

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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SOUTHERN SAN\_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

## OFFICERS'S MESSAGE

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

### President's Message



As the oldest engineering society in the nation, ASCE advocates for infrastructure improvement locally, regionally and nationally. Periodically the ASCE Committee on America's Infrastructure develops an Infrastructure Report Card. The committee is composed of 32 civil engineers from across the nation representing all the 17 categories evaluated on the report card.

On March 3rd, 2021 ASCE released the 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure. This year the cumulative GPA is a "C-". Which indicates that our infrastructure is mediocre, requires attention; some elements exhibit significant deficiencies, with increasing vulnerability. In addition, 11 out of 17 categories are still in the "D" range. Which means that the infrastructure is poor, at risk, with many elements approaching the end of their service life. With this information, civil engineering can continue to raise awareness about the state of infrastructure within our nation. The takeaways from the 2021 Report Card identified growing trends that impact the overall grades:

- Maintenance backlog in sectors such as transit and wastewater.
- Lack of robust condition information or inventory assessment for school facilities, levees and stormwater.
- Federal government investing funds, particularly in areas including inland water inland waterways, ports and drinking water shows an improvement in the categories grade.
- State and local governments (and voters) are choosing to invest in transportation and infrastructure which will have impact on future grades.
- 37 states have raised their gas tax to fund critical transportation investments since 2010.
- 98% of local infrastructure ballot initiatives passed in November 2020.

On March 31st, the White House released the "American Jobs Plan". This measure plans to infuse \$2 trillion into rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. This bold vision will provide millions of jobs and position the US as a leader in infrastructure and innovation. This investment over several years will help improve the current grade.

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### 2021 Infrastructure Grades

AVIATION	D+	PORTS	B-	<b>America's Cumulative Infrastructure Grade</b> 
BRIDGES	C	RAIL	B	
DAMS	D	ROADS	D	
DRINKING WATER	C-	SCHOOLS	D+	
ENERGY	C-	SOLID WASTE	C+	<b>Legend:</b> A EXCEPTIONAL B GOOD C MEDIOCRE D POOR F FAILING
HAZARDOUS WASTE	D+	STORM WATER	D	
INLAND WATERWAYS	D+	TRANSIT	D-	
LEVEES	D	WASTEWATER	D+	
PARKS AND RECREATION	D+			

## ASCE LA Section Sustainability Committee News

The ASCE Los Angeles Section Sustainability Committee hosted the Envision and Careers in Sustainable Infrastructure Webinar Wednesday, April 7th with speakers Sam Ali, Emma Erickson, and Catherine Sheane. Envision is a sustainable infrastructure rating system and framework that can be applied to projects to ensure a well-rounded sustainable project. Attendees learned how the Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) credential can play a role in

different projects and one's career. The presentations focused on the Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) certification: what it is, the benefits, how the professional certification can be applied to real projects. This webinar also explored careers in sustainable infrastructure with insight from an engineer early in her career and a sustainability technical expert formally trained as a civil engineer.



Sam Ali



Emma Erickson



Catherine Sheane

TIME TO REGISTER




# CA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

<http://www.caisregion9.org>

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24 &  
FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021 - VIRTUAL**

**8:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

**“Creating Resilient Infrastructure for  
a Sustainable Future”**

ASCE Region 9

**AWARDS RECOGNITION  
PROGRAM EVENT**

[www.caisregion9.org](http://www.caisregion9.org)

**THURSDAY  
JUNE 24  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**2021**

#ASCERegion9

# Women In Construction

"A woman is like a tea bag - you never know how strong she is until she's in hot water." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Women in Construction (WIC) Week is nationally celebrated the first full week of March. With the success from last year's "The Strength of Women in Construction" event, the OC Construction Institute hosted an entire week of virtual events to celebrate women in the industry. This week featured: International Women's Day/Skincare and Makeup Monday, Real Talk Tuesday, Women Empowerment Wednesday, Tech Talk Thursday, and Stretch and Flex Friday. The events included honoring significant women in STEM history, breaking down and


navigating difficult conversations, professional leadership coaching, a Bluebeam tutorial and a couple of self-care centric events. Attendees at varying levels in their careers were given the opportunity for personal growth, professional development and to unite a supportive community of men and women with a little bit of light-hearted fun.

