

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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OFFICERS'S MESSAGE

Jeff Braun, P.E., M.ASCE
Los Angeles Section President



President's Message

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the LA Section President for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. We greatly benefited from Dr. Seema Shah-Fairbank's leadership over the past year and I look forward to continue supporting our Board and branch leadership teams as we continue providing great programs, tours, and events for our members. The LA Section is highly respected across ASCE because of the active engagement of our members and leaders over the past several years and I know the new leadership teams are poised to enhance the Section's reputation even more.

The last year was not ideal for me, Seema, or the rest of the Section, or most of the world for that matter, but I was inspired by the innovative ways our Branches, YMF's, Student Chapters, and Technical Institutes engaged members and provided valuable experiences. Similar to many of you, I hope we are able to transition to whatever the "new normal" will be soon, and I look forward to working with the Section and Branch leadership teams to do that in a safe and responsible way.

Thankfully, I have a wonderful Board of Directors to help make our Section the best in ASCE again this year. Past President Dr. Seema C. Shah-Fairbank, President Elect Melissa Barbosa, and VP for Technical Groups Lisette A. Bice are all returning to the Board. The new faces on the board include Treasurer Linda Luu, Secretary Sam Potts, and VP Student Activities Dr. Daniel Jansen. The Board Directors before us established great frameworks for us to build on, and I know this Board will continue the LA Section legacy.

Our Legislative Activities and Sustainability Committee chairs are also returning to help continue their great work. Thank you Jeff Meiter, Trina Lai, and Tonia Wang for your efforts up to this point and for committing to bringing even more value to our members this year. William Lawson will represent our Life Members at the Section level and the Younger Members Forum selected Mohammad Elhocheimi as their Section representative.

I am excited to work with this wonderful team and our Branch's to provide valuable programs for our Section members.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon.



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Outgoing President's Message

by Seema Shah-Fairbank



Welcome to the end of 2020-2021 ASCE fiscal year. This year the section conducted all our business virtually and grateful for the leadership within the section to help support my various endeavors. Though not ideal, Zoom has become our new reality. But our members and officers are resilient and made the most of the year.

As a year-end review, the state of the Los Angeles Section is strong.

- October 2020, we hosted our Annual Awards Banquet and Officer Installation virtually. Though not ideal, we were able to celebrate the achievements of our local engineers and projects throughout the Los Angeles Section.
- Prior to the pandemic the ASCE National Conference was to be held in Anaheim, but national pivoted to a virtual conference to keep our members safe. ASCE members from the Los Angeles Section were well represented at the conference through several virtual presentations.
- To better engage with our members and provide professional development, in November we hosted "Gathering a Leadership

Workshop".

- We hosted a virtual Life Member Forum and had ASCE President Elect Dr. Dennis Truax as our keynote speaker.
- We finalized our strategic plan efforts and the Sections updated constitution and bylaws are under review with Region 9 and Nationals.
- We have improved our overall communication plan with an updated website, regular linked in posts, and weekly emails to our membership.
- May 2021, the Los Angeles Section with the help of OC YMF hosted the 27th Annual Popsicle Bridge Competition virtually.

The coming year we are looking to continue our efforts and excited to help our next LA Section President, Jeff Braun as he starts his term on October 1st. He hosted our annual Leadership Retreat with great attendance from our branches, institutes, YMF and student chapters. I am excited to see what the year has in store.



LA Section Sustainability Volunteers



(L to R) Linda Luu, Paul Lee, Chris Boswell, Tonia Wang, Trina Lai, Zeina Nunnery, Evelyn Mateo

On July 17, 2021, eight members of the ASCE LA Section Sustainability Committee (LASSC) and ASCE Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch (MLAB) Sustainability Committee volunteered at an in-person trash cleanup at the Compton Creek at Del Amo Metro Station from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. The cleanup event was one of many hosted by the Friends of the LA River and their partners to prevent litter from flowing from the LA rivers into the Pacific Ocean. Advance

registration was required in order to limit attendance and follow COVID-19 protocols to social distance. Volunteers were supplied with

kits that contained gloves, trash bags, and LA River maps. The team worked hard to clean up trash located near the bridges and stuck in shrubs at the bottom of the riverbed. The group found it interesting to learn about the habitats that the shrubs and cattails provide for birds and other organisms. Please check out <https://folar.org/cleanup/> for future clean up events and to learn more about Friends of LA River.



