

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Thornton, P.E.
Los Angeles Section President



Redevelopment, Why Should We Care?

Redevelopment appears to have become a dirty word. For someone who has worked on a number of infrastructure improvement projects that have been funded using Redevelopment funds, I ask "How could this be?"

Some History

Redevelopment was approved by a State initiative in 1952, not long after the end of WWII. Reinvestment would reduce blight and create more revenue for all. Residents of California recognized the need to develop a funding stream for community projects such as housing, infrastructure, libraries, fire stations, etc. What it created was the authority for "tax increment".

What is Tax Increment? Steve Dukett, Managing Principle with Urban Futures, Inc. an Orange-based municipal financial advisory firm that specialized in redevelopment-related work advised that "Tax increment is the increase in property taxes within the Redevelopment project area that results from increases in the project area's assessed value that exceeds the based year assessed value. In other words, it is the growth of assessed value only within the project area ... no new taxes or increase in taxes ... it is redistribution of property taxes resulting only from growth."

Without Redevelopment, property taxes would, using averages, be distributed between schools (50%), County & Fire (30%), Special District (10%) and City (10%). With Redevelopment, these taxes would be distributed to 3 different areas – tax increment, housing set-aside, and revenue sharing. Dukett says, "With redevelopment, the local share retained for work in local communities could increase up to 6 to 8 times or more."

Initially, it was used to match federal funding. It really didn't create much revenue in the 50's, 60's, and early 70's, but in the latter part of the 70's, property values began to take off. As a result, the tax increment "came into its own". That together with the approval of Proposition 13 in 1978, the Jarvis tax initiative limiting local government's ability to increase revenue, tax increment became a major funding source. It was used to finance local projects and most importantly, infrastructure investment. Gary Hallen of San Bernardino County indicates that "from 1995 to present, the County's RDA spent 63% of tax increment project financing on infrastructure projects totaling more than \$29 million."

The results were blight removal (both economic and physical); job creation and economic development opportunities; affordable housing; and property and sales tax revenue stabilization for local communities. Redevelopment had grown into a major effective tool for project financing throughout the State. Obviously, this isn't the whole story, but is intended to begin to explain the program's effectiveness and its contribution to infrastructure investment.

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A New Beginning

By Dr. Cris B. Liban

Welcome to a new year of activities in the ASCE Los Angeles Section. This year is a very special year for us as we celebrate the 100th year anniversary of this Section. It is also especially significant for me as we celebrate another year of shepherding our humble publication.

In this issue, we welcome our new Los Angeles Section President Michael Thornton, P.E. President Thornton has been a very active member of our organization and has provided leadership specifically in the areas of legislative analysis and advocacy. He will be providing us with his thoughts in the next few months, points to ponder, if you may to not only align our efforts with the goals of our organization, but to align our actions in providing value to our membership. President Thornton discusses in this issue "Redevelopment" and the implications of the loss of these activities not only to city and local communities but to the civil engineering profession as well.

We also hear from Jennifer Epp, P.E., our Region 9 Director on what is happening at the Region 9 level. She provides us with highlights of the year as well as call for new volunteers to get involved in Region 9 efforts specifically from the Sacramento and San Francisco area. Please consider participating in those efforts.

We also hear from Richard Markuson regarding the recent California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statutes that have recently passed or been considered in the State Assembly. A number of these are very relevant, especially as precedent setting statutes for similar projects that are being planned or will commence in California.

Finally, our list of ASCE-LA Centennial Celebration Donors is growing. We need more financial support from all of you to make the Centennial celebration a success. The ASCE Los Angeles Section has shown a very strong presence and given its all in this region for the last century. Would it be nice if we give some back?

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!!!

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

ARTICLE

Bi-Monthly Board Meetings



Day:
1st Friday of February,
April, June, August,
October, and December

Time:
7:30 am – 10:00 am

Location:
ASCE LA Section Office
1405 Warner Ave., Ste B.
Tustin, CA 92780

Everyone is welcome

So what happened to redevelopment?

