

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

ORANGE / SAN\_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN\_LUIS\_OBISPO / SANTA\_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT /  
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

Summer has started and the temperatures are rising. COVID restrictions are lifting and people are getting the opportunity to do more with their friends and family.

We took advantage of spending time outside of our home and enjoying nature recently. My family and I just completed a two-week camping trip throughout California. We rented a little red camper van that made the trip easier and the drive more enjoyable for the kids. We went to Mammoth Lakes, Lake Tahoe, Lake Almanor, Lassen National Park, Redwoods State and National Park, and Santa Rosa. While in the Redwoods, our niece and current Sacramento Section President Megan Leroy joined the family.



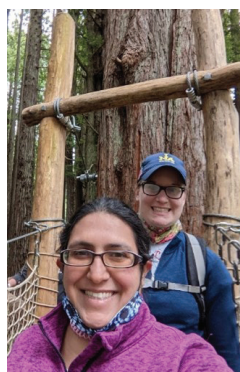
Kirin, Seema, Chandani & Tim  
Redwoods National Park

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Megan Leroy &  
Seema Shah-Fairbank

We had a wonderful time, and are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. As we saw the sites, walked on trails and drove on some of the most beautiful roads I could not help but thank the foresight of our former leaders. The US Congress established the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act in 1872 and President Ulysses S. Grant made Yellowstone the world's 1st national park. President Theodore Roosevelt added enormously to the national forests in the West, reserve lands for public use and fostered great irrigation projects. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson established the National Park Service. During the height of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933 to enlist young unmarried and unemployed men to work on programs to improve America's public lands, forest and parks. There were numerous projects that needed the help of civil engineers which included: bridges, fire lookout towers, service buildings, roads, foot trails, airfields, erosions control, flood control and surveying to name a few.

Without all their efforts we could not be able to show our children the beauty of our country. So, take your friends and family and spend some time enjoying the great outdoors. California has nine national parks, with three (Channel Islands, Death Valley and Joshua Tree) within the LA Section.



Channel Islands National Park



Death Valley National Park

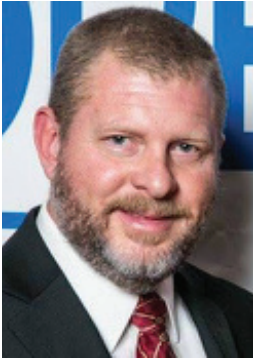


Joshua Tree National Park



# California Legislative Visit Week Event

*by John Kilps, Chair, ASCE Region 9 Government Relations Committee*



The 2021 California Legislative Visit Week event was held May 10-13, 2020. For the first time, ASCE Region 9 joined a group of California engineering societies and associations to host the event together virtually:

- American Public Works Association (APWA) – Region VIII
- Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)
- California Geotechnical Engineering

Association (CALGEO)

- American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – California (Lead Host)

The group holds a shared objective to meet with state legislators and advocate for infrastructure and other industry issues. Representatives of the organizations formed the event committee, and identified state legislative bills being tracked. Talking points for the meetings were developed, and reports and documents to provide for legislators were gathered. The ASCE Report Card for America's Infrastructure was a key report provided.

The event program featured three dynamic keynote speakers who presented on exciting and timely topics:

- David S. Kim, Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency
- Nancy Vogel, Director of the Governor's Water Portfolio Program at the California Natural Resources Agency
- Dave Amos, PhD, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and of the City Beautiful YouTube Channel

California engineers and public works professionals gathered for the event to meet with state legislators. The meetings provided opportunity to inform legislators of awards and scholarship programs offered by the organizations. In one meeting, Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes (CA-60) said she would help promote scholarship programs at her alma mater, UC Riverside. A total of 111 meetings were held with state legislators or their staff, out of a total 120 possible. That is a significant impact!

Looking ahead to next year, plans are to again hold the event jointly with the other organizations, with a possibility of more organizations joining the effort. And next year the event will be held in-person in Sacramento. Contact me via [john.kilps@gmail.com](mailto:john.kilps@gmail.com) to get more information about participating next year.