With over 125 attendees, WIC Week was proud to have 13 company sponsors, award 5 scholarships totaling \$2,500 and host 13 industry speakers. The ASCE OC Construction institute is excited to host this event annually with the potential of an in person event next year. For the full article please visit the ASCE OC Branch website.

## THANK YOU TO OUR S P E A K E R S

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
SKINCARE & MAKEUP MON**


  
**MARIA LEHMAN, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE**  
GHD

  
**CARMELLA DIAZ-LOLAR**  
SEPHORA


**REAL TALK TUE**

  
**DR. GIOVANNA BRASFIELD**  
FLATIRON

  
**MARIA LEHMAN, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE**  
GHD


  
**NATASSIA KNUTSON-MELENDEZ**  
PROJECT SUPPORT SERVICES

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT WED**

  
**SHARMIN BANU, MS, PGC**  
ICF - WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER


  
**BARBARA VISSER, CPGC, AGC**  
ICF - WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

  
**CHLOE GHARIOS, EIT**  
LADWP




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Orange County Branch

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**AMANDA WIETING**  
BLUEBEAM

  
**TROY DEGROOT**  
UCHAPTER2

**STRETCH & FLEX FRI**

  
**NATALIE JENSEN, PE**  
WSP





# San Francisco Section Environmental and Water Resources Institute SF Chapter

by Fred Bickie, P.E., F. ASCE, President, San Francisco Section, ASCE



The San Francisco Chapter of EWRI has been in existence since 2009. Currently, it has a strong and active Board which comprises Chair/President Rupeet Malhotra, Treasurer Annette Tardiff, Secretary Hugo Velasquez, Marketing Chair Juan Alejandro, Past Chair/Board Member Fred Bickie and Board Member Walter Grayman.

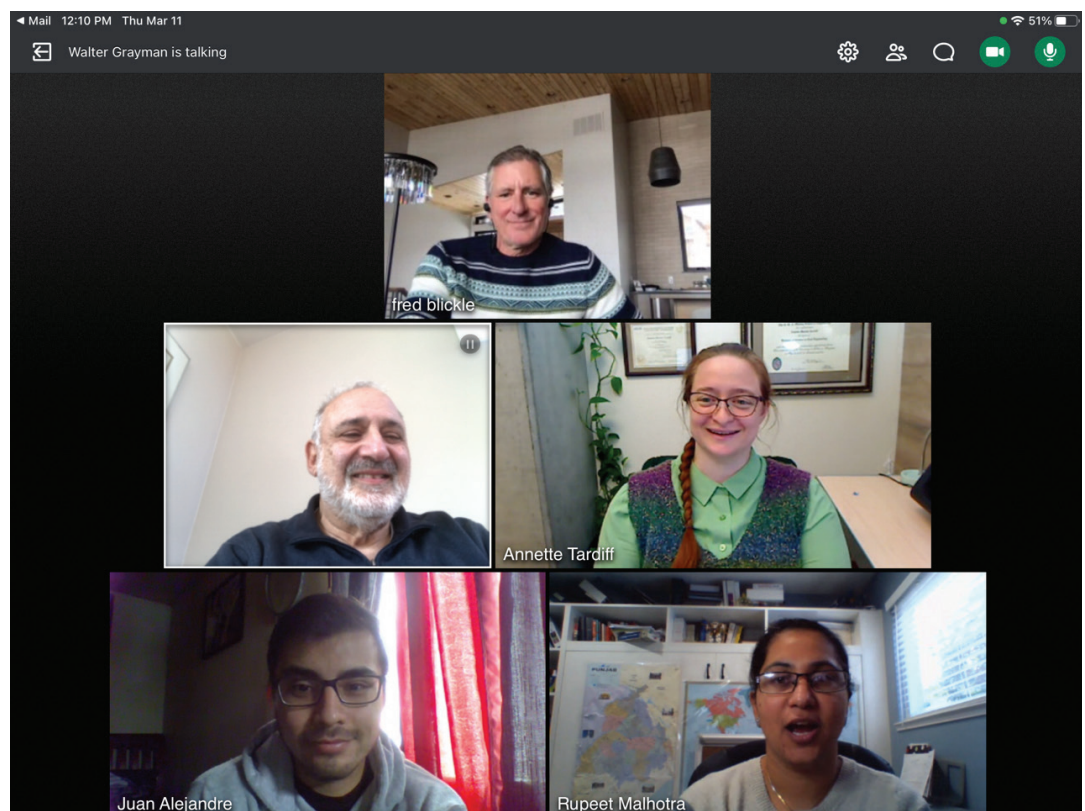
Since its inception, the Chapter has engaged with the San Francisco Bay Area water resources and environmental sciences professionals through dinner meetings and presentations hosted in Oakland, San Francisco or Walnut Creek, and tours such as the Silicon Valley Second Stage Water Recycling Plant. Previous dinner meeting have included presentations by experts on topics such as Lead in Water by Richard Sakaji and Susan Teefy, EBMUD; Biodiesel production; CA Water issues by ACWA Executive Director Tim Quinn; Water and the California Dream by author David Carle; *Water, More or Less* by author Rita Schmidt Sudman and artist Stephanie Taylor; Engineers Without Borders presentations by the Honduras Team, Nicaragua Team and the Kenya Team; Hydraulic fracturing by Earl Hagstrom, Esq.; Challenges & Trends In Meeting Water Demands by James Brezack; Micro-Plastic Pollution by Kevin Prochnow, to name a few. Presentations were always followed by specific questions and spirited discussions on the important, contemporary topics.

