

# 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



From Student Member to Life Member it has been a busy spring for the Los Angeles Section. The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) hosted the last Pacific Southwest Conference (PSWC) from March 25th to 27th. Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually and required no student registration fees. In addition, UCLA provided ASCE participating student members the opportunity to win scholarships that would help them complete their education. The individual events and banquet were live streamed and allowed for students, faculty and professionals to participate from near and far.

- UCLA place 1st overall and their Concrete Canoe team is headed to nationals
- Cal Poly Pomona placed 2nd overall and their Surveying Team is headed to nationals
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo placed 3rd overall



ASCE Committee of Student Competitions and Conferences have reimaged the student conferences by aligning them with Regions.

- Northern California: Sacramento and San Francisco Sections
- Southern California: Los Angeles and San Diego Sections

In 2022, UC San Diego will be hosting the LA Section schools. Looking forward to seeing many of you involved and helping as judges.

Each year the LA Section and Life Member Forum celebrate the newly minted ASCE LA Section Life Members at a Brunch. Life Member status is given by ASCE when a member reaches the age of 65 and has paid dues continuously for 35 years and have had 10 years of continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of the Life Member status. The section celebrates the professional achievements and long-term support these individuals have made to ASCE. Due to the pandemic, this year's event was hosted virtually on May 13th and highlighted:

- a keynote speech from Dr. Dennis Truax (ASCE President Elect);
- the celebration of 31 newly minted life members; and
- awarding LA Sections 1st ever Life Member Scholarships (1- \$2,000 and 3- \$1,500).

To all our Life Members we thank you for inspiring us to continue to push the envelope and design, manage and construct projects for the next generation.

When we were a younger member of ASCE, we never realize how much ASCE will give us personally and professionally. But by staying involved it will help you in more ways than one and you too will have a life member pin one day.



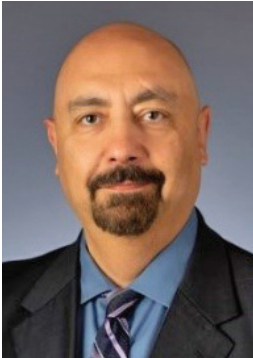
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## Region 9's Infrastructure Policy Committee

by Yazdan T. Emrani, P.E., ENV SP, Chair, Infrastructure Policy Committee



California, in some respects, is a microcosm of our nation. We are a culturally diverse and rapidly growing state. As such, our infrastructure is beginning to show its age. With close to 40 million residents, California is the most populated state in the country and its economy ranks as the world's fifth largest economy. This trend is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Over the next 20 years, California is expected to grow at a rapid pace. Based on some

estimates, our state will add an additional 10 million residents over the next 20 years, putting California's population at a staggering 50 million people. A well-designed and maintained infrastructure anchors our economy and secures our quality of life. Investment in infrastructure is vital to our state's productivity, competitiveness, and economic well-being.

However, one of the biggest impediments to maximizing long-term economic growth is the urgent need to modernize our nation's infrastructure. The cost of inaction is too high for all Americans who depend on reliable, modernized infrastructure.

The 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card ("CAIRC") evaluated 17 categories of our State's infrastructure and assigned a letter grade to each. The overall average of the 17 categories was 'C-'. (This compares to an overall of average of 'C' in the 2012 CAIRC.) Of the 17 categories, eleven are in mediocre condition and six are in poor condition. The Report Card outlines key areas where California's infrastructure is doing well and where it could improve.

To that end, Infrastructure Policy Committee or IPC is a Region 9 committee that has been working to develop a framework to

publicize the results of the CAIRC in ways that can resonate with the general public. This includes efforts to promote the results and recommendations of the 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card to technical (ASCE, APWA, AWWA, etc.) as well as non-technical (Chambers of Commerce, Parent Teacher Association, or PTAs, business groups, etc.) audiences throughout California.

The valuable policy recommendations contained within the CAIRC, which if implemented will improve and raise the overall grade for all of the infrastructure categories. IPC is working on potential policy positions for legislative considerations using these policy positions. I invite all those involved in the preparation of the Report Card, or other concerned members to let me know if you would be interested in getting involved with our committee at some level. This could include helping us with updating of Region 9's website with regards to our efforts. We are also looking for volunteers that would be interested in helping us develop promotional videos for the CAIRC. Finally, we are looking for folks who would be interested in going out and speaking in front of various groups and publicizing the Report Card results and recommendations. We are looking for a few additional members in both Northern, as well as Southern California. Specifically, we need volunteers from Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego sections.

