

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

ORANGE / SAN\_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN\_LUIS\_OBISPO / SANTA\_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT /  
SOUTHERN SAN\_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

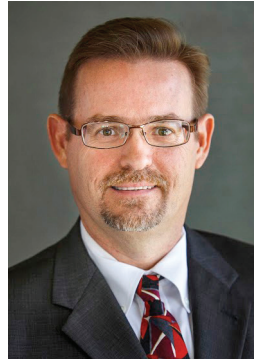
Jerry Burke, P.E., M.ASCE, APM, QSD, ENV SP  
Los Angeles Section President

VOL. LVIII NO. 3

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## COMPARISON



We can learn a lot about life by watching a group of kids. I remember years ago we had a nice, safe bike for our daughter to ride. Which she did. She loved to ride it. But one day she saw her friend's bike at school. Suddenly her bike became very uncool and she would not be caught dead riding in public. She wanted one like her friend. Its not because her bike was a bad one. She compared hers to someone else's and decided she liked theirs better. If it stopped with childhood, comparison would be okay. But the truth of the matter is it doesn't, we all do it.

Comparing ourselves with others can become a damaging habit. Either we put others down to make ourselves feel good, or worse, we compare ourselves to others and we never measure up. Want to feel bad? Compare yourself with others on a regular basis and you will wind up on a guaranteed path to depression.

Is comparison ever a good thing? Yes, if approached the right way. Go find a mirror. Look at the person staring back at you. Ask questions like: Am I making progress in my life? Am I a better friend than I was a year ago? Am I a better employee? Am I devoted to study? Have I upgraded my skills so that I am a better Civil Engineer than I was 5 years ago? Everyone has weaknesses. And, the good news is they can be improved.

Getting involved in ASCE and volunteering alongside your peers is one way to improve your people skills and gain new friends. Contact your local branch, trust me they can always use more help.

If you want to improve your technical skills, then look no further than ASCE. A couple practical courses I noticed coming up soon are "School Zones: A Comprehensive Look at Signs, Markings and Safety Programs" and "Scope Creep: Focus on Prevention and Improve Project Performance". Scope Creep affects everyone, public or private side of the counter. Find these courses and more at: [http://www.asce.org/continuing\\_education/](http://www.asce.org/continuing_education/).

The trouble with comparison is, it never stops. No matter where we are in our careers, there will always be someone we can compare ourselves to that does things better. It's a complete waste of time. Take time out to plan achievable, measurable goals for your future, review your progress every so often and then move forward.

A special "thank you" goes out to 3 ASCE members (Brian Smith, Joshua Svensson and Lukas Bradley) who went to Montecito to help with search/rescue and assist in structure evaluation during the recent mudflows. A very special thanks to their employer, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, who allowed them to go and is a very big supporter of ASCE.

*continued on page 2*



Congratulations to the L.A. Section YMF group for a very successful 19th annual YMF Student Night and Job Fair held in February. The Taglyan Complex in Hollywood was an awesome venue!

The 12th Annual Sustainability Summit is coming to Los Angeles April 20, 2018 at the Getty Center. Look for an email soon with more details.

The inaugural ASCE Utility Engineering and Survey Institute (UESI) 2018 Surveying & Geomatics Conference will be at California State Polytechnic University Pomona in April this year. Take advantage of attending a conference close to home.

Congratulations to the L.A. Section members who will be receiving awards at the Region 9 Awards Banquet during the 2018 California Infrastructure Symposium & Awards Dinner:

#### **Excellence in Journalism**

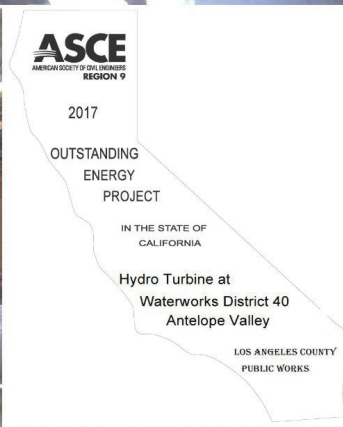
Chris Haire, O.C. Register – Nominated by Orange County Branch



