

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kenneth H. Rosenfield, P.E., F.ASCE
Los Angeles Section President

VOL. LV NO. 2

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Participate in E-Week Activities!

National Engineer's Week activities this year will be held from February 22 – 28, 2015. Engineer's Week was originally founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). Engineer's Week occurs during the birthday month of President George Washington, an accomplished surveyor with a working engineering knowledge. He is not necessarily the very first practicing Engineer in this country but is one of the most famous from the late 1700's. He was a farmer, inventor, businessman, General of our Armed Forces and our first United States President. In a previous press release by NSPE, some of George Washington's accomplishments were listed to include a call for engineering education that became the basis for the US Army Engineer School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia and an order, issued by General Washington while at Valley Forge, to establish a Corps of Artillerists and Engineers at West Point, New York, that later became the United States Military Academy. The need for and importance of an engineering education was identified by our national leaders right at the birth of this Country. President Washington served from 1789 to 1797 and, during his term in office, was an advocate of building roadways, canals and other public works to help the newly formed nation grow and develop. President Washington recognized the value of having functional infrastructure with its importance to commerce and society. George Washington was also renowned for being a selfless public servant and an honorable thoughtful leader, qualities that Civil Engineers are also so attributed. The month of February is another opportunity for Civil Engineers to be proud of their work and contributions.

A focused program of Engineer's Week (E-week) activities and related support for an engineering education can be found at www.discovere.org/, formerly the National Engineers Week Foundation. While this effort is broader than our focus on Civil Engineering alone, their programs are laudable given the need for more technical education and engineering degrees. During E-week, this website is dedicated to promoting engineering by proposing it's time to:

- Celebrate how Engineers make a difference in our world
- Increase public dialogue about the need for Engineers
- Bring engineering to life for kids, educators, and parents

I suggest the entire month of February should be designated as Civil Engineering Month and we should celebrate our accomplishments and our abilities to help build civilizations, solve seemingly intractable problems, and make the world a better place. We all have an opportunity to celebrate this month by attending our local E-week events. Please check with your Branch for planned activities. The Los Angeles Younger Member Forum, for instance, has teamed with the Los Angeles Department of Public Works and City Council District 1 to offer outstanding activities Tuesday to Friday (February 24 – 27) for E-week to include an Elementary School Day, a High School Day, a Women in Engineering Day, a College Day and a Networking Professionals event. Please check out their planned events at www.mlab-ymf.org/.

DISCOVER
ENGINEERS WEEK
FEBRUARY 22-28, 2015



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2015 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner

By Kwame A. Agyare, P.E., M. ASCE, ENV SP Region 9 Governor — San Francisco Section



As the year 2015 begins and we close the books on 2014, it is a timely and worthwhile exercise to take stock of all the great work being done in service to the civil engineering profession, both individually and collectively, by engineering professionals all across the State. During the past year, many ASCE Sections, Branches, Younger Member and Student Chapter groups took the time to recognize many of these engineers and projects through nomination or selection for an

award at each entity's organizational level. The board of governors of ASCE's Region 9 which comprises the entire state of California, and consists of the four Sections (San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego and Los Angeles), also participated in this initiative by tasking its awards committee to solicit and recognize worthy individuals and projects at the regional level.

In my travels around the state of California in my role as a Governor for Region 9, I have witnessed firsthand the passion, integrity and skill that engineers across the State seek to apply in their project work on a daily basis. This makes me very proud to be part of a profession comprising such dedicated individuals. Also in my role as the continuing chair of the Region 9 Awards Committee tasked with recognizing engineers at the regional level, I work with the committee to recommend 16 individual awards and 21 project awards for approval by the Region 9 board of governor. These were approved and will be handed out at the annual awards ceremony in 2015.

Next year's 2015 California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner will be held at Balboa Park in San Diego, on Friday March 6, 2015. The event is a partnership between the San Diego Section, Section Institutes, and ASCE Region 9, and is being held in conjunction with the centennial celebrations commemorating the formation of the ASCE San Diego Section. The Symposium will be an all-day event that is typically attended by engineers, educators, elected officials, professionals and the general public. I hope that many of you reading this will save the date and plan to attend this event that will primarily comprise two tracks:

Transportation Track

- Alternative Delivery – A Panel Discussion on D-B, CMGC and P3 Programs
- Southern California Border Crossings – A Gateway to Mexico
- Regional Rail and Transit Projects – Sustainable Transportation Alternatives
- What's Next in Transportation Infrastructure?

