

Los Angeles Section

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Norton, P.E.
Section President



A Vision for Change

In the August 2007 issue of Civil Engineering Magazine, the magazine editor encouraged all civil engineers to make special note of a recently published ASCE document entitled "The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025". Excerpts from the document are included in the August 2007 issue which I encourage you to read. Upon review of the vision for civil engineering, I was struck by how well it embraced concepts that are rapidly taking hold around us such as sustainability, collaboration,

and environmental stewardship. The vision reflects the culmination of input from not just civil engineers but engineers from other disciplines, architects, educators association and society executives, and other leaders. This summit of innovative thinkers also reflects an interactive process wherein discussions were generated using ideas and aspirations from Summit participants as well as a vast array of ASCE members across the globe who responded to a survey on aspirations and vision for civil engineering in 2025. It is clear to me that the end result is profound in providing a guiding light for the path that must be taken to ensure the advancement of not just our profession but the sustainability of society and quality of life that we enjoy today. The Vision in a nutshell is as follows:

Entrusted by society to create a sustainable world and enhance the global quality of life, civil engineers serve competently, collaboratively and ethically as master

- planners, designers, constructors, and operators of society's economic and social engine – the built environment;
- stewards of the natural environment and its resources;
- innovators and integrators of ideas and technology across the public, private and academic sectors;
- managers of risk and uncertainty caused by natural events, accidents and other threats; and
- leaders in discussions and decisions shaping public environmental and infrastructure policy

As we ponder what immediate steps we can take that will impact our society in the greater Los Angeles region, I am struck by our need to be ever vigilant and prepared for one of the most significant risks to infrastructure and society in our region, that being earthquakes. In a Los Angeles Times article, it was reported that in emergency training sessions with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the USGS back in early 2001, the three most likely catastrophes to strike the United States were discussed. First on the list was a terrorist attack in New York. Second was a super-strength hurricane hitting New Orleans. Third was a major earthquake on the San Andreas fault. Now that the first two have come to pass, it is time for us to become better prepared and assure that we are doing all we can to handle a major temblor. Despite our best efforts, however, officials believe that a major temblor could cause the level of destruction and disruption observed from Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast.

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Nov. 2007 issue is Oct. 1, 2007; copy deadline for Dec. 2007 issue is Nov. 1, 2007.



A New Year of Challenges

We congratulate our new Los Angeles Section Board of Directors for taking on the new challenge of running our Section for the next year. Included in this issue is an introduction page for some of our officers. They will need all our help in this coming year to achieve success in all our Section's collective efforts.

Our new Section President Mark Norton, P.E. has a very timely message not only for civil engineers, but for all of us who care about the environment we live in. I echo his message of stewardship and responsibility to ensure that all that we do create little or no negative impact to the world we live in. Civil Engineers carry a heavier burden since it is through our profession that leaders in this initiative should naturally come out from.

This is not isolated. Within the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), for example, we have already begun incorporation of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles in the construction of our buildings. We are looking into sustainability concepts to incorporate in our Planning and Construction projects. We have moved towards adopting agency-wide recycling and reuse policies. Finally, we have begun discussions to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions.

We acknowledge that there are other forward thinking agencies out there that may be doing or have already done a number of the things we are doing at Metro. I mentioned the above in light of President Mark Norton's message to illustrate that this green revolution has begun. As with the end result, we need to maintain sustainability in this effort. This is not a flash in the pan. We do this now or we would regret the consequences.

We start this year with the preceding concepts as challenges. There are many more.

Enjoy this issue of our newsletter.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

In observation of our role as managers of risk of natural disasters, civil engineers can become proactive supporters of the Office of Emergency Services through certification as a Disaster Preparedness evaluator of buildings and infrastructure under post earthquake conditions. By this certification, we can serve as an invaluable support to state and federal officials to evaluate safety risk of structures. As a water resources engineer, I felt initially that this should be left up to civil engineers with structural engineering expertise, however, that is not the case. In late August 2007, I joined past president Rich Haller, and Jack Rolston, our current committee chairman of Disaster Preparedness for the Los Angeles Section in becoming trained, or recertified in Jack's case, as a certified evaluator for the OES. The class was enjoyable and not overly technical. The need for more trained evaluators is significant and I encourage all certified civil, structural, and geotechnical engineers to take the class that Jack Rolston is offering and become trained.

As your incoming President for Los Angeles Section, it is my privilege to work with the ASCE Branches, YMFs, LMFs, technical groups and Institutes in this region in moving forward to fulfill the vision of civil engineering for the Year 2025, to become better prepared for our changing world around us and to inspire all civil engineers to reach the full potential. I hope to see you at our upcoming ASCE Los Angeles Section Annual Dinner and Awards Program on Saturday, October 13th at the Huntington Library. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time.

