

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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OFFICERS'S MESSAGE

Seema C. Shah-Fairbank, P.E., Ph.D., M.ASCE
Los Angeles Section President

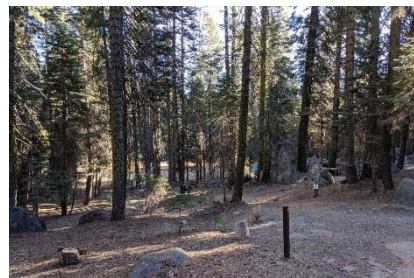


President's Message

We will never forget 2020. In late March, our university made a bold and important decision to close in-person instruction and within 5 days converted instruction to 100% virtual. Zoom has become my new classroom. My students are boxes on my computer screen. I use my iPad as a dry erase board. At times, I am not certain if they are at their computers, but thanks to technology I can record the lectures and students can watch at a later time. I was impressed that many of my students found a way to persevere and stay strong despite the challenges within the world and their personal lives. It is clear to me, that the future of civil engineering is bright.

As professionals we continued to stay busier than ever performing surveys, analyzing models and data, designing infrastructure, and constructing the final product. During 2020, many amazing projects have been started and completed. The following provides a glance of engineering in 2020.

A feasibility study is currently underway on the Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit (LA ART) from Union Station to Dodger Stadium. LA ART plans to transport approximately 5,500 people/hr. By removing vehicles from the street there will be a significant reduction in congestion, reduction in greenhouse gases and improved air quality. And we will be able to get to the stadium using public transit.



National parks are visited by many each year. A topographic survey and mapping was completed at Yosemite National Park at Bridalveil Creek Campground. The project will support a water rehabilitation project for the campground. In addition, at Crane Flats Campground nearly 60 years of wear and tear will be rehabilitated, including rebuilding the campground loop roads, repairing

erosion, creating flat campsites, and improving drainage. Design has begun, and I am looking forward to my next visit.

The Stormwater Basin Enhancement Project for the City of Torrance is currently in the design phase. The design engineers installed a pilot basin and dry well to determine infiltration and capture rates of stormwater runoff. The pilot data was used to size the full-size basin and dry wells. The design will increase the low flow capture and infiltrate capacity to include the 85th percentile storm volume. In addition, flood routing based on stage-storage-discharge was used to optimize the basin design.

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Communication is Key!

by Kenneth H. Rosenfield, P.E., F. ASCE, ENV SP, ASCE Region 9 Director, Chair, Region 9 Board of Governors



Communication is key, but what does that mean? We must communicate clearly, consistently and sufficiently to provide the information needed to convey an idea, lesson or concept. This is true in everything we do and also true for all of our member advancement activities at ASCE. But, how really do you communicate? There is an art to getting your message across.

Early in my career, I worked for a public agency and they engaged the employees in a communications training class. The intent, of course, was to improve the public's view of the quality of the agency's customer services. The class emphasized the importance of being a good listener before responding to inquiries, complaints or general communications from the public. One of the simple concepts utilized to reinforce this recommendation was based upon the observation that since we have two ears and one mouth, it is incumbent upon us to be good listeners, confirm what you have heard, and only then offer a response. This concept follows the parable, "seek to understand before seeking to be understood." This phrase is attributed to Stephen Covey from his book, "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." I have read that book and it provides great life and communications lessons. In my own life experience, I have found it to be most effective to be a good listener before offering an opinion or solution to an issue being raised. This is a personal choice approach to communicating and I find it works well for me at an interpersonal level.

Communicating with ASCE members, en masse, however, takes a different approach. We rely upon email for the most part and it is only as effective as you are willing to open and read the message. Many of you do open, read and respond to the messages and many of you

do not. This is understandable as we are frequently overloaded with too many emails and social media posts which makes it difficult to identify the important messages and find time outside of work to sift through the daily communications from multiple sources. To the extent that we have similar experiences, I feel your pain. If I do not frequently monitor my emails, they pile up and up and up!

