May 06

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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"Management works in the system. Leadership works on the system." —Stephen R. Covey

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rich Haller, P.E. Section President



Why do you do it? How do you find the time? How did you become Section President? These are some of the questions I've received during my travels around the Section and believe it or not, it's a lot easier than you might think. As the new officers are recruited by Branches and Committees for next year, I'd like to encourage you to get involved in a leadership role with ASCE. The ASCE leadership model includes several key elements:

- No experience is required; you can learn the duties and responsibilities from your predecessor. Many groups have an Operations Manual to guide your activities.
- You are able to learn from your mistakes in a relatively "risk free" atmosphere.
- Workload and time commitment is kept reasonable by dividing responsibilities among a core group of volunteers.
- It's a great opportunity to learn new skills and meet a lot of great people!
- The rewards far exceed the "costs" in personal time.

I have personally experienced all these elements in my ASCE career and I look forward to many more years of continued service. My personal rewards have been great. I've met with legislators, students of all ages, members of the public, and ASCE members to talk about civil engineering and infrastructure. My current job, which is great, was obtained in part through my ASCE references! **Have a question about how to get involved?** Feel free to contact your existing leaders; or feel free to call or email me!

I am pleased to **recognize three ASCE leaders**, who will be taking on new roles beginning October 1St: **Mark Norton**, P.E., M.ASCE, President-Elect, **Sonia Nasser**, P.E., M.ASCE, Vice-President, and **Jay Higgins**, P.E., M. ASCE, Secretary. They will be installed at the Section Annual Meeting this October. We welcome them to the team and look forward to their service!

Infrastructure. Although the Governor's infrastructure measures did not get approved in time for the June ballot, the good news is **infrastructure will remain on the "front page" for a few more months**. The new Region 9, made up of the four Sections in California, is busy preparing a statewide infrastructure report card for release early this fall, prior to the November election. The Section and Region will closely track the bond bills as they develop in the Assembly and Senate and alert members of important facts and issues.

Section Awards. Have an award winning project or an outstanding civil engineer? The Section would like to hear about it! Nominations in 11 categories for project and individual awards will be accepted through mid August. For further details contact your Branch President or see the information posted on the website.

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Reminder:

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



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT BILL INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

The following is a reprint of a news article published in www.asce.org outlining the concept of Senator Voinovich's bill to create a National Commission on Infrastructure. For more information, including local infrastructure conditions and state infrastructure statistics, please visit www.infrastructurereportcard.org.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) applauded the introduction of the National Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2006, by Senator George V. Voinovich (R– Ohio), Senator Thomas Carper (D-Del.) and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY). If enacted, this critical legislation—created to address the deteriorating conditions of our nation's roads, bridges, drinking water systems, dams and other public works—will establish the National Commission on

EDITORIAL

Now We Are Electronic!

Greetings to all! For some of us, we are still reading this newsletter in paper form. For most of us, we have downloaded this newsletter from the ASCE Los Angeles Section or are reading this editorial on your computer screens. Yes, we have finally transitioned to the electronic form of our newsletter.

Nothing has changed except the means of delivery. The format remains the same, the nature of the content remains the same, the people developing, printing, and managing the newsletter remain the same.

I have received a lot of mail about this transition in the last three months. The overwhelming majority of us wanted this publication to go to electronic form. Some of us nevertheless wanted to continue receiving the paper copy. We have fulfilled those requests. We are confident that we have not missed anyone, but just in case the delivery method that you wanted is not the way you received the current document, just drop me a note and we will ensure that we comply with your request.

So, for the specific details. There are three modes of delivery. As we mentioned, the paper copy still exists. That is made for a few of us who want to continue receiving the paper copy. Then, there is an e-mail announcement sent to all who have e-mail addresses on file. Finally, there are the postcard announcements that are sent to all subscribers, including those who want to receive the paper version and whether you have an e-mail address or not. What we are trying to say here is that our subscribing members receive at least two announcements of the release of the newsletter. We do not want you to miss your issue.

I have received information that some of our members have passed away in the last few months. Their survivors have indicated that they do not want to receive any more of our newsletter. The best way our grieving families to get this request fulfilled is to call 1-800-548-ASCE and advise ASCE National of their requests. Unfortunately, we are not able to purge the information locally.

