

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

ORANGE / SAN_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN_LUIS_OBISPO / SANTA_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT /
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OFFICERS'S MESSAGE

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

President's Message



Today, marks a year of working from home. When COVID-19 or the pandemic is brought up I sigh. No more catching up with colleagues and learning about their weekends in the copy room. No more in person meetings or having a bite to eat with friends. But there have been many positives that the pandemic has provided me.

My family and I have been spending more quality time together. We are playing board games, walking, biking, hiking, and so much more. My husband and I made the decision in October when our local school district opened to send our children to in person classes. This was a difficult decision we needed to do what was best for us and our children. Learning fully virtual was not working well, but the hybrid education that the district has provided allowed us to learning more about the curriculum that our children were learning.

Personally, I have been healthier during the pandemic. It has been easier for me to eat better and workout more. I can no longer take a break from grading and walk over to Starbucks for a coffee and bagel. And I only need to fill up gas once a month, reducing my overall yearly millage by 25%. As a professor, I have learned to teach in a completely different way. Teaching synchronously via zoom has allowed me to use my iPad as a chalk board and put students in breakout rooms. I have developed many pre-lecture videos to help students with theory and content so our in-class time can be maximized. The pandemic has taught me to be more empathic, so that I can support my students during this challenging time.



At the same time, this has been one of the hardest times personally. I am an extrovert that gets her energy from the people around her. Don't get me wrong, I love a quiet day at home. But walking on campus and seeing people always provided me with excitement. Being in the classroom and interacting with students allowed me to better understand what they found difficult or needed more help with. Having my office door open in the engineering building allowed students and colleagues to stop by. In today's Zoom world, this is not possible. We have to plan the meeting, there is less spontaneity. I wonder if we are losing some of the creativity that existed just by talking to one another in the hallways. At home, there is no separation between work and personal time. During the pandemic, I have found myself working more hours. For me, this is because it takes more to teach virtually. As the President of LA Section of ASCE, I really miss all the conferences. This is where I could catchup with old friends and make new friends. We could exchange ideas and develop collaborations.

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Through all the ups and downs, I am constantly trying to focus on the positive. I encourage everyone to write down something new about their personal or professional life that they learned during the pandemic. I learned that I miss the interpersonal aspect of our jobs.


Stay safe and healthy, I look forward to meeting you all real soon.





**Connecting FRP Composites to
ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card &
Future World Vision**

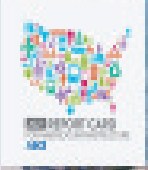

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION
There is an extremely good fit between Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composites and our nation's infrastructure needs, today and in the future. This presentation will illustrate that fit by educating the audience about the benefits and applications of FRP composites and connecting them to ASCE's 2021 Infrastructure Report Card and various scenarios described in ASCE's Future World Vision.



Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Cost: Free to ASCE Members
Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4p2uue2>

Jon Fox
FOX Consulting

*One (1.0) PDH provided



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE 2021 ANNUAL LIFE MEMBER INDUCTION CEREMONY

IN HONOR OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE ADVANCED TO
LIFE MEMBER STATUS IN THE SOCIETY AND IN
RECOGNITION OF THEIR CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS.

**MAY
13
2021**

VIRTUAL EVENT

Keynote Speaker:
**Dr. Dennis D. Truax, Ph.D., P.E.,
DEE, D.WRE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE
ASCE National President-Elect**

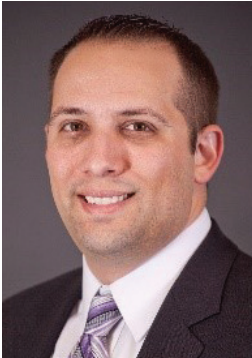
**THURSDAY
5:30
PM**

REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/AKXDN47C](https://tinyurl.com/AKXDN47C)



ASCE Region 9 – Membership Committee Newsletter Article

by Elias Karam, ASCE R9 Governor & Membership Committee Chair, Contact Email: GOV.SAC@ASCE-R9.ORG



As Membership Committee Chair for Region 9, I would like to start 2021 by reminding everyone of the Membership committee's mission:

"The ASCE Region 9 Membership Committee monitors ASCE membership in Region 9, directs membership campaigns to recruit new ASCE members and participates in section, branch and student activities of Region 9 for the purpose of advancing knowledge and

membership in ASCE."

