

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## OFFICERS'S MESSAGE

Daniel Cronquist, P.E., P.L.S.  
Los Angeles Section President

### President's Message



This has been a difficult couple of months. By the time this article is published I hope that COVID-19 a step closer to being stopped and that we can soon return to meeting together. Our branches, YMFs, institutes, and student chapters are still meeting virtually to plan and prepare for events once the shelter-in-place orders are lifted.

Prior to the start of COVID-19, I was asked several times what does ASCE offer? Don't they just provide technical information? I think that ASCE offers more than just the development of technical skills. Here are some of my ideas.

If you have more ideas, email them to me. I would love to hear from you.

- **Leadership** is a skill best learned through doing and ASCE provides many ways to be active, such as becoming a YMF or Branch officer. Planning and executing events develops skills which are needed to lead teams.
- **Networking** is very important for engineers as our projects often require the support and approval of many different stakeholders. Even in a big city like Los Angeles, it's amazing how small a community it is.
- **Friendship.** No one talks about friendship in the business world, but really it is just the outgrowth of successful networking. Having friends, establishing roots, building community – these are the things that keep folks from wanting to change jobs.
- **Recognition.** There are many ways to recognize individuals and companies for their contributions to civil engineering in southern California. One of those ways is our Branch Awards and Section Awards, which honor projects, design teams, contractors, and owners for spectacular work in improving our communities.
- **Branding.** A great way to share the great work that you and your agency or firm is doing is to write a newsletter article for our Branches or the Section. It is the best kept secret for free advertising about your great project, new technology, or unique experience. The Society also publishes Civil Engineering Magazine and you can submit articles for them too.

In case you were not aware, the Los Angeles Section and ASCE as a whole has experienced a decline in membership for many years. This decline mirrors trends in other professional, service, and religious organizations around the country. So, I wanted to let you know about a program where you can provide individual memberships for all your employees at a discounted rate – it's called the Partnership Program.

- If your organization is less than 50 members, then enrolling in the Associate Partnership can save 20% on national membership dues, while providing other benefits.
- If your organization has more than 50 members, then you can get a customized package to meet your needs.

AECOM has used the Partnership Program for several years and I highly recommend it for your organization. For more information, please contact: [corporate-services@asce.org](mailto:corporate-services@asce.org).

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## Caltrans TMC Tour

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On February 7, ASCE MLAB hosted a tour of Caltrans' Traffic Management Center (TMC).

The TMC is located in Glendale, CA.

The TMC serves as the operations focal point for maximizing traffic flow and reducing congestion and is the hub for emergency response efforts and freeway incidents management on the Los Angeles County and Ventura County freeway system.

The tour was led by Caltrans TMC team Dr. Morteza Fahrtash, PE and Mr. David Lau, PE and our K-12 outreach committee co-chair Leila Khalkhali, PE. Approximately 20 people attended this technical tour.

The California Department of transportation (Caltrans) District 7 and the California highway Patrol (CHP) Southern Division have combined their expertise to operate the LARTMC as working example of inter-

departmental cooperation. The LARTMC is not just about moving cars. Caltrans mission is to improve the mobility of people, goods, services, and information across the California, as the CHP works to provide safety, service and security on state freeways and highways. Working together, Caltrans and the CHP manage and monitor 42 freeways and highways totaling 1,188 freeway miles. An average on one hundred million vehicle miles are travelled daily on this system; this is equivalent of over 4,000 trips around the globe.

Across the country, transportation agencies are applying advance communications technologies known as Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to improve transportation safety, mobility, efficiency and dependability. In 2007, Caltrans, as collaborating LARTMC partner, was a recipient of the "Best of ITS Award" by ITS America, a world-wide ITS program that honors the most innovative, effective and influential achievements in the ITS industry.



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## ASCE Constitutional Changes on the May 2020 Ballot

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During the month of May 2020, the annual ASCE Society elections will be held. Included on the ballot is an initiative for approval from the membership for significant changes to the ASCE Constitution. It is important that you read and understand this ballot initiative thoroughly as it prescribes major changes to the way the Society operates.

