

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Norton, P.E.  
Section President



## Our Soldier Engineers and a Farewell

The need for infrastructure improvements in Iraq has been identified by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Chief, Lt. General Robert Flowers, as the key to peace in Iraq. Lt. General Flowers indicated that demonstrating progress in rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure in areas such as a dependable electric generation system, water treatment systems, wastewater

treatment systems and other utilities will improve the opportunities for peace in the region. He further said that by improving Iraq's very old and poorly maintained infrastructure as quickly as possible, hope will be created among the people, many of whom still live in desolate and unsanitary living conditions.

Since the beginning of the Iraq war, hundreds of engineers and contractors have been deployed to Iraq to support the efforts there. With the ASCE Los Angeles Section having one of the largest concentrations of civil engineers in the country, there is little doubt there are many civil engineers who also are in the military reserves from our region who have been in or are currently deployed to Iraq to help with the rebuilding of that nation. What many of our Section members may not know is that among the large contingent of civil engineers assigned to work in Iraq is one of our very own past ASCE Section Presidents, Rich Haller. Rich has served in the Air Force reserves for over 15 years and is currently a Lieutenant Colonel. He is second from the right, front row, in the photo.



Rich was deployed to Iraq about three months ago for a six month assignment in Iraq. Rich is part of a 15 person Field Engineering Detachment (FED) assigned to the 332d Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron (332 ECES) at Joint Base Balad. The 332 ECES serves as the "public works department" for the 30,000 plus inhabitants living and working at the base or "city". The FED is planning and implementing a variety of projects including force protection requirements, buildings, roads, fuels, water, wastewater, power, and airfield operations. Designs must consider the temporary nature of the facility, local Iraqi conditions (heat and blowing sand), and availability of materials and contractors. Rich reports that the biggest challenge has been and continues to be the scorching heat. He indicated that since he has been in Iraq the temperatures regularly exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

Rich's full time employment back home has been with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) as the Engineering and Operations Department Manager. Rich and I have worked together as department managers and colleagues at the same organization for the past five years. In addition to our mutual office headquarters, Rich and I have actively served

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**Reminder:**

Copy deadline for the Oct. 2008 issue is Sept. 1, 2008; copy deadline for Nov. 2008 issue is Oct. 1, 2008.



## We Need You!

How fast this year has passed. We are about to start a new year with a fresh set of new ASCE leaders. As we reflect back on this past year's accomplishments, we are reminded of the continuing challenges that have come about related to these successes.

Your Los Angeles Section Monthly needs your continued support in developing articles and ideas to add more value to this newsletter. In this regard, we are soliciting participation from you to possibly become a feature writer on the following topics:

- Sustainability and the Environment;
- Innovative Technologies and Case Studies;
- Civil Engineering Education;
- Water Resources Issues; and
- Engineering Ethics.

The preceding list is not exhaustive and we are open to adding on to the list. We believe that having this initial menu of articles would assist us in improving the quality of your newsletter. Are you up to it? Contact me for more information.

This is the last President's Message of Section President Mark Norton, P.E. His article certainly evokes mixed emotions regarding the Iraq war. One thing for sure, regardless of your perspective of the conduct of the war, we should not forget that our men and women are out there defending a democracy. They dedicate their lives for that cause and as such truly deserve the honor and respect we should accord them.

We also highlight in this issue the Los Angeles Section's Installation and Awards Dinner. This year, as you know, we are introducing the Section's first Outstanding Sustainability Awardee. This award was developed out of our leadership's desire to recognize the efforts of organizations within the Los Angeles Section for the achievement of the triple bottom line: people, profit, planet. We hope to see you in October 4, 2008 at the Long Beach Aquarium for this event.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

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together in various ASCE leadership positions at both the local branch and Section levels. Having known him now in various capacities, I have the highest respect for Rich's leadership and support for the civil engineering profession through ASCE.