Due to restrictions on in-person meetings that are imposed on us by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Chapter has been hosting Zoom webinars of interest regarding environmental and water issues in California and sometimes nationally. For example, last year the SF Chapter organized a national presentation on recently changed rules on Waters of the US (WOTUS) presented by Drew Siltan, Esq. of Beveridge & Diamond, and is hosting an upcoming presentation

on Asset Management for Water Infrastructure.

Other upcoming meetings include water pressure in our homes by Gary Klein and a presentation on CECorps, the latest Engineers Without Borders project presented by Jim Quinn and Mathew Bamm.

The SF Chapter is one of 32 current EWRI chapters nationally. It was originally started by Rune Storesund (current Region 9 Governor!), Rob Stevens and Sadie McEvoy. Current Chapter Chair Rupeet Malhotra became involved in 2010 and took a hiatus around 2012 to focus on family and rejoined in around 2018 as President. An early very active member was Amy Fowler, who has retired. Treasurer Annette Tardiff is another long-time member, starting with the group in 2012. The SF Chapter is always looking for more involvement and participation by ASCE member. If you are interested please contact Rupeet at rupeet.malhotra@stantec.com





# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



## February 2021 – Focus on COVID-19 Relief

The Legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a package of legislation intended to provide needed relief to individuals, families and businesses suffering the most significant economic hardship due to COVID-19.

- AB 81 by Assemblymember Philip Ting (D-San Francisco) – COVID-19 relief.
- AB 82 by Assemblymember Philip Ting (D-San Francisco) – COVID-19 pandemic emergency: contact tracing: childcare.

(D-San Francisco) – COVID-19 pandemic emergency: contact tracing: childcare.

- AB 85 by the Committee on Budget – Budget Act of 2020.
- SB 87 by Senator Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) – California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program: income tax: gross income: exclusion: small business grants.
- SB 88 by the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review – One-time stimulus payment: delinquent accounts: Earned Income Tax Credit: statements.
- SB 94 by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) – Alcoholic beverage control: barbering and cosmetology: license renewal fees: waiver.

Below are key provisions of the bills signed into law:

### Direct Relief to Individuals and Families

Provides \$600 in one-time relief to households receiving the California EITC for 2020. In addition, the agreement provides a \$600 one-time payment to taxpayers with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) who were precluded from receiving the \$1,200 per person federal payments issued last spring and the more recent \$600 federal payments. Today's action also provides \$600 payments to households with ITINs and income below \$75,000. ITIN taxpayers who also qualify for the California EITC would receive a total of \$1,200. The payments will be provided to these households shortly after they file their 2020 tax returns.