## ASCE-UCLA Lifelines 2021-22 Conference Date Change Announcement

The Lifelines 2021- 2022 conference commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake and held on the UCLA campus has been moved earlier by one week to avoid conflicting with the revised scheduling of the National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl hosted in Los Angeles. Due to extreme compression within the LA market from the Super Bowl and pre-game events now taking place during the same week as the originally planned conference (February 7 to 11, 2022) we have changed dates to help the attendees with their costs, accommodation options and air travel planning. The conference timetable is now:

- January 31, 2022: Pre-conference workshops

- February 1-3, 2022: Main Conference Program
- February 4, 2022: Post-conference workshops and tours

**Please mark your calendars for January 31, 2022 to February 4, 2022 to attend the Lifelines 2021-22 conference at the UCLA Campus.** For more information please visit the conference website <https://samueli.ucla.edu/lifelines2021/>.

Conference Co-Chairs,

Craig A. Davis, Ph.D., P.E., G.E., M.ASCE, C A Davis Engineering  
Ertugrul Taciroglu, Ph.D., M.ASCE, Chair, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UCLA

# Region 9 Digital Strategy Initiative

by Rune Storesund, Dr.Eng., P.E., G.E., San Francisco Section Region 9 Governor



ASCE Region 9 (California) is embarking on a new Digital Strategy initiative to streamline the overall member experience for activities within ASCE Region 9, such as local event registrations, professional development tracking, awards nominations, and Section, Branch, Institute, and Group voting. A major component of our future-looking digital approach is a Region 9 database that seamlessly provides integration across the four Region 9 Sections (Los Angeles Section, Sacramento Section, San Diego

Section, and San Francisco Section). The aim of this effort is to reduce the need for multiple data entry and greatly streamline and reduce the administrative burden for our volunteer officers so more time can be spent on member engagement.

Currently, each Section, Branch, Institute, and local Group approaches websites and web management as an individual entity. Collectively, we are spending in excess of \$50,000 each year on duplicative services. By consolidating and integrating web services, we can reduce the core expenditures to a fraction of that \$50,000 (say \$5,000 per year), resulting in the availability of \$45,000 each year in member digital enhancement and engagement services.

## Streamlined Dynamic Websites

Website 'front-ends' (a front-end is the web page user interface) will have the option of being connected to the Region 9 database (also known as the 'back-end') to eliminate duplicate data entry, offer real-time updates, and integrated archiving capabilities such as past events, officers, and awards. All Region 9 Section, Branch, Institute, and local Groups will be able to leverage website layouts, features, and enhancements from the other Section, Branch, Institute, and Groups within Region 9 and updates will be implemented at the Region level, thus eliminating the need for each Section, Branch, Institute, and local Groups to individually implement the same update locally. This enables a 'divide and conquer' approach where different groups can develop different features resulting in a larger menu of options, rather than each group re-developing the same feature multiple times.

## Events & Event Management

Region 9 will offer an integrated event manager available for use by all Section, Branch, Institute, and local Groups. Events will be grouped by the specific Section, Branch, Institute, and local Groups. Events will have the ability to feature member and non-member pricing as well as online payments (with funds being deposited into the Section, Branch, Institute, and local Group specific account). Upcoming and past events will be featured on each ASCE Region 9 user's profile page. The events will be automatically deployed to social media, calendars, and websites. A consolidated event management system will save thousands of dollars each year, enabling more dedicated investment into enhancing and expanding member engagement and younger member recruitment each year.

## File Storage & File Archiving

ASCE qualifies for Google for Non-Profit. We will be leveraging this resource to establish an organizational "Google Drive" profile

for each of the four Region 9 Sections (Los Angeles Section, Sacramento Section, San Diego Section, and San Francisco Section). Google Groups will be leveraged to manage access to the various organizational repositories from a Region and Section Google Group management dashboard.