As I reflect on the sacrifice and risk that Rich and his family have taken on by this assignment, my thoughts are drawn to the many unsung engineering heroes among us who are quietly serving behind the scenes and out of the public eye to help others in need. Dealing not just with the challenges of our day to day engineering work duties but also having to perform them under dangerous and uncomfortable work conditions away from home and family is difficult to imagine. In some ways, these individuals who give so much are like the infrastructure systems that they are seeking to improve. Behind the scenes, vitally important but often underappreciated.

It is my hope that we take a moment to pause and think about the real sacrifices that some of us have made to serve our country, our society and our fellow man using our civil engineering skills to support infrastructure needs throughout the world. To Rich and all other civil engineers who have been deployed or may be deployed in the future, we express our deepest appreciation and admiration for your call to serve.

*continued on page 6*

## We Are Definitely Doing "Green"

The ASCE Sustainability Committee (Committee) had been very active in the last month. Activities have included attendance to internal and external meetings, selection of a "green" project, and sponsorship of a seminar.

The Committee has tried to fulfill the goal of having one committee meeting every month, except during a combined July/August meeting. Most recently, the committee has met through a teleconference to outline the Committee's forthcoming activities. In addition, Committee members have also identified potential partnering opportunities with other organizations such as the Rotary Club and Engineers Without Borders.

Representatives of the Committee also met the Board of Directors of the Filipino American Services Group, Inc. (FASGI, [www.fasgi.org](http://www.fasgi.org)). The goal of the meeting is to introduce a possible sustainability project to the organization through the renovation and retrofit of FASGI's Historic Filipinotown Headquarters and Homeless Shelter to achieve a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certified rating. The building also houses the Filipino-American Library.

The goal of the FASGI effort is to develop a project that fulfills the Committee Mission Statement while assisting in the development of sustainable infrastructure and operations in a minority community. This is intended to be a win-win effort for all in the following aspects. The greening of the FASGI Headquarters will reduce their operations cost over the life cycle of the building. This is significant specifically in these times of dwindling government grants and funds. In addition, Filipinotown residents, visitors and engineers will be able to have first hand knowledge about green infrastructure. This need is greater now that environmental concerns and issues have gone mainstream.

In addition, the FASGI project aims to assist in the acquisition of design and construction experience for Committee members who would not otherwise have that kind of experience in their respective organizations. Finally, we perceive this project to be of special interest to the media since while not the first homeless shelter to go green, this may be the first minority operated small shelter in its specialty clientele to do so. The Committee is now soliciting support from our members who would like participate in this effort. We will provide more information in the next few months.

We also sponsored a seminar entitled "The Cost of Being Green" at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Headquarters, Los Angeles, CA on August 5, 2008. The talk outlined the results of recent studies examining the cost of green and places them in the context of the current economic forces which are impacting the cost of construction and availability of capital. You can download the whole report at <http://www.davislangdon.com/USA/Research/ResearchFinder/2007-The-Cost-of-Green-Revisited/>.

Finally, in the interest of fulfilling additional training and resources needs by our members, our Committee has become a member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Please contact Dr. Cris B. Liban, Sustainability Committee Chair, at (213) 922-2471 or [cliban@UCLAlumni.net](mailto:cliban@UCLAlumni.net) if you would like to discuss these and any opportunities on which the Committee can participate.



# The Los Angeles Section

*Cordially Invites You to*

## *Aquarium of the Pacific*

*100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802*

### *Installation & Awards Dinner*

*Guest Speaker: Michael Christensen, P.E.,*

*Director of Port Development, Port of Los Angeles*

*Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 6:00 PM*

Behind the scenes "Green Tour" available for \$15.00 per person. The tour provides an education into the daily operations of the Aquarium of the Pacific. Enter the "wet side" of the aquarium, a section not normally open to the public. See what it takes to maintain a world class aquarium, from water filtration to animal care and feeding. ASCE Tours (15 per tour) 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM every half hour.