In April you would have received election emails from an ASCE vendor, Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS). Please be sure to add [noreply@directvote.net](mailto:noreply@directvote.net) to your approved sender list, and vote for whom you want to lead the Society and the Constitutional initiatives on the ballot. You will be able to vote directly from the email, and you will not need a special password. If you don't receive your election email by May 1, please contact [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net).

As per the January 30, 2020 ASCE News article, the Society Board previously discussed, edited and voted to approve a second reading  
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of a series of ASCE Constitutional amendments at its quarterly meeting, January 9th in Detroit. The Constitutional changes, first proposed by the Governing Documents Committee last fall, include:

- Giving Affiliate members the right to vote in ASCE elections (and effectively enabling Affiliate members the right to run for as ASCE President as well)
- Loosening (shortening) the deadline for proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents
- Moving articles that do not require approval by the members to the bylaws (thereby enabling the Society board to become more nimble and efficient)

All Region 9 ASCE members must endeavor to vote in this important election. Please contact Kwame Agyare, Region 9 Director, at [Agyare.kwame@gmail.com](mailto:Agyare.kwame@gmail.com) if you have any questions or for further information.

# Notice of Region 9 Opening for At-Large Governor



ASCE Region 9 invites nominations for one Region 9 Governor At-Large position for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2020. To be considered for this position, you must be a Society member in good standing and have an Address of Record within the Region being represented. It is encouraged that nominees also have prior service as a Branch,

Section or Technical Group officer, member of a Section or Branch committee, or a member of a Society-level Committee and have demonstrated leadership skills. This is an appointed position.

Under the current Region 9 Bylaws, the Region 9 Board of Governors shall base its selection on the specific qualities and/or membership affiliations that are underrepresented on the Region 9 Board of Governors by the Elected Region 9 Governors. In addition, in July 2019, the Society Board of Direction directed that all Board and Society Committees, and their constituent committees, to modify their organizational structures to require at least one (1) position be held by a Younger Member. The Region 9 Board therefore considers it desirable that a Younger Member would assume a position on its Board for the 2020-2023 term, since there is currently no Younger Member on the Board.

A Letter of Intent to apply for this elected office must be submitted not later than June 1, 2020, to the Region 9 Nominating Committee Chair: Yaz Emrani, at [YEmrani@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:YEmrani@GlendaleCA.gov), (949) 285-8483. Please contact Yaz Emrani for any questions. In addition, the following documents are also requested:

- Signed Governor Commitment document (contact Yaz Emrani for form)
- Biographical Statement, not to exceed 200 words
- Vision Statement, not to exceed 200 words
- Any endorsements
- Head shot color photograph

Nominees will be requested to attend a video-conferencing interview before the Region 9 Board of Governors tentatively scheduled for June 19, 2020 at 1pm Pacific Daylight Time. A selection of At-Large Region Governor will be made that day, and all applicants will be subsequently notified.

## ASCE SOCIETY BYLAWS Article 5 Management

5.4.2 Geographic Region Boards of Governors. Geographic Region Boards of Governors shall be established for each Geographic Region.

5.4.2.2 Duties. The Geographic Region Boards of Governors shall be responsible for establishing, reforming, or dissolving Geographic Units within their Region; assisting in development and implementation of the Society's Strategic Plan; reviewing Annual Reports from their respective Organizational Entities and coordinating with the Member Communities

Committee on how to resolve issues of concern; providing leadership and direction for Region technical, professional and educational activities; serving as a resource to Sections for Society level programs; providing input to the Board of Direction on policy initiatives; facilitating the process for election of Geographic Region Directors and Geographic Region Governors; participating in the nomination process for President-elect; and fostering communications to and from the Board of Direction and between the Region's Organizational Entities.

## ASCE Board of Governors Commitment

If elected to the American Society of Civil Engineers, Region 9 Board of Governors, I commit to actively participate in the growth and development of the Region 9 Board and will satisfy the following duties and requirements:

1. Remain in good standing as a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers
2. Insure that the Board of Governors operates with legal and ethical integrity and is accountable to its Members and obligations to the ASCE Society at all times;
3. Be accessible and contribute knowledge, experience, contacts, and resources to help assure success of Region 9
4. Provide input to ASCE Board of Direction, facilitate communications, help implement the Society's Strategic Plan, promote leadership development, support the local geographic units, and improve member service within the Society
5. Be proactive in supporting the ASCE Region strategic goals and objectives and work to develop and/or strengthen the programs and services required to achieve them
6. Serve as the ambassador of ASCE and work to enhance the organization's public standing
7. Serve on ASCE Society or Region 9 Board Committees as appointed
8. Help secure funding for the Region 9 programs through sponsorship, corporate and charitable sources, grant funding, fundraising events, and personal donations
9. Help encourage, support and recruit new Society Committees, Governors, Directors, President-Elect Nominees
10. Attend all monthly Region 9 Board meetings (typically monthly conference calls and three face-to-face meetings per year held throughout the State)
11. Attend and participate in annual Multi-Region 8 & 9 Leadership Conference as a facilitator and session moderator
12. Attend Leader Orientation as a new governor held by ASCE Society in Reston, Virginia
13. Attend annual ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum held by ASCE Society in Reston, Virginia (recommended)
14. Attend annual Region 9 Infrastructure Symposium and Region 9 Awards Dinner
15. Attend annual ASCE Society Convention and provide updates to the Board of Governors on information received (recommended)
16. Attend as many local ASCE Section, Branch, YMF, LMF, Student Chapter, local Institute Chapters and technical and professional group events as possible in support of ASCE Region 9 Board goals and objectives
17. Section/Elected Governors – Attend Section Board meetings of your assigned Section and participate as voting members of the Section Board.



# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



The world was stood on its' head in March by the COVID-19 crisis. As the health and economic crisis expanded in California, the Legislature passed an emergency spending package of two bills (SB 89 and SB 117) for Governor Newsom. It recessed early for its' spring recess that has now been extended to May 4, 2020.

## Executive Orders

Governor Newsom was very busy in March – issuing a series of executive orders to deal with the crisis.

**N-25-20** March 12 Directs Californians to follow public health directives including canceling large gatherings more than 250 people. Order removes waiting period for unemployment and disability insurance for Californians who lose work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Readies state to commandeer hotels & medical facilities to isolate & treat COVID-19 patients. Allows local and state legislative bodies to hold meetings via conference calls while still meeting state transparency requirements

**N-26-20** March 13 Order mandates that school districts use dollars to fund distance learning and high-quality educational opportunities, safely provide school meals, and arrange for the supervision of students during school hours. Order requires Department of Education and California Health & Human Services Agency to develop strategies to address equity challenges around internet connectivity, ensure students with disabilities receive specialized education, and safely provide meals. Order urges employers to take area school closures into account and provide flexibility during the COVID-19 crisis

**N-27-20** March 16 Updated California Health Guidance: Seniors and COVID-19 vulnerable residents directed to home isolate. Health care, residential and non-residential facilities licensed by the state, especially those serving senior citizens and other COVID-19 vulnerable populations, will face significant challenges

**N-28-20** March 16 The Executive Order authorizes local governments to halt evictions, slows foreclosures, and protects against utility shut offs

**N-29-20** March 18 The order waives eligibility re-determinations for 90 days for Californians who participate in:

- Medi-Cal health coverage
- CalFresh food assistance
- CalWORKS
- Cash Assistance for Immigrants; and
- In-Home Supportive Services

The change will allow current recipients of these safety net programs to continue receiving them without interruption. The executive order also waives certain provisions of the Bagley-Keene Act.

**N-30-20** March 18 waive, pending federal approval, this year's statewide testing for California's more than 6 million students in K-12 schools.

**N-32-20** March 18 providing flexibility to local governments to spend their emergency homelessness funding on immediate solutions tailored to combatting COVID-19 and its impacts on the homeless population. The Governor also waived certain regulatory barriers for any shelters or facilities built with this emergency funding.

**N-33-20** March 19 Stay at home order

**N-34-20** March 20 to permit vote-by-mail procedures to be used in three upcoming special elections, protecting public health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**N-35-20** March 21 The order gives the state the ability to increase the health care capacity in clinics, mobile health care units and adult day health care facilities. It also allows local governments more flexibility to utilize the skills of retired employees and reinforces the importance of the delivery of food, medicine and emergency supplies.