Unlike personal google drive folder, organizational repositories contain files that ultimately belong to the organization. This eliminates the concern about files contributed to personal folders becoming unavailable if an individual is no longer affiliated with ASCE.

## Emails & Notification Preferences

Members will have the ability to customize, via their own individual user preferences page, which email lists they belong to and the frequency at which email notifications are received.

## Awards Nominations and Submissions

Annual awards are a major element of the Branch, Section, and Region activities. Recognizing projects, individuals, and organizations for their contributions to the built environment are an important recurring activity. The new system will enable individuals to start, incrementally populate and save, and submit online. All the nomination materials will be packaged and associated with the individual member's profile. One will also be able to see past submitted applications as well as upcoming deadlines.

## ASCE Region 9 Sections, Branches, and Groups Voting

Another feature will be a secure voting system accessible to all Region 9 Sections, Branches, and Groups. This voting system will be centralized, so one consistent platform will be used and a consolidated 'archive' of past elections will be readily accessible. As mentioned earlier, the successful candidates will be automatically moved onto the roster of incoming leaders and Section/Branch/Group websites will be automatically updated with the new incoming leader information, while automatically archiving the past leadership roster(s).

## ASCE User Profile Page

We will offer a user profile page for all ASCE members affiliated with Region 9. The user profile will be populated with data from ASCE Society database. Additionally, members can upload additional information such as short biographical statements, upload photo, attach resume, etc. The user profile page will also summarize user-specific activities such as events attended, Region 9 email and notification preferences, award nomination applications and submissions, and annual participation reports.

## Annual Participation Member Reports

Through the use of a central database, we will be able to auto-generate a "member participation summary report" for each ASCE Region 9 member that they can submit, for example, to their employer demonstrating their participation and contributions to ASCE. Professional development events and PDHs can be tracked and separately listed on the annual reports.

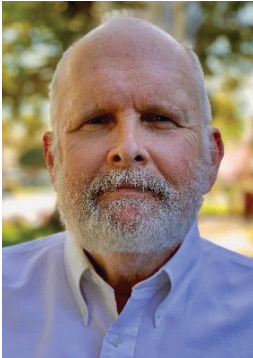
## QUESTIONS??

Please contact Rune Storesund, San Francisco Section Region 9 Governor (rune@storesundconsulting.com) with questions or comments.



# State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



## June 2021 – Budget News

The Legislature and Governor had money in their pockets they wanted to spend. The \$262.6 billion spending plan for the fiscal year that began July 1 was fueled by a \$76 billion state surplus and \$27 billion in federal aid. Democrats who control the Capitol wanted to use the windfall to help the state recover from the coronavirus pandemic and its uneven toll on Californians.

California state lawmakers included nearly 300 member requests in a budget bill they sent in June to Gov. Gavin Newsom, totaling \$1.2 billion in grants for district projects, many of which they began touting to constituents after the vote. Among the asks: \$8 million for a nonprofit dance academy in south Los Angeles, \$5 million for a nonprofit Shakespeare theater company in central Los Angeles, and \$1 million for equipment and a performance center in downtown Sacramento for Capital Public Radio.

What they didn't pay is an estimated \$22 billion Unemployment Insurance (UI) Fund debt, which, according to business leaders, undermines "the long-term integrity of the program and guaranteeing that businesses of every size will be forced to pay higher taxes to pay off the debt."