Separate from email messages, ASCE Region 9 provides each Section with monthly newsletter articles to supplement the local information. We trust you find these articles are informative and useful. And, ASCE, the Society, provides multiple communication platforms. Most recently, ASCE launched The Source. This is an information platform covering all news related to civil engineering. The Source is an artificial intelligence based news engine which allows you to customize the topics of interest and the frequency of contact with you, and, it is free to you as an ASCE member. Staying informed as to the industry happenings is a great way to be knowledgeable about innovations and advances in our profession. Another communication offering from ASCE, one which provides for an exchange of ideas, is Collaborate. As an ASCE member, you are able to access Collaborate here: <https://collaborate.asce.org/home> You are then able to identify areas of interest and begin conversations with other members. The conversations range from policy discussions to full on technical discussions. Contributions to Collaborate can come from anywhere in the world and is a great opportunity to exchange information and views. Additionally, as a part of the Region 9 communications, you will receive updates on the Board of Direction meetings held by the Society Board, of which I am a member, and, as well, we are keeping our Region 9 website up to date. I encourage you to access all of this information on ASCE happenings.

If you have a preferred method on how to best communicate with you, please let me know. Feel free to reach out to me for any needs at KennethRosenfield.ASCE@gmail.com.

SSJ YMF Update

The SSJ YMF has embraced the social distance mode. In November, LA Section Past President Dan Cronquist gave a tech talk on How to Grow your Career with ASCE. Dan spoke to young members on his accomplishments, lessons learned, and his path from a young professional to Senior Engineer and Project Manager. The Q & A session was priceless, Dan answered questions as if he was speaking to his own employees, and what was in their best interest. The one key take away from Dan was to "worry less." With 2020 coming to a close, SSJ YMF members and cabinet will use Dan's words of advice and only control the controllable and attempt to worry less.

SSJ YMF also volunteered in November to be an aid station for the Judgement Day ½ marathon. President Elect, Tonia Holmes, who has coordinated and volunteered for California marathons for years was the champion for making this event happen. The event gave SSJ YMF members a chance to see one another after 9 months, while providing an essential service for oncoming runners.

In December, SSJ YMF will be having their 4th Annual Toys 4 Tots Drive. Due to COVID, a single contactless drop off night will be hosted at California Resources Corporation's Plaza on Thursday December 17th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. These gifts will be delivered that evening to the rural northern Kern County Toys 4 Tots coordinator in Delano. On December 18th, the SSJ YMF President and his wife will be organizing and distributing the toys to families in need.

On a sad and happy note, SSJ YMF is losing one of our key members, Mrs. Kelsey Kalemkarian. We would just like to say congratulations on your new position and we hope you and Cameron have a lot of fun in the sun. We hope to see you at the 2021 WRYMC this summer and maybe we all can go watch the Giants beat the Dodgers in LA when restrictions lift.

The City of Costa Mesa is starting a Master Plan of Drainage, which includes a Citywide system that will alert the City when a storm reaches a certain depth (in rain or flow). This will trigger staff to act fast to close down areas before they become flooded. The plan includes developing a "Smart City" system where existing /proposed storm drain conduits are fitted with sensors and connectivity between local rain gages and the City. In addition, a watershed model will be developed to identify the impacts of using green infrastructure, water quality BMPs and LIDs.



The Metro Purple Line Subway extension is currently underway. When all three sections are complete, the project will extend from Wilshire and Western to the Westwood VA Hospital. The extension includes nine miles of rail and seven new stations providing easy access to the Westside. The project construction began in 2019 and is scheduled for completion in 2023.



In September of 2020 Sofi Stadium in Inglewood, California opened. The complex consists of approximately 6,000 seats performance venue, 70,240 plus seats stadium and a Pedestrian Plaza. There is a fixed translucent Ethylene tetrafluoroethylene roof. The new stadium is home to the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers.

In late October, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency Wastewater Treatment Regional Plant No. 5



Expansion Project started construction in the City of Chino. The project will increase domestic sewage treatment capacity waste solids (1.3 mgd) and liquids (16 mgd). In addition, the expanded plant provided additional recycled water to the region.