**N-36-20** March 24 No new commitments to state prisons or juvenile facilities will be accepted for the next 30 days Order also directs videoconferencing of all scheduled parole suitability hearings starting next month

**N-37-20** March 27 authorizing local governments to halt evictions through May 31, 2020.

**N-38-20** March 27 Order would enable California Chief Justice to take emergency actions for the state's courts to be able to conduct business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**N-39-20** March 30 expand health care workforce and staff at least an additional 50,000 hospital beds needed for the COVID-19 surge.

**N-40-20** March 30 Order provides 90-day extension in state and local taxes, including sales tax. Order extends licensing deadlines and requirements for a number of industries

**N-41-20** April 1 Funds will be deployed for hospital surge efforts, as well as other needs related to the COVID-19 response

**N-42-20** April 2 Order protects consumers who may be unable to pay for water service during COVID-19 crisis

**N-43-20** April 3 allows health care providers to use video chats and applications to provide health services without risk of penalty. Order aligns with federal Health and Human Services guidelines and waivers issued in response to COVID-19

**N-44-20** April 3 limit price increases from sellers on critical items, such as food and medical supplies

**N-45-20** April 4 guidance on prioritizing enrollment of children of essential critical infrastructure workers. Order will suspend restrictions on access to state-subsidized childcare programs. Order also allows California to take advantage of new federal flexibility to provide pandemic SNAP benefits to children to reduce food insecurity

### New Reports of Interest

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, "coalition of local governments, academic institutions, water users and others," released a report titled "Blueprint Economic Impact Analysis: Phase One Results" by UC Berkeley economists David Sunding and David Roland-Holst, findings include "unless responsible, balanced water reforms are enacted in the effort to achieve groundwater sustainability goals in the San Joaquin Valley," California "stands to permanently lose as many as 85,000 full-time jobs and \$2.1 billion in employee wages."

Legislative Analyst's Office released "Review of the Draft 2020 High Speed Rail Business Plan," it provides an overview of High-Speed Rail Project that was approved by voters in 2008 through Prop. 1A which authorized \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to be sold for building a high-speed rail system between Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles; reports that HSR 2020 plan estimates cost of building a system between San Francisco and Los Angeles now to be \$80.3 billion and that the first segment scheduled for operation will be between Merced and Bakersfield in 2029; among the "key issues" the report identifies for the Legislature's consideration is that "the near- and long-term schedules identified in the draft 2020 business plan appear ambitious" and an "important decision point" for the Legislature to consider is that the High Speed Rail Authority "is poised to make key decisions," such as its intention "to award a track and systems contract in Sept. 2020" for the entire San Francisco to

Bakersfield line, which "will reduce flexibility to change the project if in the future legislative priorities change."

The Legislative Analyst's Office released "COVID-19 and California's Evolving Fiscal Outlook," a brief analysis on how COVID-19 is impacting the financial markets, likely increasing the chances of a recession and lowering tax revenues from capital gains income by "several billion dollars lower than what the Governor's budget assumed," but points to California "adding significantly to the state's budget reserves" in recent years as a "key advantage" and is "better prepared to weather the public health crisis and unfolding economic downturn."

### Appointments of Interest

By Governor:

Reappointed to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District: **Alexander Sherriffs**, Fresno, health science clinical professor at UC San Francisco Fresno Campus since 2008 and a staff physician at Central California Faculty Medical Group since 1984.

Reappointed to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board: **Joseph Countryman**, Sacramento, independent engineering consultant since 2011; Timothy Ramirez, Albany, natural resources and lands management division manager at the SF Public Utilities Commission since 2005.

Reappointed to the California Water Commission: **Carol Baker**, Sacramento, former chair of the CA Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Blue Ribbon Commission and a former independent water policy consultant.

## ASCE OC Government Relations Committee: Super Tuesday Happy Hour

*by Patrick Tierney, Government Relations Committee Co-Chair*

On March 4th, Super Tuesday, the ASCE Orange County Government Relations Committee held their monthly meeting at TAPS Brewery in Tustin. What's so super about this Tuesday? I hope you're not asking, and you missed the meeting to vote!

