

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathereen Shinkai, P.E., M.ASCE  
Los Angeles Section President

VOL. LVII NO. 1

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## Spread the Word!



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season with family and friends and ready to take on 2017 as a year of prosperity. Many economists are telling us to expect 2017 as a good economic year. I hope that we will all have a great year in our work and health. The 2016 year was a great year for many of us with the civil engineering field being very busy. This month, I wanted to focus on what I think is very exciting for our engineering community. Last month, I mentioned that there is an IMAX® movie coming out called "Dream Big: Engineering Wonders of the World." This is in partnership with MacGillivray Freeman films, and presented by the Bechtel Corporation. ASCE will be doing a premier on giant-screen theaters throughout the nation in February during Engineer's Week. For the Los Angeles Section members, the movie premier is on Friday, February 17th at the California Science Center. Many members in the Section are already working on ways to promote the movie and I am personally speaking to several key individuals from the Society, MacGillivray Freeman films and also DiscoverE.

*Dream Big* leverages the scale of the giant screen to showcase engineering projects worldwide. From Dubai's skyscrapers to the bridges soaring through the clouds, people of all ages will be able to experience the massive scale and environment that challenge engineers every day. *Dream Big* showcases the ingenuity needed to create engineering marvels as well as the compassion that drives engineers to create better lives for all. This movie is a huge deal for the engineering community and I really want us to **spread the word**. This is a repeat on my last article, but I think it is important for us to be able to tell our story of civil engineering and also get the younger generation interested in our field. During the recession, many civil engineers ended up going to a different field or moving out of California. In busy times such as last year, many companies had a difficult time finding experienced people with seven to ten years of experience since many left the profession. As infrastructure needs to be built, we will need more civil engineers and we need to be the ones making sure that the civil engineering profession is continuing to grow. *Dream Big* aims to motivate a new generation of engineers and offers everyone the opportunity to experience engineering in a fresh and exciting way.

"ASCE has indicated that combined with educational programming and powerful media, Dream Big will:

- o Inform the public about the important work engineers do, helping to heighten interest and change perceptions about the profession.
- o Inspire young people to consider careers in engineering.
- o Answer the demand for K-12 engineering education resources, in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards."

I personally saw the rough cut and many previews of the movie and was inspired. I can't wait to actually see the movie in IMAX. The film focused on different engineering projects

*continued on page 3*



# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



The Legislature convened its 2017-2018 session on December 5, 2016. The special transportation session called by Brown two years ago expired at the end of November with nothing to show.

Transportation stakeholders received a letter from the Governor and Legislative Leaders announcing that there will be no lame-duck session. Once again, the transportation issue will be put over for another year and a legislative solution must wait until the new Legislature begins work in earnest in January.

## Recent Reports

**PSE Healthy Energy** released Hazard Assessment of Chemical Additives Used in Oil Fields that Reuse Produced Water for Agricultural Irrigation, Livestock Watering, and Groundwater Recharge in The San Joaquin Valley of California: Preliminary Results. Oil-field produced water has been used to irrigate crops in the Central Valley since the mid-1990s. "Here we report the preliminary findings of our analysis of the chemical data disclosed in response to... orders from the CVRWQCB [Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board]. In this preliminary analysis, we provide the list of chemicals reported in the context of their acute mammalian and ecological toxicities, biodegradability, bioaccumulation potential, carcinogenicity, and whether chemicals are included on specific chemical priority lists. The purpose of this analysis is to identify potential chemicals of concern as a first step prior to more complete human health and environmental hazard and risk analyses." Findings suggest that using oilfield wastewater to irrigate crops poses no significant threat, but more research is needed.

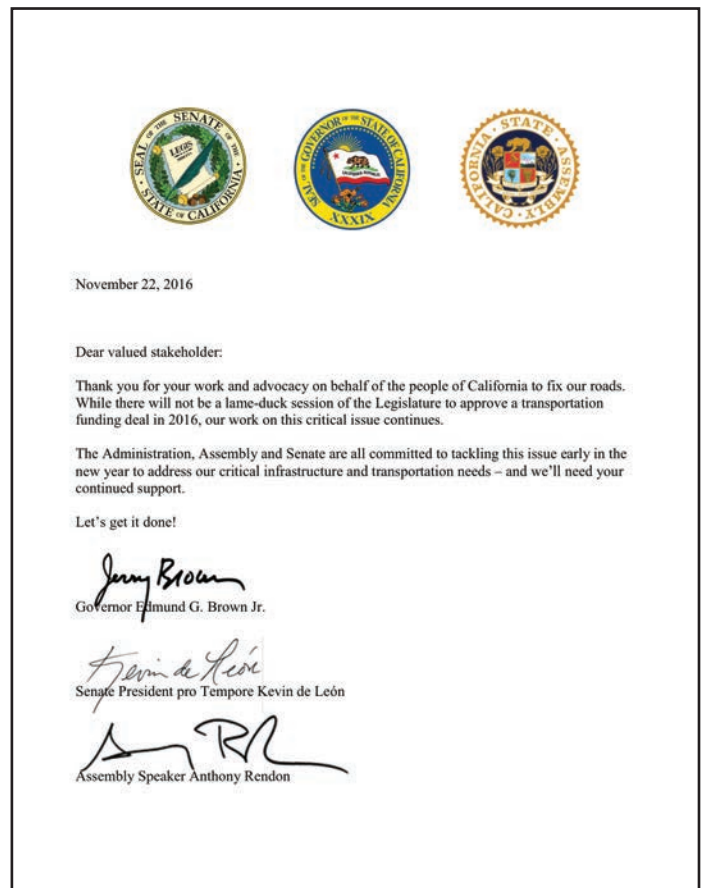
**Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America** released Potentially Induced Earthquakes during the Early Twentieth Century in the Los Angeles Basin. This study looks at the historical impact of oil drilling in the Los Angeles Basin and suggests a potential tie to earthquakes that happened at that time. "Our results suggest that significant earthquakes in southern California during the early twentieth century might have been associated with industry practices that are no longer employed (i.e., production without water reinjection), and do not necessarily imply a high likelihood of induced earthquakes at the present time."