LASSC Committee members Paul Lee & Tonia Wang, Patrick Truong

Region 9 Strategic Plan Update

by Mojgan (MJ) Hashemi, P.E., M. ASCE, ASCE Region 9 (California) Governor at Large, Chair, Region 9 Strategic Plan Committee



At its November 19, 2020, meeting, the Region 9 Board formed a committee (Comprised of three Governors: MJ Hashemi, Rune Storesund and Tapas Dutta) to review and provide an update for the Region's Strategic Plan in alignment with the Society's Mission and Goals. The committee met over the next few months and conducted a thorough research on the Society's strategic planning process and ways to best utilize the Society's existing Strategic Plan and documentation to serve the needs of our

membership and profession in California. This report is intended to provide you with an update on this effort to date.

The primary purpose of a strategic plan is to provide a roadmap and direction for the entire organization to successfully accomplish its mission, vision, and purpose. As such, here are the latest ASCE Purpose, Vision and Mission statements:

Purpose:

"Help you matter more and enable you to make a bigger difference."

Vision:

"Civil engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life."

Mission:

"Deliver value to our members, advance civil engineering, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare."

To accomplish the above identified Mission, Vision and Purpose, ASCE's 2021 Strategic Plan has identified the following six Goals along with associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

1. An ever-growing number of people in the civil engineering realm are members of, and engage in, ASCE.
2. Civil Engineers develop and apply innovative, state-of-the-art practices and technologies.
3. All infrastructure is safe, resilient, and sustainable.
4. ASCE advances the educational and professional standards for civil engineers.
5. The public values civil engineers' essential role in society.
6. ASCE excels in strategic and operational effectiveness.

As an example, for Goal 1: "An ever-growing number of people in the civil engineering realm are members of, and engage in, ASCE," there is a Focus Strategy to "Improve member satisfaction among key member segments," and the most relevant KPI for this strategy is identified as "Number of dues paying members," along with two more KPIs dealing with "Member satisfaction" and "Annual member retention rate."

Also related to Goal 1, there are several Ongoing Strategies including areas such as, "Improve student to member transition and younger member retention" and "Encourage and provide greater opportunities for younger member engagement and leadership in ASCE," with most relevant KPIs identified as "Number of Younger Members retaining

membership 4 years after joining ASCE," "Number of Student Members transitioning to professional membership," and "Number of Younger Members in leadership/officer roles at the Board, Institute, Region, Section and Branch levels.

In addition, the other five Goals each have their own Focus Strategy and Ongoing Strategies along with their associated KPIs.

Region 9 Strategic Planning Committee considered the relevance and importance of the above six Strategic Goals and their associated KPIs and concluded that our membership and profession would benefit from all these goals and that we should maintain all six Strategic Goals along with their associated KPIs to measure effectiveness.

At its February 18, 2021, meeting, Region 9 Board approved the framework for its 2020-2021 Local Implementation Plan (the Plan) as a living document in coordination with ASCE 2020-2021 Strategic Plan adopted by the Society's Board of Direction on January 16, 2021, and last updated on May 3, 2021. Here is a link to this Plan: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oTocjUp00AfzTy9Z1gY2SIW1x8PeY6/view?usp=sharing>

The Plan establishes Strategic Priorities that are measurable action items for Region 9 leadership for the immediate term (FY2020-21) and near-future term (FY2021-25). These local priorities are linked to the six ASCE Strategic Goals and are intended to best serve our members, the profession, and the people of California. The immediate term Priorities under consideration include:

Legislative Day in Sacramento, CA Infrastructure Symposium (CAIS), Conducting Monthly Board Meetings, Oversight of R9 Committee meetings, Technical Institute Presentations at CAIS, Annual Multi-Region Leadership Conference, Life Member Forum meeting in each Section, R9 Digital Strategy Guidance Report, R9 Local Implementation Plan updates, Deploy Google for Non-Profit, Governor Visits, Ensure that all student faculty/practitioner positions are filled, Ensure that YMF seat on R9 Board is filled, R9 Annual Awards/Ceremony, Joint meeting with ACEC, Joint meeting with APWA, Joint meeting with BPELSG, Joint meeting with AEC, Streamline R9 Voting, Maintain cash reserve of \$10,000 and Perform annual budget audit.

