

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Thornton, P.E.  
Los Angeles Section President



### Farewell

The end of September marks the end of my term as your President. It has been said many times, "All good things must come to an end". Don't believe that ALL good things must come to an end but certainly some good things must. My term as your President is one of those good things. I will pass the "baton" to Yaz Emrani as the Section's 101st President. It has been an absolute honor to serve as President of the Section during our 100th anniversary. As I end my term in this role, I realize there are so many people I need to thank.

First, I thank a group of individuals that continue to go way beyond the call of duty during the 100 year celebrations in addition to their long history as ASCE volunteers. They are Don Sepulveda, Bob Bein, Mark Norton, Jay Higgins, John Hogan, Shahn Ahmad, Rich Haller, John Morris, Andy Machen, Joe Buley, and yours truly. Don Sepulveda, as our fearless leader and a past Section President, came to the committee with a vision for the celebration and tirelessly worked toward it. At times, his vision was so focused; others had difficulty getting ideas on the table. Beyond all of those duties, he played a key role on the transportation track of the symposium...many thanks to Don! Bob Bein, also a past Section President coupled with a past society president and long time supporter of ASCE, served as an honorary chair. His vast experience has been vital to the success of the programs... an enthusiastic thanks to Bob!

Mark Norton, past Section President and current Region 9 At-Large Governor, contributed tremendously. Mark led so many efforts; it is difficult to remember all of them. Mark was instrumental in the development of the celebration's marketing materials (including event flyers, the medallion and the lapel pin), media outreach, fund raising, and to complement those efforts, led the way to populate the speaker slate for the water track portion of the annual symposium. I often ask myself, how does he find the time and the motivation to do so many things? Immeasurable thanks Mark! Jay Higgins, yet another past Section President and currently serving the section as our Governor to Region 9, managed the fund raising duties for the series of 100-year celebration events. To say he has done an outstanding job is an understatement. I simply am having difficulties believing what great work he has done for the section. Please review the centennial celebration sponsors list presented in this newsletter that documents his leadership accomplishments. Besides this great work, Jay has served the Section for years in various positions and is particularly skillful in keeping our meetings on task and in accordance with ASCE rules... countless thanks Jay!

John Hogan, current Section Past-President, also played many roles. He made the transition for my presidency virtually painless, was key in developing a successful series of 100-year celebration programs, instrumental in the fund raising efforts, and provided value beyond description ... can't thank John enough! Shahn Ahmad, yet another Past Section President, chaired the annual symposium, the crown jewel of the centennial celebration program. Shahn, as he has done so many times,

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## Centennial Series Continues with Focus on San Pedro Bay Ports

In this issue, the ASCE LA Monthly Centennial Series focuses on the Southern California San Pedro Bay Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles that make up our nation's premier gateway for international trade. Both Ports have also recently celebrated 100 years of service, and unique engineering challenges have shaped their growth.

ASCE's Doug Sereno, P.E., ENV-SP, Director of the Program Management Division for the Port of Long Beach, tells the fascinating story of the development of America's first- and second-busiest seaports. He highlights engineering landmarks including building the nine-mile-long breakwater to protect ships in the harbor, solving the dramatic subsidence issues caused by pumping oil from the bay, the advent of containerization, developing "green" initiatives to protect the environment and providing infrastructure for today's behemoth ships that are as long as the Empire State Building is tall.

Full article is available on-line at [www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org).

## Robert P. Stearns Obituary



SCS Engineers (SCS) announces with profound sadness that Robert P. Stearns founding principal, Chairman of the Board, and former president, passed away on August 1, 2013, at his home in Idyllwild, California. He was 75.

In his role as President during most of his 36-year career at SCS, Bob was widely recognized for applying engineering principles to support and improve waste industry business practices, and for his commitment to the ethical practice of engineering.

Retiring from SCS in 2006, Bob remained active as SCS's Chairman of the Board and in many volunteer positions. Bob was inducted into the Environmental Industries Association "Hall of Fame" in 2003; was named a "Professional Achievement Award – Life Member" by the Solid Waste Association of North America in 2009; and served the American Society of Civil Engineers in many capacities, including as Chairman of ASCE's National Ethics Committee.

Bob is survived by Gisela, his wife of 50 years, his daughter, Maria, his brother Tom (Barbara), and four nephews. Private funeral services were held in Palm Desert. A memorial service is planned for September 2013; details were published on [www.scsengineers.com](http://www.scsengineers.com).