Chris Haire

#### **Outstanding Energy Project**

Los Angeles County Public Works Hydro Turbine WW District 40 - Metro Los Angeles Branch



Los Angeles County Public Works Hydro Turbine WW District 40

#### **Outstanding Parks & Recreation Project**

Rosetta Canyon Sports Park – Lake Elsinore – San Bernardino/Riverside Branch



Rosetta Canyon Sports Park

#### **Outstanding Community Improvement Project**

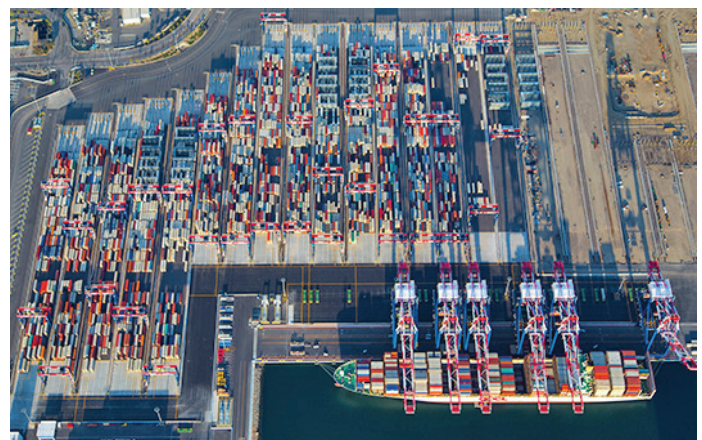
Huntington Beach Senior Center – Orange County Branch



Huntington Beach Senior Center

#### **Outstanding Airport and Ports Project**

Port of Long Beach Pier E – Metro Los Angeles Branch



Port of Long Beach Pier E



**Outstanding YMF Officer**

Ruwanka Purasinghe – Metro Los Angeles Branch



Ruwanka Purasinghe

**Outstanding Branch Officer**

Melissa Barbosa – San Bernardino/Riverside Branch



Melissa Barbosa

**Outstanding ASCE Section Officer**

Remi Candaele – Los Angeles Section



Remi Candaele

**Outstanding Small Project**

Freedom Plaza – Southern San Joaquin Branch



Freedom Plaza

**Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector**

Cris B. Liban, D.Env., P.E., F.ASCE. –  
Metro Los Angeles Branch



Cris B. Liban

A special welcome to each of our new members!

It's a pleasure to serve as your president!



**Friday, April 20**

**7:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Getty Center | Harold M. Williams Auditorium**

This year's Summit will cover an array of exciting issues including: Achieving 100% renewable energy in California; re-thinking waste as a tool to combat hunger and create a sustainable energy source; how a global entrepreneur is shaping the future of transportation with flying drones; how billions of dollars in ballot measures will affect California's water infrastructure; the creation of a regionalized energy grid; and, the plan to electrify the nation's largest Port.

# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



**Legislation:** The Legislature passed **SB 558** a companion bill to SCA 9 (Glazer) that authorizes the Legislature to exclude the construction or addition of a rainwater capture system from the term “newly constructed” for purposes of reappraisal under Article XIII A. **SCA 9** was chaptered on January 29, 2018.

“modernizing existing user fees, incentivizing private innovation and investment through public private partnerships, making smarter investments with limited federal dollars, and increasing accountability to taxpayers.”

The **Bay Area Council Economic Institute** released [Energy Storage: Meeting California's Climate and Energy Goals Through a Balanced Low-Carbon Grid](#). “[This report] underscored the need for a smart grid that improves reliability and resilience, supports the increased generation and use of renewable power, integrates energy storage, and with that enables the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. As California pursues even more ambitious greenhouse gas and renewable energy targets, new challenges are emerging for the electric grid. In particular, the variable nature of renewable energy resources, which in large part depend on when the sun shines and the wind blows, requires increased attention as regulators and policy makers attempt to balance the grid and match power needs with available supply.”