## State Legislation

### Bonds

AB 75 (O'Donnell - D) Places the Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2022 on the 2022 statewide ballot, to be operative if approved by voters at the election. 6/18/2021-In Committee: Hearing postponed by Committee. ASCE position: **Watch**

SB 22 (Glazer - D) 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, which includes the use of a project labor agreement (PLA). 6/10/2021-Referred to Coms. on ED. and HIGHER ED. ASCE position: **Disfavor**

SB 45 (Portantino - D) This bill would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which authorizes the sale of \$5.595 billion in general obligation bonds, upon approval by voters at the November 2021 statewide general election. Bond funds would be used for projects related to wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection. 6/1/2021-Ordered to inactive file on request of Senator Portantino. ASCE position: **Watch**

### Business Issues

SB 319 (Melendez - R) Requires local agencies that do not comply

with impact fee annual report requirements for three years to include each year they did not comply with these requirements in requested audits. 6/28/2021-Read second time. Ordered to third reading. ASCE position: **Watch**

### CEQA

SB 44 (Allen - D) Establishes expedited administrative and judicial review of environmental review and approvals granted for "environmental leadership transit projects" that meet specified requirements. The bill would exempt PLA projects from skilled and trained workforce mandates, the need to submit certified payroll records, and prohibit the State Labor Commissioner from enforcing the labor code. Requires prevailing wages and apprentices on private projects authorized by the bill. 6/28/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on JUD. ASCE position: **Watch**

### Infrastructure

AB 464 (Mullin - D) expands the types of facilities and projects EIFDs may fund to include the acquisition, construction, or repair of commercial structures of small businesses or facilities in which nonprofit community organizations provide health, youth, homeless, and social services, as specified. The author sponsors this bill. 6/28/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 25, Statutes of 2021. ASCE position: **Support**

AB 1037 (Grayson - D) This bill would require DGS to develop guidance, policies, and procedures for integrating and developing digital construction technologies for use on a civil infrastructure project generated by specified state entities and has a state project cost of greater than \$50,000,000. Applies to:(1) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, DGS, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Caltrans, DWR, HSRA, the Military Department. 6/9/2021-Referred to Com. on G.O. ASCE position: **Watch**

AB 1329 (Nazarian - D) Requires the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) to develop, adopt, and publish building standards requiring that new construction be designed and built to a functional recovery standard for earthquakes. 6/30/2021-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend and re-refer to Committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on HOUSING. ASCE position: **Support**

SB 83 (Allen - D) This bill would establish the Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Program through the collaboration primarily of the Coastal Conservancy and the IBank. 6/29/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **Watch**

### Practice

AB 1010 (Berman - D) Require architects to complete five hours of continuing education training on zero net carbon design for every two-year licensing period 6/22/2021-Read second time. Ordered to third reading. ASCE position: **Watch**

SB 414 (Jones - R) Senate Bill 414 extends the time a local agency has to hear an appeal to 45 days after an appellant files a request and makes conforming changes. SB 414 also creates a different



definition of “cadastral surveying” to mean a survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces, or reestablishes the boundaries and subdivisions of the public land of the United States, or any other field survey of a cadaster that is a public record, survey, or map of the extent and ownership of land. 6/22/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on L. GOV. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 19. Noes 0.) (June 22). Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV. ASCE position: **Favor**

### Transportation

AB 43 (Friedman - D) Grants Caltrans and local authorities greater flexibility in setting speed limits based on recommendations the Zero Traffic Fatality Task Force made in January 2020. 6/25/2021-From committee chair, with author’s amendments: Amend and re-refer to Committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on TRANS. ASCE position: **Watch**

AB 1035 (Salas - D) This bill 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. 6/28/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **OUA**

AB 1147 (Friedman - D) Requires each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to submit a 2035 target action plan by July 1, 2023, to identify barriers in meeting regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and establishes the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Block Grant Program. 6/10/2021-From committee chair, with author’s amendments: Amend and re-refer to Committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on E.Q. ASCE position: **Watch**

AB 1499 (Daly - D) This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and regional transportation agencies (RTPAs) to use the design-build procurement method for transportation projects in California until 2034. 6/24/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (June 24). Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **Support**

SB 339 (Wiener - D) SB 339 extends the California Road Charge Pilot Program from 2023 until 2027. This extension will allow the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to continue their study of the viability of a road charge or a fee based on road usage to replace the current gas tax. 6/22/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 4.) (June 21). Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **Support**