## ASCE Los Angeles Section Welcomes Its Newest Younger Member Forum!

We are excited to announce the addition of the San Luis Obispo Younger Member Forum (SLOYMF) to the Los Angeles Section. San Luis Obispo, home of California Polytechnic State University, already had a very active branch and student chapter but no bridge to connect the two groups. The San Luis Obispo Branch saw the need to fill that gap and has been gathering support and working on bylaws for the YMF for the past year. Recently, the Section board voted to form the YMF and approve its bylaws. The addition of the SLOYMF brings the total number of YMF groups in the LA section to six along with Metropolitan Los Angeles, Orange County, San Bernardino/Riverside, Santa Barbara/Ventura and Southern San Joaquin. Although they have only just become an official group, the SLOYMF has been very active this year. They have already held numerous social events and have recently begun a non-technical speaker series covering such topics as "Buying Your First Home" and "Financial Planning for Young Professionals". We are always excited to see such enthusiasm from our younger members. Keep an eye out for more news from the SLOYMF as they continue to establish and grow.

For more information, contact the SLOYMF President, Kyle Anderson at [kanderson@rickengineering.com](mailto:kanderson@rickengineering.com)

## Message From the Membership Committee

*By Brad Dybel, PE, GE, CEG*

*Chair of Membership Committee, ASCE Los Angeles Section*

The Membership Committee extends congratulations to the entire Los Angeles Section for an exciting and event-filled Centennial Celebration year. The Centennial Celebration events revitalized our Section, resulting in a spike in Section membership that followed several years of little or no growth. Independent sources indicate that Section membership swelled by 270 new members this year. Section records indicate that revenue from Section and Society dues increased by more than 18 percent.

The Section's success in increasing membership is due to the hard work by numerous individuals inside and outside the Section, including the following:

- Phil Davies, Chair of Membership, Centennial Committee
- Eric Walker, Chair of Student Activities, Orange County Branch
- Ravi Shah, YMF President, Orange County Branch
- John Rogers, Treasurer, San Bernardino Riverside Branch
- Julianna Gonzalez, YMF President, San Bernardino Riverside Branch
- Kaitlin Hannon, Chair of Student Activities, MLAB Branch
- Marcia Boyd, Manager, ASCE Membership Champions & Marketing
- Curtis Nunley, ASCE Member Services Director.

effectively coordinated the parallel tracks of the best attended program the Section has ever sponsored. Not only did he do a masterful job in putting the program together, he served as the master of ceremonies for the entire celebration and it went flawlessly...numerous thanks to Shahn.

Rich Haller, (sounding like a broken record) is also a past Section President, served on the planning committee, was instrumental in planning the events, and played a significant role in the fund raising efforts. I have had the honor of serving with Rich on so many levels of ASCE governance and can attest that he has truly been a superior member over the years...thanks again and again to Rich. John Morris, yes, another past Section President, assisted the committee with program development and moderated one of the panel discussions during the symposium. In addition, John played a key role in coordinating the facilities used for the symposium... thanks for all you do for ASCE.

Andy Machen and Joe Buley, both leaders of the Section's members of the life member group, were also vital in development of the programs. Beyond the symposium, they both worked to recognize the significant contributions that engineers have made to society including recognition of the Colorado Bridge in Pasadena and the celebration of that structure's 100 year anniversary. Neither of them ever missed a meeting and their contributions were invaluable ... guys, many thanks! The entire committee may just be some of the best members ASCE has; combined with the fact that they are simply tremendous people. How fortunate ASCE is to benefit from them being members and their efforts to continue to do more than their fair share to recognize the greatest profession, civil engineering. I cannot say enough about them, and ask each of you to thank them for all they have done.

Second, I thank the LA Section executive committee. They include John Hogan (Past President), Yaz Emrani (President Elect), Kathereen Shinkai (Treasurer), Androush Danielians (Secretary), Gregg Fiegel (Vice President of Student Activities), and Charles Adams (Vice President of Technical Groups). Again, John Hogan has served with great distinction. Not only did he pass a society to my term in great shape but he started so many effective programs during his term as a section leader. To name a couple, John led efforts to revitalize the Section newsletter advertising and membership committee activities. John, without a doubt, is one of the greatest Presidents to serve our Section. Yaz Emrani will be taking over as next President and we are in great hands. My biggest fear under his leadership is how he will completely overshadow the current presidency. Yaz has demonstrated great leadership over and over again at every level of ASCE and he will continue to do so.