Super Tuesday is when the most delegates in the presidential primary are won, including those from the largest state, California. Both political parties are in fact holding primaries, however, it is a much bigger event for the party that is trying to unseat the White House incumbent. This year the competition was between Democrats. Another day it'll be Republicans. At the end of the night, it was still unclear who and what policies may be on the November ticket





# Los Angeles Section Honors the 2020 New Life Members

by William E. Lawson, PE, F.ASCE, LMF

On Saturday morning, March 7, 2020, the ASCE Los Angeles Section Life Member Forum held its 19th Annual Life Member Brunch at the Monterey Hill Restaurant in Monterey Park, CA. The event was well attended by LA Section Members and by a few local engineering students, with a total attendance of approximately 95.

The Brunch program began at approximately 11:30 AM with opening remarks by ASCE Los Angeles Section President-Elect Seema Shah-Fairbanks, Ph.D., PE, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was then given by Jong-Wha Bai, Ph.D., PE, of California Baptist University, College of Engineering. Larry Lewis, PE, President of the ASCE Life Member Forum, then greeted the Brunch Attendees and spoke briefly on the honor of achieving Life Membership in ASCE and on the importance of continuing to be involved in ASCE after retirement. Presentations were then made by former ASCE Region 9, ASCE LA

Governor, Yazdan (Yaz) Emrani, PE, and current Region 9, ASCE LA Governor, M. J. Hashemi, PE, wherein an introduction to the purpose and function of ASCE Region 9 was given along with a 'Welcome' to the new ASCE Life Members from ASCE Region 9.



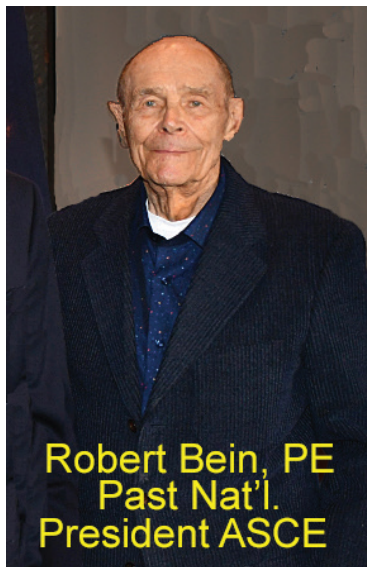


Following the Keynote Speaker, Jong-Wha Bai, Ph.D., PE, gave an update on the California Baptist University Capital Improvement Project.

Presentation of the new ASCE Life Members was then conducted by Don Sepulveda, PE, F.ASCE and Past-President of the Los Angeles Section. Life Member Certificates were handed to each new Life Member by LMF Chairman Larry Lewis, PE M.ASCE, while Don Sepulveda read a summary of each new Life Member's Professional career and achievements. Photographs of each new Life Member standing with Drs. Jean-Louis Briaud and Seema Shah-Fairbanks were taken by ASCE Life Member Mark Komoto. Unfortunately Dr. Briaud had to leave the Brunch early in order to catch a plane about half-way through the Certificate presentation portion of the program, and was replaced by Past ASCE National President Robert Bein in the photo session. Closing remarks were made by Dr. Seema Shah-Fairbanks, and the program concluded at about 2:00 PM.



Life Member Andrew (Andy) Machen, PE, is to be congratulated for planning this event and making the necessary advance arrangements with ASCE Headquarters for the getting the ASCE President Elect to come to our event and be the Keynote Speaker. Thanks also go to Gayle Stewart, L. A. Section Administrator, and her staff, for working with Andy in making the arrangements for the event location and Brunch. And again, a big Thank You to Life Member Mark Komoto, PE, M.ASCE, for taking all of the photos included in this Newsletter article.



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Nineteen (19) new ASCE Life Members received their Life Member Certificates at the 2020 ASCE Life Member Brunch; their photos, with captions, are included below.

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The following is a complete list of all sixty-two (62) of the new ASCE





ASCE 2020 Life Member - Lorne Gordon Everett, Ph.D., Hon.D.WRE, F.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Duane Leland Kenagy, PE, M.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Harold Wayne Faber, PE, F.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Jeffrey M. Key, PE, M.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Gill Voorhees Hicks, A.M.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Michael Anthony Kraman, PE, M.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Saif Mohammed Hussain, PE, M.ASCE