I-10 Express Lane is currently under construction in southwestern San Bernardino County to help reduce congestion through this heavily traveled stretch.

The project extends from the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County line to Interstate-15. This \$672.9 million project will consist of two tolled lanes in each direction, and auxiliary on and off lanes in select locations. The project includes widening or replacing several bridges and adding retaining walls along the project.

Located in Los Angeles Exposition Park is the construction of Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. The \$1 Billion project will consist of five stores with over 300,000 square feet of floor space. The structure will be 115 feet high and have a library, offices and two theaters. The project started in 2018 and is schedules to complete in 2022.

I am always impressed with what we as civil engineers can accomplish each day despite all the challenges we are faced with. Thanks for all you are doing to improve our infrastructure.



Too Pure Water Results in Pipeline Rehabilitation Project

by Benjamin Smith, PE, Senior Engineer, Orange County Water District

The Orange County Water District's (OCWD) Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) large diameter effluent pipeline required a lining rehabilitation due to degradation caused by the high purity of the treated water. On October 1, EWRI facilitated a presentation about the project need, approach, and effectiveness from two OCWD presenters: Sandy Scott-Roberts, P.E., GWRS Program Manager; and Ben Smith, P.E., Senior Engineer.

GWRS treats secondary effluent from Orange County Sanitation District's wastewater treatment plant for groundwater recharge and a seawater intrusion barrier. The facility currently has capacity to produce 100 million gallons per day of purified water. Since 2008, water from the facility has been conveyed to surface recharge facilities via a cement mortar lined steel pipeline and conveyed to the seawater intrusion barrier injection wells via pipelines made of a variety of materials.

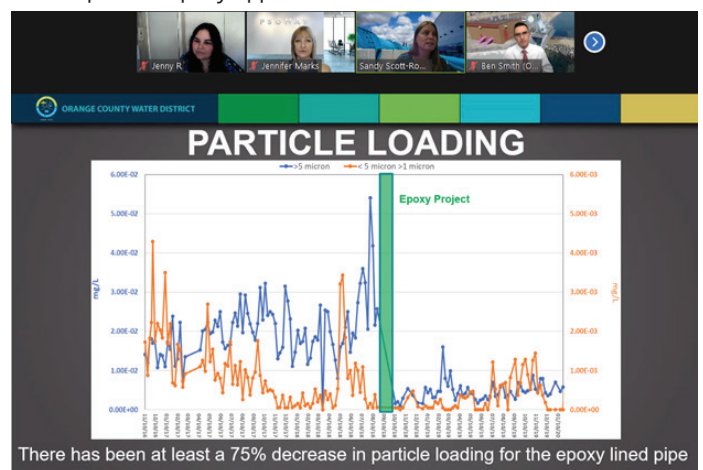
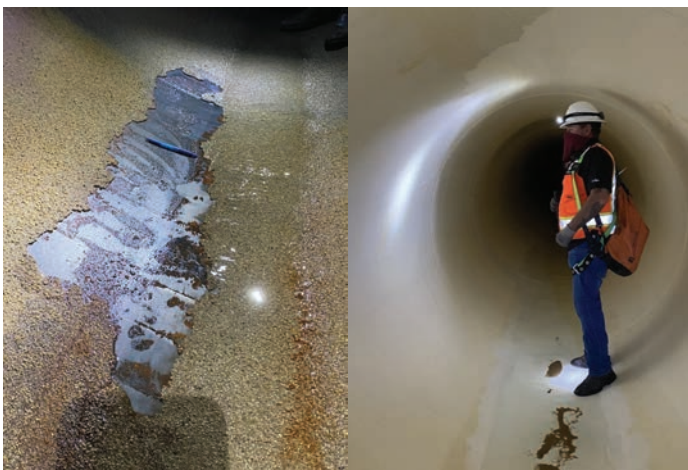
Prior to leaving the GWRS treatment plant, the water is treated with hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) to raise the pH, alkalinity, and mineral concentration thereby increasing the water's stability. The post-treated water remains slightly to moderately aggressive (under saturated). Water that is aggressive will tend to be corrosive and dissolve scaled minerals. Aggressive water in a pipeline may dissolve the lining or pipe material into the water. Water that is over saturated may deposit scale. One of the destinations for GWRS water is injection wells and aquifers which can be fouled/clogged by scaling. OCWD produces water that is slightly aggressive to avoid scaling of these assets. Removal of scale from injection wells and aquifers is difficult and expensive, so OCWD has prioritized their protection by supplying water that will not scale.