The **Union of Concerned Scientists** released [Navigating a Flood of Information: Evaluating and Integrating Climate Science into Groundwater Planning in California](#). “While hundreds of local agencies across California draft their plans to ensure the sustainability of groundwater basins, water experts say in (this) white paper ... that these state-mandated plans need to incorporate climate change impacts to be sustainable.... Researchers analyzed two dozen local plans submitted to the state earlier this year. They found nearly half of these plans did not include a quantitative analysis of climate change, though the state requires them to do so.... The white paper makes a series of recommendations for process improvements that local, state and federal agencies should take to better incorporate climate science in groundwater planning

The **California State Transportation Agency** has just released the [Final Report for the Road Charge Pilot Program](#). “This report demonstrates California’s commitment to investigate a long-term, sustainable transportation funding mechanism. [California] completed the largest road charge research effort to date, with over 5,000 participating statewide vehicles, reporting in excess of 37 million miles driven over the nine-month pilot.”

**California Natural Resources Agency** has released the [2018 update](#) to its Safeguarding California Plan, “a roadmap for everything state agencies are doing and will do to protect communities, infrastructure, services and the natural environment from climate change impacts,” makes “69 recommendations across 11 sectors” and identifies “more than 1000 ongoing actions and next steps.”

## New Bills

**AB 1743** would enact the *California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program*.

**AB 1756** would repeal the *Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017*. This bill contains other related provisions

**AB 1792** would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would provide local governments with resources and streamlining for municipal improvements and restoration projects.

**AB 1876** would increase the membership of the Delta Stewardship Council to 13 members, including 11 voting members and 2 nonvoting members, as specified.

**ACA 21** would create the California Infrastructure Investment Fund in the State Treasury.

**SB 920** would extend indefinitely the authorization for persons licensed to engage in the practice of engineering, land surveying, or architecture to form limited liability partnerships.

**SB 952** would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to recognize local water agency investment in water supply and will ensure that local agencies receive sufficient credit for these investments in meeting any water conservation or efficiency mandates.

**SR 77** designates the week of February 18, 2018, to February 24, 2018, as Engineers Week. Representatives of the various engineering trade associations and societies participated in a floor presentation.

## Recent Reports

The **Infrastructure Working Group, Problem Solvers Caucus** released [Rebuilding America's Infrastructure](#). The Problem Solvers Caucus is a bipartisan group of 48 members of Congress. The Caucus' Infrastructure Working Group has released a report with recommended policy solutions for the United States' infrastructure challenges over the next 100 years. Recommendations include



## Governor Appointments



**Melanie Perron** of Sacramento, has been appointed deputy secretary for legislation at the California State Transportation Agency. Perron has served as assistant deputy director of legislation at the California Department of Transportation since 2013. She was legislative manager at the California Department of Conservation from 2010 to 2013, legislative coordinator at the California Department of General Services from 2008 to 2010 and a legislative assistant in the Governor's Office from 2007 to 2008.

**Joseph Hedges** of Seattle, Washington, has been appointed chief operating officer at the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Hedges was program administrator of the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program at the Washington State Department of Transportation from 2016 to 2018. Hedges has more than 35 years of experience in construction, engineering and project management in both the private and public sector, including as executive vice president and director of operations at the Coastal Environmental Group from 2012 to 2016 and as vice president, chief engineer and director of design at Pro2Serve from 2008 to 2012. Since retiring as captain from the U.S. Navy, Corps of Civil Engineers, where he served in several positions from 1984 to 2008, Hedges has worked extensively on complex facility and transportation design and construction projects.



**Pamela Mizukami** of Sacramento, has been appointed chief deputy director at the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Mizukami has been deputy director of the Administrative Services Division at the California Department of Motor Vehicles since 2010, where she has served in several positions since 2006. She served in several positions at the California Department of General Services from 1993 to 2006, including electronic data processing acquisition manager and senior electronic data processing acquisition supervisor.

