

**The Essentials of Risk Management  
and Profitability for Project Managers**

**A Full-Day Seminar  
(7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)**

**Seminar Leader: John Bachner/ASFE  
Cost: \$100 CGEA Member Firms**

**Southern California:  
Thursday, October 26, 2006  
Atrium Hotel, Irvine, CA**

**Northern California:  
Friday, October 27, 2006  
Radisson Hotel, Dublin, CA**

**For further information contact CGEA at (530) 344-0644**

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued*

Club 33. Many worthy projects and individuals were recognized; Lifetime Achievement awards were presented to Herb Nakasone P.E., M.ASCE and Bob Hodson, P.E.. The banquet was quickly followed by the **National Conference** held in Los Angeles. A highlight of the conference was the **community service project** at the Bradley Multipurpose Senior Center in Watts with over 100 volunteers, many from the Section. The power of many hands working together was clearly evident at the end of the day! In February, the Life Member Forum conducted the **Life Member Induction Luncheon** with ASCE National President Dennis Martensen, P.E., F.ASCE attending to congratulate the inductees and to provide a keynote presentation. The Life Members also honored Charles Ruiz, P.E., M. ASCE with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Robert W. Bien Life Member Award. Also in February (as part of Engineer's Week), the Section participated in the Legislative Day in Sacramento. Many Section members met with their local legislators to provide information on infrastructure and discuss the need for increased funding.

In July, the **Section's International Committee** conducted the **4<sup>th</sup> International Engineering and Construction Conference** at Cal State Fullerton. The conference was honored to have Cindy Quon, Caltrans District 12 Director and Arthur Leahy, Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority as luncheon speakers. In addition, presentations on Project Planning and Management, Environmental Issues, Engineering and Construction were heard from speakers of many nationalities. I enjoyed the company of a Japanese civil engineering student at lunch.

I'm pleased to announce that the Section has completed its first "outside audit" of the Section's financial statement for Fiscal Year 2004/2005. Previous audits have been performed by the Section's Audit Committee. The results indicate accurate financial record keeping by the Section's Treasurer. The report also contained a few recommendations currently being evaluated by the Audit Committee.

In closing, I'd like to thank my wife Beverly for all her support, for attending so many events and for allowing me the time to serve the profession! I'd also like to thank departing Board members Neil Morrison, P.E., M.ASCE (Past President) and Rossana D'Antonio (Vice-President, Technical Groups) for their years of hard work. A special "thank you" goes to Carl Blum, P.E., F.ASCE and Irv Sherman who are "retiring" as long term officers of ASCE. Carl most recently served as the Region 9 Society Director, serving as the Chair of the Board of Governors and also serving on the National Board of Directors. Irv most recently served as Chair of the History and Heritage Committee, helping to dedicate many sites as historical landmarks and preserve the region's civil engineering heritage. Each has served as role models for me and I really appreciate their service!



**ASCE** American Society of Civil Engineers

**Orange County Branch  
ASCE Seminar  
Water Design and Construction  
Friday, September 22, 2006  
8 AM to 12 PM**

**PRESENTERS:**

**MIKE HOOLIHAN, P.E.**

IRWD  
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

**TOM EPPERSON, P.E.**

TETRA TECH, INC.  
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

**JEFF STANEART, P.E.**

IRWD  
DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION & OPERATIONS  
ENGINEERING MANAGER

**Save the Date!**

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

**Cost:**

- ▶ **\$100.00 per person with paid reservations by Monday, September 18, 2006**
- ▶ **\$110.00 after September 18, 2006**

**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:**

- IRWD Master Planning Process
- Overview of Hydraulic Modeling
- IRWD Subdivision Water Design
- Preparation of Water Plans
- Pitfalls During Construction

**Water Design and Construction Seminar  
September 22, 2006**

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### For Los Angeles:

Ms. Joy Hernandez  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
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Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Phone: (310) 665-1536  
Fax: (310) 665-9070  
Email: jhernandez@kpff-la.com

### For Pasadena:

Ms. Tamara Kealty  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
2 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 820  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 578-1121  
Fax: (626) 578-9121  
Email: tkealty@kpff-pas.com