ASCE Region 9 created the 2019 CAIRC as a public service to citizens and policymakers to inform them of the infrastructure needs in the state. Developing the grades was a lot of hard work, by a lot of folks. We need to make sure that this work continues and that we help spread the message. If you are interested in helping with any of the aforementioned tasks, please feel free to contact me at [yemrani@glendaleca.gov](mailto:yemrani@glendaleca.gov).

A full copy of the 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card is available at [www.ascecareportcard.org](http://www.ascecareportcard.org).

## To Certify Or Not To Certify

ASCE held a client summit Feb. 26 to help inform the Society's plans for its Civil Engineering Certification program. Specifically, the summit's organizing committee sought to better understand what knowledge and skills agencies and owners are looking for in their hires, and how ASCE can help those agencies and owners better prepare or identify civil engineers that meet those needs.

The report from that summit – presented during the board meeting – indicated that while clients do face certain challenges finding and identifying qualified engineers, it's unclear whether or not they view certification as the best solution to that problem.

"Certification is an important topic without a clear solution at this time," Briaud said. "The board had an open and frank discussion in light

of the additional information provided by the recent client summit."

The board voted to create a new task committee that will further explore the potential market for a certification program and return with a progress report this fall and final recommendations next spring.

"There are different opinions, and both the mission-driven approach and the market-driven approach are being considered," Briaud said. "My hope is that this will be the last such task committee and that soon the board will be ready to make a clear decision on our role in certification for years to come with a complete commitment of all ASCE entities."

# California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Recognition Event

by Daniel Cronquist, Chair, 2021 CAIS Chair



I am excited to announce that the 2021 California Infrastructure Symposium will be held on June 24th and 25th hosted by the ASCE Los Angeles Section and ASCE Region 9. The program will be brought to you virtually using the same platform as last year's successful event. The event will be from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM, each day.

The program will include 23 speakers divided into two tracks; water and transportation. These dynamic speakers

will present on exciting and timely topics. Our four keynote speakers are:

Randy Iwasaki – Leader, State and Local Government Transportation, Amazon Web Services

Toks Omishakin – Director, California Dept. of Transportation

General Paul Owen – Commander and Division Engineer of the South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

California Senator Anthony Portantino, Senate District 25

We are also introducing this year a student competition, where teams of students will give a video presentation on their senior projects. A panel discussion on career development is also included that will be beneficial to students and professionals alike.

The cost to attend our virtual event is \$50 for professionals and \$10 for students. Please visit our website (<https://caisregion9.org/>) for more information. Sponsorship opportunities are still available by visiting the website as well.

On the evening of June 24th we will also be hosting the ASCE Region 9 annual Awards Recognition Event. These awards represent the best of the nominations from our local branches and sections throughout the state for project and individual awards. This will also be a virtual event and you can purchase your tickets from <https://caisregion9.org/>.



Randy Iwasaki



Toks Omishakin



General Paul Owen



Senator Anthony Portantino

## Report Card Success

Kristina Swallow, P.E., Pres.18.ASCE, chair of the Committee on America's Infrastructure, updated the board on what has been a very successful cycle for the ASCE Report Card on America's Infrastructure.

ASCE released the 2021 report card March 3 with a media conference and solutions summit that featured U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, among other elected officials and decisionmakers.

As a means of spreading the word about America's infrastructure investment needs, it's difficult to imagine a better messenger. The

report card has generated more than 550 print/online placements with more than 532 million impressions; more than 1,000 broadcast features with nearly 8 million viewers; and 27 radio interviews with a reach of 3.6 million listener impressions, according to Swallow's report.

"The report card places ASCE at the national table for the infrastructure discussion," Briaud said. "I believe that there is consensus in our government that infrastructure renewal needs to be addressed. We have heard that from many new administrations before, but I think this time is different. Many of the stars are lined up, and this gives us the best chance to see something significant happen in the near future."



# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



## March 2021 Getting back to some normalcy

After the Legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a legislation package to provide needed relief to individuals, families, and businesses suffering the most significant economic hardship due to COVID-19, the Legislature commence both budget and policy hearings in March. One remaining piece of COVID-19 legislation was the enactment of SB 95 (Skinner). This bill

mandates that employers expand supplemental paid sick leave for COVID-19-related absences. SB 95, which took effect on March 29, 2021, applies retroactively to applicable leave taken on or after January 1, 2021, and remains in effect until September 30, 2021. Thus, covered employers must provide Supplemental COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave beginning on March 29, 2021, and covered employees who took qualifying leave between January 1 and March 28 may request retroactive payment for leave taken during that period.

## Other Legislation

This month we'll review Senate bills.

SB 22 (Glazer) **school facilities**: 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 44 (Allen) **California Environmental Quality Act**: Establishes expedited administrative and **judicial review** of environmental review and approvals granted for **"environmental leadership transit projects"** that meet specified requirements.

SB 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.

SB 66 (Allen) would establish an advisory committee, the **California Council on the Future of Transportation**, to provide recommendations for changes in state policy to ensure that autonomous vehicles enhance the state's efforts to increase road safety, promote equity, and meet public health and environmental objectives.

SB 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.

SB 223 (Dodd) This bill would apply current law that prohibits an urban and community water system from **discontinuing residential water service** for nonpayment until payment by a customer has been delinquent for at least 60 days, 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) **Water quality: municipal wastewater agencies**. would authorize a municipal wastewater agency 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.

SB 313 (Durazo) **California Competes tax credit: refunds**. would require a qualified taxpayer who receives a tax refund to reinvest the refund into immobile capital equipment that supports infrastructure improvements, expansion, or developments for media production facilities in the state. The project must include a PLA.

SB 318 & 319 (Melendez) **Land use: development fee or charge: audit: auditor standards**. Makes various changes to the audit provisions in the Mitigation Fee Act.

SB 339 (Wiener) **Vehicles: road usage charge pilot program**. Extends the California Road Charge Pilot Program from 2023 until 2027.

SB 403 (Gonzalez) **Drinking water: consolidation**. This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to order consolidation where a water system serving a disadvantaged community is at risk of failing to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water or where a poor neighborhood is substantially reliant on domestic wells that are at risk of failing to provide a good supply of safe drinking water.

SB 407 (Archuleta) **Professional Land Surveyors' Act**. Expands the definition of land surveying.

SB 414 (Jones) would define cadastral surveying for purposes of the **Professional Land Surveyors' Act**.



SB 475 (Cortese) **Transportation planning: sustainable communities strategies.** Would require the State Air Resources Board, on or before June 30, 2023, and in coordination with the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development, to issue new guidelines on sustainable communities strategies and require these guidelines to be updated after that at least every four years.

SB 552 (Hertzberg) **Drought planning: small water suppliers: nontransient noncommunity water systems.** Would require small water suppliers and nontransient noncommunity water systems that are schools, no later than December 31, 2022, to develop and submit to the Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board an emergency response plan that includes specified drought-planning elements.

SB 559 (Hurtado) **Department of Water Resources: water conveyance systems:** would establish the **Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund** in the State Treasury to be administered by the Department of Water Resources; the money would be used for subsidence repair costs, including environmental planning, permitting, design, and construction, and necessary road and bridge upgrades required to accommodate capacity improvements.

SB 580 (Hueso) **Department of Transportation: highways and roads: recycled plastics study and specifications.** Would authorize Caltrans to conduct a study to assess the feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and life-cycle environmental benefits of including recycled plastics in asphalt used as a paving material in the construction, maintenance, or rehabilitation of a highway or road.

SB 626 (Dodd) **Department of Water Resources: Procurement Methods.** Would require the Department of Water Resources, on all projects delivered by the department, to use department employees or consultants under contract with the department to perform all project design and engineering services related to design and construction inspection services required for the CM/GC method of construction.

SB 640 (Becker) **Transportation financing: jointly proposed projects.** This bill would authorize cities and counties to jointly submit to the California Transportation Commission a list of proposed projects funded by the cities and counties' apportionments of Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account funds.