On a similar note, I have also received some postcards indicating that some of our Life Members do not any more want to receive the Newsletter as well. I would love to stop your subscription, but I cannot. You are receiving the Newsletter for free. As long as you remain to be an ASCE member of good standing, you are receiving all of the perks that all of us regular dues paying members receive. I know that is an annoying thought. The intent is to keep you involved no matter what. Maybe a call to 1-800-548-ASCE would be worth it.

I hope you enjoy this issue on paper or electronic media, whatever you chose.

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

Infrastructure of the United States. The commission will be charged with ensuring the ability of the nation's infrastructure to meet current and future demands and aid in the nation's economic growth.

"Our crumbling infrastructure is a looming crisis that jeopardizes not only our nation's prosperity, but also the quality of our daily lives," said ASCE President Dennis R. Martenson, P.E., DEE, F.ASCE. "The establishment of a comprehensive, long-term infrastructure development and maintenance plan is long overdue, and we commend Senator Voinovich, Senator Carper and Senator Clinton for their leadership in focusing congressional attention on this critical issue."

In March 2005, ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure noted a downward trend in many infrastructure sectors; with only two of the fifteen categories it assessed showing any marginal improvement. With an overall grade of D, and a \$1.6 trillion investment need, the Report Card echoed a nearly two-decade-old public warning that America's infrastructure was in decline. The 1988 report, Fragile Foundations: A Report on America's Infrastructure, was issued by a national commission appointed by President Ronald Reagan.

"The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina made painfully clear the dire need for improvements to our aging infrastructure. The deterioration of our nation's waterways and infrastructure systems are impacting our economy, the environment, and the welfare of the American people. The economic benefits of infrastructure projects speak for themselves. Right now, our infrastructure is collapsing due to insufficient funding. My legislation gets at the heart of the problem by establishing a commission that will provide concrete recommendations for future infrastructure needs. If enacted, this Commission will lead the way in providing long term solutions to the current problems we face today," said Sen. Voinovich.

"The future health of our economy depends upon the proper investment in infrastructure, whether we are talking about transportation, water supply, wastewater treatment or levees," said Sen. Carper. "No nation can be successful without these fundamental building blocks. As we look for the best way to address the future needs of our country in light of tighter and tighter budgets, we need to ensure that we can properly maintain our current infrastructure and set targeted priorities for future investments."

continued on page 3

REGIONAL US&R TEAM FORMING

Area "C" US&R Regional Task Force, including Glendale, Pasadena, Arcadia, Monrovia, San Gabriel, Alhambra, and several smaller cities, is recruiting civil and structural engineers for emergency incidents. Personnel for the 29 member teams will be trained in rescue systems, including: structure type and damages, shoring, trench rescue, and confined space rescues.

This is a rapid deployment team and personnel will be required to deploy within 45 minutes. It is important that you live within the close proximity of the Area "C" 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 rescue teams from dangerous conditions.

Those engineers needing information or interested in applying can contact:

Chief Martin Johnson

email: "mailto:mjohnson@cityofpasadena.net" mjohnson@cityofpasadena.net

or

Rodney B. Spears, SE

email: "mailto:rodneybspears@earthlink.net" rodneybspears@earthlink.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

A few quick notes on other things we are working on:

- Are you an ASCE National Committee member? If yes, we would like to meet you and understand your Committee's role. Our goal is to promote and utilize National Committee resources locally.
- Membership. YMF had a membership booth at the professional engineer's exam held at the Pomona Fairgrounds in April.
 Examinees were informed about ASCE and was invited to join.
- Electronic Newsletter. To better serve the needs of our members, the Section newsletter is being delivered electronically unless you specify a paper copy is desired.
- Website Update. The Section website is being restored after being destroyed by hackers. It's a work in progress but will be better than ever when done! (www.ascelasection.org)
- Planning for 2007. Our Section President-Elect, John Morris, P.E., F.ASCE is busy planning the Section activities for next Fiscal Year. He welcomes your inputs!

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Section or Branch activity!

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT BILL INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

continued from page 2

"Our nation's economic strength throughout history has been inexorably linked to the investments made in our public infrastructure. From the Transcontinental Railroad to the National Highway System, the public sector's investments in our roads, our waterways, our railways and our aviation systems have defined the bedrock strengths of the American economy and its people," said Sen. Hillary Clinton. "We need to ensure that we continue to make the right investments to rebuild and strengthen our aging infrastructure to ensure our nation's future prosperity. The consequences of ignoring this challenge will be staggering. This bipartisan legislation will help foster the consensus needed to move forward and enact the bold proposals necessary to ensure the viability of our nation's infrastructure."