Inspections of the pipeline conveying water to the surface recharge facilities has revealed deterioration of the mortar lining. Additionally, the recharge facilities have received deposits of sand that are not in the water as it leaves the GWRS treatment plant. The inspections revealed that mortar degradation is significant and progressing, however observed corrosion of the pipeline steel is minimal. As part of the mortar material is dissolved by the water, sand from the mortar is mobilized and travels with the water. A future injection well project that would receive water from this pipeline added motivation to seek a solution so that the sand would not be sent into the new wells and aquifers. The portion of the pipeline from the treatment plant to the turnout for the future project was identified for a rehabilitation project.

The EWRI technical presentation described how OCWD procured engineering services from HDR to analyze lining repair alternatives. As the structural portion of the pipeline (the steel) was still in good condition, a non-structural repair was found to be acceptable. Class II polymer lining was eliminated as a viable alternative because it would increase downtime of the pipeline, would be a higher cost, and OCWD did not feel that a non-moist environment could be achieved inside the pipeline during installation. Class III cured-in-place lining was eliminated because a manufacturer of a 78-inch diameter lining could not be located. A Class I epoxy lining was found to be the best alternative. OCWD elected to apply 60 mils of 100% solids epoxy on top of washed mortar lining.

The presentation then walked attendees through the next stage of the project – epoxy application. OCWD contracted with F.D. Thomas, Inc. to surface prepare the pipeline mortar and apply epoxy on approximately 20,000 linear feet of 78-inch pipeline. Access into the pipeline was through existing manways spaced about 2,000-feet apart. The surface preparation of the existing mortar included a 5,000-psi wash to remove loose material. Off-gassing during application of the epoxy product presented a challenge. As the hot epoxy was being applied to porous mortar the air inside the mortar would quickly expand and cause bubbles in the epoxy. These bubbles can lead to failure of the epoxy as it potentially allows for water to flow underneath the epoxy and delaminate it. Through trial and error, a primer product that strengthens existing cement was found to drastically reduce the number of off-gas bubbles. After 42-days the contractor completed washing, primer application, and epoxy application.

Prior to the lining rehabilitation project, OCWD had implemented a bypass filter system at the future injection well location to measure the weight of particles arriving there. Data from this filter system indicated that the solids load arriving at the location was significantly reduced by lining the pipe with epoxy. In April 2020, OCWD inspected the epoxy lined pipeline and found it to be in good condition. Some locations showed "blisters" with only 15 requiring repairs over the 20,000 feet. It is suspected that the blisters were caused by mortar behind the epoxy failing in its adherence to the steel pipe, not that the epoxy to mortar interface failed. OCWD is evaluating application of epoxy to the remainder of the pipelines that receive GWRS product water and also considering a change in approach to remove the mortar prior to epoxy application.



SB/R Student Day

by Maryn Santiago



On November 4, 2020, the Cal Poly Pomona ASCE Student Chapter, in collaboration with the Cal Baptist University ASCE Student Chapter and San Bernardino-Riverside Younger Member Forum, hosted the first SB/R Student Day. This event provided students and professionals an opportunity to meet, network, and interact through fun activities. Games were conducted in both group and breakout room settings, allowing participants to work more closely with each other. A portion of the night had also been set aside for each organization to share more about who they are and present ways in which other members and professionals could get involved. The night was an overall success!

I would like to thank Brian Reyes, Antonio Cendejas, and Lindsey Blake to coordinate and plan SB/R Student Day. The committee worked toward the goals of strengthening relationships with one another and promoting student member-to-professional transition post-graduation. We look forward to making SB/R Student Day an annual event and continuing to connect students to our local professionals.