2007-2008 Board Member Bios



Mark R. Norton, P.E.
Incoming President

Mr. Norton holds a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado and a Masters of Public Administration from Brigham Young University. He is a registered civil engineer in California and Colorado. Mr. Norton's background

includes 25 years of engineering experience in a broad range of civil engineering projects. Mr. Norton currently serves as the Water Resources and Planning Manager for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), a joint powers agency organized to protect water resources in the Santa Ana River Watershed. In addition, he is the authority administrator for the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority, a separate joint powers agency designed to enhance the water quality improvements for Lake Elsinore and the San Jacinto River Watershed.

He has served as chairman of the 2005 ASCE Inland Empire Infrastructure Report Card, Water Committee Co-chair for the 2006 California Infrastructure Report Card, the past president of the Inland Empire Council of Engineers and Scientists and the San Bernardino and Riverside Counties ASCE Branch. He is also involved in his community as a Board member for the San Jacinto River Watershed Council, a non-profit organization.

As the incoming president, I look forward to working with the ASCE LA Section auxiliaries in supporting civil engineering leadership in sustainable development, disaster preparedness and integrated regional planning. I am a strong advocate for effective outreach to K-12 students about civil engineering and encouraging ASCE members to become more involved in the ASCE leadership opportunities.



Jalal Vahabnezhad, P.E.
Treasurer

Jalal is a professional civil engineer with over 20 years of experience in geotechnical and general civil engineering in the public works arena. He is currently a Senior Civil Engineer with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from West Virginia Institute of Technology and a Masters degree in Transportation Engineering/Management from University of New Mexico where he continued his PhD studies in Geotechnical Engineering.

His involvement with ASCE includes, past Chairman of Geotechnical Engineering Group, Past President of Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch, and the current chair of national Committee on Community Volunteer Service.



Don Sepulveda, P.E.
President-Elect

Don is an Associate Vice President at DMJM-Harris. As a member of the Transit/Rail group in the west, Don is responsible for project management and marketing of Transit/Rail projects. Some of his past projects have been the

Alameda Corridor, Mid City Exposition Light Rail Project, and California High Speed Rail. Currently, he is working closely with Metrolink in developing their Sealed Corridor project and leading the effort on the development of grade crossing standards and procedures for the Metrolink system.

Don has been an active member of ASCE since he was a student. He has served on several national committees including the Committee on Student Activities and Strategic Planning Task Committee, and currently Chair of the Membership Committee. He has been President of the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch. Don has been actively involved with students in the Los Angeles area and nationally as the Vice President of Student Chapters and several other Section positions.



John Morris, P.E.
Past President

Owner and Principal of MORRIS Water Resources Consultants, Morris has been professionally involved with the water industry for over forty years. In addition to his service for the past 17 years on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California,

he serves on the Boards of the New Water Supply Coalition and the Water Environment. Morris has previously chaired the Water Desalting Committee of the American Water Works Association, the Water Reuse Committee of the Water Environment Federation, the Water Reuse Subcommittee of the Association of California Water Agencies, the Water Issues Committee of the Southern California Association of Publicly Owned Treatment Works, as well as the Reclamation Reuse Task Force of the State Water Conservation Coalition. He also served as a Director of the National Water Research Institute, the South Orange County Reclamation Authority, the California Water Environment Association and as a Founding Director of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. In addition, he is active in the WaterReuse Association, Colorado River Water Users Association, Southern California Water Utilities Association and the Orange County Water Association.

John is a former member of the Water Advisory Committee and Planning Commissioner for the city of San Marino. Morris is an active member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association and has served as a member of the San Marino City Club Board of Directors including as President in 2005. He is a civil engineering graduate of the University of Southern California and is the Past President of the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Russell E. Ryan, P.E.
Vice-President, Student Affairs

My career began in Civil Engineering upon graduating from Loyola Marymount University in 1984. From there I began my Water Resource experience with the Army Corps of Engineers and shortly after accepted a position with the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. I gained additional experience in Wastewater Engineering Design and

Project Management for sewage conveyance systems. I worked at the onset of the visions of the north outfall replacement sewer (NORS) conveyance pipeline. For the next several years, I worked for Los Angeles Department of Water & Power in the trunk-line/conveyance design section. The next change occurred when I transferred into construction inspection where I had the unique opportunity to inspect a pipeline project that I designed while I worked in the trunk-line design section. Construction inspection taught me valuable lessons in the different aspects of project management, coordination, and contract enforcement & compliance. I currently have been with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for approximately 17 years. I have varied unique opportunities in my part of insuring reliable water supply for southern California in an economic and environmental responsible manner. I have been involved in dry-year supply programs, system analyses of existing conveyance infrastructure systems, and looking at regional needs for seawater desalination. Most recently, I spend a good majority of my time working on solutions to the Sacramento-Delta issues and protecting Metropolitan's water supply interests.