SB 671 (Gonzalez) **Transportation: Clean Freight Corridor Efficiency Assessment.** Would establish the Clean Freight Corridor Efficiency Program, to be jointly administered by the California Transportation Commission and State Air Resources Board, in coordination with other state entities.

SB 674 (Durazo) **Public Contracts: workforce development: transportation-related contracts.** Would require public agencies to develop a program, known as the California Jobs Plan Program, to meet specified objectives, including, as a component of applications for covered public contracts, the creation of a form that states the

minimum numbers of proposed jobs that are projected to be retained and created if the applicant wins the covered public contract, and offered wages, benefits, and investment in training.

SB 683 (Ochoa Bogh) **Water quality: regional municipal separate storm sewer system permits.** Would require, to the extent permitted by federal law, a regional board that issues a separate municipal storm sewer system permit under the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit program to a region rather than to an individual discharger to include specified elements in the permit and to meet and collaborate with the permittees before or during the permit writing process.

SB 776 (Gonzalez) **Safe drinking water and water quality.** Current law provides that the California Safe Drinking Water Act does not apply to small state water systems, except as specified. This bill would expand the application of the act to small state water systems.

SCR 16 (Caballero) proclaim the week of March 7, 2021, to March 13, 2021, inclusive, as **Women in Construction Week.**

SCR 20 (Ochoa Bogh) designates April 4, 2021, to April 10, 2021, inclusive, as **Women and Girls in STEM Week** and would encourage all citizens and community organizations to support the observance of California's Women and Girls in STEM Week by encouraging and celebrating women in the STEM fields.

### Reports of Interest

**Caltrans** has released its "California Transportation Plan 2050," which outlines policies for achieving the state's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation to 80 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2050.

**State Water Resources Control Board** Division of Water Quality has released a staff report with recommendations on adapting the water rights permitting process to account for climate change. Suggestions include: "leverage existing climate change data" in issuing permits for analyses of water available for development projects, "prepare for and capitalize on capturing flood flows and storing them underground," and "plan for droughts."

**Air Resources Board, Public Utilities Commission, and Energy Commission** released "SB 100 Joint Agency Report: Charting a path to a 100% Clean Energy Future," findings include that to achieve SB 100's goal of fulfilling 100% of the state's electrical demand with renewable and zero-carbon energy sources by 2045 "California will need to roughly triple its current electricity grid capacity" and it "may need to build up to 6 gigawatts of new renewable and storage resources annually," while in comparison state has built an average of 1.3 gigawatts annually over the last ten years.

**Legislative Analyst's Office** has released "Department of Toxic Substance Control Budget Analysis," which recommends approving the Governor's proposal to establish a Board of Environmental Safety to "improve transparency and promote greater accountability" of DTSC; also suggests the Legislature consider a tax increase for

the Toxic Substance Control Account to “keep the fund solvent and expand cleanup-related activities.”

#### Appointments of Interest by the Governor

To the California Water Commission: **Alexandre Makler** (reappointed), Berkeley, senior vice president, West Region at Calpine Corporation since 2014; **Jose Solorio**, Santa Ana, government affairs officer at Moulton Niguel Water District since 2018.

To the California Transportation Commission: **Darnell Grigsby**, Oakland, executive director at TransForm since 2020; **Joseph Tavaglione** (reappointed), Riverside, president at Tavaglione Construction and Development since 1962.

Reappointed to the State Water Resources Control Board: **E. Joaquin Esquivel**, Sacramento, has served since 2017 and serves as Chair.

## Transportation & Development Committee

by Shari Tavaf, Chair



Dear Region 9 (California) ASCE members;

As I reflect on the most unusual year we have all lived through, I look forward to all the positive opportunities ahead as we reopen California and our nation.

As the new Chair of the Transportation and Development committee for the Region 9, I am very excited to be collaborating with the highly respected professionals in

our industry in my new role. To take advantage of the momentum built by the previous leadership, I would like to invite new members to join our committee to participate in our crucial activities going forward.

In light of the importance of transportation and housing to the new administration in Washington and our continued challenges in California in both housing and transportation sectors, our committee has a great opportunity to influence the future of our state and our industry.