The legislation, the first important step in revitalizing our nation's weakening infrastructure, would mandate:

- Establishment of the National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States to ensure that the nation's infrastructure meetscurrent and future demands and facilitates economic growth;
- Completion of a study by February 2009 that will address all matters
 relating to the state of the nation's infrastructure, including capacity of
 infrastructure improvements to sustain current and anticipated economic
 development, the age, condition and capacity of public infrastructure,
 repair and maintenance needs, financing methods and investment
 requirements;
- Development of recommendations for a federal plan outlining infrastructure priorities; and
- Completion of a report to Congress by February 2009 that will detail infrastructure legislation deemed necessary for the next five, 15, 30 and 50 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

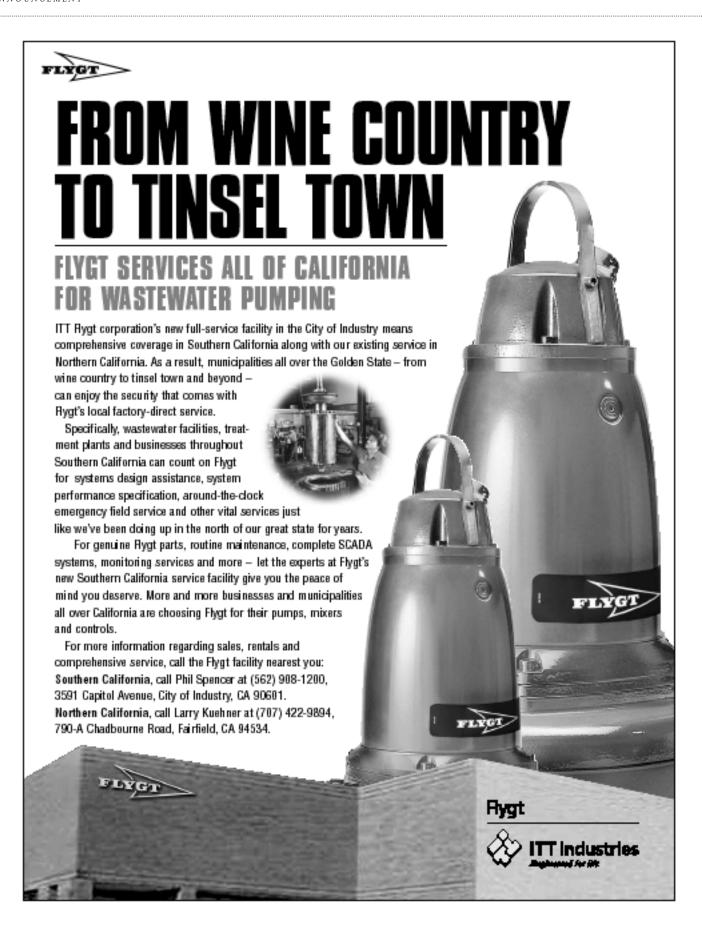
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The County of Orange Resources and Development Management Department (RDMD) is inviting all interested A/E firms to submit a proposal for RDMD's "Stream Gauge Master Plan Update" project.

For more information, please visit http://olb.ocgov.com
or contact Andrew Wu at andrew.wu@rdmd.ocgov.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.





Waiter Ouallity Stormwater

BRIDGEPORT LAKE

PACE was awarded the State of California Environmental Protection Agency Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's 2005 Water Quality Award in the area of Stormwater in recognition of "exceptional leadership in stormwater management," as demonstrated by Bridgeport Lake in Valencia, California.

Bridgeport Lake is a 15-acre manmade lake serving as the stormwater collection, conveyance and treatment system for Newhall Land's residential community. The lake's water treatment system utilizes naturally occurring biological processes to strip pollutants from urban runoff. The surrounding community benefits from a recreational and visual amenity and the environment benefits from protection of valuable water resources.









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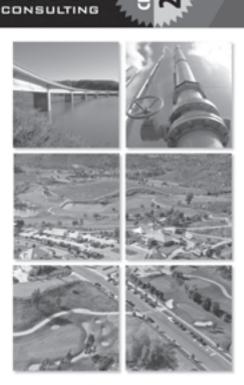
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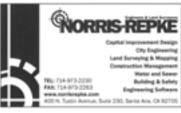
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