ASCE Region 9 membership by section

Section	Professional members	Student members	Total
Los Angeles	5,501	2,528	8,029
San Francisco	4,065	1,086	5,151
Sacramento	1,737	510	2,247
San Diego	1,361	423	1,784
Total	12,664	4,547	17,211

As a member-driven organization, we rely on engaged members to run our events and activities that provide value to over 17,000 members, including approximately 4,500 students, in Region 9. The challenges of the last year, both professional and personal, have definitely increased workloads and stress levels. However, that hasn't stopped ASCE from providing value to our members. In fact, we've discovered some unique opportunities for advancing membership as follows:

Recent Membership Accomplishments

In December 2020, Director Toks Omishakin of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) became a member of ASCE and signed a partnership agreement that provides membership discounts to Caltrans employees. This is available to all Caltrans Employees at all member grades. An announcement went out to all 20,000+ Caltrans members in January 2021. This opens the door for Sections and Branches to find new leaders within Caltrans by reaching out to their Caltrans Partners. Some existing Caltrans

members may not have received this benefit and I encourage them to reach out to me via email GOV.SAC@ASCE-R9.ORG or directly to ASCE Society via email memapp@asce.org.

ASCE Society Membership Resources

ASCE Society maintains an up-to-date website with numerous membership programs and resources. These are designed to assist Sections, Branches, and Student groups in retaining and increasing membership. Examples include templates for PowerPoint presentations, brochures, giveaways, flyers, postcards, and posters; swag for your next event; and tips for successful recruitment. This info can be found at the following link: www.ASCEmembershipkit.org

One of the most successful programs for increasing membership is the Member-Get-A-Member (MGAM) program. For each new member recruited, the individual gets a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. The top 3 recruiting sections earn a prize as well. This information can be accessed at <https://www.asce.org/mgam>

ASCE Region 9 Membership Resources

Sections can benefit greatly by identifying a Membership Champion that can analyze the current trends in membership changes for each branch. This allows Sections to collaborate and capitalize on Best Practices from the rest of Region 9. If interested in learning more about ways to improve your local membership, please email me at gov.sac@asce-r9.org. To learn more about becoming an ASCE Society Membership Champion, please visit: <https://www.asce.org/champions/>

Your Reward

Individual Prize

You get a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card* for each newly joining professional member you refer.

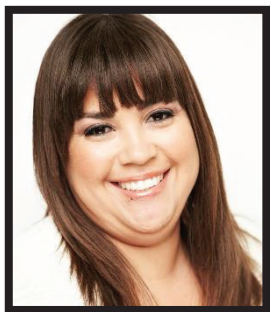
Grand Prize

You get a \$500 Amazon.com Gift Card* if you have the most successful referrals in 2021.

Nominations Announced for L.A. Section Officers - Terms to Begin in October 2021

The Los Angeles Section Nominating Committee has made the following recommendations to the Board of the Directors. The Board of Directors have approved the slate of Officers for the term beginning October 2021.

President-Elect (for a three-year term; President-Elect, President, and Past President):



MELISSA BARBOSA, P.E., PE, MS, ENV SP, QSD/QSP, Senior Water System Engineer, Azusa Light & Water

Melissa T. Barbosa holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters of Science degree in Engineering Management from Cal Poly Pomona. She is a registered Civil Engineer in California and holds active water certifications from the state of California as a Water Distribution D3 Operator & Water Treatment Plant T3 Operator. She has 20 years of experience in civil engineering specialized in development, transportation, contracts, hydraulic modeling and public utilities for both private and public sectors of the industry. Melissa currently manages the Water Engineering division at the City of Azusa, where she has worked for the past ten years. Her primary role includes leading both the Water Resources and the Capital Improvement programs. She loves working for the city she grew up in and has been directly giving back to her community by providing fresh, clean drinking water and securing alternative

sources of water delivery to Azusa. Melissa is actively involved in American Society of Civil Engineers and currently sits on the Executive Board for ASCE LA Section. She was heavily involved with ASCE Younger Members, K-12 Outreach, promoting Engineering Week and coordinating Technical Speaker Series events. She served as ASCE Younger Member President for San Bernardino & Riverside in 2013 and then as President for the San Bernardino & Riverside Branch in 2018. Melissa's passion is designing sustainable infrastructure, inspiring our future leaders, cheering for the Notre Dame fighting Irish, gardening and playing Catan!