SB 640 (Becker - D) This bill authorizes local governments to sponsor local streets and road projects jointly funded by the Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1, Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017). 6/30/2021-From Committee: Do pass. Ordered to consent calendar. (Ayes 14. Noes 0.) (June 30). ASCE position: **Support**

SB 671 (Gonzalez - D) This bill requires the CTC, in coordination with other state agencies, to develop a Clean Freight Corridor Efficiency Assessment and incorporate the recommendations into

their respective programs for freight infrastructure; and codifies existing CTC guidelines for eligible projects for the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP). 6/22/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on NAT. RES. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (June 21). Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES. ASCE position: **Watch**

SB 674 (Durazo - D) This bill creates the California Jobs Plan (CAJP) Act of 2021, which requires private entities bidding on covered transportation-related contracts over \$10 million, excluding contracts for road, bridge, or highway construction, to include as part of their application a CAJP form stating information about jobs created and retained. It specifies that the CAJP is scored as part of the overall application and included in the awarded contract as a material term. 6/23/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on TRANS. (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (June 22). Re-referred to Com. on TRANS. ASCE position: **Watch**

### Water

AB 754 (Mathis - R) Allows the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to extend the deadline to submit a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by up to 180 days for an agency developing a GSP for a medium- or high-priority basin. 6/16/2021-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W. ASCE position: **Watch**

AB 1195 (Garcia, Cristina - D) Creates the Southern Los Angeles County Human Right to Water Collaboration Act. Requires the State Water Board to appoint a Commissioner to implement the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program in southern Los Angeles County. 6/17/2021-In Committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of the author. ASCE position: **Disfavor**

SB 222 (Dodd - D) Would establish the Water Rate Assistance Program, with an unknown source of funding, administered by the Community Services Development Department (CSD) in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board, to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income ratepayers. 6/30/2021-VOTE: Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the Committee on [Appropriations] (PASS) ASCE position: **Watch**

SB 273 (Hertzberg - D) Authorizes a municipal wastewater agency to acquire, construct, expand, operate, maintain, and provide facilities to manage stormwater and dry weather runoff. 6/30/2021-Coauthors revised. From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 9. Noes 0.) (June 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **Favor**

SB 403 (Gonzalez - D) Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to order consolidation between a receiving water system and an at-risk water system under specified circumstances 6/16/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on L. GOV. (Ayes 6. Noes 3.) (June 16). Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV. ASCE position: **Watch**

SB 552 (Hertzberg - D) Imposes drought and water shortage contingency planning requirements on state small water systems, counties, and specified state agencies. 6/21/2021-Read second

time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV. ASCE position: **Support**

SB 559 (Hurtado - D) This bill would authorize state funding to help restore the capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Field Division of the California Aqueduct, and the San Joaquin Division of the California Aqueduct. 6/14/2021-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on W.,P., & W. ASCE position: **Support**

### Federal Legislation

The American Rescue Plan allocates \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency.

The Treasury Department urges applicants (states, counties, cities, tribal governments, territories, and non-entitlement local government units) to use project labor agreements on federally assisted water, sewer, and broadband projects.

From the Interim Final Rule: "It is important that necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure be carried out in ways that produce high-quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. Treasury encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects but also to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Using these practices in construction projects may help to ensure a reliable supply of skilled labor that would minimize disruptions, such as those associated with labor disputes or workplace injuries. To provide public transparency on whether projects are using practices that promote on-time and on-budget delivery, Treasury will seek information from recipients on their workforce plans and practices related to water, sewer, and broadband projects undertaken with Fiscal Recovery Funds. Treasury will provide additional guidance and instructions on the reporting requirements at a later date.

You can read more here <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

### Reports of Interest

The California Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration has released data on cannabis sales for the first quarter of 2021, finds "as of May 18, 2021, California's cannabis excise tax generated \$131.9 million in revenue," "the cultivation tax generated \$30.7 million" and "sales tax from cannabis businesses totaled \$82.4 million in revenue;" reports "since January 2018, total program revenue to date is \$2.38 billion, which includes \$1.2 billion in cannabis excise tax, \$298.4 million in cultivation tax and \$882.7 million in sales tax."

