#### VOL. LVIII NO. 9

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# Los Angeles Section

# Monthly: Est. 1913

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steven L. King, P.E. Los Angeles Section President

### WELCOME



Welcome to the American Society of Civil Engineers Los Angeles Section! It's an honor and pleasure to serve as your President for the 2018-19 year. The Los Angeles Section is made up of an amazing group of volunteers and I am extremely excited for the upcoming year.

A little about my background for those members that don't already know me, I practice in the field of transportation, specifically highway projects, and currently work for the Orange County Transportation Authority. I first joined ASCE

as a student at the University of Illinois, where missing an introduction to ASCE is almost impossible when touring the engineering campus. I still remember walking through Newmark Civil Engineering Lab for the first time and seeing a number of concrete cances hanging around the perimeter of the central crane bay. After graduating, I worked for the Georgia DOT in Atlanta and for Caltrans in San Diego for several years. Once I moved to Orange County, I quickly engaged with the local Branch and soon was elected a board member rose through the ranks to eventually serve as President for the 2015-16 term.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the returning LA Section Board members and introduce the new ones. This year we welcome President-Elect Daniel Cronquist, Secretary Amber Shah, and VP Technical Groups Jose Hernandez. Returning Board members include now Past-President Jerry Burke, Treasurer Brian Wolfe, and VP Student Activities Dr. Seema Shah-Fairbank.

As usual, the end of summer and beginning of fall is a very busy time for LA Section. On September 23-24, Dan Cronquist and I attended to the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum (P&GF) at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. P&GF is an annual event organized by the Leader Training Committee that provides an opportunity to plan for the upcoming term, participate in leadership training, and to learn about ASCE resources that are available to help Sections and Branches.

Within 2 weeks, we held our first Board meeting of the year and on October 6th we held the Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers & Awards Luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. LA Section presented awards to 13 outstanding individuals and 19 projects. Each of the award winners were also nominated and will compete against the other 3 ASCE Sections in California for the Region 9 Awards. The awards program will be held in conjunction with the Region 9 Infrastructure Symposium on March 29th in San Diego.

During the upcoming winter months, I look forward to visiting several ASCE groups. One of my goals the year is to make it to at least one event with each of our 7 Branches, 5 Younger Member Forums, 12 Technical Groups and 11 Student Chapters. It may be a lofty goal, but one that I would be proud of for the fact that I would be meeting so many of the amazing volunteers that make this society and profession great.

#### ARTICLE

# **New Region 9 Governor Perspective**



by Mojgan (MJ) Hashemi, P.E., M. ASCE, ASCE Region 9 Governor-At-Large from the Los Angeles Section



It is an honor to be one of your new Region 9 Governors, and I am looking forward to serving you in this capacity over the next three years. Also new to the Region 9 Board of Governors is Jeff Cooper from the San Diego Section. We were both sworn in at ASCE's headquarters in Reston, Virginia in September during the Presidents and Governors Forum and our three-year terms officially began on October 1, the start of the new fiscal year for ASCE.

I would like to thank the outgoing Governors, Ken Rosenfield and Jim Frost for their invaluable service to Region 9. I look forward to continuing their great work representing our region, and I know that they both are continuing their volunteer efforts to support ASCE through active committees and task forces.

I have been involved with ASCE for over three decades going back to my school days at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Many of you probably better know me from my active legislative advocacy work on behalf of ASCE including as a State Advocacy Captain in California, the Los Angeles Section Government Relations Chair, and most recently, as the Region 9 Chair of the Government Relations Committee, a position that I held for the past three years.

The responsibilities of Region 9 Governors were summarized by Kwame Agyare, the Chair of Region 9 Board of Governors, in his newsletter article last year as follows:

"The purpose and objectives of the Region 9 Board of Governors shall be to assist the Society's Board of Direction on a Regional basis in governing the Society and to provide leadership and carry out programs for the benefit of Region 9."

ASCE's Vision Statement is that "Civil engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life." The accompanying Mission Statement asks us to "Protect the public health, safety, and welfare; deliver value to our members; and advance civil engineering." In addition, the Society's Board of Direction recently completed a strategic plan and approved the following six goal statements that will enable us to better align our programs and activities toward common objectives:

1. An ever-growing number of people in civil engineering realm are members of, and engage in, ASCE.

2. Civil engineers develop and apply innovative, state-of-the-art practices and technologies.

3. All infrastructure is safe, resilient, and sustainable.

4. ASCE advances the educational and professional standards for civil engineers.

- 5. The public values civil engineers' essential role in society.
- 6. ASCE excels in strategic and operational effectiveness.