Treasurer (for a two-year term):



LINDA LUU, P.E., Project Engineer, Psomas

Linda Luu is a Project Engineer at Psomas in downtown Los Angeles where she works on a variety of site development, public works, and transportation projects spanning across Los Angeles County and Riverside County. Her roles include civil site, roadway, and utility design, and permitting. Linda graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. A friend of hers introduced her to ASCE and she's been a member ever since, serving as Treasurer for both LA YMF and MLAB, in addition to holding various LA YMF positions and committees. During her free time, she enjoys spontaneous trips (once driving overnight to San Francisco to have lunch at a new place and then driving back to LA), exploring mountain roads, hiking, camping, and cooking.

Vice President Student Affairs (for a two-year term):



DANIEL C. JANSEN, Ph.D., P.E., FAcI, Director of General Engineering, Professor of Civil and Env. Eng., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

ASCE Member Dan Jansen received his B.S. in Structural Engineering from U.C. San Diego and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University. He has been a professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering since 1996 with appointments at Tufts University and at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he has been since 2003. He has held various academic appointments including Department Chair for Civil and Env. Engineering and currently serves as Program Director for General Engineering. His research has included the material and structural behaviors for a range of materials from high strength/performance concrete to earthen structures.

In accordance with Article 4, Section 4.3.6, of the current Los Angeles Section Bylaws, Additional nominations for each office to be filled may be made by a petition signed by no less than fifty (50) Voting Members of the Section provided that such a petition is accompanied by a written acceptance of the nomination by the nominee and is filed with the Incumbent Section Secretary within 30 days after the announcement of the nominees. The Voting Member grades, as defined in the Los Angeles Section Constitution, Article 2, Section 2.2.1, are Associate Member, Member, Fellow Member, and Distinguished Member, whose dues are current or who are granted a Section dues exemption. Petitions are due within 30 days of the distribution date of this announcement and should be submitted to:

Secretary, ASCE Los Angeles Section
c/o Gayle Stewart Enterprises, Inc.
360 E. 1st Street, #992
Tustin, CA 92780

State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



2021-22 Legislative Session – Focus on the Budget

The Legislature has focused entirely on preliminary budget hearings for the 2020-21 fiscal year. While the Legislative Analyst and the Governor disagree on how much of a surplus of taxpayer dollars the State will enjoy, the Governor proposes to budget more than \$19 billion in **new spending** for schools and community colleges. He offers to spend most of this amount on three main priorities:

- **Paying Down Deferrals (\$8.4 Billion One Time).** The budget pays down \$8.4 billion of the \$12.5 billion in payments deferred in the June 2020 budget plan.
- **Providing In-Person Instruction and Expanding Academic Support (\$6.6 Billion One Time).** The Governor proposes immediate action to provide \$2 billion in one-time grants to incentivize schools to offer in-person instruction for younger students and students with high needs, potentially as soon as February 16, 2021.
- **Funding Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) (\$2.2 Billion Ongoing).** This includes a 3.84 percent COLA for the Local Control Funding Formula and a 1.5 percent COLA for other education programs.

New Legislation

ACR 15 & ACR 16 (Luz Rivas) These measures recognize Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, respectively.

SB 22 (Glazer) Like last year's Proposition 13, SB 22 would place on the ballot the Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2022 as a state general obligation bond act that would provide \$15,000,000,000 to construct and modernize education facilities. It requires the department of general services to prioritize projects for funding, including a project labor agreement (PLA).