Water Track

- State Water Bond - Moving forward!
- Water Storage – Southern California's Emergency Supply

- Alternative Water Sources – Desalinization and Reclaimed Options for Southern California
- Water and Storm Water Treatment – Managing a sustainable water system

There will also be a Special lunch time keynote topic: The Panama Canal: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

The Symposium will be immediately followed by a networking reception that will precede the Annual Awards Banquet where outstanding projects and individuals in Region 9 will be presented with awards. These award recipients were selected by the Region 9 Awards Committee from close to 150 nominations received. Several past Region 9 Project Award nominees have gone on to be considered for, and win, the ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) award at the National level. In fact this year, three out of the five projects being considered at OCEA this year are from Region 9: The Colton Crossing Flyover Project near Los Angeles; the Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Project in Los Angeles; and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge New East Span project. Well done Region 9! And good luck to all the nominees on March 26, 2015, when the 2015 OCEA Award winner will be selected in Arlington, Virginia!

For more information and to register for the Infrastructure Symposium or Awards Banquet, please bookmark the San Diego Section website, www.asce-sf.org, or the Region 9 web site, <http://www.asce.org/region9>. We look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego on March 6!

National ASCE (800) 548-2723 (ASCE)

Access National ASCE at: www.asce.org

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



History
&
Heritage

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary
of the Los Angeles Section

When I was at the University of California, Irvine, our then young Civil Engineering program celebrated E-week with some great activities at which we were joined by the Electrical Engineering students and the Mechanical Engineering students. We held an egg drop contest to see who could build a small container to protect an uncooked egg from an eight story drop off the Engineering Building (I don't recall any egg surviving the impact), a paper airplane flying contest for the longest flight off the Engineering Commons and a tricycle race against the faculty. It was all in good fun! Today's activities are much more sophisticated with better applications to engineering and are planned to occur on most college campuses. Check out your alma mater's plans and visit your old school, help with their programs or just go to enjoy the activities. If you cannot find local activities, I encourage you to visit your State or Federal Legislator and introduce yourself and your work as a Civil Engineer.

With the start of the legislative sessions in the State and in the Nation's Capital, it is the right time to engage with our elected officials and the public on the need for new investment in infrastructure. On January 5, 2015, Governor Brown was sworn in for his second term (fourth term overall) and he gave his State of the State address within his inaugural comments. It is notable that he mentioned the need to reinvest in infrastructure in his speech, although it was at the tail end of a long list of his priorities. The Governor said, in part, "We must also deal with longstanding infrastructure challenges. We are finally grappling with the long-term sustainability of our water supply through the recently passed Proposition 1 and our California Water Action Plan. Equally important is having the roads, highways and bridges in good enough shape to get people and commerce to where they need to go. It is estimated that our state has accumulated \$59 billion in needed upkeep and maintenance. Each year, we fall further and further behind and we must do something about it." The message is clear and now we must hold our elected officials accountable for responding to this challenge.

Unfortunately, the development of new revenue streams for Transportation Infrastructure, particularly for roads, streets, bridges and highways, has little hope of developing this year. At the Federal level, both the White House and members of Congress have stated that an increase in the Federal Gasoline Tax is off the table. There is talk of funding the Federal Highway account with a fee on the repatriation of offshore corporate profits but it is not clear that this will increase the monies available over the past few years of flat funding. In the State, the Legislature runs away from the concept of increasing Highway User Tax Account funds (otherwise known as Gas Taxes) and are pinning their hopes for new revenue on the planned study of a vehicle mileage based fee sometime in the future. I suggest to you that such a fee will be way too late to help us catch up on the Transportation Infrastructure needs. It appears to me that the Legislature is worried that the AB 32 related Cap and Trade fees that will impact fuel costs this year will be so great that the public will revile against an increase in the Gas Taxes. These Cap and Trade fees are planned for use in High Speed Rail, Mass Transit and Transit Oriented Development but none will go to streets and roads. In my

view, the Legislature should put more trust into the citizens and the voters of this State that have shown, over and over again, that they are willing to tax themselves if they can relate the tax to specific improvements in their quality of life. This is evidenced in the 20 most populous Counties in this State having passed one-half cent or more sales tax increases for purposes of street, road, bridge, highway and transit maintenance and enhancements. Your elected officials need your help to understand that you will support them when they make the alleged unpopular choices to increase a particular tax, one that will enhance the quality of life for their constituents.

Last month, I convened a meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Los Angeles Section of ASCE combined with legislative committee members of the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the Orange County and Los Angeles County representatives of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) to discuss our mutual interests and benefits of sharing information regarding legislative education and legislative office visits. This is a work in progress with the great potential of increasing our messaging to elected officials and is one of the ways in which the Section is enhancing the presence of ASCE in the ongoing campaign to educate the public on the work that all ASCE members perform. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me.