These goals establish the foundation of our Region 9 strategic initiatives, customized for the benefit of our membership. Some of our current priorities include, membership growth; younger member retention; infrastructure advocacy; innovation and technology

support; communication and collaboration among various Society and regional groups; leadership development; and succession planning.

As an incoming Governor, I will work with the Society, the Region 9 Board, and local Section and Branches to help further the Region's strategic initiatives. Here are some of my top priorities for the next three years:

- Improving membership- As a volunteer organization, our future is directly dependent on the number and level of involvement of our members at all levels. There is currently a challenge in transitioning our ASCE Student Members to Associate Members, attracting young engineers to join ASCE, and retaining young engineers as members. I believe that we all should engage and communicate more often with our student members. We also need to connect these student members with working professionals and welcome them to our programs and be accessible to them, to help improve their interactions with ASCE and our existing Younger Member Forums (YMFs).
- Increasing advocacy efforts- I am a strong believer in the importance of advocacy and engagement on issues surrounding infrastructure and the civil engineering profession. Region 9 has one of the most active legislative advocacy programs in ASCE. Our membership is engaged in advocacy at all levels, and for the past three years we have consistently completed legislative visits to Sacramento with over 50 members representing all our Sections. We have also conducted local follow up visits.

We need to continue educating and training both our new and seasoned members, to help them all become better advocates. Events such as fly-ins, webinars, and local visits are some of the ways to do this. We also need to continue to educate the policy makers to make them aware of the importance and the need for improved infrastructure funding and planning.

Promoting innovative, state-of-the-art technologies and best practices- We need to incorporate innovative technologies while planning and implementing infrastructure projects. As a recent example, on October 11, ASCE Board of Direction adopted a new SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) Cities policy statement. This policy supports integration of technology into our transportation infrastructure systems, to build strong community connectivity, workability, and resiliency.

We also need to support efforts to increase funding for research as well as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs to develop more capable engineers; and to establish collaborative efforts between the practicing engineers and the academicians.

As the current year, 2018, comes to an end, I would like to thank you all for your contributions to ASCE and wish you and your family a wonderful new year ahead. I look forward to working with many of you over the next three years and would welcome your suggestions and ideas. For any further information, you can reach me at mjhashemi1@gmail.com Please feel free to reach out to me throughout the year with any event notices, concerns or ideas for improvement, and especially if you are looking to get more involved. We have a number of open committee positions and I would be thrilled to hear what your interests are and match you with one of our openings.

#### ARTICLE

### **ASCE Sustainability News**

ASCE members and other sustainability professionals attended a Greenroads workshop in Irvine at the Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) facility on November 5, 2018. Participants were introduced to Greenroads, which is a rating system for sustainable transportation projects. Greenroads was established in 2010 and modeled its rating system after the LEED Program. Participants learned about Greenroads projects that had received Bronze, Silver or Gold certification. For agencies getting acquainted with the rating system, a "Pilot Project" certification can show that the project was designed and constructed with "green" objectives.

The rating system has five core areas which are Environment and Water, Construction activities, Materials and Design, Utilities and Controls and Access and Livability. We were encouraged to pursue our Sustainable Transportation Professional (STP) Certification and promote green, sustainable infrastructure projects. You can learn more at Greenroads.org

Please join us on March 29, 2019 for the California Infrastructure Symposium hosted by Region 9 and our San Diego Section. The symposium will take place at the San Diego Convention Center. Envision v3 training will be available the day before the conference. Please check our LASSC website for more details as they become available.

Our own LA Section Sustainability Committee will be hosting the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI) in Los Angeles, November 7-9, 2019. The conference will be held at the Los Angeles Millennium Biltmore Hotel For more information please check our LASSC website. Please contact the LASSC Chair if you have questions.



www.ascelasection.org





I hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing you at one of the many upcoming events.

# **State Investments and Legislative Update**

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



#### State Legislation

Nothing new probably until the February issue.

### New Reports of Interest

Stanford Water in the West released Guide to Compliance with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. "Local agencies in critically overdrafted groundwater basins in California have less than a year and a half to draft

their plans to achieve sustainable groundwater management. [They] ... will need to avoid six specified 'undesirable results' ranging from seawater intrusion and degraded water quality to land subsidence. A new report ... guides these agencies through how to understand and comply with the requirement that GSAs (Groundwater Sustainability Agencies) must not cause 'significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of surface water.'... To help agencies navigate how to interpret (California's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or SGMA), the report reviews state and federal laws, regulations and other resources that provide guidance on the issue."

The **Applied Technology Council**, for the City and County of San Francisco released <u>Tall Building Safety Strategy</u>. Commissioned by the City of San Francisco in 2017, this study of buildings over 240 feet in San Francisco has raised concerns about inadequate inspections of certain types of steel framed buildings after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. At the time of the earthquake, it was not yet understood that "steel moment frames" are particularly susceptible to fracture. In addition to a re-inspection of all such steel framed buildings, the report makes 15 other recommendations in order to reduce seismic risk.