SB 222 and SB 223 (Dodd) Would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California, and; would apply those provisions in existing law that prohibit specific water systems from discontinuing residential water service for nonpayment, on and after July 1, 2022, to a very small community water system, defined as a public water system that supplies water to 200 or fewer service connections used by year-long residents.

SB 230 (Portantino) Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish, maintain, and direct an ongoing, dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on, among other things, the occurrence of constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in drinking water sources and treated drinking water.

SB 273 (Hertzberg) Would authorize a municipal wastewater agency, as defined, to enter into agreements with entities responsible for stormwater management to manage stormwater and dry weather runoff, to acquire, construct, expand, operate, maintain, and provide

facilities for specified purposes relating to managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, and to levy taxes, fees, and charges consistent with the municipal wastewater agency's existing authority to fund projects undertaken under the bill.

Reports of Interest

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has released its report "A Framework for Evaluating State-Level Green Stimulus Proposals," it finds "potential for state-funded efforts to have meaningful [economic] stimulative impacts is likely limited by budget constraints due to the state requirement to pass a balanced budget," recommends: "Legislature limits the amount of emphasis it places on potential economic stimulus benefits when evaluating state-funded green stimulus proposals. Because the potential environmental and climate merits of such proposals are likely to be easier to identify, we recommend that the Legislature instead base its funding decisions primarily on those factors."

The LAO released "2021-22 Budget: Overview of the Governor's Budget," summarizes "Governor's budget structure and major proposals for the Legislature, including any themes that emerged as we conducted our preliminary review," concludes "revenues are nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, and state costs have not risen as dramatically as anticipated."

California Independent System Operator, California Public Utilities Commission, and California Energy Commission have released the "Final Root Cause Analysis" on "causes" of rotating power outages that occurred in August of 2020, finds "the three major causal factors contributing to the outages were related to extreme weather conditions, resource adequacy and planning processes, and market practices," says new "contingency plan will draw from actions taken statewide under the leadership of the Governor's Office to mitigate the anticipated shortfall from August 17 through 19, 2020."

Public Policy Institute of California has released its report, "California's Future," outlines the state's "most pressing policy challenges in several key areas: criminal justice, economy, education, safety net, water, and a changing climate, finds that "California lost more than 3 million jobs between February and May 2020—an 18% decline" and that "all major labor market indicators (employment, unemployment, and labor force participation) saw bigger changes than in any economic crisis over the past three decades," says "policymakers need to prioritize direct support for struggling workers and industries" that were hit hardest by this recession.

California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment released a report "Achieving the Human Right to Water in California" findings include "water quality is worse in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities than non-disadvantaged communities" and "among the systems with data, small and very small systems face greater affordability challenges compared to larger systems."

Appointments of Interest by the Governor

Reappointed to the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists: **Coby King**, Los Angeles, President and CEO at High Point Strategies since 2013. (Public member)

To the California Water Commission: **Amy Cordalis**, McKinleyville,

general counsel for the Yurok Tribe since 2016; **Kimberly Gallagher**, Davis, farm operations manager at Erdman Farms since 2014 and owner and operator of Gallagher Farming Company since 2009; **Fern Steiner**, San Diego, attorney at Smith, Steiner, Vanderpool APC since 1987 and a shareholder there since 1993.

To the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: **Nicholas Avdis**, Sacramento, of counsel at the Thomas Law Group since

2013; **Sean Yang**, Sacramento, medical imaging specialist engineer at Kaiser Permanente since 2016.

To the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board: **H. David Nahai**, Los Angeles, President of David Nahai Consulting Services Inc. and partner Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard and Smith since 2010; **Michael Mendez**, Long Beach, assistant professor in the Dept. of Urban Planning and Public Policy at UC Irvine since 2019.

What toys inspired your civil engineering career?

by Ben Walpole



Today, Jan. 28, marks National LEGO Day in the United States, which makes it something very close to a national holiday among civil engineers.

"Although I did not connect it to civil engineering at the time, I loved playing with LEGOs as a little kid. I especially loved the Harry Potter sets since it connected to my love of reading while still letting me build random creations for my mini-figures," said Danielle Schroeder, EIT, A.M.ASCE, associate bridge engineer, Pennoni, in a discussion about the toys that inspired civil engineering careers on ASCE Collaborate.