The near-future term (FY2021-25) Priorities under consideration include:

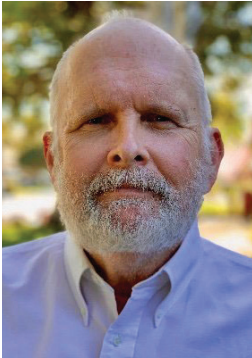
Middle/High school-outreach, R9 Legislative Platform - Writing Legislation, Update R9 CA Infrastructure Report Card, R9 Member Benefit Summary/Statement and R9 Digital Strategy Plan.

The Region 9 Strategic Committee will continue to review the latest updates from the Society, the professional environment and periodically update the Plan to stay consistent with ASCE's Mission, Vision, and Goals. It will also make recommendations to the Board for new strategic initiatives to improve the Board's leadership and effectiveness as deemed appropriate.

If you have recommendations or ideas related to the Region 9 Strategic Plan that you would like the Committee to consider, please let me know. You can reach out to me at Gov.At-large1@asce-r9.org

State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



July/August was Recess Month

The Legislature recessed for their summer break on July 16 and returned on August 16. While the budget (which is composed of "early actions," the budget bill, budget bill junior, and several budget trailer bills, left unfinished were several trailer bills including HSRA funding and Green House Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) allocations.

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. 7/14/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **Watch**

Infrastructure

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 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- 7/6/2021-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) 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. 7/8/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 2.) 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 I-Bank. 7/7/2021-July 7 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file. 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. 7/16/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 106, Statutes of 2021. 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. 7/14/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. 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. 7/15/2021-In Committee: Referred to suspense file. 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. 7/21/2021-In Committee: Hearing postponed by Committee. 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. 7/15/2021-From Committee: Do pass. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 15). 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 studying the viability of a road charge or a fee based on road usage to replace the current gas tax. 7/14/2021-July 14 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file. 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). 7/16/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 108, Statutes of 2021. 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). 7/7/2021-From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (July 7). 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. 7/7/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. ASCE position: **Watch**

Water

SB 222 (Dodd - D) Would establish the Water Rate Assistance Los Angeles Section *Monthly*: SEPT-OCT 2021

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. 7/15/2021-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. 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. 7/8/2021-Read second time. Ordered to third reading. ASCE position: **Favor**

SB 403 (Gonzalez - D) Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to consolidate a receiving water system and an at-risk water system under specified circumstances. 7/14/2021-July 14 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file. 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. 7/5/2021-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. 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. 7/1/2021-Coauthors revised. From Committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) ASCE position: **Support**

Reports of Interest

The California Budget and Policy Center released its analysis of the "nearly final budget agreement," it found that "significant investments in Californians keep state under Gann Limit," which would have required the state to issue taxpayer refunds, highlights \$8.1 billion for the second round of Golden State Stimulus payments, \$300 million to "bolster public health infrastructure at the local level," \$2 billion "in flexible local funding to address homelessness" and \$2.75 billion for Project Homekey "to acquire and rehab hotels and other buildings as housing for individuals experiencing homelessness."

Appointments of Interest by the Governor

As Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, California Natural Resources Agency: **Caroline Thomas Jacobs**, El Cerrito, director of the Wildfire Safety Division at the California Public Utilities Commission since 2019.

To the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission: **Karl Hasz**, Mill Valley, president of Hasz Construction Inc. since 2001.

To California Architects Board: **Tian Feng** (reappointed), Walnut Creek, district architect, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, since 2001; **Ronald A. Jones** (reappointed), Oakland, principal, Hunt Hale Jones Architects, since 1995; **Mitra Kanaani**, San Diego, professor, NewSchool of Architecture and Design, since 1992.