First we fell into the "Great Recession", which was followed by Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate Redevelopment. As we all know, the State is facing very difficult financial times. The Governor has indicated that to avoid deeper and more painful cuts, the State needs new revenues. The Governor targeted Redevelopment as a State revenue generating program. Again, how could this be? Scott Barber, Riverside City Manager, indicated that "the Governor originally projected that elimination of Redevelopment would bring the State \$1.5 billion in new revenue." That coupled with the State's Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) identifying numerous "abuses" of Redevelopment, many argue that those abuses were "cherry picked", ultimately resulted in State Legislature approving AB 26 (Redevelopment Agency Dissolution) and AB 27 (Alternate Voluntary Program). They were passed and signed into law by our Governor. Say it isn't so ... but it is. In summary, AB 26 and AB 27 would allow Redevelopment to continue if the State could receive some of the tax increment. The best laid plans ...

Immediately thereafter, the League of California Cities, the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) and the cities of San Jose and Union City filed a petition with the California Supreme Court, challenging the constitutionality of AB 26 and AB 27. The Court ruled that AB 26 is constitutional but AB 27 was not as it violated Proposition 22. As a result, Redevelopment is gone and a process to wind these agencies has begun using what is called "Successor Agencies".

The result, tax increment financing is no longer available; which is yet another blow to infrastructure investment. Further, due to the Court's decision, it appears that Redevelopment or any resemblance thereof has been left uncertain. In response, bills (AB 2551, SB 214, and SB 1156) have been introduced in this legislative session supporting the need for a closure bill; however, ASCE's Legislative Advocate Richard Markuson says "There isn't any momentum for getting a bill passed and the session ends August 31, 2012".

With Redevelopment gone, LAO reported that this year's revenue increase from its dissolution was between \$130 and \$150 million (all of which offsets State backfill payments to school districts), not anywhere near the original \$1.5 billion projection. It accounts for approximately one-tenth of one-percent to the State's \$142.6 billion budget. Something just doesn't seem right! To go even further, the tax distribution presented above without Redevelopment won't generate any new revenues for our schools. The State is exchanging those funds for other funds that the State was required to fund schools with, which is commonly called the Proposition 98 backfill. As Maxwell Smart, famed TV personality from the 60's, would say "the old shell game." Yet again, how could this be?

To compound matters, on August 1, 2012, a bond insurer filed yet another lawsuit claiming that dissolution of California's 400 Redevelopment agencies violates contractual rights and short-changes bondholders and insurers. And so the final chapter is yet to be written.

What should happen now?

Many would say "put it back the way it was together with modifications to prevent the documented abuses". It was a program that was working very well. Others say "not a chance". Cities and Counties continue to struggle to find funds for infrastructure investment. ASCE's report card efforts document the need for greater investment beyond the current amounts that include Redevelopment. Dissolution of Redevelopment is yet another diversion from infrastructure. We, as advocates for infrastructure, must make our voices heard.

At a minimum, these local communities need "tax increment financing". Barber says "we need tax increment financing or local communities will not be able to invest as we historically have or to continue that investment, other needs will be impacted including investment into public safety and other vital local community needs." The primary goal of every community, and our State and Nation, is economic development. Dukett says "there is no economic development without infrastructure." I couldn't agree more. The use of tax increment financing for infrastructure is simply put "music to our ears!" It creates jobs (more particularly, engineering jobs) and it provides the foundation for long-term economic development. Barber advised that Riverside received a call from a representative of Kansas City, Mo. There is a continuous competition among communities to attract business. The gentleman from KC advised that California is no longer considered a competitor with the loss of Redevelopment. The loss of Redevelopment has left us without a vital economic development tool and has left us non-competitive. Again and again, how could this be?