I have been involved with ASCE, Los Angeles Section at different points in my career. I have held Section positions as the Section Assistant Treasurer (1993-95), Treasurer (1995-97), and Newsletter Business Manager (1997-2007). My visions for the Section have been to provide a quality and valuable resource for professional development & networking for all civil engineers, especially those just graduating from the Universities and Colleges.



Sonia Nasser, P.E.
Vice-President, Technical Groups

Sonia Ytuarte Nasser, P.E., hails from the great State of Texas and works with the County of Orange/Public Works Dept (RDMD) as the Manager for the Project Management and Regulatory Compliance Division. Ms. Nasser has over 18 years of experience working as a civil engineer in the public sector. She previously worked with the County's

Landfill department and also the Watershed & Coastal Resources group.

Sonia began her engineering career with the Los Angeles Department of Public Works in 1989 where she worked in the Planning Division and also the Traffic Engineering group. Sonia has a BS degree in Civil Engineering from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and has been a Registered Civil Engineer in California since 1993.

Sonia has been active with ASCE since college, heading up the concrete canoe team while at Southern Methodist University and was the ASCE chapter secretary. She has been active with the OC Branch since 1991 on the History and Heritage Committee. Ms. Nasser has served the OC Branch as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President in 2004-05. She also served as the 2005-06 Awards and Nominations Committee Chair.

Ms. Nasser chaired the Urban Runoff/Flood Control Committee for Orange County's first Infrastructure Report Card in 2002 and also in 2005 when it was updated. She also worked on the Urban Runoff element of the statewide report card in 2006.

Sonia is married to Mike Nasser and they have two daughters, Sara age 10 and Samar age 9. Ms. Nasser is also a member of APWA and the City Engineers Association of Orange County.



Jay Higgins, P.E.
Secretary

Jay Higgins is a professional civil engineer with 30 years of experience in the design and construction management of water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation, building, and earthwork projects. Jay currently works out of the Los Angeles Office of URS Corporation, Construction Services, Dispute Resolution Group, where he specializes in construction claims analysis.

His resident engineer and construction management experience includes inspection, construction schedule review, evaluation and negotiation of change orders, and resolution of disputes over cost and delay. Jay has been a designated expert for several civil engineering projects and given deposition testimony. His experience also includes Public Assistance Coordinator and Appeals Analyst for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Public Assistance disaster recovery grants program.

Jay has a BS in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University (Boston, MA), a MS in Environmental Engineering from Northwestern University, and a MBA from the University of Chicago. He is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer in California and Illinois.

He has been a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers since 1973 and served as President (2005-2006) and Treasurer (2002-2003) of the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch. He was a Director of the Chicago Post of the American Society of Military Engineers (1994-1996), and was President of the Illinois Association of Environmental Professionals (1995-1996).

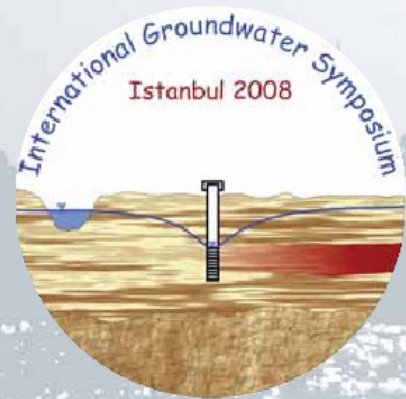
His goal as Secretary of the LA Section is to effectively record and archive the business of the Section, update and streamline Section procedures, and assure that the Section communicates effectively with the members.

Call for Papers

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Orange County Branch ASCE Seminar Sustainable Design Friday, September 28, 2007 8 AM to 12 PM

PRESENTERS:

Heather Rosenberg, LEED AP

Director of Sustainable Community Services
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Sam Ali, P.E., LEED AP

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Psomas

This 4-hour seminar will cover:

- Introduction to Sustainable Design
- The Importance of the Integrated Design Process
- Sustainable Design and Climate Change
- Introduction to LEED NC and ND
- How to Use LEED for Sustainable Design
- Civil Engineering Applications to Sustainable Design

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Cost:

- \$100.00 per person with paid reservations by Monday 9/24
- \$110.00 after 9/24, 2007

***Get your reservations in early!
SPACE IS LIMITED!***

The proceeds of the seminar will be donated to support the ASCE Student Chapters at CSULB, CSUF, and UCI, and to Student Scholarships.

Sustainable Design Seminar September 28, 2007

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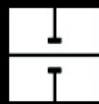
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All graphic materials submitted for use in this newsletter should have all fonts outlined, and links included; .eps files preferred. Other formats are: Quark, Adobe Illustrator or Adobe Photoshop; additional acceptable file formats are: .qxd, .eps, and .tif; PDF files are acceptable for proofing only. Images embedded in Microsoft Word documents should be sent separately, at a minimum resolution of 150 dpi at the display size desired. Collected files, including links and fonts, should be compressed and emailed, or sent on zip disk (provide return address). Business cards can be submitted electronically as well, or send clean, crisp, b&w laser print, unfolded.

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