**Karla Nemeth** of Sacramento, has been appointed director of the California Department of Water Resources. Nemeth has served as Governor Brown's deputy secretary and senior advisor for water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency since 2014, where she was Bay Delta Conservation Plan project manager from 2009 to 2014. Nemeth was environmental and public affairs director at the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District from 2005 to 2009 and community affairs manager at Jones and Stokes from 2003 to 2005. She earned a Master of Public Administration degree in public administration from the University of Washington.



## Bi-Monthly Board Meetings



Day:  
First Thursday  
of every other month

Time:  
6:00 pm

Location:  
Gayle Stewart Enterprises  
1405 Warner Avenue Suite B  
Tustin, CA 92780

Everyone is welcome!

# Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) Procurement Process

by Jennifer Teasdale, ACEC California – Policy Outreach Coordinator



The American Council of Engineering Companies, California (ACEC-California) is excited to partner with the American Society of Civil Engineers, Region 9, in supporting and promoting Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS). California state law requires that public agencies use QBS to procure professional services because it is recognized that hiring the best-qualified professionals to design and administer public works projects results in the best use of scarce public

funds. ACEC California has begun a strategic campaign to provide education, resources, and outreach to assist public agencies in understanding and complying with QBS statutes.

QBS is a competitive procurement process that requires a public agency to evaluate design professionals, like engineers and land surveyors, based on their qualifications and their demonstrated competence, instead of lowest bid. The amount of time spent working on a project is the primary factor that determines the cost of professional services. Making the best use of that time by hiring the right professional for the right project has proven to result in the safest, most durable, and most cost-effective projects. A project designed by a qualified firm can significantly decrease construction and life-cycle costs and promote innovation, public participation, and often leads to greater public approval and satisfaction with the

completed project. This is why QBS is required to be used by federal, California, and local governments.

ASCE Policy Statement 304 – Qualifications-Based Selection of Professional Engineers, states ASCE believes that the selection of Professional Engineers as prime consultants and subcontractors should be based on the qualifications of the engineering firm. Qualifications including education, training, experience, past-performance, capabilities, personnel and workloads should be evaluated when selecting an engineering firm.

ACEC California has developed an extensive QBS program intended to engage and educate public agencies that are not complying with QBS. One of our key accomplishments is the creation of short and simple educational materials that will help the design professional community explain QBS statutes and benefits to their clients. Additionally, the organization's leadership and staff are proactively liaising with agencies, local government associations, and public officials on behalf of our members. We are confident that these efforts will help to uphold the engineering and land surveying professions, deliver the clients' needs at a fair price and, most importantly, provide the safest infrastructure for all Californians.

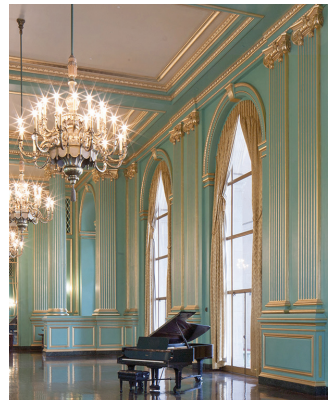
If you desire to learn more about ACEC California's QBS efforts, please contact Jennifer Teasdale at [jteasdale@acec-ca.org](mailto:jteasdale@acec-ca.org). To learn more about ASCE policies in regard to QBS, please contact Richard Markuson, ASCE Legislative Advocate, at [richard@pacificadvocacy.com](mailto:richard@pacificadvocacy.com)

ORGANIZED BY ASCE REGION 9 & SAN FRANCISCO SECTION

## CA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS DINNER

HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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& AWARDS DINNER

San Francisco  
War Memorial  
& Performing  
Arts Center



# ASCE Los Angeles Air Transport Technical Group

by Mr. Khashayar (Kash) Hadipour, Ph.D., P.E., Kleinfelder, Chair, ATTG And The new Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute



The Air Transport Technical Group (ATTG) serves the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Los Angeles Section, its members and supporters by conducting periodic meetings for the benefit of engineers and architects having an interest in the aviation industry. The meetings focus on various aspects of air transport, including airport improvements, airline affairs, air traffic control and the aircraft manufacturing industry. ATTG's goal in conducting periodic meetings is to provide informative presentations to its members and guests, and to provide them with an opportunity to exchange information and ideas for the benefit of all participants.