2020 Fall LA Section Newsletter Write-Up

Despite the virtual learning environment during Fall 2020, the CPP ASCE Student Chapter had an incredibly successful semester with almost 300 members. The COVID-19 Pandemic only pushed this year's Officer Board to work harder to provide their members with the same benefits and opportunities set forth in our Student Chapter's Mission Statement: competitions, industry exposure, networking, philanthropy, social events, scholarships, leadership and professional development.

The CPP ASCE Student Chapter successfully hosted various virtual events such as general meetings, technical tours, socials, professional events, and many more. General Meetings continued biweekly with upcoming event announcements and activities. In addition, industry professionals from various disciplines were invited as guest speakers to share their experiences and job opportunities. In efforts to continue

to provide industry exposure to our members, we created the CPP ASCE Tech Talk Series. Through this new program, companies were invited to share a current project they were working on, discuss the technical design of the project, and present video footage of the construction process, similar to an in-person Technical Tour.

Another new program we launched this semester was our Q&ASCE Office Hours. These sessions occurred twice a week and allowed the opportunity for students within the Civil Engineering Department to ask questions regarding ASCE, involvement opportunities, virtual learning, resources, and more. For our outreach and community service events, our Officer Board worked to create seven Outreach Activity Tutorials that were posted on our YouTube channel biweekly. This outreach series provided step-by-step instructions of various civil

Technical Presentations by 2020 EWRI-OC Student Scholarship Winners

by Jenny Robinet, MS, PE, Project Engineer, PACE Advanced Water Engineering

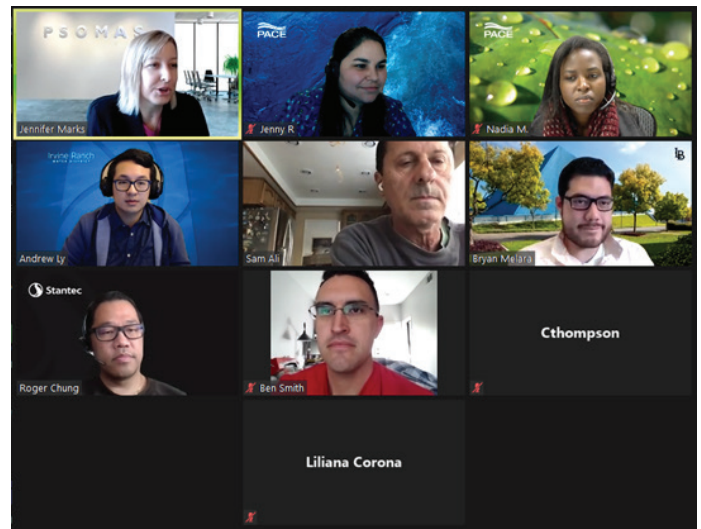
Saying that 2020 has been a difficult year is definitely an understatement. Many have been doing their best to just continue on and keep life moving forward despite, or really alongside of, unprecedented circumstances. When it comes to college students, the pursuit of higher education never stopped. Civil engineering studies have continued, albeit in a virtual format, with university students still striving to determine what their future holds in the industry, and what solutions they can bring to their community and the world. In early December 2020, EWRI-OC was happy to virtually host an opportunity for two amazing students, the winners of the 2020 Environmental and Water Resources Institute Scholarships awarded at the ASCE-OC Branch History and Heritage Student Scholarship Night in November, to present on just such industry solutions. Specifically, the students discussed what they submitted for this year's scholarship application topic – ways to solve what they believe are current critical environmental and water resource industry issues.

The first presenter was Andrew Ly, a civil engineering student at the University of California, Irvine. Andrew provided attendees with information and statistics on the lack of clean water access, and the prevalence of contaminated water-related diseases in many nations around the world. He discussed innovative handheld centrifuges and cleaning tablet packets that are currently being developed to bring clean water to communities that lack it, helping to prevent and eliminate the significant impacts to health from using and drinking polluted water. The solutions he brought up are cost-effective, efficient, and can be widely distributed. Andrew described current efforts in the medical and engineering fields to provide these innovative clean water solutions to communities in need throughout the world.