Region 9 Outgoing Governor Observations

by Mojgan (MJ) Hashemi, P.E., M. ASCE, ASCE Region 9 Governor At-Large, from the Los Angeles Section



September 30, 2021, marks the end of ASCE fiscal year and the conclusion of my three years of service as your Governor At-Large from Los Angeles Section. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our members throughout California; and I would like to thank you for your support. When my term started in 2018, I wrote an article in this space about my plans and thoughts as a new Governor. I discussed my intentions of carrying out the objectives of the Board of Governors

and working on programs that benefit Region 9. I also listed a few priorities that I considered important for the Region at the time: improving membership, increasing advocacy efforts, and promoting innovative state-of-the-art technologies and best practices. Here's an update on the status of each of these priorities:

Improving Membership - Region 9 membership is around 19,000 including our student members. As a volunteer organization, we recognize the value of increased membership and active member engagement. In the last few years, one of the most successful membership programs has been the Member-Get-A-Member Program (<https://www.asce.org/mgam>), which offers a \$50 Amazon Gift Card for each new member recruited. Also, in January 2021, Region 9 Membership Committee chaired by Elias Karam, Governor from Sacramento successfully negotiated a partnership program with the California Department of Transportation offering discounted membership to their over 20,000 employees at all ASCE membership grade levels. Region 9 continues to look for other partnership programs with major public and private firms to encourage increased membership and engagement.

Another challenge for our Region has been the transitioning of Student Members to Associate Members. To help with this, the Board has instituted an active Student-Chapter-Visit list covering all 24 California Student Chapters and distributed among the six Regional Governors (one each from Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego Sections and two At-Large Governors.) As one of the At-Large Governors, I personally visited many of the Student Chapters in the Greater Los Angeles Area (right up to the Pandemic in March 2020) and participated in the two Region 9 Student Competitions (in person at San Jose State for the Mid-Pac Competition in 2019 and virtually this year for the Pacific Southwest Competition). These visits offered me invaluable opportunities to engage with our student members and better understand their needs as well as being able to inform them about the vast resources available through ASCE at the Society, Region, Section, Branch, and Younger Member levels to support them in their academic and professional career.

To further improve student and younger member engagement in the 2021 Region 9 Infrastructure Symposium, a new Student

Engagement Committee was formed with Dr. Seema Shah-Fairbank and I as the Co-Chairs. We explored options and decided on two additions to the Symposium line-up. First, we introduced a Senior Project-Capstone Presentation Competition and invited all the 24 Student Chapters in Region 9. The participating schools were asked to have their Capstone teams submit a short video and a summary write up about their project. The winners of the 2021 Senior Project had their videos presented during the Symposium and the top winners were also announced at the Region 9 Awards Banquet. The second addition was a new general session titled, "ASCE's Role in your Career Advancement," and we invited a diverse panel of ASCE members at various stages of their careers. This session was for the benefit of the entire membership with a focus on younger members contemplating career transitions. Both programs were very well received by students, faculty, and Symposium participants. We are currently working to ensure inclusion of similar programs in future Region 9 Infrastructure Symposiums.

Increasing Advocacy Efforts - Region 9 has a strong and effective legislative advocacy history, with our own State Legislative Advocate, Richard Markuson in Sacramento. Our State Fly-Ins, legislative webinars, and local visits with lawmakers continue to be good practices for training our members. We also need to continue the dialogue with our legislators to educate and inform them about the importance of planning and financing infrastructure projects. As a past Chair of the Region's Government Relations Committee, I have organized and participated in several legislative fly-ins, briefings with legislators, member training, and educational sessions to ensure that we stay engaged.

In 2021, Region 9 collaborated with four additional engineering organizations namely, the American Public Works Association, the Structural Engineers Association of California, the California Geotechnical Engineering Association, and the American Council of Engineering Companies by holding a joint virtual Legislative Visit advocating for shared objectives and infrastructure policies. So far, 2021 has brought a lot of attention to infrastructure funding both at the State and Federal levels, and ASCE's grassroots efforts along with the Report Card for America's Infrastructure (released in 2021, and it included California's latest Report Card issued in 2019) have been very impactful.