Provides direct relief to additional lower-income Californians through a \$600 one-time grant to households enrolled in the CalWORKS program and recipients of SSI/SSP and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI). Grant payments for CalWORKS households are expected by mid-April; timing for the delivery of SSI/SSP and CAPI grants is currently under discussion with federal officials.

### Immediate Relief for Small Businesses

Provides \$2.1 billion for grants up to \$25,000 for small businesses impacted by the pandemic, and allocates \$50 million of this total for non-profit cultural institutions.

### Fee Waivers for Heavily Impacted Licensees

Two years of fee relief for roughly 59,000 restaurants and bars

licensed through the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control that can range annually from \$455 to \$1,235. The action also reflects fee relief for more than 600,000 barbering and cosmetology individuals and businesses licensed through the Department of Consumer Affairs.

### More Resources for Critical Child Care

Addition of just over \$400 million in new federal funds to provide stipends of \$525 per enrolled child for all state-subsidized child care and preschool providers serving approximately 400,000 children in subsidized care statewide.

### Additional Aid for Individuals and Families

Provides an additional \$24 million for financial assistance and services through Housing for the Harvest – a program providing support for agricultural workers who have to quarantine due to COVID-19. The effort also provides a combined \$35 million for food banks and diapers.

### Emergency Financial Relief to Support Community College Students

Provides an additional \$100 million in emergency financial aid for qualifying low-income students carrying six or more units, with award amounts to be determined locally and made available by early April. In addition, the agreement provides \$20 million to reengage students who have either left their community college studies because of the pandemic or to engage students at risk of leaving.

### CalFresh Student Outreach and Application Assistance

Provides roughly \$6 million to support outreach and application assistance to University of California, California State University and California Community College students made newly eligible for CalFresh – the state-administered federal program for supplemental food assistance. The agreement also provides \$12 million in state funds to support associated county administrative workload.

### Other Legislation

AB 5 (Fong) would suspend the appropriation of GHG credit funds to the High-Speed Rail Authority for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 fiscal years and would require the transfer of those amounts from moneys collected by the state board to the General Fund.

AB 43 (Friedman) would require, beginning June 1, 2022, and every 6 months thereafter, Caltrans to convene a committee of external design experts to advise on revisions to the Highway Design Manual.

AB 464 (Mullin) would remove the prohibition on the use of proceeds of enhanced infrastructure financing district (EIFD) bonds to finance maintenance of any kind. The bill would remove from the list of facilities and projects the district may fund, the acquisition, construction, or repair of industrial structures for private use.

AB 747 (Mathis) appropriates \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board to provide a grant to a joint powers authority composed of the Tule River Indian Tribe and the City of Porterville for a water treatment facility.

AB 786 (Cervantes) would require the executive director of the California Transportation Commission to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and subject to removal at the discretion of the Governor.

AB 1030 (Chen) would expand the practice of land surveying and civil engineering to include determining the benthic surface below water bodies and the measuring for volumetric calculations of earthwork.

AB 1035 (Salas) would delete the condition in the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program requirement imposed on the department and those cities and counties to use advanced technologies and material recycling techniques to the extent possible.

AB 1037 (Grayson) requires an infrastructure project that receives any state funding to deploy digital construction technologies to reduce waste, inefficiency, rework, cost overruns, and embodied carbon, and to improve delivery times and project quality.

AB 1047 (Daly) would require the Transportation Agency to oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive one-stop reporting interface available to the public through an internet website maintained by the agency.

AB 1116 (Friedman) would require the HSR authority, and any entity contracting with the authority, to provide to the Legislative Analyst's Office any information that it requests and to permit representatives of the Legislative Analyst's Office to attend the authority's internal meetings.

AB 1195 (Garcia) creates the Southern Los Angeles County Regional Water Agency as a regional water agency serving the drinking water needs of the cities, unincorporated areas, and residents in the communities overlying the Central Basin and West Coast Basin aquifers in southern Los Angeles County.

AB 1329 (Nazarian) requires the Building Standards Commission to develop, adopt, and publish building standards that would require new construction of buildings, except for buildings regulated by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development or the Division of the State Architect, to be designed and built to a functional recovery standard, as defined, for earthquake loads.

AB 1434 (Friedman) establish, beginning January 1, 2023, until January 1, 2025, the standard for indoor residential water use as 48 gallons per capita daily.