ASCE 2020 Life Member - Desmond Hing Lew, PE, M.ASCE

#### 2020 Life Members in the Los Angeles Section:

Issam Mustafa Ali, P.E., F.ASCE; J. Bruce Anderson, II, P.E., M.ASCE; Arul K. Arulmoli, Ph.D., D.GE. F.ASCE; James, Alan Bailard, P.E. M.ASCE; George E. M.ASCE; Pamalee A. Brady, P.E., M.ASCE; Gregory Oren Bryant, P.E., M.ASCE; Chris A. Cervellone, P.E., M.ASCE; Victor Chairprasert, P.E., M.ASCE; L. Duncan Dickenson, Aff.M.ASCE; Ronald J. Eid, P.E., M.ASCE; Lorne Gordon Everett, Ph.D., Hon.D.WRE, F.ASCE; Harold Wayne Faber, P.E., F.ASCE; Harold P.E., M.ASCE; Gregory Paul Heiertz, P.E., M.ASCE; Gill Voorhees Hicks, A.M.ASCE; Robert K. Holt, P.E., M.ASCE; Saif Mohammed Hussain, P.E., M.ASCE; Kirby, P.E., M.ASCE; Michael Anthony Kraman, P.E., M.ASCE; Desmond Hing Lew, P.E., M.ASCE; Hugo A. Loaiciga, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE; Ken Paul Matusak, P.E., A.ASCE; Michael G. McNally, A.M.ASCE; Robert R. McVicker, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE; Stephen M. Milazzo, P.E., F.ASCE; Sajal Kishore M. M.ASCE; Apichart Phukunhaphan, P.E.,

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Carl Battey, III, P.E. M.ASCE; Donald Wayne Bergh, P.E., Donald G. Black, Aff.M.ASCE; M.ASCE; Thomas Griswold Bollay, P.E., M.ASCE; Gary Alan Boubel, P.E., M.ASCE; Choi-Chi Cheang, P.E., M.ASCE; Donald P. Coduto, P.E., F.ASCE; Christopher Lee Conway, P.E., M.ASCE; Bruce James Deeter, P.E., M.ASCE; Robert D. T. Glaser, P.E., M.ASCE; Timothy Lee Graves, P.E., M.ASCE; David Griffith, P.E., M.ASCE; Robert Norman Hanford, P.E., M.ASCE; Philip Sei Hashimoto, P.E., M.ASCE; Dennis W. Jackson, P.E., M.ASCE; Larry Robert Kaprielian, P.E., M.ASCE; Duane Leland Kenagy, P.E., M.ASCE; Jeffrey M. Key, P.E., M.ASCE; Jeffrey B. Kohn, P.E., M.ASCE; Kenneth L. Ludwig, P.E., M.ASCE; Nadeem Majaj, P.E., M.ASCE; Dirk Steven Marks, P.E., M.ASCE; Michael Robert Markus, P.E., BCEE, D.WRE, F.ASCE; Jan M. Mitra, P.E., M.ASCE; Byron G. Montalvo, P.E., M.ASCE; John M. O'Brien, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE; Philip R. Osterlind, P.E., P.Eng, M.ASCE; Victor Pendera, P.E., M.ASCE;

# ASCE Region 9 Grand Challenge Task Committee Update

by Rossana D'Antonio, P.E., G.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE, ASCE Region 9 Governor At-Large, Chair, ASCE Region 9 Grand Challenge Task Committee



As I write this article, I am experiencing perhaps the most challenging time in my professional career. The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has literally changed the world as we knew it. The health emergency has become a global economic crisis. For me, ASCE's Grand Challenge has taken on a completely new and broader meaning. Reducing lifecycle costs and fostering the optimization of infrastructure investments for society are worthy goals

and innovation is now needed more than ever to address social emergencies never before experienced. As the Emergency Manager for Los Angeles County Public Works, I am immersed in the response for COVID-19 and it has provided me the opportunity for innovative thinking and problem solving in real time.

For the first time in history, our Department Operations Center has been activated at Level 1, the highest level, in support of our Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) and the Los Angeles County Public Health Officer. Under this structure, our civil engineers are leading the way in identifying facilities that will serve as quarantine sites to house individuals suffering or suspected of suffering from coronavirus. The goal is to identify 2000 beds to handle the anticipated surge, and in a matter of two weeks, we have procured, inspected and converted several hotels, motels, and RV Parks that have fulfilled 50 percent of our goal. More facilities are currently under consideration. Engineers are busy converting the Los Angeles Convention Center into a field hospital to treat a potential surge in COVID-19 patients. These fast-tracked processes have succeeded due to innovative procedures, emergency guidelines, and collaborative efforts between public and private entities.