**Water Research Foundation** released The Energy-Water Nexus: A Plan for Collaboration Between the Department of Energy and Water Sector. This paper contains a set of research and policy recommendations to the Department of Energy from eight water sector associations. "The white paper provides (1) an overview of the water-energy nexus, (2) successful water-energy programs and partnerships, (3) policy and research gaps in the water-energy nexus, and (4) recommendations and next steps.

The white paper was developed in response to a September 7 meeting between the water sector and the Honorable Ernest Moniz, Secretary of Energy, to discuss policy and research priorities."

**Public Policy Institute of California** released California's Water. "Managing water remains one of the great challenges for California. Population growth, a shifting climate, and declining ecosystem health are putting pressure on the state's water supply and flood management systems. New policies are needed to address these challenges. This briefing kit highlights some of the most pressing issues, including: climate change and water, the Colorado River, energy and water, managing droughts, paying for water, preparing for floods, protecting headwaters, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, storing water, water for cities, water for the environment, [and] water for farms."

**Air Resources Board** has released results from the Nov. 19 cap-and-trade auction for carbon allowance credits, the third quarterly auction of 2016, held jointly with Quebec, reports 87 million credits of 2015/16 vintage were offered at \$12.73 each and 76.9 million of them were sold; also reports 10 million credits of 2019 vintage were offered at \$12.73 each and 1 million of them were sold. Summary here.



and showed how kids are currently involved in different engineering activities that are fun but also educational. I would recommend this 45-minute movie to people of all ages and give it a thumbs up! For more information on Engineers Week and also the Dream Big movie screening locations, please visit <http://www.asce.org/event/2017/engineers-week/> and <http://www.asce.org/dream-big/>. Please spread the word to your coworkers, friends, and neighbors and have them all check out the movie when it comes out at the California Science Center. It will totally be worth it.

As we ramp up on Dream Big, we will also be looking for volunteers! Our various Branches in the Los Angeles Section is looking at having different activities throughout the year, but in particular during Engineer's Week and the premier in February, we are hoping to join efforts with other engineering organizations and do an Engineering Festival at the California Science Center. More information will be sent as details become finalized.

We really need to get kids interested in civil engineering at an early age so they can be open to the option of a career in our field or at least be educated enough about it to understand the importance of what our field accomplishes via projects around the world. There is a web-site

on DiscoverE which promotes over 50 different Dream Big activities. This can be accessed at <http://www.discovere.org/dreambig>. On this site, there are activities such as building a magnetic levitating train on a magnetic track, designing a paper tower that can withstand wind, and building a 3D model of a watershed to name a few. The activities are associated with different engineering disciplines and is designed to show that the engineering field is creative, rewarding and plays an important role in our everyday life. I encourage you and/or your kids to check it out!

We also need to focus our attention on our University Students. Even though we have Practitioner Advisors for each of the schools, we still need other members to help. Students are thirsty for knowledge and are looking for ways into the field through either an internship or mentor willing to talk to take an interest. They want to hear about real world experiences. If you are interested in being a speaker at one of the school's general meetings please let me know. If any of you are interested in volunteering or have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me. ASCE is a nonprofit organization and we can be only sustained by you! The more we can promote engineering, the better we will be together.

## Bi-Monthly Board Meetings



Day:  
First Thursday of every other month

Time:  
6:00 pm

Location:  
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Kristina Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE

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Students: \$25.00 (\$20 refunded at event)

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Lunch: Chicken Chardonnay, Vegetarian available

Reservation must be received by Friday, February 24, 2017.

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# of chicken \_\_\_\_\_ # of vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at [www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org).