Promoting Innovative State-of-the-Art Technologies and Best Practices - Region 9's Strategic plan focuses on civil engineers developing and applying innovative state-of-the-art practices and technologies. A solid background in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is the prerequisite for accomplishing this strategic goal. Region 9 supports programs that foster STEM education at the K-12 level. Additionally, a relatively new ASCE student competition called the Blue Sky Innovation Contest offers college students the opportunity to think about and participate in innovation in a forward-looking environment. Another program

promoting innovative infrastructure ideas is the Future World Vision, an interactive experience exploring the built environment of 2070. (<https://www.futureworldvision.org/>)

So, looking back at the last three years, I believe we have accomplished a lot in all the above referenced categories as well as our successful annual Symposium, legislative visits, sound financial status and numerous other initiatives.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the entire leadership team of Region 9 and the supportive staff.

Finally, although I will be stepping down as a Region Governor-At-Large, I will remain active in Region 9 as the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and look forward to my continued service to ASCE to improve our profession. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions, at mjhashemi1@gmail.com

ARTICLE

Outgoing Region Governor's Perspective

by Jeffrey M. Cooper, P.E., ASCE Region 9 Governor from the San Diego Section



This will be my last official communique as the outgoing Region 9 Governor from the San Diego Section. It has been an honor and privilege serving members of ASCE Region 9, and especially the San Diego Section. It has gone by quickly! I walk away with a greater understanding and appreciation of all that ASCE does and what it means to the civil engineering profession. I am proud of the organization and what it stands for. Clearly, as you give to this organization, it gives back

manyfold.

Region 9 has a very strong Board, consisting of Governors representing the four sections of Region 9, which include San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento, as well as two At-Large Governors and a Director. Additionally, serving on the Board are the Presidents of the four sections and Chairs of the various Region 9 committees that provide invaluable updates and input.

I was fortunate to have served in various roles during my tenure on the Region 9 Board, including serving as the Treasurer of the Board over the last 2 years. I will be continuing as the Treasurer for Region 9 for next year. I have served on the California Infrastructure Symposium Committee for three years and was involved mainly in fundraising. I was also appointed to the California Green Bond Market Development Committee representing ASCE.

I am happy to report that we were able to nominate a very good candidate, Patricia McColl, who was recently voted in by the membership and who will be replacing me as the incoming San Diego Section Governor, starting on October 1, 2021. I wish Patricia the best and am confident that she will do a great job.

Region 9 has continued to advocate for infrastructure-related bills that are of interest and value to our membership, and, to that end, the Government Relations Committee (of which I am a member and will continue to be) has continued to do a great job leading this charge. I would like to thank Richard Markuson of Pacific Advocacy

Group, the Region Board's legislative advocate. Richard has done a great job in his legislative liaison work, outreach and reports. One of the great benefits of serving on the Region 9 Board is that you get to meet many ASCE members from across the state. I have especially enjoyed meeting a lot of students and YMF members over these past few years, and I am very excited to see the continued level of enthusiasm and involvement across Region 9. The biggest challenge of the last 2 years has been the pandemic. You can't replace face-to-face meetings, but we have discovered new platforms to communicate that we will continue to utilize for a long time – another tool in our tool box!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors and Board members for their dedicated service, friendship and camaraderie. There are a couple of folks whom I would like to specifically thank – the first being Kwame Agyare, my first Director, for his leadership, especially in the active role he took on the ASCE National Board of Direction policies and initiatives. Next, I would like to thank Director Ken Rosenfield, with whom I have worked with this past year. He is doing a great job, and I am available to assist him as needed going forward. I appreciate his well demonstrated organization and speaking skills. Finally, I would like to thank Anne Ettley, our Region 9 coordinator extraordinaire! She has been great at making sure we are all on task with all things Region 9.