ATTG meetings are typically planned for January, March, May, September and November of each year. Arrangements are made for presentations on terminal and airfield airport improvements for passenger and cargo transport, airline tenant improvements, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) developments in air and ground traffic control, airport security, and developments in aircraft manufacturing.

The current ATTG Board of Directors are:

CHAIR: Mr. Kash Hadipour, Ph.D., P.E., Kleinfelder  
 SECRETARY: Ms. Lilith Terry, P.E., PMP, AECOM  
 TREASURER: Mr. Tony Fermelia, P.E., HNTB  
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 Mr. Clint Isa, P.E., Diaz Yourman & Associates  
 Mr. Renju Abraham, P.E., Burns & McDonnell  
 Mr. Alberto Cruz, P.E., C.M., FAA

ASCE Air Transport Technical Group had their bi-monthly meeting on December 19, 2017 when Mr. Barry Rondinella, Director of the John Wayne Airport provided an overview of the airport and some of the current issues that JWA faces. Mr. Rondinella discussed current and upcoming projects at the airport and his presentation was greatly appreciated by all members.

ASCE Air Transport Technical Group hosted Mr. Iraj Ghaemi, Director of Facilities Development Department at San Diego International Airport on February 20, 2018. Mr. Ghaemi provided a presentation on San Diego International Airport Capital Improvement Program. To learn more about the ASCE ATTG, please contact Kash Hadipour, Chair, at [khadipour@kleinfelder.com](mailto:khadipour@kleinfelder.com)

## UTILITY Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI)

The Orange County Branch of the Los Angeles Section recently established a UESI chapter headed by Shaun Clark ([shaw.clark@cardno.com](mailto:shaw.clark@cardno.com)). The L.A. Section provided funding to the new institute to begin functioning. Make your plans to join us in sunny Southern California for the inaugural UESI 2018 Surveying & Geomatics Conference in joint collaboration with California State Polytechnic University Pomona April 22 thru April 24, 2018. There will be exhibitors, special plenary sessions and keynote speakers, and a special event that will be hosted by Cal Poly Pomona to feature an exciting venue in Southern California! For more information check out: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asce-uesi-2018-surveying-geomatics-conference-tickets-36627276169>



**UESI 2018**  
**Surveying & Geomatics**  
 Pomona, California | April 22-24



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[www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)

## Attention, ASCE friends! SAME is bringing back its world-class STEM Engineering & Construction Camp to California in April, 2018!



That's right! The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is thrilled to team with Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms to offer a STEM Camp for high school students on April 6-8, 2018 on the MCAGCC base. The curriculum will be a condensed version of the curriculum that SAME provides at its nationwide system of weeklong summer camps, and may include concrete beam construction, Engineering Reaction Course, Drone Races, and more!

SAME seeks Campers (students in grades 9 through 12), Mentors (<40 yr. old STEM professional or student), and Sponsors for not only

the 29 Palms camp, but also SAME's many other annual STEM camps described at [www.same.org/stemcamps](http://www.same.org/stemcamps).

Thanks to generous sponsors of the 29 Palms camp, the cost to campers for the three-day overnight camp is just \$30, an incredible opportunity and value! Mentors attend free of charge; we only ask that mentors arrive late afternoon on Thursday April 5th.

This is a great opportunity to further SAME's and ASCE's common goals to foster the next generation of engineering and construction professionals that will support our military and our country. SAME asks ASCE members to help inspire our future engineers and leaders by spreading the word to students about SAME's STEM camps, and to consider volunteering as mentors.