Reminder:

Copy deadline for the February 2015 issue is January 1, 2015; copy deadline for the March 2015 issue is February 1, 2015

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".

State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



The 2015 legislative session kicked off on January 5 with the swearing in of Constitutional officers and Governor Jerry Brown's combined state of the state address and inauguration speech.

As the Fresno Bee put it, Brown launched "his unprecedented fourth and final term with a flourish by promoting a legacy of fiscal stability while pioneering a bullet train to accommodate future generations of Californians seeking clean transportation."

Brown is the only Californian to serve four terms as governor and at 76, is already the "state's longest-serving and the nation's oldest governor."

The governor's swearing-in celebration was at the California Railroad Museum, funded by private donations left over from his previous inauguration. "By comparison, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger held lavish affairs, including a black tie gala for 2,000 people, and raised millions for his two inaugurations."

The Bee observed, "Brown's aura of fiscal austerity may be only an illusion. Since returning to office in 2011, California's general fund spending has grown 25 percent, fueled by a statewide recovery and the passage of the governor's Proposition 30, which increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and boosted the statewide sales taxes by a quarter cent for four years. The nonpartisan legislative analyst is projecting state revenue of \$111.4 billion for the 2015-16 fiscal year, a 3.7 percent increase over this year's \$107.4 billion general fund budget."



Tony Mendoza

New Legislation

Senator Tony Mendoza has introduced SB 45 to state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would authorize local governmental entities to use tax increment financing for the development of economic planning, infrastructure, and educational facilities. Bills like SB 45 "that state the intent" are introduced as "placeholders" until the policy is better defined

and specific language can be adopted.

Assembly Member Eric Linder is the author of AB 4 that would prohibit weight fee revenues from being transferred from the State Highway Account until January 1, 2020 to the Transportation Debt Service Fund, the Transportation Bond Direct Payment Account, or any other fund or account for the purpose of payment of the debt service on transportation



Eric Linder

general obligation bonds, and would also prohibit loans of weight fee revenues to the General Fund.

Assembly Member Scott Wilk has offered AB 6 that would provide that no further bonds could be sold for high-speed rail purposes except for early improvement projects in the Phase 1 blended system. The bill, subject to the above exception, would require redirection of the unspent proceeds received from outstanding bonds issued and sold for other high-speed rail purposes prior to the effective date of these provisions, for use in retiring the debt incurred from the issuance and sale of those outstanding bonds. The bill, subject to the above exception, would also require the net proceeds of other bonds subsequently issued and sold under the high-speed rail portion of the bond act to be made available to fund construction of school facilities for K-12 and higher education. These provisions would become effective only upon approval by the voters at the next statewide election.



Jim Beall

Senator Jim Beall, the newly appointed Chairman of Senate Transportation and Housing Committee has put his stake in the ground with SB 16. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that Caltrans identify savings from implementing efficiencies in its current programs and direct those resources into expanded activities for road repair and litter cleanup.

Assembly Member Cheryl Brown is author of AB 1 that would prohibit local government from imposing a fine under any local maintenance ordinance or other relevant ordinance for a failure to water a lawn or having a brown lawn during a period for which the Governor has issued a proclamation of a state of emergency based on drought conditions.



Cheryl Brown



Lois Wolk

Senator Lois Wolk introduced SB 7 another intent bill to encourage the conservation of water in multifamily residential rental buildings through means either within the landlord's or the tenant's control, and to ensure that the practices involving the submetering of dwelling units for water service are just and reasonable, and include appropriate safeguards for both tenants and landlords.

Senator Fran Pavley has two new bills. SB 13 would provide a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency 90 or 180 days, as prescribed, to remedy certain deficiencies that caused the State Water Resources Control Board to designate a groundwater basin as a probationary basin. This bill would authorize the board to develop

continued on page 7



Fran Pavley

an interim plan for certain probationary basins one year after the designation of the basin as a probationary basin. She has reintroduced legislation changing well report availability. Current law prohibits those reports from being made available to the public, except under certain circumstances. SB 20 would instead require the Department of Water Resources to, upon request, make the reports available to the public. The bill would require the department to provide specified disclaimers when providing the reports to the public.

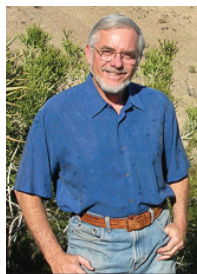
Recent Reports

Dept. of Water Resources has released an updated report on groundwater basins, outlines groundwater level changes, potential water shortages, land subsidence, etc., findings include: "due to ongoing decline of groundwater levels, areas with a higher potential for future subsidence are in the southern San Joaquin, Antelope, Coachella and western Sacramento valleys."