In closing, although my role as Region 9 Governor is ending, my involvement will not. I am looking forward to continuing my service to Region 9 as the Treasurer and to help promote Region 9's message on policy issues, especially in support of the need for continued infrastructure investment. If you would like to help or volunteer with any of our efforts, please feel free to contact me at jeff.cooper@nv5.com.



www.ascelasection.org

New Report on Economic Benefits of Investments in California Infrastructure



For Immediate Release: July 27, 2021

Contact: Kathy Fairbanks (916) 813-1010
Kelsey McCauley (916) 532-0194

Economic Benefits and Supports 700,000 Jobs in California Every Year. It includes a new, searchable database that shows the Economic Benefits of Government Infrastructure Funding for every California County.

Sacramento, CA – A first-of-its-kind report released today finds that upcoming spending on federal, state and local infrastructure will generate nearly \$200 billion in economic activity in California annually over the next decade and will support 700,000 jobs per year.

According to the report, in the next 10 years government investments in California's transportation infrastructure will grow from \$40.4 billion in 2021 to \$52.6 billion in 2030. This equates to a return of \$4.30 in economic activity for every \$1 spent on the transportation system. Every \$1 billion spent supports over 15,000 jobs throughout the economy.

The report uses a series of sophisticated models to quantify both the immediate economic activity from increased highway, street, bridge, and transit program spending levels in California and the longer-term user benefits that accrue from improving the transportation system.

The "Economic Impacts of Highway, Street, Bridge, & Transit Investment in California" is the first to examine the impacts of transportation infrastructure spending on all sectors of the California economy, not just the transportation sector. The release includes the launch of a new, [searchable online database](https://www.catransportationjobs.com/full-county-template-reports/) that breaks down the economic benefits of infrastructure spending in every California county. **County by county breakdowns here:** <https://www.catransportationjobs.com/full-county-template-reports/>.

"There's no question that construction, maintenance and operation of California's highway, street, bridge and transit infrastructure is a major economic driver that benefits every sector of the economy," said **Michael Quigley, executive director, California Alliance for Jobs**. "This is a groundbreaking report that, for the first time, takes all transportation revenue streams into account – local, state, federal – and quantifies the economic benefits of these investments on California and local economies."

"Investments in public transit are investments in equity," said **Michael Pimentel, executive director, California Transit Association**. "Transit improves access to work and life's daily necessities in disadvantaged communities, providing reliable transportation options and increased mobility for seniors, persons with disabilities and those without other alternatives."

"This report underscores how strategic investment in transportation infrastructure creates strong ripple effects in our cities, including an increase in jobs, economic activity, and tax revenues, while at the same time ensuring equitable access to multiple transportation options for all Californians," said **Carolyn Coleman, executive director, League of California Cities**.

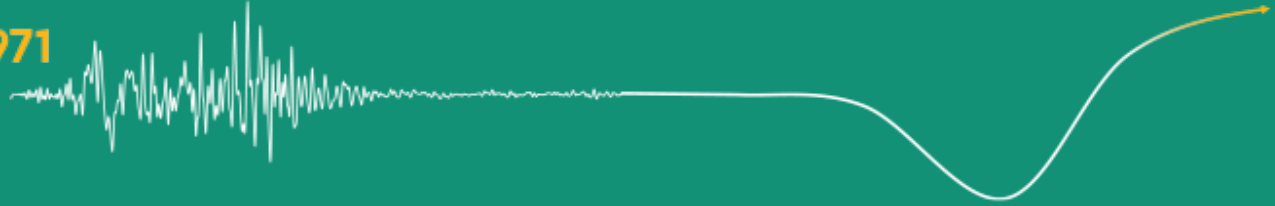
"This report underscores the benefits of maintaining and repairing existing roads. Taking a 'fix-it-first' approach is environmentally and financially sustainable, while also contributing significantly to the local economy," said **Graham Knaus, executive director, California State Association of Counties**.

The research was conducted by Dr. Alison Premo Black, Chief Economist at the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and released by the California Alliance for Jobs (CAJ), California Transit Association, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities). **The newly-created website (<https://www.catransportationjobs.com/>) allows for creation of specific sector reports and more.**



ASCE Lifelines Conference 2021 2022

1971



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

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Copy deadline for the Nov 2021 issue is October 1, 2021; copy deadline for the December 2021 issue is November 1, 2021.

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