The California Energy Commission has released its inaugural "Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment," finds that the state will need "nearly 1.2 million public and shared chargers by 2030 to meet the fueling demands of the 7.5 million passenger plug-in electric vehicles anticipated to be on California roads," also finds "157,000 Los Angeles Section *Monthly*: JUL-AUG 2021

chargers will be required by 2030 to support 180,000 medium- and heavy-duty electric trucks and buses also anticipated," notes that "more than 73,000 public and shared chargers have been installed to date, with additional 123,000 planned by 2025" which "falls short of the state's goal of 250,000 chargers."

UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment releases "Envisioning Offshore Wind for California," finds "California's coast has 112 gigawatts of technical offshore-wind potential, equivalent to nearly 1.5 times total statewide annual electricity consumption," however most of the potential sites are in water that is 1000-1300 meters deep, as compared to operational sites off the Atlantic coast that are in water less than 60 meters deep; also finds that developing proposed sites off Morro Bay and Humboldt County under current conditions would require using newer floating platforms and costly subsea cables that would run from Morro Bay to Los Angeles or Long Beach and from Humboldt to San Francisco.

### Appointments of Interest by the Governor

As Assistant Secretary for Equity and Environmental Justice at the California Natural Resources Agency: **Moises Moreno-Rivera**, Sacramento, assistant tribal liaison for the State Water Resources Control Board since 2019.

Reappointed general counsel at the Department of Fish and Wildlife: **Wendy Bogdan**, Sacramento, has held the position since 2015.

Reappointed executive officer for the Office of Public School Construction at the Department of General Services: **Lisa Silverman**, Pilot Hill, has held the position since 2012.

As Chief Counsel at the California Department of Water Resources: **Thomas Gibson**, West Sacramento, assistant chief counsel at California Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2020.

As Chief Engineer of Strategic Delivery at the High-Speed Rail Authority: **Christine Inouye**, Sacramento, director of engineering since 2019. Salary: \$194,412.

As Director of Engineering at the High-Speed Rail Authority: **Brian Sutliff**, Woodland, deputy director of engineering and assistant vice president at WSP USA since 2017.

To State Water Resources Control Board: **Nichole Morgan**, Sacramento, assistant deputy director of financial assistance since 2019.

Reappointed to the California Commission on Disability Access: **M. Scott Lillibridge**, Rocklin, assistant vice president at RICK Engineering Company since 2016.

As chief of staff and policy advisor to chair of California Air Resources Board: **Jamie Callahan**, Sacramento, deputy cabinet secretary in the Office of the Governor since 2019.

As senior advisor on environmental equity for the California Air Resources Board: **Daniela Simunovic**, Los Angeles, senior policy director for Better World Group since 2019.

# Region 9 Aligned Elections Initiative

by Rune Storesund, Dr.Eng., P.E., G.E., San Francisco Section Region 9 Governor



ASCE Region 9 (California), which consists of the Los Angeles Section, the Sacramento Section, the San Diego Section, and the San Francisco Section and has over 17,000 ASCE members, is coordinating to align Section and Branch elections with the Society election and voting, which occurs in May each year.

The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the individual ASCE member experience by streamlining the current 'voting' season, which spans May to end of September, into one consolidated period of time for both Society-wide as well as local branches/groups. ASCE members would have one voting period for both Society and local election matters.

Informal polling during San Francisco Section's "Get Out and Vote" campaign in May 2020 found overwhelming support from members to consolidate the disparate array of voting seasons into one. Informal polling of the local branches/groups within the San Francisco Section also found great support, with the caveat that some organizational/procedural changes would be required to restructure current calendars to achieve the consolidated ASCE 'voting' season. The polling also found that members were far more likely to vote for items of local interest rather than at the Society level. Thus, engaging members for local elections is anticipated to increase member participation at both the local and Society levels.