Advanced Energy Economy Institute has released "California Advanced Energy Employment Survey," finds "more than 40,000 businesses" are "soon expected to employ more than 500,000 Californians, surpassing the motion picture, television and radio industries, mining and quarrying and semi-conductors and aerospace in the number of jobs generated in the state."

Environment California Research & Policy Center has released its report, "Star Power: The Growing Role of Solar Energy in California," finds "due to strong commitments made to date by the California Legislature and Governors Brown and Schwarzenegger, California has led the nation in solar energy adoption" and could generate 30% of California's electricity demand in less than 20 years.

Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy has released "Getting Straight A's For California: The CARE Coalition's Post-2020 Energy and Climate Policy Platform," outlines "five requirements for developing effective climate change and energy legislation and regulation in 2015."



Buford Crites

Appointments

The Governor made the following appointments:

To Regional Water Quality Control Boards, Colorado River Basin: **Buford Crites** (reappointed), Palm Desert, board consultant at the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Central Coast: **Karina Cervantez**, Watsonville, Watsonville city council member; **Kathleen Thomasberg**, Salinas, former senior hydrologist at the Monterey County Water Agency.

Los Angeles: **Francine Diamond** (reappointed), Pacific Palisades, former principal at Fran Diamond Consulting; **Madelyn Glickfeld** (reappointed), Malibu, director of the water resources group and assistant director at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, both at UCLA.



Karina Cervantez

San Francisco Bay: **Stephen Lefkovits**, Emeryville, senior vice president at RealtyCom Partners LLC, and president at Joshua Tree Conference Group and Joshua Tree Consulting; **Terry Young** (reappointed), Oakland, independent environmental science consultant. San Diego: **Tomas Morales** (reappointed), San Diego, principal at Morales Legal; **Betty Olson**, Trabuco Canyon, professor at UC Irvine Henry Samueli School of Engineering's Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering; **Gary Strawn** (reappointed), Santee, former engineering consultant. Santa Ana: **Linda Ackerman** (reappointed), Irvine, director of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA; **Susan Longville** (reappointed), San Bernardino, former director of the CSU San Bernardino Water Resources Institute.



Madelyn Glickfeld



Stephen Lefkovits

To California Architects Board: **Ebony Lewis**, Los Angeles, residency program administrator at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center; **Barry Williams**, San Luis Obispo, principal architect and owner of Barry Lorenz Williams Associates, and a lecturer at Cal Poly SLO. Senate confirmation is not required

ARTICLE

ASCE | INDUSTRY LEADERS COUNCIL

The Industry Leaders Council engages senior leaders from industry, academia, government, and non-governmental organizations to identify tactical actions for ASCE and the civil engineering profession.

Membership on the ILC is by invitation only. Council members commit to a two (2) year term of service. Potential candidates are nominated by their peers and those candidates selected to join the ILC receive an invitation from the ILC Chair and ASCE Executive Director.

Interested in learning more about the ILC? The ILC is always looking for dedicated, active, and dynamic leaders to join them in their work for the industry. Please contact Carol Vargas (cvargas@asce.org), Director of Industry Relations for information.



www.ascelasection.org

Statement on President Obama's State of the Union from the American Society of Civil Engineers



The following is a statement from Randall S. Over, P.E., president of The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), regarding President Obama's 5th State of the Union address at the end of President Obama's State of the Union Address:

"Tonight, President Obama reminded us all that 'America does not stand still.' Regrettably, for too long, the same cannot be said of America's infrastructure. As the President spoke this evening on ways

to boost our economy and create jobs, he urged Congress to move the Water Resources Reform and Development Act across the finish line and to pass a transportation bill this summer. We strongly agree that these pieces of legislation cannot wait.

"For America's roads and bridges, 2014 must become a 'year of action.' If we cannot find a solution for the impending insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund, state transportation departments will face huge cuts in capital funding by the end of this year and fall farther behind with a growing backlog of projects.

"No one needs convincing that America's infrastructure needs work. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure (<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>) gave the nation's infrastructure a "D+". We found that unless new investments are made, the nation's deteriorating surface transportation will cost the U.S. economy more than 876,000 jobs and suppress our GDP by \$897 billion by 2020. Because, as the President said, 'first-class jobs gravitate to first-class infrastructure.'

"Maintaining and modernizing our infrastructure is one of the essential roles of government. From Franklin Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan, building the networks that connect our families and businesses to one another has long been a bipartisan issue. Now more than ever is the year to commit to reliable, long-term funding source for our transportation system."

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.