# New Year Happenings in Region 9

by Kwame A. Agyare, P.E., ENV SP, M. ASCE, ASCE Region 9 At-Large Governor, and Vice-Chair, Region 9 Board of Governors



Happy New Year! On behalf of the Board of Governors of ASCE's Region 9, I would like to wish everyone the very best for the coming year 2017. The holiday season typically marks the time when engineers take time out of their busy schedules to enjoy being with family and friends, and also celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. I hope that many of you were able to find the time to celebrate the spirit of the season, and to begin to look forward to the New Year. I spent part of

this holiday period visiting with some younger member groups in the San Francisco Bay Area, and the spirit of the season was evident in all the activities being held. Sections, Branches, and YMFs all over the State have held holiday events this past month, and I sincerely hope that many of you were able to attend a few of these events.

The turn of the year is also a good time for engineers to plan ahead, and to seek out additional opportunities for volunteer participation and professional growth. Here are a few upcoming ASCE-related events and opportunities that you may want to participate in, or take advantage of:

## 2017 Multi-Regional Leadership Conference for Regions 8 & 9

The 2017 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) for Regions 8 & 9 will be held in Los Angeles, from January 13-14. Depending on when your Section's January newsletter is typically published, this event may have already been held. The MRLC comprises the Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL), the Western Region Younger Member Council (WRYMC), and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL). The event provides for collaboration between these groups, and serves as a forum to provide leadership training and ASCE updates on a regional level. The event also fosters an interchange of ideas, information, and experiences, and exposes participants to the tools needed to be effective leaders. The 2017 event is being held at the Los Angeles Hotel-Downtown, and several field trips are available including tours of the Griffith Observatory, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Metro Regional Connector Transit Project, and the Sixth Street Aqueduct. For more information on the MRLC, please visit <http://www.wrymc2017.com/>

## Engineers Week and the Dream Big Movie

The annual week-long National Engineers Week event will be held from February 17-25, 2017, all around the country. This is the week in which we particularly celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world. Other goals for the week include seeking to increase public dialogue about the need for engineers, and working to further help bring engineering into the lives of kids, educators, and parents. Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of this year's event is the premier of the movie Dream Big! Dream Big: Engineering Wonders of the World is a new film for IMAX® and giant screen theaters that will take viewers on a journey of discovery, from the world's tallest

building, to a bridge higher than the clouds, and a solar car race across Australia. The film shows more than the ingenuity behind these marvels—it reveals the heart that drives engineers to create better lives for people worldwide. The Dream Big movie will premiere during Engineers Week at several specific locations around California and throughout the country. For more information on Engineers Week and also the Dream Big movie screening locations, please visit <http://www.asce.org/event/2017/engineers-week/> and <http://www.asce.org/dream-big/>

## Innovation – Grand Challenge

The 2017 ASCE Innovation Contest was developed as a part of the ASCE Grand Challenge (<http://www.ascegrandchallenge.com>) and is a springboard for forward-looking infrastructure ideas. The contest is an avenue to transform our nation's infrastructure, and brings together the best ideas, projects, and theories, for how to build a better future. In 2016, the contest drew entries from across the globe, and submissions were judged by a panel of 22 experts spanning the industry. There were 15 winners, with four proposals honored for special awards. These entries included: "Rise of the Drones: How Unmanned Surveying Can Help Make Our Coasts Resilient" (Greatest Impact on Achieving the Grand Challenge); "Big Picture Resilience via Ocean Forests" (Best New Concept); "Advanced Drone Technology to Handle Disaster in Underground Construction and Mining Sites" (Best Student Innovation, tie); and "Capitalizing on the Internet of Things to Promote Water Conservation" (Best Student Innovation, tie). The 2017 contest has 5 topics: Innovative Business Models and Technologies; The Internet of Things; Sustainable (Green) Engineering; Resilience; Next-Generation Transportation. A call for entries is currently underway, and closes at midnight on March 1, 2017. For more information on how to enter, please go to <https://ascegrandchallenge.com/innovation-contest/>

## ASCE Student Scholarships and Fellowships

Did you know that ASCE has a Society-level scholarship and fellowship awards program? These Society-level awards represent additional prospects for student funding and support. Applicants need only to be an ASCE student member to apply! Applications are now being accepted for scholarships and fellowships to be awarded in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Award funds are distributed during the fall of each academic year, typically in October. Students selected to receive a 2017-18 scholarship or fellowship must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program during that academic year. The deadline for receipt of applications for the current award cycle is approaching quickly. This deadline is February 10, 2017. You may learn more about the different scholarships and fellowships available by visiting the ASCE websites: ASCE Scholarships (undergraduate student assistance): <http://www.asce.org/Scholarships/>; and for ASCE Fellowships (graduate student assistance): [http://www.asce.org/ASCE\\_Fellowships/](http://www.asce.org/ASCE_Fellowships/)

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at [agyare.kwame@gmail.com](mailto:agyare.kwame@gmail.com).

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Conference calls on every 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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Copy deadline for the February 2017 issue is January 1, 2017; copy deadline for the March 2017 issue is February 1, 2017.

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