AB 1447 (Cooley) would establish the Rural California Infrastructure Act to award grants to specified local agencies to fund rural infrastructure projects.

AB 1464 (Arambula) would require, on or before January 1, 2023, the owner of an acute care inpatient hospital to update the

certain submissions to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development by reporting the services provided in each building of the acute care inpatient hospital.

AB 1499 (Daly) repeals sunset that authorizes regional transportation agencies to utilize design-build procurement for projects on or adjacent to the state highway system.

AB 1500 (Garcia) enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,700,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

ACA 1 (Aguar-Curry) This measure would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.

Next month we'll review Senate bills.

## Reports of Interest

The California State Water Resources Control Board released *Drinking Water COVID-19 Financial Impacts Survey*. "At least 1.6 million California households, or one in eight, have water debt.... The unpaid water bills total \$1 billion.... That may dwarf statewide rental debt, which the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office pegged at \$400 million. Californian's water debt crisis, which Newsom called a 'critical issue' on Monday, represents another pandemic ripple effect that jeopardizes basic human needs in the face of disaster: a shelter from the virus, safe water to drink and wash hands.... Water debt and potential shutoffs weigh most heavily on low-income communities of color, who suffer disproportionately from job loss and coronavirus itself. Meanwhile, unpaid bills threaten smaller water systems serving rural, poor areas.... While average debt is \$500, at least 155,000 households – mostly in Los Angeles – owe over \$1,000." (CalMatters, Jan. 26, 2021).

The National Academy of Sciences released *Geographies of Insecure Water Access and the Housing-Water Nexus in US Cities*. "An estimated 1.1 million people living in the U.S. report lacking some access to running water in their homes, with nearly three-quarters of them living in cities and suburbs. ... Householders of color in the 50 largest metropolitan areas are 34% more likely to lack what the U.S. Census Bureau calls 'complete plumbing' compared with white, non-Hispanic householders. ... The Census Bureau considers a household to have 'complete plumbing' if it has running hot and cold water plus a bathtub or shower used only by people living in the dwelling. ... The authors further find that renters in the top 50 metro areas are 61%



more likely to lack complete plumbing compared with residents who own their homes. ... [A]lmost half of households without complete plumbing are cost-burdened."

American Geophysical Union (AGU) released *Carbon-Neutral Pathways for the United States*. "Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 could be 'surprisingly feasible,' with costs running \$1 per day per person or just 0.4% of the U.S GDP. ... [T]echnical limitations in other fields mean the electricity sector must be among the first to pursue aggressive decarbonization, eliminating 65-70% of its emissions by 2035. ... This is a necessary first step ... because carbon-free electricity enables multiple downstream strategies such as electrification or the development of alternative fuels. ... [I]t is possible to make dramatic strides toward decarbonized electric generation with existing technology. ... [R]ushing to achieve full decarbonization ahead of schedule could actually prove detrimental in the long-term." (Utility Dive, Feb. 2, 2021).

Urban Studies released *What Do Residential Lotteries Show Us About Transportation Choices*. "As city planners are facing efforts to promote walkable communities, it is important to understand the extent that planning decisions like parking availability determine transportation choices. It is not clear, however, if parking availability makes people drive more, or if people that prefer to drive simply choose to live where parking is available. This study takes advantage of San Francisco's housing lottery program, which randomly assigns below-market-rate housing units to eligible households on a random basis, to eliminate the influence of transportation preference on access to units with or without parking. Under these conditions, the study authors found that households with on-site parking were more than twice as likely to own a car as families placed in units without parking. This represents 'compelling evidence that transportation choices depend on features of the local built environment.'"

PPIC released *Water Partnerships between Cities and Farms in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley*. "San Joaquin Valley farms and Southern California cities are facing different but equally daunting water challenges. ... Both regions' water futures could be more secure if they jointly developed and managed some water supplies. ... Investments in urban conservation and alternative water supplies – such as water recycling and storm water capture – could allow cities in Southern California, the Central Coast and the Bay Area to reduce the amount of water they now import from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. By participating in these investments, San Joaquin Valley farmers could obtain some of the Delta exports now going to coastal cities. Similarly, co-investments between farmers and cities in underground storage and conveyance infrastructure in the San Joaquin Valley could allow more water to be captured during wet years, increasing overall water availability." (CALmatters, Jan. 20, 2021).