It is often said that good leaders are only as good as those around them. Well I must be a great leader because Kathereen Shinkai, Androush Danielians, Gregg Fiegel, and Charles Adams have made serving as President easy. Kathereen has led the Section during difficult financial times. She, with little or no help from me, has moved the Section to a solid financial foundation. Androush has played a vital role in board meeting agenda development and records keeping. He tracks action item responsibilities with great effectiveness. Gregg, like no other I have worked with, has represented the interest of our students. He relentlessly leads the

student groups throughout the years making each event successful including the Pacific Southwest Conference that brings all of the Section's schools together, with a few others, to compete and learn important technical engineering skills. Charles champions the technical committees. Under his leadership, ASCE continues to educate members in technological advances and programs.

Finally, thanks to all of you for the honor to serve as your President. Civil engineering is the greatest profession and to be a leader of great people is truly a privilege. I will continue to support our Society as appropriate and would encourage all of you to work with me moving forward. ASCE has significant leadership roles in public relations, government relations, development of the next generation of engineers, implementing technological advances, outreach to the media and so many more. In particular, as I have said in previous messages, the public is taking infrastructure and its conditions for granted. The message that there is a need for continued investment has been lost. It is up to us to drive increase awareness and work with legislators to find investment solutions. It is our responsibility to pass a profession and the society we live in to the next generation that is superior to the one we inherited. Working together, we can make it happen!



## ASCE Region 9 2013 Award Nominations

### Outstanding Project Awards Outstanding Individual Awards

Due: October 25, 2013

**Project Awards:** ASCE Region 9 Project Awards recognize outstanding Civil Engineering projects in California. Projects that received an award from one of the four ASCE Sections in Region 9 (Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, or San Diego Sections) during 2013 are eligible for consideration for the 2013 ASCE Region 9 Awards.

**Individual Awards:** ASCE Region 9 Individual Awards recognize individuals for outstanding achievements or leadership in civil engineering, or who through their work, support and advance the profession.

### Application Materials

Applications are available on the Region 9 web site:  
[www.asce.org/region9](http://www.asce.org/region9)

For more information, please contact:

Kwame Agyare, Chair - ASCE Region 9 Awards Committee,  
[agyare.kwame@gmail.com](mailto:agyare.kwame@gmail.com)

Lori Campbell, Region 9 Administrator,  
[lkcc.consulting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkcc.consulting@sbcglobal.net)

### Save the Date!

*California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Ceremony*

**Friday March 7, 2014**

*San Francisco, CA*



# ASCE Region 9 Priorities and Goals

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



The ASCE Region 9 Board is comprised of six Governors and a Director (who also represents ASCE Region 9 on the Society Board of Direction). ASCE Region 9 Committee Chairs and the four Section Presidents play an integral role in the Region's activities. The ASCE Region 9 Board for 2013-2014 is:

- Jennifer Epp, Director/Chair
- Jay Higgins, Los Angeles Section Governor
- Mark Norton, At-Large Governor
- Larry Pierce, San Diego Section Governor
- Oscar Serrano, Sacramento Section Governor
- Gregg Fiegel, At-Large Governor
- Kwame Agyare, San Francisco Section Governor.

ASCE Region 9 includes over 18,000 ASCE members distributed among the four California Sections: Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The Sections include 17 Branches, 11 Younger Member groups, and 25 Student Chapters. Over the last couple of years, ASCE Region 9, with input and support of our four Sections, has been developing and implementing goals and priorities. Our priorities focus our activities on three main areas: supporting members, promoting the profession, and supporting public policies that benefit society. Our goals and priorities for the upcoming year are described below.

## **Facilitate collaborative activities between all ASCE groups within Region 9**

Each of the entities within ASCE Region 9 faces and addresses challenges with membership, fund raising, member engagement, leadership succession, and promoting the civil engineering profession. ASCE Region 9 will facilitate activities and promote collaboration and communication among ASCE groups to help address these common challenges.

Examples of planned ASCE Region 9 activities include: regular contact and sharing of advice by ASCE Region 9 Governors with Sections and Branches; coordination between Section Presidents through monthly meetings; bringing engineers and advocates together to discuss issues related to infrastructure at the Infrastructure Symposium; recognizing outstanding projects and individuals at the Awards Banquet; facilitating training for ASCE officers at the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference; and conducting periodic conference calls with Section and Branch leaders to offer advice and support in addressing common issues of concern.