She was not alone.

Clearly, not every child who enjoyed playing with LEGOs grew to become a civil engineer. But is it fair to say that every civil engineer was once a child who enjoyed playing with LEGOs?

Here are some highlights from the ASCE Collaborate discussion (and be sure to log in and contribute your own memories):

Daniel Taylor, P.E., M.ASCE

Project engineer, Ambler, Pennsylvania

Funny little story – in an elementary school yearbook, I said that when I grew up I wanted to be a LEGO master. My wife jokes that I kind of did just that by becoming a structural engineer.

Mitch Winkler, P.E., M.ASCE

Retired engineer, Houston

I was really into Tonka trucks when I was young. I had a dedicated

dirt patch where I could move earth. I also had a lot of broken trucks from pushing them to their limits. I also learned practical hydraulic engineering at an early age building waterways and retention basins.

Jose Castro, A.M.ASCE

Water resources assistant engineer, San Diego

I absolutely love LEGOs! For me LEGOs didn't directly inspire me to be a civil engineer, but they directed my avenue for engineering, creativity, and imagination. In elementary school I joined a LEGO robotics club using the Mindstorms branch of LEGO. Although not civil-based, it was still taking engineering concepts and procedure to accomplish a common goal for our team.

Even now, I have several of the LEGO Skyline Architecture sets around my cubicle at work to remind me to be creative and to have fun.

Julian Valencia, EIT, A.M.ASCE

Project engineer, Houston

I didn't have LEGOs back in Colombia where I grew up, but there was a toy that did inspire me to become a civil engineer. It took me a while to find the name since I wasn't sure if it had one plus what would be the right translation to English? The toy name is Etch-a-Sketch!

I remember spending a lot of time drawing, which I later discovered was drafting – other toys and I even remembered trying to re-draw the continents. I can't remember if I ever finished that amazing task!

Heidi Wallace, EI, P.E., M.ASCE

Professional engineer, Tulsa, Oklahoma

I loved playing with the LEGO set we had at my grandparents' house, and I still enjoy building with LEGO. My favorite, though, were the colored wooden blocks we had at home.

My sister and I both loved telling stories and making them come to life. She was largely in charge of character creation and dialogue. I was the director of the construction of the environment. She found suitable outfits for the Barbies to go with her theme, and I used our blocks and other supplies from around the house to make the roads and buildings.

After a while I would get bored with whatever the Barbie crew was doing for the day and wanted to go outside. (Once the building part was over it wasn't of much interest to me.) My sister insisted that all narratives come to a logical conclusion. If I wanted to do something else, I had to find a way to end the story sooner.

One of the most memorable was when her Barbie convertible was going over my bridge. I kicked out the supporting structure and said, "Oh no, structural failure. They all fell in the river and can't go to the ball now with wet dresses. Let's go play outside." I was around 9 years old at the time.

I didn't really seriously think about being an engineer until high school. I decided on civil engineering my junior year of high school. Looking back over the story above and many others, it's no surprise this is where my career has taken me.

Public Works Construction Inspector who will work on Public Works Construction projects. *This position suits a person who is retired and/or wants to work on a project basis.*

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- Oversees the day-to-day project construction activities and conducts inspections enforcing compliance of plans, specifications, City standards, safety practices, and proper material use.
- Monitors/records all work conducted by the contractor.
- Prepares a comprehensive Daily Report, including measurements, quantities, activities, etc.
- Identifies/records any construction obstacles impacting the scope, plans, specifications, and/or estimate.
- Communicates with the Construction Manager, City, Contractor, and other parties involved in the project.
- Documents the contractor's daily compliance/non-compliance of contract documents, ensuring quality control of project construction activities.
- Reviews traffic control plans and procedures to ensure compliance with construction zones.

- Performs constructability reviews of plans and specifications.
- Assists in review of contractor claims, change orders, etc.
- Attends project kick-off, progress, and field meetings.
- Prepares progress reports and recommendations on project construction activities.