The State Water Resources Control Board has released a draft white paper, "On the Reuse of Oil Field Produced Water for Irrigation of Food Crops In Central Kern County, California," says it is "result of five years of extensive crop sampling and a thorough evaluation of data, along with a review of existing literature" and it "did not find evidence of elevated risks to human health expected from consuming the crops grown with produced water compared to traditional water sources."

The CA State Auditor's office has released its report, "California Air Resources Board: Improved Program Measurement Would Help California Work More Strategically to Meet Its Climate Change Goals," finds that CARB "has not done enough to measure the GHG emissions reductions its incentive programs achieve" and "has generally not determined the effects its incentive programs have on consumers' behavior and thus, has overstated GHG emissions reductions its incentive programs achieve," recommends that by August 2021 CARB "develop a process to define, collect, and evaluate data on the behavioral changes that result from each of its incentive programs."

### Appointments of Interest by the Governor

As Central Valley Regional Director at the **California High-Speed Rail Authority**: Garth Fernandez, Fresno, has served as interim and as principal transportation engineer since 2020.



## Registration Now Open!



### May 10 - 14, 2021

Virtual

For more information, visit [acec-ca.org/LVW](https://acec-ca.org/LVW)

We are proud to announce that ACEC California, APWA - Region VIII, ASCE - Region 9, CalGeo, and SEAOC are for the first time coming together to host a joint Legislative Visit Week! California Engineers and Public Works Professionals will gather virtually beginning on Monday, May 10, 2021 to advocate for infrastructure and other industry issues before our state legislators. Registration and sponsorship opportunities are now available.

For more information, to register or to sponsor, click the button below.

**VISIT [ACEC-CA.ORG/LVW](https://acec-ca.org/LVW)**

## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITON: ONE (1) REGION GOVERNOR FROM THE SAN DIEGO SECTION



ASCE Region 9 invites nominations for one (1) Region 9 Governor from the San Diego Section for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2021. To be considered for this position, you must be a Society member in Good Standing and have an Address of Record within the Region being represented. It is encouraged that nominees also

have prior service as a Branch, Section or Institute officer, member of a Section or Branch committee, or a member of a Society-level Committee with demonstrated leadership skills. This position is subject to election during the annual ASCE election cycle.

To apply for this positions, submit the following documents by the deadline of December 1, 2020, to 1) Yazdan Emrani, P.E., Region 9 Nominating Committee Chair, at [YEmrani@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:YEmrani@GlendaleCA.gov) and to 2) Patricia Montgomery, Managing Director, Executive and Board Operations, ASCE, at [PMontgomery@ASCE.org](mailto:PMontgomery@ASCE.org):

- A Letter of Intent to apply for this elected office
- Signed Governor Commitment document (contact Yaz Emrani for form)
- Biographical Statement, not to exceed 200 words
- Vision Statement, not to exceed 200 words
- Any endorsements
- Color head shot photograph.

Nominees will be requested to attend an interview before the Region 9 Board of Governors in January 2021, at a location (or by virtual means), time and date to be set. For questions or application templates, please contact Yaz Emrani at [yemrani@glendaleca.gov](mailto:yemrani@glendaleca.gov)

## CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### COMMUNICATION & WEB DEVELOPMENT

Sam Potts - [saml.potts@yahoo.com](mailto:saml.potts@yahoo.com)

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Dr. Keith Thomsen via [sking@octa.net](mailto:sking@octa.net)

### HISTORY & HERITAGE

William Lawson - [williamlawsonpe@gmail.com](mailto:williamlawsonpe@gmail.com)

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES


Jeff Meiter - [jeff@valued-eng.com](mailto:jeff@valued-eng.com)

### WATER POLICY & TRANSPORTATION - VACANT

Contact Seema Shah-Fairbank if interested - [shahfairbank@cpp.edu](mailto:shahfairbank@cpp.edu)








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Copy deadline for the May 2021 issue is April 1, 2021; copy deadline for the June 2021 issue is May 1, 2021.

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# Los Angeles Section

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