## **Communicate with all ASCE groups within Region 9 to ensure that we are serving member needs**

Improved communications between Region 9 and ASCE groups within the Region will increase members' awareness of ASCE Region 9 activities and of civil engineering issues that are of statewide significance. The ASCE Region 9 leadership will also benefit from the enhanced communication by ensuring that Region activities are consistent with members' needs.

Examples of planned ASCE Region 9 activities include: participation and interaction of ASCE Region 9 Governors with ASCE members at meetings; publishing monthly articles in Section newsletters about

recent or upcoming ASCE activities of statewide significance; and providing education about ASCE Region 9's role and obtaining feedback from attendees at the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference.

## **Infrastructure advocacy, including legislative and policy support**

ASCE Region 9, working with its Legislative Advocate (lobbyist) and with input from each of the Sections, will continue to support and promote statewide policies that benefit the public through enhanced quality of life, safety, and support of sustainable systems.

Examples of planned ASCE Region 9 activities include: funding a Legislative Advocate to champion for Civil Engineering issues; tracking legislation and advocating our position on issues related to water and transportation infrastructure and policy; continuing to share the ASCE National Infrastructure Report Card, and the California Infrastructure Report Card and other public outreach tools about the importance of investment in infrastructure; organizing Legislative Activities Day for our members; publishing monthly articles ("This Month in Sacramento") in each of the Section newsletters; seeking opportunities to appoint ASCE members to State registration boards for the civil engineering profession; and assisting with designation of ASCE civil engineering landmarks of Statewide infrastructure significance.

If you'd like to get involved in an ASCE Region 9 Committee, are interested in serving on the Board, or would like to provide input on ASCE Region 9's activities, please contact Jennifer Epp at [jennifer.b.epp@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.b.epp@gmail.com).

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## *The Los Angeles Section*

*Cordially Invites You to*

### *Caspian Restaurant*

*14100 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92604*

*Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers*

*& Awards Luncheon*

*Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 11:00 AM*

*Registration & Reception 11:00 AM, Lunch 11:45, Program 12:45*

*Members & Guests: \$65.00 per person, Students \$25.00*

*For reservations please send checks payable to ASCE LA Section, 1405 Warner Ave., Suite B, Tustin, CA 92780. To register online go to [www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)*

*Please Print and Return Coupon with Payment.*

*If you have any questions, call the ASCE Office at  
714-258-8306.*

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***Registration Deadline Monday, September 30th***

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*Email address for acknowledgment of reservation \_\_\_\_\_*

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*My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for # \_\_\_\_\_ reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian*



# ASCE, Los Angeles Section Centennial Celebration

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Los Angeles Section Monthly: SEPTEMBER 2013

To donate, please visit [www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)



# Seismic Design with ASCE 7-10

By J. G. (Greg) Soules, P.E., S.E., F.ASCE

## Purpose and Background

The 2013 Edition of the California Building Code will go into effect on January 1, 2014. The new CBC seismic requirements are based on the seismic requirements of ASCE 7-10. Are you ready to start using the provisions of ASCE 7-10 for seismic design?

**Seismic Design with ASCE 7-10** will cover the major changes implemented in ASCE 7-10. Example problems will be presented and discussed in detail.

The seminar will cover the new descriptions used for "Risk" Categories, the enhanced structural integrity provisions, and the performance-based design provisions of Chapter 1 as well as the updated load combinations found in Chapter 2 of ASCE 7-10. The seminar will also discuss, in detail, the changes to Chapter 11, the revised provisions of Chapter 12 (including changes to the "R-value" table and the simplified procedure) and the new basis of the ground motion maps of Chapter 22. Changes to the seismic provisions of Chapter 13 (Nonstructural Components) and Chapter 15 (Nonbuilding Structures) are also included.

The new expanded seismic commentary will be introduced and discussed. New design guides from the ASCE Energy Division for the design of nonbuilding structures will be presented. Example problems will be used to reinforce the changes identified.

Structural engineers designing buildings, nonbuilding structures as well as non-structural components must be aware of the changes implemented in ASCE 7-10.

## Benefits for Participants

- Find out the latest in the newly adopted ASCE 7-10 seismic standard.
- Avoid costly errors by working examples based on the new edition of ASCE 7-10.
- Find out about the value of the new enhanced seismic commentary as a reference for your work.
- Learn the basis for many of the changes being implemented in ASCE 7-10.
- Ask questions directly to the vice chair of the ASCE 7 seismic subcommittee.
- Learn about useful design guides from the ASCE Energy Division for the design of nonbuilding structures.