In addition, in order to combat the spread of COVID-19, Public Works is implementing the orders of the County Health Officer and we have transitioned 50 percent of our workforce to a telework model. As a government agency, we had resisted this model in the past but given the social distancing guidelines, we quickly adjusted. Managers quickly developed productivity guidelines, equipped staff with the required technological tools, and are now continuing the delivery of essential services from remote locations.

Yet with all this disruption, we continue to deliver essential infrastructure and municipal services, while maintaining business continuity in all sectors to support our local economy. All plan checking and permitting is now done online using an Electronic Permitting & Inspection system. We continue to perform on-site inspection services while practicing social distancing, and offer virtual inspection services. Per the Safer at Home Order, construction is considered an essential service so we will continue to support all private and public construction operations. In addition, all construction bidding is

now performed electronically. Water agencies continue to serve safe, clean potable water to millions of customers. So, there's no need for members of the public to hoard drinking water; they can trust their water from their tap.

We have also adjusted many of our field operations, which must continue for the safety of the communities we serve. Smaller crews, increased personal protective equipment, face coverings, and COVID-19 safety tailgates are just some of today's new normal in infrastructure operations and maintenance.

We will get through this together and we will adjust to the next challenge because by nature, we are problem solvers. There is no room for "we have always done it this way" mentality. The economic downturn spurred by COVID-19 presents an opportunity for infrastructure delivery in new and innovative ways. Implementing ASCE's Grand Challenge initiative will be even more critical than ever. I know that LA County Public Works is already planning on how best to streamline our project delivery through lessons learned due to COVID-19. But we should not wait for the next natural or man-made disaster to implement innovation in our business practices. Challenging times will always exist. It is up to us as civil engineers to see these as opportunities to change the world through innovation. I am up for the challenge. Are you?

More details on the Grand Challenge can be found on the ASCE website: [www.ASCEGrandChallenge.com](http://www.ASCEGrandChallenge.com). ASCE Region 9 has established a task committee that is solely focused on the Grand Challenge. If you are interested in serving on this task committee, please contact me by email at [rdantonio@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:rdantonio@dpw.lacounty.gov). Here's looking to collaborating on finding the new innovative solutions for a more resilient and sustainable future!





# 2020 California Infrastructure Symposium & ASCE Region 9 Awards Dinner Event Update

by Michael Konieczki, P.E., D. WRE, M. ASCE, Chair, 2020 California Infrastructure Symposium Committee



Colleagues,

In a normal year, I'd be writing to you about the success of the 2020 California Infrastructure Symposium (CAIS) and praising the Region 9 Awards winners. Unfortunately, 2020 has proved to be anything but normal as COVID-19 has dramatically impacted all aspects of our lives.

In our small ASCE corner of the universe, COVID-19 forced postponement of the Symposium and Awards Dinner until September 25th. We should be back to at least a semblance of normalcy by then—based on projections by healthcare professionals at the time I write this—making the event a perfect opportunity to socially un-distance with your ASCE friends and colleagues.

Originally, the theme of the 2020 CAIS - Driving the Economy Forward with Infrastructure - was intended as a rallying cry to invest in sustainable, innovative infrastructure as a means of keeping California's economy growing. This theme will persist, and attendees

will hear much on it because most of our speakers have committed to the new date. However, I suspect that we'll hear a slightly different tone; one more along the lines of infrastructure resilience and investment as a surefire way to employ a beleaguered workforce and jumpstart the economy.

Either way, the Symposium will bring together 300 civil engineering professionals, policy makers, and students statewide for a day filled with engaging speakers discussing innovative solutions to challenging infrastructure problems in our State. Afterward, the festivities begin with the Region 9 Awards Dinner. Here we can all come together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our colleagues and friends. I don't know about you but come Fall I'll take every opportunity to be out in public.

Save the Date: California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner on September 25, 2020, Hilton Arden West Sacramento, CA.