The second presenter was Bryan Melara, a civil engineering student at California State University, Long Beach. Bryan took attendees through stormwater issues close to home, and described how existing stormwater infrastructure in the local community is largely unable

to provide adequate storm flow capture. A significant percentage of runoff is conveyed directly to the ocean instead of infiltrating to replenish the groundwater aquifer, or being retained for other uses. The stormwater runoff also carries pollutants and debris, which contaminate beaches and downstream habitats. Bryan described advanced solutions in the form of wireless sensor network (WSN) installation, and the development of a GIS database with existing storm drain system information. The WSNs and GIS database could assist communities in the placement of BMPs (ie. bioswales) in ideal locations to provide solutions for improved stormwater management.

Both presentations were very informative, and sparked interesting and lively discussion among attendees. Overall, the virtual event provided an opportunity for students and professionals alike to gain a greater understanding of current critical industry issues, and the solutions inspiring future up and coming civil engineers!



engineering activities. More than 60 kits of each activity were delivered to local elementary and middle schools for students to complete with the necessary materials, brochures, and instruction videos.

At CPP ASCE, we have two Mentorship Programs: Student to Student and Student to Alumni. For our Student Mentorship Program this year, all freshmen and transfer students were automatically enrolled and paired with a student leader from one of our 17 civil engineering clubs to help foster growth and provide a sense of community for first-year students. As for our Alumni Mentorship Program, students were paired with a CPP Alumni based on interests and field of study for career and professional development. Our most recent event was hosted through VirBELA, an online platform where users are able to interact with one another through avatars in a virtual world. In regard to PSWC 2021, our technical project teams have been

working especially hard to prepare for this year's virtual conference in the spring. Finally, we continued to have many virtual socials such as game and movie nights; as well as, professional events such as resume workshops and technical training throughout the semester. Though virtual, this pandemic has opened doors for numerous opportunities for collaboration with external organizations. For the Spring 2021 Semester, we plan on collaborating with not only out-of-state student chapters, but international student chapters as well. With our objectives focusing on issues that are both internal and external to our student chapter, our priorities aim to enhance the student experience and the Cal Poly Pomona "Learn by Doing" Philosophy. The 2020-2021 CPP ASCE Student Chapter is devoted to continuing the advancement of student development during the Spring 2021 Semester. We are extremely excited and look forward to our virtual events and activities planned for this next semester!

Lehman, Moore named official nominees for ASCE 2022 president-elect

The official nominees for ASCE 2022 president-elect, as selected by the Society's Board of Direction Nominating Committee, are Maria Lehman, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE, and Peter M. Moore, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP, F.ASCE.

The ASCE election opens May 1 with online ballots accepted through June 1.

The election winner will be inducted as the 2022 president-elect at the Society's annual business meeting during the ASCE 2021 Convention in October, before serving as Society president in 2023.



Lehman

Maria Lehman

Lehman has nearly four decades of multidisciplinary experience in transportation and facilities engineering, including her current position as the director of U.S. Infrastructure for GHD, leadership roles at Parsons, and terms as chief operations officer and interim executive director for the New York State Thruway Authority.

She serves on the ASCE Board of Direction as treasurer, marking her fourth stint on the Board (assistant treasurer, 2018-2020, Zone 1 vice president, 2001-2003, and District 1 director, 1993-1996). Also a member of ASCE's Industry Leaders Council, Lehman's many past ASCE commitments include three years on the Environmental and Water Resources Institute Board of Governors, serving a second term on the Committee on America's Infrastructure, a variety of other Society-level committees, and five years of officer service to the Buffalo Section.

"My experience has taught me how to see a better future, and to

transfer that knowledge to younger engineers. I believe that 'If it ain't broke, break it. There is a better way to build it,'" Lehman said in her nominee's vision statement. "Civil engineers are currently at an inflection point; the confluence of crisis: health, economic, and infrastructure. We need to stand united to revolutionize our industry to meet our future world vision."