Capitol Hill Buzzing with Infrastructure Funding Proposals

by Olivia Wolfertz, ASCE National Staff



Between President Obama addressing infrastructure needs in his State of the Union Address, the Virginia Report Card release and additional infrastructure funding legislation being proposed at the federal level, ASCE is optimistic that a long-term, sustainable funding solution for our nation's infrastructure is within grasp.

As both parties of Congress struggle to agree on how infrastructure should be funded, our nation's infrastructure continues to decline. Almost one-third of our roads are in poor or mediocre condition and more than 40 percent of urban highways are congested. One in nine bridges is structurally deficient, and nearly a quarter are functionally obsolete. Restoring our nation's infrastructure into a good state of repair will require nearly \$3.6 trillion in investment by 2020, leaving us \$1.6 trillion short based on current funding levels.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama declared that Congress needs to pass a bipartisan infrastructure plan that will create more than 30 times as many jobs per year and strengthen the country's economy. The president also proposed a change in the tax code to encourage the private sector to invest in infrastructure through low-interest municipal bonds.

Though President Obama's push for infrastructure funding through tax reform is encouraging, many believe that our infrastructure funding needs require a different course of action. AAA CEO Robert Darbelnet announced in a statement Tuesday that, "The president's proposal to leverage corporate tax reform or private investment structures to support transportation funding would provide a welcome shot in the arm for our nation's infrastructure, but this will not provide a sustainable fix to the looming funding crisis at hand."

In the House of Representatives, Cong. John Delaney and Pennsylvania Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick have co-sponsored The Partnership to Build America Act. This bipartisan act will establish a \$50 billion infrastructure fund generated by bond sales which will loan money to state and local governments to repair infrastructure.

While these proposals for infrastructure funding are certainly promising, the Highway Trust Fund is headed toward insolvency in a matter of months. It's critical that members of Congress work together to pass legislation that will provide a sustainable, long-term funding solution to #Fix the Trust Fund before the money runs out.

Engineering New Horizons



**Join us in celebrating
the engineers who make
the world a better place.**

DISCOVER



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Attend the ASCE Construction Institute Summit | Henderson, NV | February 11-13

Join CI, along with ASCE leadership at the 2015 CI Summit. The CI Summit offers dynamic technical sessions applicable to practitioners from across the Civil Engineering profession. In addition to the many technical sessions, you will find multiple opportunities for networking, plus unique conference special events, such as [Dig This](#), a chance to play in America's first heavy equipment playground.

Sessions include:

- [Pre-Conference Workshop on Claims Avoidance and Resolution](#)
- [Industry Implementation of Digital Project Delivery](#)
- [Writing Constructible and Enforceable Specifications](#)
- [Management Practices for Emerging Delivery Methods](#)
- [Utility Engineering – A Missing Educational Need for Sustainable Practice](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration's Every Day Counts \(EDC\) innovation initiative](#)
- [EJCDC Documents, New Agreements, and Updated Documents](#)
- [Advances and Challenges in Asphalt Paving](#)
- [Project Risk Assessment](#)

5 REASONS TO ATTEND

- Expand your knowledge at technical sessions on Research, Planning, Design, Execution, Project Risk Analysis, and Claims
- Earn professional development hours (PDHs)
- Network with industry leaders and make valuable contacts at some featured conference special events
- Drive bulldozers and excavators on a construction site by participating in the pre-conference event
- Discover a truly unique environment of Lake Las Vegas and enjoy relaxation at this lakeside paradise

Join peers and colleagues for an opportunity to learn from experts in the field and network with design and construction professionals.

Bi-Monthly Board Meetings



Day:

2nd 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



Cordially Invites You to the
Life Member Brunch
March 7, 2015

In Honor of those members who have advanced to
Life Member status in the society and in recognition of their career achievements.

Keynote Speaker:
ASCE Society President-Elect,
Mark W. Woodson, P.E., L.S., D.WRE, F.ASCE

Members & Guests: \$35.00 per person

Table Sponsor: FULL - \$350.00 (4 seats for Sponsor & 6 for Honored Life
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Members/Students)

Reception: 11:00 am Brunch: 11:30 am Program: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Lunch: Chicken Chardonnay, Vegetarian available

Reservation must be received no later than Friday, February 27.

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For reservations, please send checks to:

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Publisher

ASCE LA Section
Gayle Stewart
1405 Warner Ave., Suite B
Tustin, CA 92780
Phone (714) 258-8306
Fax (714) 258-8391
E-mail: GStewart@associationplanet.com

Editor

Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.
LACMTA
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop 99-17-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone (213) 922-2471
FAX (213) 922-6875
E-mail: cliban@alumni.ucla.edu
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