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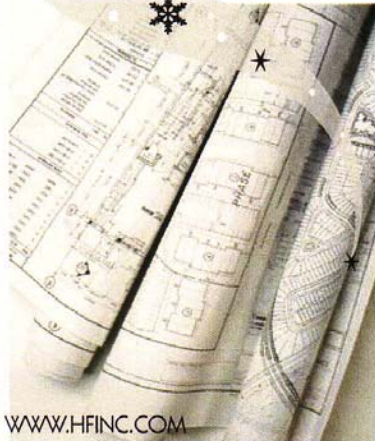
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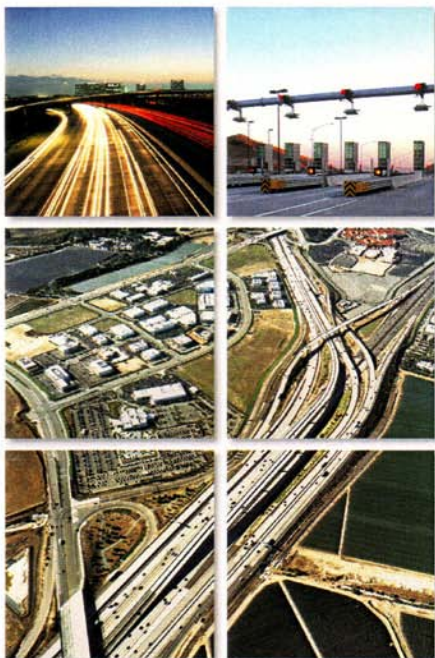
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## WHERE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE ARE THE RULE!



The Los Angeles Section  
 Cordially Invites You to  
 The Wrigley Mansion  
 Installation & Awards Dinner  
 Friday, October 6, 2006

<p><b>Awards / Installation Dinner</b>          Wrigley Mansion,          Pasadena Tournament of Roses          391 South Orange Grove Blvd.          Pasadena, CA 91184</p>	<p><b>For RESERVATION</b>          please send check payable to:          ASCE, Los Angeles Section          1405 Warner Avenue          Tustin, CA 92780</p>
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**Dress:  
 Evening Attire**

Members & Guests: \$80.00 per person (Seats are limited to the first 100 reservations w/ payment)  
**Reservation & payment must be received no later than Friday, September 29, 2006**  
 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: 6:15PM ❖ Reception/Tours: 6:30PM ❖ Dinner: 7:30PM ❖ Program: 8:30PM

Call ASCE Offices if you have any questions at 714 / 258-8306

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My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ seats. & \_\_\_\_\_ drink tickets    Check # \_\_\_\_\_



# FROM WINE COUNTRY TO TINSEL TOWN

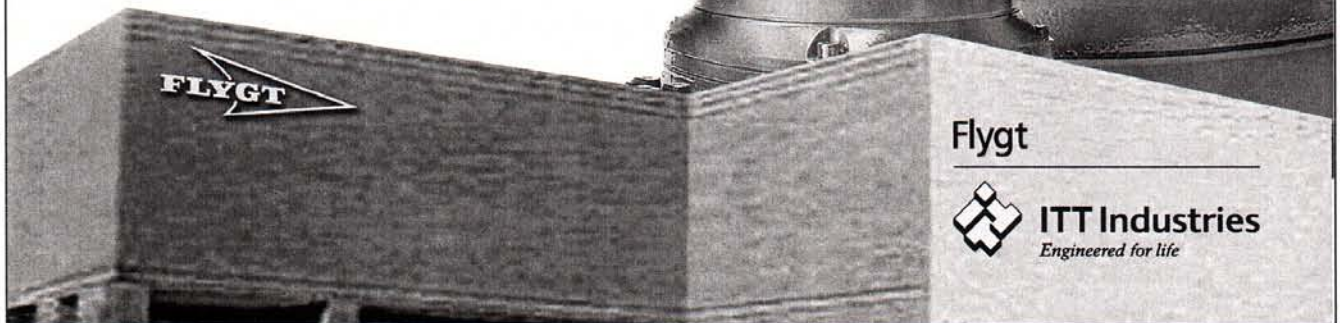
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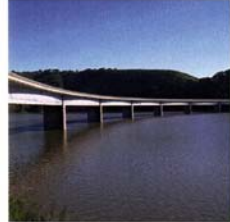
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Infrastructure Engineering Corporation (IEC) is seeking a Project Engineer with a minimum of 5 years of professional work experience, B.S. in Civil Engineering, professional registration, preferably in California. The Project Engineer will report directly to the department manager. The Project Engineer will be responsible for successfully managing small to moderately complex projects within budget, schedule, and to the clients satisfaction. Projects include street and drainage design, site civil planning and design, planchecking and development reviews, capital improvement program management, NPDES stormwater quality management programs, and assessment engineering.

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Howard H. Chang, Ph.D., P.E., *Professor, SDSU;*

Paolo Zanetti, Ph.D., QEP, *President, EnviroCOMP;*

Robert J. Whitley, Ph.D., *Professor Emeritus, UC Irvine;*

Carlos Brebbia, Ph.D., *Director, Wessex Institute of Technology;*

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



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EOE M/F/D/V

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