Leaving Redevelopment as it is doesn't make any sense whatsoever. Neither the State nor local governments are lawfully able to use vital tax increment financing. ASCE members should care and need to "make some noise". **I call upon our membership to advocate for infrastructure and to repeatedly advise your State elected officials, in this election year, the need for Infrastructure Investment and the further need for the use of local Tax Increment Financing for that investment (remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease).** To quote a recent society past president Blaine Leonard, "If not now, when and if not you, who?" We, the LA Section of more than 8,000 members, can make a difference.

Next month, I will discuss our recently federally approved transportation bill.



www.ascelasection.org

ASCE Region 9 Update

By Jennifer Epp, P.E., ASCE Region 9 Director/Chair



This is the time of year where ASCE groups transition to new officers and start a new year of activities. In this month's ASCE Region 9 update, I'd like to welcome our new ASCE officers, provide some highlights of events to look forward to in the upcoming year, and outline our Region 9's priorities.

For those of you unfamiliar with ASCE Region 9, we represent over 18,000 ASCE members in the state of California. Region 9 is comprised of four ASCE Sections (Sacramento, San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles). Welcome to all the new ASCE officers in the Sections and Branches in ASCE Region 9.

During 2012, ASCE Region 9 has undergone a process of setting priorities to help guide our allocation of resources. While the Region has a long list of activities, we've identified infrastructure advocacy, and support of the ASCE groups within Region 9 (Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups, Student Chapters, Institute Chapters, etc) as our highest priorities. We're using these priorities in our budgeting and activity planning for the upcoming year.

The ASCE Region 9 Board has governors from each of the four ASCE Sections and two At-Large Governors. The ASCE Region 9 Chair also serves on the Society's Board of Directors. ASCE Region 9 is pleased to have Larry Pierce joining the Board as the Governor for the San Diego Section and Mark Norton as an At-Large Governor. Both Larry and Mark bring their extensive ASCE volunteer experience to the Board. Mark is currently the Chair of the ASCE Region 9 Water and Environment Committee and Larry recently was Chair of the San Diego ASCE Report Card update. We say goodbye and thanks to Rich Haller and Kathy Haynes. Rich has recently served as the Vice Chair of ASCE Region 9 and Kathy as Chair of the Region 9 Awards Committee.

Jay Higgins continues his term as Governor for the Los Angeles Section, Fareed Pittalwala continues his term as Governor for the Sacramento Section, Brent Siemer continues his term as San Francisco Section Governor and Camilla Saviz continues as an At-Large Governor.

This upcoming year, the Los Angeles Section will be celebrating their centennial with many exciting events planned. Region 9 has partnered with the Los Angeles

Section to help them celebrate, and this year, the California Infrastructure Symposium and Region 9 Awards dinner will be held in Los Angeles in March 2013 as part of the centennial activities. For more information on the centennial activities visit www.ascelasection.org.

The Sacramento Section will host the ASCE Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL) and the Western Regional Younger Member Council (WRYMC) in January 2013. These events bring ASCE leaders from ASCE Region 9 and Region 8 (Arizona, Alaska, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, Montana, Idaho and Washington) together for leadership training.

In May 2013, the Region 9 Government Relations Committee will be organizing our annual visit to our legislators in Sacramento. If you are interested in participating in this event, contact the committee Chair, Shahn Ahmad at sahmad@saassociates.net.

If you'd like to get involved in one of our committees, or are interested in joining the Region 9 Board, please contact me at jennifer.b.epp@gmail.com. The following positions are available for the terms of October 2013 through September 2016: Governor from the San Francisco Section; Governor from the Sacramento Section; and At-Large Governor. Letters of interest for the Section Governor positions are due December 1, 2012 and for the At-Large Governor in Spring of 2013.