The benefits for this coordination include the following:

- **Consolidate the 'voting season' to just one month (May).**

Currently, different Sections and Branches have elections and associated voting anytime between May and October. This can make it confusing and cumbersome for ASCE members to track what vote takes place when and for which group. Consolidating the 'voting season' into one month that includes all the various ASCE entities (Society, Sections, Branches, etc.) will eliminate this confusion and simplify individual member's need to track different voting periods.

- **Streamline leadership recruitment for Section and Branches**

Many Sections and Branches struggle to find volunteers to fill leadership positions on their boards and committees. There are many

reasons for this, but a primary factor is the lack of messaging to the larger membership of openings and opportunities to become engaged. By coordinating the elections across all Sections and Branches/Groups in Region 9, all Region 9 ASCE members would know that local elections occur in May and would have the opportunity to search for any open positions in advance of the May voting regardless of the Section, Branch, Group, etc. We all have busy lives and tracking the specific timing of one group to engage can be challenging, especially for volunteer positions.

An added benefit of a coordinated elections period for the leadership of ASCE Sections and Branches/Groups is having a similar timeline for nominations, ballot preparation, and conducting the elections. This generates an automatic 'support system', where groups with less experienced leadership can leverage the experience and knowledge of more experienced leaders in different groups because the events are happening at the same time. This is a win-win!

- **Increase overall voter turn-out**

Ultimately, the goal with this initiative is to increase overall member engagement. A concerted effort was made in May of 2020 to promote voter turnout at the local level through a "Get Out The Vote" campaign at the local level within San Francisco Section. Due to the size of Region 9 in relation to the overall Society membership, this local encouragement had a measurable effect on voter turnout at the local level and the Region 9 groups (with more than 1,000 members) performed much better than the average voter turnout for others as well as within Society overall, which has a voter turnout typically less than 10% (about 8%).

**Table 1: 2020 Society Voting Participation (Groups with more than 1,000 members)**

Section & Branch Name	Eligible Voters	Voted	Turnout
San Francisco Section-Golden Gate Branch	2116	328	16%
San Diego Section	1010	131	13%
Los Angeles Section-Metro Branch	1735	219	13%
Los Angeles Section-Orange County Branch	1404	178	13%
National Capital Section	1723	148	9%
Illinois Section	1923	140	7%
Texas Section-Houston Branch	1891	127	7%
Boston Society of CE Section	2103	113	5%
NY Metropolitan Section	1372	107	8%
Seattle Section	1365	106	8%
Colorado Section-Denver Branch	1342	105	8%
Texas Section-Dallas Branch	1013	104	10%
Philadelphia Section	1254	95	8%
Georgia Section	1195	85	7%
New Jersey Section-North Jersey Branch	1220	73	6%
Maryland Section	1148	68	6%
New Jersey Section-Central Jersey Branch	1017	65	6%



Regardless, all of these voter turnout numbers are far below what we should be striving for. Voting is one important aspect of membership where individuals have the ability to 'have their voice heard.' We should be self-examining our processes and procedures to ensure we're making voting as accessible as possible to engage members. This coordinated election season initiative aims to do just that.

We have the opportunity to get close to 100% voter participation. Our current participation is on the order of 10%. By coordinating elections at the Society and local levels, the working hypothesis is the local 'energy' will get more members 'to the polls'. We would target a 10% increase in voter turnout per year, with an aim of recurring voter turnout in excess of 70%.

### What's Required?

Most of the work to accomplish this coordination will occur within the ASCE Sections and Branches/Groups. The first order of business is to update the existing Bylaws to ensure that the voting periods are updated and compatible with the coordinated elections season. Once the Bylaws are updated, the Section Bylaws must be submitted to the Governing Documents Committee at the Society level, which typically takes 3-6 months. Region 9 is working with the Governing Documents Committee to review Bylaw updates from all four Sections within Region 9 this fall, thus allowing all groups to be able to coordinate their elections season for 2022.