Please log on to [www.same.org/stemcamps](http://www.same.org/stemcamps) for more information, and to register. Contact the Camp Director, Jim Carter ([jcarter@emaxlabs.com](mailto:jcarter@emaxlabs.com), 310-618-8889 x105), if you have any questions.

## Help Put Dream Big in Every U.S. School

*by Ben Walpole (adapted from ASCE News, [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org))*



ASCE has a new goal for 2018: placing a DVD copy of the acclaimed documentary Dream Big: Engineering Our World in every U.S. public school.

Placing the film with a toolkit of educational resources in every school will expand Dream Big's audience to include students in rural and economically disadvantaged communities, support the growing need for curricula aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards,

and promote greater interaction between engineers and educators.

The toolkits will include the film itself – in multiple languages and licensed for educational screening – a teacher's guide and accompanying educational videos.

ASCE has secured generous support from the United Engineering Foundation, allowing for distribution to 30 percent of the 95,000 public schools in the United States, including all high schools.

But there's more to do. So how can you help?

ASCE members can help put Dream Big in the remaining 70 percent of schools. Individuals can give \$5 to place a toolkit in the school

of their choice, using the newly launched website (<https://www.engineersdreambig.org/>). You can search for different schools with the menu on the upper right-hand side of the page.

While the goal is to reach all U.S. public schools, members will have the option to purchase educational DVDs for private and parochial schools, as well as for international schools. (The cost of international distribution will be slightly higher.)

ASCE will be taking preorders for the educational DVDs through the summer, with distribution to the schools set to begin in the fall of 2018.

Dream Big is presented by Bechtel and produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films in partnership with ASCE.

Keep up with the latest Dream Big developments at the film's official website (<https://www.dreambigfilm.com/>).





# ASCE Volunteers Bring Civil Engineering to Life for Families

by Anabella Tourkaman (adapted from ASCE News, [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org))



Kids test paper towers against winds from a box fan in the Windy City Tower activity.

What is engineering? Look around you; it's everywhere.

The built world we live in is made possible by engineers who see challenges as opportunities and turn ideas into reality.

To encourage an interest in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields, DiscoverE kicked off Engineers Week activities with Family Day, Feb. 17, in Washington, DC. The event brought engineering to life for kids, educators, and parents.

The National Building Museum transformed into a sea of aspiring young innovators as they explored, learned, and questioned engineering wonders. With their hard hats in tow, children participated in activities like racing balloon rockets, battling LEGO robots, creating slime, and mining for minerals.

"Family Day activities are a good way to show kids what civil engineers actually do," said Anay Shah, Geologist at AECOM and event volunteer.

Among the many exhibitors at the event, ASCE National Capital Section members hosted the popular Windy City Tower activity. Featured in *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*, the exercise challenges kids to make a paper tower that can withstand as much wind as possible (from a box fan), without falling over.



The American Institute of Chemical Engineers helps kids create slime.

"Introducing kids to activities, like the Windy City Tower, and relating it to the engineering field at a young age is important," said Rachel Boots, Aff.M.ASCE, Section chair for Engineers Week. "An engineer is not easily identifiable walking down the street, so this activity makes engineering relatable."



Kids design and build towers made out of paper and tape.

The Section also promoted its book, *Engineering the Nation's Capital*, which presents stories and images of notable infrastructure in the Washington, DC, area. Entirely volunteer-written, the hardcover coffee-table book hopes to offer a different perspective on engineering.

"We are able to introduce people to the many things that engineers have contributed to their daily lives here in the Washington area," said L. J. Sauter, senior environmental advisor at Burns and McDonnell. "Engineering is so neat and so needed for our country, so I'm hoping that we can inspire the next generation of civil engineers."

Continuing outreach beyond Family Day, the Section plans to send local members to visit a school this year and present on an aspect of civil engineering. Each school will also receive their very own copy of *Engineering the Nation's Capital*.



Sumon Chatterjee, P.E., M.ASCE, environmental engineer at AECOM and event volunteer, shows attendees how to boil liquid using heat generated from the palm of their hands.



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