Moore

Peter Moore

Moore has nearly 25 years of engineering experience, working both domestically and internationally. He is currently the president of Chen Moore and Associates, a statewide consulting firm in Florida.

Moore served on the ASCE Board of Direction as the Region 5 director, 2017-2020, as well as on many Society-level committees over the years, including the Program and Finance Committee, Committee on Education, and Committee on Younger Members. He also is a member of the ASCE Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute's board of governors. Locally, he served in all officer positions for both the Broward Branch and Florida Section.

"My vision is a simple three-pronged approach – accountability, advocacy and accessibility," Moore said in his nominee's vision statement. "Accountability is a fundamental tenet of the engineering profession as we apply our skills towards the overall public good. Advocacy is the only way that ... civil engineering will achieve the prominence that is required to properly execute our duties. And the future of the engineering profession will be incredibly diverse and the key to keep different perspectives; it is critical that the profession be accessible to everyone."

Redlands Passenger Rail Project

by Mohammad El Hocheimi, PE



On September 9th ASCE SBR YMF hosted our first virtual joint presentation with LA YMF. Our theme was "How Civil Engineering Connects Communities." Nathan Ortega from RailPros gave us a glimpse of SBCTA's Redlands Passenger Rail Project, a project changing the Inland empire by truly connecting communities and bringing people together. Nine miles of light rail connecting Downtown San Bernardino Metrolink station to a proposed new station at the University of Redlands. ASCE SBR YMF and LA congratulates to all the raffle winners, and thanks to everyone who participated in the event. Until next time keep engineering!



State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



The Legislature delayed their return to Sacramento until Monday, January 11, 2021, as many regions are still in lockdown due to the Pandemic. The Assembly kept Anthony Rendon as Speaker and the Senate re-elected Toni Atkins as President Pro-tempore.

Governor Gavin Newsom picked Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) as his designated candidate to replace Alex Padilla as Secretary of State (SoS) when he becomes California's junior U.S. Senator once Kamala Harris is sworn in as Vice-President (this will all have taken place by the time you read this). Newsom was under pressure by various interest groups to pick a Senator from one group or another. This decision to choose a Hispanic for Senate and an African American as SoS should mollify these two groups.

These choices seem to short-circuit or at least dampen the political aspirations of two other Assembly Members (David Chiu and Lorena Gonzales). They had previously announced plans to run for SoS in 2022 when Padilla was termed out. Weber has already announced she plans to run in 2022 – so will Chiu or Gonzales challenge her – or pick other races?

The advancement of Shirley Weber will set off a special election to fill the remainder of Weber's term in the Assembly – her daughter Akilah Weber has already announced plans to run for her seat when the Governor calls a special election. The younger Weber is a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist and leads the Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology Division at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and serves on the La Mesa City Council since 2018.

New Pending Legislation

AB 5 (Fong) would suspend State appropriations to the High-Speed Rail Authority for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 fiscal years and require the transfer of those funds collected by the state board to the General Fund for education purposes.

AB 43 (Friedman) would require, beginning June 1, 2022, and every six months after that, Caltrans convene a committee of external design experts to advise on revisions to the Highway Design Manual. S.B. 44 (Allen) would require the Judicial Council, on or before April 1, 2022, to adopt rules of court establishing procedures requiring actions or proceedings seeking judicial review under CEQA or the granting of project approvals, including any appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court to an action or proceeding seeking judicial review of the lead agency's action related to an environmental leadership transit project.

S.B. 45 (Portantino) would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds for \$5,510,000,000 under the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

S.B. 66 (Allen) would require the Secretary of Transportation to establish an advisory committee, the California Council on the Future of Transportation, to provide the Governor and the Legislature with recommendations for changes in state policy to ensure that as users deploy autonomous vehicles, they enhance the state's efforts to increase road safety, promote equity, and meet public health and environmental objectives.

S.B. 83 (Allen) would create the Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Program within the I-Bank to provide low-interest loans to local jurisdictions to purchase coastal properties in their jurisdictions identified as vulnerable coastal property.