Branch Bylaws need not be submitted to Society, but typically require review and approval at the Section level.

### What to Look For?

As an ASCE member in Region 9, be on the lookout this winter for solicitations for leadership and/or committee opportunities. Since all Sections, Branches, and local groups will have a coordinated elections schedule, the solicitation and nominating process will be similar. Check with your local Section for open positions and apply so you can be included on the ballot in May.

A typical timeline might look something like this:

- January & February – Sections/Branches/Groups identifying candidates for upcoming elections;
- March & April – Sections/Branches/Groups in establish ballots;
- May – Society and Local Elections

If you're interested in a leadership position, be on the lookout for the May elections season. Region 9 will provide coordinated balloting for all members within Region 9. Upon completing the local ballot, you will be automatically forwarded on to the Society ballot where you can participate and vote for those elements you feel comfortable voting on. In many cases, there is just one candidate and those candidates would greatly appreciate your vote. These candidates represent the individual member, so at the very least, the voting membership has some awareness of who these candidates are and what they do.

### Questions?

Please contact Rune Storesund, San Francisco Section Region 9 Governor ([rune@storesundconsulting.com](mailto:rune@storesundconsulting.com)) with questions or comments.

## California Infrastructure Symposium in Review

*by Daniel Cronquist, 2021 CAIS Chair*



In June, ASCE Region 9 and the Los Angeles Section presented the California Infrastructure Symposium. It was an amazing two-day virtual event with great speakers, presentations, and panel discussions. I hope you were able to join us to catch at least part of the event. Video recordings of the sessions will be available upon request for conference attendees.

We tried something new this year by inaugurating a student competition of senior project teams. If you were not aware, engineering degrees now require a capstone senior project be prepared in groups. Short videos were prepared by the teams to provide an introduction into their work. The winning team

received a plaque for their school. The winning teams this year were from Cal State Chico, Cal Poly Pomona and San Diego State. All of us really enjoyed seeing the hard work these students put in. All the student videos will also be available upon request for conference attendees.

I wanted to give a special thank you our event sponsors: AECOM, ASCE Los Angeles Section, ASCE Sacramento Section, ASCE San Diego Section, ASCE San Francisco Section, Atlas Technical Consultants, Bio Clean, California Baptist University, CW, David Evans and Associates, Inc., Diaz Yourman & Associates, East Bay Municipal Utility District, GHD, Guida Surveying, Inc., HDR, Jacobs, Michael Baker International, Mott MacDonald, NV5, Pacific Advocacy, Q3 Consulting, Rick Engineering Company, T.Y. Line International, V&A, Inc., and Valued Engineering, Inc. Without their generous support, ASCE would not be able to provide such great events as this one.

Lastly, I wanted to provide one last round of applause to our team of volunteers who worked so diligently to prepare for this year's event.

- Clint Isa, PE, Sponsorship Subcommittee Chair
- Jordan Ollanik, Water Track Subcommittee Chair
- Tapas Dutta, PE, F.ASCE, Transportation Subcommittee Chair
- Seema Shah-Fairbanks PE, PhD, M.ASCE, Student Participation Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Mojgan (MJ) Hashemi, PE, M.ASCE, Student Participation Subcommittee Co-Chair
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- Yazdan Emrani, PE, M.ASCE
- Jeff Cooper, PE, M.ASCE
- Richard Markuson
- Kathereen Shinkai, PE, M.ASCE
- Jeff Braun, PE, M.ASCE
- Xavier Irais, PE, M.ASCE
- Fred Blickle, PE, F.ASCE
- Yazmin Arellano, PE, M.ASCE

And a special thanks to our administrators Anne Ettley, Gayle Stewart, and Mimi Luk. Please join us next year in San Francisco for the 2022 California Infrastructure Symposium.

Please reach out to us to see the recordings by contacting [asce@asce-sacto.org](mailto:asce@asce-sacto.org).



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# Los Angeles Section

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