Michael Konieczki, P.E., D.WRE, M. ASCE, 2020 California Infrastructure Symposium Chair, Sacramento Section Immediate Past-President



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# 2020 Engineers Week, and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, Resolutions

by ASCE Region 9 Government Affairs



California Assembly Member Luz Rivas recently introduced two bills to recognize important aspects of engineering in the State. California

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 153, ACR 153, recognized the week of February 16, 2020, to February 22, 2020, as Engineers Week. ACR 154 proclaimed February 20, 2020, as Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. ASCE Region 9 authored letters of support for both resolutions.

On February 20, the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, a group of women engineers from the ASCE Sacramento Section and CSU Sacramento attended the Assembly session and met with Assembly Member Rivas prior to introduction of the resolutions.



Group photograph with Assembly Member Luz Rivas at her office

The group of ASCE women engineers included:

Migelle Pilar Miranda, CSU Sacramento Student, and President, CSU College of Engineering & Computer Science - Joint Council  
Megan LeRoy, KSN Inc., and current President, ASCE Sacramento Section

Claudia Lewis, Odin Construction Solutions Inc., and Junior Director, ASCE Sacramento Section

Teresa Magana, CSU Sacramento Student, and Engineering Intern at Kleinfelder Inc.

Aafreen Latheef, Odin Construction Solutions Inc., and Membership Chair, ASCE Sacramento Section

Taylor Myers, California Department of Water Resources, and Programs Chair, ASCE Sacramento Section Younger Member Forum



Attendees in the Assembly gallery



ASCE members meeting with Assembly Member Luz Rivas and her staff prior to the introduction of ACR 153 and ACR 154





Assembly Member Rivas introducing the Assembly Continuing Resolutions 153 and 154



Members receiving a standing ovation from the Assembly after unanimous passage of ACR 153 and ACR 154 resolutions

A video of the entire event can be found at the link below, beginning at the 1hr 17min mark.

<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-floor-session-20200220/video>

### Background on Assembly Member Rivas

Luz M. Rivas was born in Los Angeles to an immigrant family and grew up in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. She attended LA Unified schools before earning a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from MIT and a Master's of Education from Harvard.

Luz has built her career at the intersection of engineering, education and public service. She worked as an electrical design engineer at Motorola before founding DIY Girls, a nonprofit that provides enrichment programs focused on encouraging young girls to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology. While presiding over DIY Girls, she served as a Champions Board Member of the California Girls in STEM Collaborative; as a Senior Fellow at the USC Marshall Brittingham Social Enterprise Lab; on the Visiting Committee for the MIT Dean of Undergraduate Studies; and as a service learning instructor for engineering undergraduates at USC. She also collaborated with engineers, planners and environmentalists to develop environmental technology curricula for high school students and worked to increase diversity at Caltech and on NASA- and NSF-funded projects that aimed to increase access to STEM in community-based organizations. In 2016, she was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

Luz was elected and sworn into the California State Assembly in June of 2018. She currently serves on the Assembly Committees on Budget; Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation; Jobs, Economy Development, and the Economy; Labor and Employment; Local Government; Revenue and Taxation; and is co-chair of the Legislative Ethics Committee. It is an honor for her to represent the community she grew up in.

For any further information, please contact Region 9 Director Kwame Agyare at [agyare.kwame@gmail.com](mailto:agyare.kwame@gmail.com), or Region 9 Legislative Advocate Richard Markuson at [richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com](mailto:richard@pacificadvocacygroup.com)



Group photograph with Assembly Member Rivas on the floor of the Assembly



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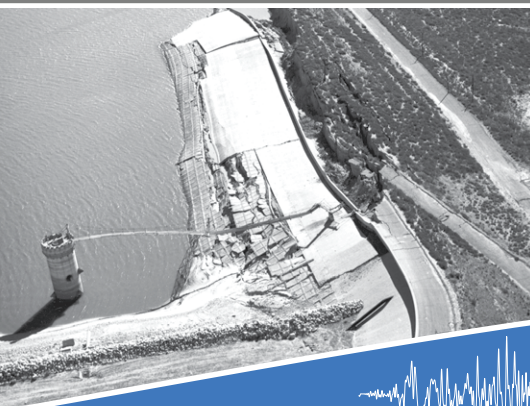
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# Los Angeles Section

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Typesetting, Layout & Printing: Apollo Printing & Graphics



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 \$55.

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