The **CA Dept. of Water Resources** has released its annual water year report, "<u>Water Year 2018: Hot and Dry Conditions Return</u>," says "despite below-average precipitation in water year 2018, most California reservoirs are storing near- or above-average levels of water heading into the 2019 water year," which runs from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

The UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy & the Environment released When is Groundwater Recharge a Beneficial Use of Surface Water in California? Current state law requires a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board to divert surface water for groundwater recharge. The current lack of specific guidance for qualifying recharge purposes creates uncertainty and acts a disincentive for entities seeking to undertake some recharge projects, including non-extractive uses "combatting subsidence, raising regional groundwater levels, or supporting baseflow or groundwater dependent wetlands." The authors of this report argue that the state could promote greater investment and activity in groundwater recharge by issuing further guidance regarding when and how such projects qualify as beneficial uses.

The **San Francisco Transportation Authority** released <u>TNCs &</u> <u>Congestions</u>. Congestion in San Francisco significantly worsened between 2010 and 2016. Based on monitoring data from the SF Transportation Authority's Congestion Management Program, peak arterial speeds decreased by 26% for morning commutes, and by 27% in the evening. On a typical weekday, total vehicle hours of delay increased by 40,000 hours, and vehicle miles travelled increased by over 630,000 miles. "[Transportation network companies, or TNCs] accounted for approximately 50% of the change in congestion in San Francisco between 2010 and 2016, as indicated by three congestion measures: vehicle hours of delay, vehicle miles travelled, and average speeds. Employment and population growth—encompassing citywide non-TNC driving activity by residents, local and regional workers, and visitors—are primarily responsible for the remainder of the change in congestion.

### Appointments

Governor Brown appointed <u>To the Board for Professional Engineers</u>, <u>Land Surveyors and Geologists</u>: **Duane Friel**, Temecula, Democrat, district representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers since 2018.





### Region 9 History & Heritage Committee Update -150th Anniversary of the Completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad



by Chuck Spinks, P.E., M. ASCE, Chair, Region 9 History & Heritage Committee



Next year, May 10th, 2019, is the 150th anniversary of the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, the most significant Civil Engineering accomplishment of the 19th century. To celebrate this great event, ASCE is presenting a Railroad History Symposium on May 6th in Sacramento.

The Symposium, which is being sponsored by the ASCE History &

Heritage Committee and the Sacramento Section, will include topics on the civil engineers, engineering design, and engineering projects of the period. In the 19th Century, civil engineers received much more recognition from the press for their projects than we receive today. The attached photo by Andrew Russell, the official photographer for the Union Pacific, was taken at Promontory, Utah on May 10th, 1869, after the ceremony. Russell titled it "Engineers of the UPRR at the laying of the last rail, Promontory". To a modern audience, that might be interpreted as a group of locomotive engineers, but it was the Civil Engineers, the skilled professionals that designed and led the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Symposium will tell the stories of some of these Civil Engineers as well as the



Civil Engineers of the Central pacific Railroad. Additional Symposium details and registration information will be available by early 2019.

If you have any questions about the event, or to reach me, please contact me at chuck.spinks@outlook.com.

ARTICLE





On October 11, 2018, ASCE Santa Barbara/Ventura Branch and its YMF jointly held a 2018 Kickoff Meeting/Trivia Night event at Made West in Ventura, California. About 15 people joined us with this event. Food was provided by the Branch.

The 2018 to 2019 ASCE and its YMF officers were introduced and sworn into their positions. Erin Rahrer (current Branch president), Bradley Rahrer (past Branch president), and Maher Hanbali (current YMF president) introduced our expectations of the upcoming year and presented planned/potential future events.

After handling the "formal" stuffs, we played 2 rounds of group trivia (with gift card prizes prepared) which included a wide variety of engineering-related questions. Team One won both rounds but they were generous enough to give away their second-round prize to the second-winning team. However, it is needless to say that the most precious prize that everyone got was the fun times and friendship.

### CA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOS & AWARDS DINNER, MARCH 29 & AWARDS DINNER, MARCH 29

San Diego Convention Center

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**LEGISLATIVE** Vacant - jburke@ieua.org

**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR** Vacant - jburke@ieua.org

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** Jack Rolston via jburke@ieua.org





### Reminder:

Copy deadline for the February 2019 issue is January 1, 2019; copy deadline for the March 2019 issue is April 1, 2019.

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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" x 11".

Los Angeles Section

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### Please contact ASCE Membership at 1-800-548-ASCE for any address changes.

### ASCE Los Angeles Section Officer's Roster: 2018-2019

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