ASCE-LA Centennial Celebration Donors

The Los Angeles Section of the ASCE would like to thank the following donors* for their generous contributions to the Centennial Fund:

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Robert Stearns

Mike Thornton

*Donors as of 9/4/12

To donate, please visit www.ascelasection.org



**Michael Thornton, P.E., P.L.S., M.S.
PRESIDENT**

Michael Thornton, P.E., P.L.S., M.S., is President of TKE Engineering, Inc. located in Riverside, California, the firm which he founded in 2000. TKE is a multi-disciplinary municipal consulting firm providing civil engineering, traffic engineering, construction management and inspections, surveying, mapping, right-of-way engineering, grant writing, funds acquisition and management, environmental planning and sciences, project and program management, planning, architecture, and landscape architecture.

Michael earned his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from California State Polytechnic University Pomona, and his M.S. in Civil Engineering, Water Resources from California State University, Long Beach. He is a Registered Civil Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor in California with over 26 years of municipal engineering experience.

Michael has been an active ASCE member since joining in 1985 and has an extensive ASCE resume. He served the San Bernardino-Riverside Counties Branch between 1994 and 2001 including serving the Branch as its LA Section representative during 1999 and 2000. In addition, he served the Society as LA Section's first Region 9 Governor from 2004-2008 and was instrumental, during Society Governance, in getting the new Region up and running. Also, Michael served our Society as Region 9's Government Relation Committee Chair from 2004-2010. Lastly, he is currently serving as Chair of the Society's State Government Relations Committee.

Michael also serves his community as member of the school boards of Riverside's Notre Dame High School and St. Francis De Sales Elementary School.

Michael and his wife Debbie reside in Riverside and are the proud parents of Kyler, Aidan, Claire, Ella and Becket, whom they are raising to be future civil engineers.



**Charles Adams
VICE PRESIDENT - TECHNICAL GROUPS**

Charles Adams in his last professional position was a Senior Project Manager at Jacobs Engineering, based in Los Angeles, California. His assignments have been mainly in the management of airport projects. He has been a team member on such projects as the San Antonio International Airport Expansion Program, San Antonio, Texas, the Airport Expansion Program at Sacramento International Airport, the NCA Warehouse Addition at Los Angeles International Airport, and the St. George Replacement Airport at St. George, Utah.

Prior to joining Jacobs Engineering, Charles was a Senior Project Manager at the Los Angeles World Airports. As a project engineer, he worked on projects at all four of LAWA's airports, Los Angeles International (LAX), Ontario International (ONT), Van Nuys (VNY) and Palmdale (PMD). There he was a manager of such projects as Terminal Building Modifications for the Second Level Roadway at LAX, the Imperial Cargo Complex at LAX, Terminal Area Facilities – Terminals, Landside and Airside Improvements at ONT, the Car Rental Facility at ONT, Taxiway N Westerly and Runway 26R Reconstruction at ONT, Parking Lot 5 at ONT and the Airport Drive West End Improvements at ONT.

Charles was raised in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from California State University Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. Later, He received a Master of Science Degree in Structural Engineering from the same university. Charles is registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of California.

Charles attended the Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, graduated as a Commissioned Officer and attended the Fleet Sonar School in Key West, Florida. From there he served three years on active duty in the Oceanographic Systems Pacific, a land based sonar program.

Charles has been an active participant in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and particularly in the Air Transport Technical Group (ATTG) since 1974. He was the ATTG Vice Chairperson in 1986 and Chairperson in 1987. While he was employed in the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, he was on the ASCE Urban Transportation Technical Group Board of Directors from 1988 to 1992. Then after he returned to LAWA, he was the ATTG Chairperson in 1998, then Vice Chairperson in 2006, and finally ATTG Chairperson from 2008 to 2011.



**Gregg L. Fiegel, PhD, PE, GE
VICE PRESIDENT - STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

GREGG L. FIEGEL, PHD, PE, GE is a Professor of Civil Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He has served as a faculty member in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Cal Poly since 1995, and he teaches courses primarily in the area of geotechnical engineering. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) honored Fiegel and several colleagues with a 2010 "Engineering Award" for work and accomplishments associated with the Cal Poly Civil Engineering Program's new Senior Design capstone course.