Reports of Interest

Science Advances released *The United States' Contribution of Plastic Waste to Land and Ocean*. In 2016, the United States produced about 92.6 billion pounds of plastic waste, more than any other country on the planet. The research also suggests that "between 309 million and 904 million pounds of plastic were illegally dumped in the U.S." with 331 million to 2.2 billion pounds of the waste exported for recycling being mismanaged by the countries receiving it. Further, the research suggests that the "U.S. contributed up to five times more plastic to coastal environments in 2016 than it did in 2010."

California Council on Science and Technology released *The Costs of Wildfire in California*. The recent study "summarizes the state of knowledge regarding wildfire losses and their associated costs across key sectors. It challenges the assumptions underlying current fire management policies and proposes a novel framework for understanding the total cost of wildfire in California. The report highlights the need for governments, both large and small, to create a uniform system to share information across California. Wara [the study's author] says creating such a database could save lives, potentially reduce the pace and scale of fires and unite the state in preventing catastrophic wildfires."

Heliyon released *Environmental Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and Potential Strategies of Sustainability*. "The global outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) affects every part of human lives, including the physical world. The measures taken to control the spread of the virus and the slowdown of economic activities has significant effects on the environment.... This study indicates that the pandemic situation significantly improves air quality in different cities across the world, reduces GHGs emission, lessens water pollution and noise, and reduces the pressure on the tourist destinations,

which may help restore the ecological system.... [T]here are also some negative consequences of COVID-19, such as an increase of medical waste, haphazard use and disposal of disinfectants, masks, and gloves; and the burden of untreated wastes continuously endangering the environment.... [T]his study also outlines possible ways to achieve long-term environmental benefits."

San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association released *Does State Tax Policy Discourage Housing Production?* This report explores the extent to which California's tax policy acts as a disincentive to adequate housing production. According to the authors, "[m]any California cities view housing as less fiscally beneficial to build than other types of development. This is partly because Proposition 13, which passed in 1978, caps property tax rates and limits property tax increases. Additionally, a complex statutory system distributes the property tax revenue to cities and other public agencies within each county." The study argues that increasing the share of property taxes going to cities would provide an incentive for local jurisdictions to zone for more housing.

Appointments of Interest by the Governor

Reappointed to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board: **Robert "Keith" Dyas**, Rosamond, a board member since 2005, an engineer with Reserve Systems Inc. since 2013.

Reappointed to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: **Raji Brar**, Bakersfield, a board member since 2017, owner of Countryside Corp. since 2003.

To the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission: **Rebecca Eisen**, Oakland, a former partner at Morgan, Lewis and Bockus from 2003 to 2015 and former member of CSU Board of Trustees.

As Legislative Affairs Secretary in the Governor's Office: **Angie Wei**, Sacramento, special advisor to Governor since January, previously was Governor's chief deputy for policy. Before that was chief of staff for the California Labor Federation. Wei succeeds Anthony Williams, who left in August.

As Chair of the California Air Resources Board: **Liane Randolph**, Oakland, Commissioner at the California Public Utilities Commission since 2014.

To the California Air Resources Board: **John Balmes** (reappointed) Berkeley, professor at the UCSF School of Medicine since 1986 and a professor of environmental health sciences at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health since 2002; **Davina Hurt**, Belmont, Belmont City council member since 2015 and an attorney at Davina Hurt Esq. since 2005; **Gideon Kracov**, Los Angeles, owner of the Law Office of Gideon Kracov since 2004; **Tania Pacheco-Werner**, Sanger, assistant co-director at the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at CSU Fresno since 2019.

As senior advisor to the Governor and Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz): **Dee Dee**

Myers, Los Angeles, has volunteered on the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery, and previously as executive vice president of worldwide corporate communications and public affairs for Warner Bros; also served as White House Press Secretary for President Bill Clinton.

As executive secretary in the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom: **Jim DeBoo**, Sacramento, principal at DeBoo Communications, and formerly director of the Speaker's Office of Member Services from 2010 to 2013 when he served as interim chief of staff to Speaker John Perez. Succeeds Ann O'Leary, who "will continue her service through mid-January to assist in ensuring a seamless transition."



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