Our committee's mission is:

**Actively track and evaluate state assembly and senate bills to support better transportation and development policies throughout California. Educate lawmakers on the feasibility and ramifications of rules and laws under consideration by building a trusted advisory liaison with their offices.**

**Collaborate with other ASCE committees toward assessing the California infrastructure sustainability and reliability in response to natural disasters and delayed maintenance risks. Support and organize the Transportation Track for the annual Infrastructure Symposium in Region 9.**

We are open to new ways of becoming more impactful as advocates for effective and reliable infrastructure in California, especially for

transportation and housing to ensure a better quality of life for all. Better housing and transportation will in turn support the efficiency of the companies that operate in California and rely on the world-renowned talent who live here.

As we experience the big shift in how we live and work due to Covid, we will have several opportunities and challenges to improve infrastructure planning and delivery, maintenance and operations as well as the many aspects of transportation, transit, housing and transit-oriented development.

The key activities of the committee for the upcoming year are:

- o Review of draft bills from the California assembly and senate as well as any national bills that will impact transportation and development policies in California (national ASCE will support Federal law-making processes);
- o Participate in California and National Legislative fly-ins; and
- o Support the annual symposium activities.

Currently our committee is busy reviewing 18 draft bills introduced in the state assembly and senate and as more bills are introduced and revised, we definitely could use your assistance. We look forward to your participation and encourage you to take an active role in ASCE – Region 9 – Transportation and Development committee. If you are interested, please contact the Chair of the committee: shariatstrada@gmail.com.



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

# Board Building Crucial Society-wide Cohesiveness, Collaboration

by Ben Walpole

While the past year has revealed the marvels of technology's ability to keep people connected around the world, the virtual workplace has also reaffirmed the necessity of coordination and communication.

The ASCE Board of Direction at its quarterly meeting (yes, held virtually), April 30 and May 1, continued its efforts to further enhance the Society's cohesiveness – from collaboration among the institutes and geographic regions to better integration of student members.

"We are a very big team," said ASCE President Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE. "Teams work better when everyone contributes and participates. Big teams require a bit of help to make sure communications and coordination take place.

"This is why it is important and very impactful to increase communication and coordination. This also tends to lift everyone's spirits, which I think is needed these days."

To that end, the Task Committee on Institute Operating Procedures presented the board with an interim report detailing potential strategies for increased Society-wide collaboration as well as recruiting and retaining ASCE members – all based on interviews with institute presidents, geographic region directors, and technical

region directors. The task committee will bring a final report to October's board meeting.

The Board Strategic Advisory Council presented its revised dashboard, a sleek, color-coded means of easily tracking progress on the board's 10 priority strategies – another vital tool toward improved cohesiveness.

Meanwhile, the Student Presidential Group continues to thrive. Chair Matthew Jacobson, EIT, S.M.ASCE, highlighted the group's recent work, including efforts to connect student chapters and link students with their local section, branch, institute, and younger member groups.

The SPG's integrative work has gone so well, the model has expanded to include a region-institute presidential group that also meets regularly with Briaud.

"The success of our Student Presidential Group has surpassed all my expectations," Briaud said. "So I thought that extending this to the regions and institutes would make sense as well, and I have not been disappointed."

## 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)







## JOINT MAY LUNCH PROGRAM

### ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP:

How Improv Theater And Emotional Intelligence Can Help In Uncertain Times.

In this presentation we will discuss the rules of improv theater and how these steps can overcome decision paralysis caused by overwhelming uncertainty. We will also discuss how emotional intelligence provides insight into leading your team in uncertain times.

*Our speaker, Kenneth Lamb is the Faculty Director of the Student Innovation Idea Labs, and the Faculty Lead for the College of Engineering Leadership Program at Cal Poly Pomona. Kenneth's engineering professional background is in water resources where he observed that too many projects failed due to poor leadership and not poor engineering or design. During the past 3 years he has been developing leadership learning opportunities for engineering students to help them prepare for the non-technical challenges.*

### REGISTER HERE:

<http://sections.asce.org/sandiego/events>

A link to the event will be sent to attendees by May 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm.

For more information, please contact Trish Pietrzak, Section Manager at 310-995-9800 or [trish@maverickgroupinc.com](mailto:trish@maverickgroupinc.com)

## VIRTUAL

### SPEAKER



KENNETH LAMB  
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# Los Angeles Section

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