Fiegel has served as Faculty Advisor for the ASCE Student Chapter at Cal Poly for ten years and is a past recipient of the ASCE Region 9 Faculty Advisor of the Year Award (2007, 2009, 2010, 2011). He is a past member of the ASCE Educational Activities Committee (EdAC), a past member and Chair of the ASCE Committee on Student Activities (CSA), and a past member and Chair of the ASCE Task Committee on Student Transition. Fiegel was a founding member of the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Student Chapter at Cal Poly and served as Faculty Advisor to this group from 2004 to 2009. He is currently a Corresponding Member to the ASCE Committee on Faculty Development (CFD). In addition, he participated in the ASCE ExCEED Teaching Workshop as a student, Assistant Mentor, and Mentor. Fiegel also has experience in program evaluation and assessment, having served as the Cal Poly Civil Engineering Program Assessment Coordinator for five years. He served as an ABET Program Evaluator on two occasions.

Fiegel received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1990. He subsequently earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering (geotechnical emphasis) from the University of California, Davis. Fiegel is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and Geotechnical Engineer (GE) in California.



**Yazdan Emrani, P.E.
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Yaz (Yaz) Emrani is Senior Vice President and a Principal at Hall & Foreman Inc., an Orange County based Civil and Environmental Consulting Engineering firm. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from University of Maryland at College Park.

Yaz has over 26 years of experience working on a variety of civil and environmental engineering projects. These include planning, design, and construction management of infrastructure improvements for various public and private clients. He started his career as a design engineer for a consulting engineering firm in Maryland and since then has had increased levels of responsibilities including senior executive positions in Public Works in private and public sectors.

Before joining Hall & Foreman, he was the Director of Public Works for Monterey County in Northern California where under his leadership the Public Works Department completed several high-profile projects including the renovation and seismic retrofit of the Monterey County Superior Court building, construction of the County's new Health Department Building, renovation of the Agricultural Commissioner's Building, construction of the Thorne Road Bridge and construction of a brand new water system for the community of

Section Board Officer Bios

San Jerardo, which won Project of the Year award by APWA Monterey Bay Chapter. His projects have covered a wide geographical area in United States including projects in states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, and California.

Yaz joined ASCE in 1984 as a Student Member and has continued his membership and involvement ever since. He served on the Board of Directors of Orange County Branch from 2003-2008. Yaz was the President of ASCE Orange County Branch in 2006.

Yaz also served two terms as the President of UC Irvine's Civil and Environmental Engineering Affiliates (CEE) and has served on UC Irvine's Dean of Engineering's Technical Advisory Group. During his first term as the President of the UCI CEE in 2002, he helped launch the first ever initiative for developing a comprehensive infrastructure report card for Orange County and served as the Chair of the Executive Committee for the Report Card effort. He was also the Co-Chair of the Executive Committee for the 2005 update of the OC report Card.

In January 2006, Yaz was named the Co-Chair of the Executive Committee for developing a first ever California infrastructure report card by ASCE Region 9 (California's) Board of Governors. In 2011, Yaz resumed his duties as the Co-Chair of the Executive Committee working on an update to the 2006 California Infrastructure Report Card (CAIRC). The 2012 CAIRC was unveiled on February 29, 2012 at a press conference in the Capitol building in Sacramento.

Yaz and his wife, Bahar, and their two children reside in Aliso Viejo. Yaz is a registered Professional Engineer in California, Texas, Virginia, Maryland, and Louisiana.



Kathereen M. Shinkai, P.E.
TREASURER

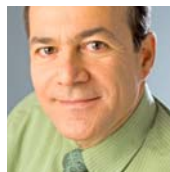
Kathereen M. Shinkai, P.E., M.ASCE is an Associate and the Director of Civil Engineering at LPA, Inc., an Architectural/Engineering integrated design firm based in Irvine. She is heading up the Civil Engineering Department for Irvine, San Diego, and the Roseville office. Kathereen enjoys working

on different types of projects at LPA, Inc., but also enjoys being a mentor to her staff.