Attire:  
Business Casual

Members & Guests: \$100.00 per person, Students \$25.00  
(Includes entrance into the Aquarium for the day and parking)

**Reservation & payment must be received no later than Friday, September 19, 2008 to enable us to mail your tickets (which act as parking pass).**

**Registration: 6:00 PM - Reception 6:30 PM - Dinner: 7:15 PM - Program: 8:15 PM**

For reservations please send checks payable to ASCE LA Section, 1405 Warner Ave., Suite B, Tustin, CA 92780

Call ASCE Offices if you have any questions at 714-258-2306

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Dinner is Grilled Petit Filet Mignon & Pan Roasted Spiny Lobster Tail # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

# ASCE Seminar Orange County Branch The Entitlement Process A to Z



**ASCE** American Society  
of Civil Engineers

**Friday, September 12, 2008  
8AM to 12PM**

**Presenters:**

**Chandra Krout, AICP, LEED AP, GPR**  
Environmental Programs Administrator  
Planning & Redevelopment  
City of Irvine

**Steve Weiss, AICP**  
Principal Planner Community Development  
City of Irvine

**Patrick Strader, Esq.**  
Executive Vice President  
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**Ross Barker, P.E.**  
Principal  
Land Development Services  
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*The proceeds of the seminar will be donated to support the ASCE Student Chapters at CSULB, CSUF, and UCI, and to Student Scholarships.*

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- Climate Changes that affect Due Diligence
- Addressing Climate Change for CEQA Purposes
- Relevant Climate Change Legislation affecting Development
- Processing of Discretionary Applications—Cradle to Grave
- Interoffice/ Interagency Coordination
- CEQA/ Environmental Evaluation
- Scheduling
- The Entitlement Process from the Developer perspective
- Preparation & Processing of the Tentative Map
- Master Plan Engineering

**WHERE:**

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One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92623

**COST:**

\$100.00 per person with paid reservations by Mon., 9/8/08  
\$110.00 per person after 9/8/08

The Entitlement Process A to Z  
September 12, 2008

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

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## DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers under the auspices of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to help in the event of a major disaster. Classes will be held in alternate 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 please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman. The class lasts 5-6 hours and the cost is \$15. Classes are midweek and start at 9 or 10 AM.

To register for the class, submit your name along with your telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and zip code. You will be contacted when 10 or more individuals request a class. The maximum number in a 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 contact person, phone, fax, and e-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements. The class should have at least 10 and not more than about 20.

Thank you for your support of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Jack W. Rolston

Chair, Disaster Preparedness Committee, ASCE L.A. Section  
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Finally, as I close out my year as President of the ASCE Los Angeles Section, it has been my pleasure to serve you in this leadership calling. I extend my thanks to all who have worked to so hard to support the Section goals. This year has included some mammoth undertakings that will help our region continue to move forward to support our fellow civil engineers, the civil engineering profession and our quality of life for years to come. Our major accomplishments this past year include the following: revised and updated Section Constitution and Bylaws, a new Section Committee for Sustainability that has opened the eyes of civil engineers for the need of a "Green" world, a new Section Committee for Water Policy that raises awareness of our dwindling statewide water supplies and ways to address ongoing drought conditions, a soon to be completed new Section website, the start of three new countywide infrastructure report cards, the training of many new engineer/volunteer earthquake safety assessors, an updated electronic voting process for Section elections, and a two new videos that I hope will continue to inspire future students and ASCE members of the value of that noble calling and profession which we call "Civil Engineering".

## 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.



### Transportation Engineering/Public Works Project Managers Camarillo, Ontario & Irvine

RBF is seeking Project Managers to lead a team of engineers and design staff in the development of technical transportation design work associated with Caltrans freeway, highway and local roadway improvement projects. Position requires a BSCE, PE, and 7+ years progressively responsible experience in design and management of transportation/PW projects. Background in AutoCAD or MicroStation is essential.

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### For Pasadena:

Ms. Tamara Kealty  
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