Qualifications:

- 10+ years of Construction Inspection experience for Public Works projects.
- Public Works Inspection Certification is desirable.

Abilities:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Knowledge with computer related tasks.
- Ability to prepare reports and correspondences.
- Ability to analyze project issues, establish solutions, and review outcomes.
- Familiarity with local, state, and federal regulatory requirements and standard plans and specifications for public work construction. (Greenbook)

Please send resumes or questions: Jamie A. Dorrough at Info@LAEassociates.com

CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

COMMUNICATION & WEB DEVELOPMENT

Sam Potts - saml.potts@yahoo.com

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Dr. Keith Thomsen via sking@octa.net

HISTORY & HERITAGE

William Lawson - williamlawsonpe@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Jeff Meiter - jeff@valued-eng.com

WATER POLICY & TRANSPORTATION - VACANT

Contact Seema Shah-Fairbank if interested - shahfairbank@cpp.edu





ASCE LA Section Life Member Forum Annual Induction Ceremony May 13, 2021 – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Zoom Webinar

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Help us honor the newest ASCE Life Members by running a congratulatory message in the full-color event program! Your sponsorship will help offset the program printing cost and any remaining funds will go towards the Life Member Forum Student Scholarship Fund. Prices and benefits are listed below:

BENEFITS	GOLD \$500	SILVER \$250
Full Page Congratulatory Message Ad in the event program (<i>keepsake program will be mailed to you after the event</i>)	X	X
Company logo displayed and acknowledged at the virtual event	X	X
Business Card Ad in the ASCE LA Section Newsletter Publicity for the 2021 calendar year (\$450 value)	X	

Messages must be supplied as a full-color, high-resolution JPEG and will appear on an 8½" x 11" page. File will be adjusted to fit if necessary. Files are due by **April 19, 2021**.

Sponsor our event online at <https://tinyurl.com/y28co3or>, or complete the following form and email or mail to ASCE LA Section at the below address.

Contact Name: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
New Life Member to be Honored: _____
Sponsorship Type: _____ Gold \$500 _____ Silver \$250
Life Member Forum Student Scholarship Donation Amount: _____


For additional information about the event or LMF Scholarship fund, contact Mimi Luk at mluk@gsecorp.org.

Mail form and payment to:
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Tustin, CA 92780
Phone: (714) 258-8306
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Copy deadline for the April 2021 issue is March 1, 2021; copy deadline for the May 2021 issue is April 1, 2021.

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Desert Area	Inactive			
Metropolitan Los Angeles	Ruwanka Purasinghe, EIT	LADWP	(626) 862-4275	ruwanka.purasinghe@ladpw.com
Orange County Branch	Clint Isa, P.E.	Diaz Yourman & Associates	(714) 245-2920 x243	clint@diazyourman.com
San Bernardino/Riverside Counties	Victor Elia, P.E.	KWC Engineers	(951) 847-6750	victor.elia@kwceengineers.com
San Luis Obispo	Nathan Stong, P.E.	Rick Engineering	(805) 544-0707	nstong@rickengineering.com
Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties	Brad Rahrer, P.E.	City of Santa Barbara	(805) 568-1080	brahrer@santabarbaraca.gov
Southern San Joaquin	Cathy Williams, P.E.	QK Inc.		cathy.williams@qkinc.com
Younger Member Forum	Eric Aubry, P.E.	HDR Inc.		eric.aubry@hdrinc.com
Life Member Forum	William Lawson, P.E.	Retired	(949) 813-0270	williamlawsonpe@gmail.com
Region 9 Governor	Tapas Dutta, P.E.	CNC Engineering	(626) 956-8039	tdutta@cnc-eng.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Publisher

ASCE LA Section
Gayle Stewart
360 E. 1st Street, #992
Tustin, CA 92780
Phone (714) 258-8306
Fax (714) 784-7806
E-mail: gstewart@gsecorp.org

Editor

Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.
LACMTA
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop 99-16-9
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone (213) 922-2471
FAX (213) 922-6875
E-mail: cliban@alumni.ucla.edu
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