Kathereen received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Irvine in 1998, and is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California. Kathereen has been an active member since she joined ASCE in 1995 after attending a Pacific Southwest Regional Conference in Las Vegas. She was the Student Chapter President at University of California, Irvine in 1998, and later continued as Student Practitioner Advisor from 1998 until 2005. She became active in the ASCE Orange County Branch when she took the position of Student Activities Chair in 2001. Kathereen has also helped students organize the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference by serving as Conference Advisor when the University of California, Irvine and Cal State University, Fullerton student chapters were selected as conference hosts in 2002 and 2005.

In 2005, Kathereen served as the President of the Orange County Younger Member Forum and still continues to keep close contact with the forum's younger members. She wants to continue to encourage Younger Members to get involved in ASCE and allow them to experience the fun of networking and meeting people. Kathereen was on the Executive Board for the Orange County Branch from 2006 and was President in 2009. She was serving as the Awards and Nominations Chair for the Orange County Branch. As an avid golfer, she also has helped organize the Orange County Branch Golf Tournament for the last two years.

Kathereen is excited about the opportunity to be able to serve as Treasurer for the second year, and looks forward to continuing her active role at the LA section level.



Androush Danielians
SECRETARY

Androush Danielians is a senior project manager at HDR Engineering, Inc. Androush works out of the Downtown Los Angeles office of HDR. Founded in 1917, HDR is a global employee-owned firm with more than 8,000 employees in more than 185 offices providing architecture, engineering, consulting, construction and related services.

Androush is a registered civil engineer in California with over 25 years of experience in project management and design of bridge and transportation related structures. He has worked on several projects with various transportation agencies and has successfully delivered conventional and design build projects for the City of Los Angeles, Metro, Metrolink, Caltrans, SANDAG, RCTC, and ACE.

Androush earned his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Jadavpur University and Master of Science degree in structures from Indian Institute of Science in India. He subsequently earned his Doctor of Science Degree in Structural Engineering from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Androush's involvement with ASCE has been continuous since his college days at GWU where he was an officer of the student chapter. After graduation, and moving to California, Androush became involved in the LA Section YMF, and Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch (MLAB). At MLAB he has held various chair and officer positions including Vice President and President. Most recently he served as the president of MLAB during 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Some of Androush's other affiliations include American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). At WTS Androush is currently the chair person for the corporate sponsorship.

Androush has also had the opportunity to be a part-time faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles teaching advanced structural engineering courses.



John Hogan, P.E.
PAST-PRESIDENT

John Hogan is President and CEO of Hall & Foreman, Inc. (HFI) based in Tustin. HFI, founded in 1961, provides civil engineering, surveying, GIS, and land planning services to both public sector and private sector clients. The firm has four southern California offices.

John is a native Californian, born and raised in Palo Alto. John earned his BSCE from USC and his MSCE from Cal State Long Beach. He joined HFI as a project manager in 1987 after spending the early part of his engineering career with the Southern California Gas Company and AC Martin Partners. In 1993, John was appointed a principal and shareholder of HFI. He became the firm's fourth president in 1996.

During his 39-year engineering career, John has managed design teams for a variety of large-scale land development projects and challenging commercial, industrial and public works projects. He has developed expertise in performing feasibility studies, infrastructure planning, and indentifying financing alternatives.

John has been active in the ASCE Orange County Branch and served on the Branch board from 2002 through 2007. He was the 2005-2006 Branch president. John's involvement with ASCE has been continuous since his college days at USC where he was an officer of the student chapter. After graduation, John became involved in the LA Section AMF (now YMF), and was AMF President in 1980-81. John also serves on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Building Industry Association and is a member of the CSULB C.E./C.E.M. Dept. Advisory Council.

John and his wife Becky have raised six children, the youngest of whom (twins) are now in college. The Hogan's have resided in Laguna Hills since 1975. John is active in his community, serving on the board of the Saddleback Valley YMCA.