## Learning Outcomes

- Understand the significant changes to the general provisions of Chapter 1 and the load combinations found in Chapter 2 of ASCE 7-10.
- Understand how to apply the new seismic provisions of ASCE 7-10 in the design of buildings, nonstructural components, and nonbuilding structures through the use of example problems.
- Learn about the new expanded seismic commentary.

## Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Throughout the seminar, class exercises, group discussion, calculation and interpretation of materials taught will help assess students' achievement.

## Who Should Attend

Structural engineers, and managers involved in the seismic design of buildings, non-structural components and nonbuilding structures.

## Registration Fees

\$325 for a member and \$355 for a non-member

Contact Information

Email: [seminars@asce.org](mailto:seminars@asce.org)

Phone: 1-800-548-2723

703-295-6300 (international)

Fax: 703-295-6144

Mail: ASCE Continuing Education Dept.

P.O. Box 79162

Baltimore, MD 21279-0162

Web: [www.asce.org/seminars](http://www.asce.org/seminars)

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## Reminder:

*Copy deadline for the October 2013 issue is September 1, 2013; copy deadline for the November 2013 issue is October 1, 2013.*

## ARTICLE

# Legislative Update

The two houses of the State Legislature will return from their summer hiatus in August albeit on two different dates. This "first time ever" phenomena either represents the "independence" of the two co-equal houses or is another example of a malfunction in California governance. You decide. But here is where some key ASCE legislation stands.

Governor Jerry Brown has signed AB 116 (Support) (Bocanegra) that will extend for 24 months any tentative map, vesting tentative map, or parcel map for which a tentative map or vesting tentative map, as the case may be, has been approved that has not expired on or before the effective date of this bill, and that will expire before January 1, 2016.

AB 243 (Support) (Dickensen) creates infrastructure and revitalization financing districts (IRFDs) (modeled after infrastructure financing districts (IFDs) in existing law), broadens the range of projects and facilities they can finance, lowers the voter approval threshold necessary to form an IRFD and issue bonds to 55%, and extends the life of districts to 40 years. AB 243 is on Senate third reading

SB 152 (Support) (Roth) that would delete the provisions allowing for a temporary authorization to practice as an engineer is awaiting final passage in the Assembly

SB 425 (Support) (DeSaulnier) is on the floor of the Assembly. It allows a public agency that is principally charged with the administration, planning, development, and operation of a public works project (administering agency) to establish a peer review group of qualified persons, as specified, to give expert advice on the scientific and technical aspects of the public works project. Specifically, this bill:

1. Permits an administering agency of a public works project to establish a peer review group of qualified persons, as specified, to give expert advice on the scientific and technical aspects of the project.
2. Requires an administering agency that chooses to create a peer review group to develop a transparent process for selecting members of the group and draft a charter that contains specified information:
3. Requires the charter in 2) above to be posted on the administering agency's Internet Web site.

AB 401 (Support) (Daly) has died in the Senate. It would, until January 1, 2018, have authorized the Orange County Transportation Authority to utilize design-build procurement for the Interstate 405 Improvement Project on the state highway system, based on either best value or lowest responsible bid. The bill would require the Department of Transportation to perform construction inspection services for the project, as specified. This provision has resulted in a Legislative Counsel opinion that this provision violates Article XXII of the constitution – passed as Proposition 35 in 2000. This provision is what killed the bill

The Senate Health Committee passed AB 145 (Oppose) (Perea) that consolidates the Drinking Water Program (DWP), currently at the Department of Public Health (DPH), with water supply and water quality programs at the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

## Governors' Appointments

To Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (all reappointed): **Margaret "Peggy" Hellweg**, 61, Orinda, Democrat, research geophysicist at Berkeley Seismological Laboratory; **Emir Jose Macari**, 55, Carmichael, Democrat, dean of engineering and computer science, CSU Sacramento; **Timothy Strack**, 43, Riverside, Democrat, fire captain, City of Riverside; **Randall Goodwin**, 56, Davis, Democrat, city architect, City of West Sacramento; **Tracy Johnson**, 52, Oakland, Democrat, acting assistant superintendent of way and facilities at the Bay Area Rapid Transit District; **Helen Knudson**, (reappointed) 71, Alameda, Democrat, disaster response consultant at the Lutheran Social Services of Northern California from 2004-2012.

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