This Month in the State Capitol

ASCE Region 9 Legislative Advocate

By Richard Markuson

While the “comprehensive CEQA reform proposal” ran out of time in the Capitol before session adjourned on August 30, several bills that “tinker” with CEQA were passed and sent to the Governor.

Region 9 supports AB 890 (Olsen R) that exempts from CEQA repair, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing roadways, provided the project is carried out by a city or county to improve public safety, does not cross a waterway, and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The exemption lasts only until 2016.

AB 1486 (Lara D) exempts the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) project from the CEQA. What is interesting about the effort is that LA-RICS was established in 2009 to unite the region’s first-responder communications system but apparently they didn’t know CEQA would be a problem until August 24, 2012 when AB 1486 was gutted and amended with this exemption. The project will reportedly include 80 land mobile radio (LMR) system 180-foot three or four legged towers with antennas, microwave dishes, and other components (up to 33 of these may be collocation sites), and approximately 255 long-term evolution (LTE) broadband mobile data system 70-foot tapered monopoles with antennas, microwave dishes, and other components (approximately 33 of these may be collocation sites). Supporters argued the lives of first-responderers were at risk because CEQA would inevitably delay construction while Opponents argue that this large-scale project is exactly the kind of project that needs environmental review and cannot reasonably bypass the standard environmental process due to pressing deadlines. The Legislature approved the bill by an overwhelming bi-partisan majority. It demonstrates a valuable point - don’t get between a first-responder and his/her mobile radio.

AB 1665 (Galgiani D) Specifies that CEQA does not apply to the closure of a railroad grade crossing by order of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) when the PUC has found the crossing to present a threat to public safety.

Region 9 supports AB 2245 (Smyth R) that exempts specified bicycle lane projects from CEQA until 2018.

AB 2564 (Ma D) Expands the application of an existing CEQA exemption for pipeline projects less than one mile in length.

AB 2669 Repeals obsolete and/or duplicative provisions from CEQA.

SB 972 (Simitian D) recasts and expands notification requirements under CEQA in minor ways. Governor Brown has already signed SB 972.

Specifically, this bill:

Adds a public agency that has filed a written request for notice of a scoping meeting to the list of entities that a lead agency must notify of such a meeting.

Requires a notice of preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) be provided by the State Clearinghouse to any legislator in whose district the project has an environmental impact, if the legislator requests the notice and the clearinghouse has received it.

Next month we’ll review more measures approved by the Legislature in August and actions the Governor takes in September.

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.

National ASCE (800) 548-2723 (ASCE)

Access National ASCE at: www.asce.org

L.A. Section web site at:
www.ascelasection.org

MATERIALS SUBMISSION INFORMATION

All graphic materials submitted for use in the ASCE newsletter should have all fonts outlined, and links included; EPS or PDF files preferred. Other formats are Adobe InDesign or Adobe Illustrator (any version); additional acceptable file formats are JPEG or TIFF files (minimum 300 dpi). Images embedded in Microsoft Word documents should be sent separately, at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at the display size desired. Collected files, including links and fonts, should be compressed and e-mailed, or sent on CD or Zip disk (provide return address). Business cards can be submitted electronically as well, or send clean, crisp, B&W laser print, unfolded. This publication’s size is 8½” × 11”.

ASCE LOS ANGELES SECTION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!



**Come join us for an exciting
ASCE Los Angeles Section's 2013 Centennial Year
commemorating 100 years of civil engineering
in support of Southern California.**

ASCE LA Section Annual Event & Centennial Celebration Kickoff
October 6, 2012: 11:30AM @ Mission Inn, Riverside California

ASCE Life Member Forum Brunch Centennial Celebration
March 2, 2013: 11:30AM @ Monterey Park, California

**ASCE CA Infrastructure Symposium & Awards Ceremony,
ASCE LA Section Centennial Celebration**
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