

NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING:

Professional Liability Insurance & Risk Management

For our November branch luncheon, we are pleased to have Joan Calnon from the Pasadena office of Dealey, Renton & Associates, insurance brokers specializing in professional liability insurance for engineers and architects. Joan will discuss the current state of professional liability ("errors and omissions") insurance and risk management for our profession, as well as the direction that we are headed. The discussion will draw from her firm's years of experience with claims, dispute resolution, loss prevention and practice management education for design professionals. Topics such as professional services contract language, insurability of contract clauses, "as-built" vs. "record drawings", etc. should be of mutual interest to both public sector and private sector engineers. Mark your calendar and bring your questions to Marie Callendar's in Pismo Beach, Thursday Nov. 16th.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP

On Saturday, October 21, nine members of our local branch, two spouses and a SCE representative cleaned the reach of northbound Highway 101 between Los Osos Valley Road and Madonna Road. There was a significant amount of trash and it was hot, but the volunteer crew was undaunted. They got in there and got the job done. If you drive by, I think you will notice that they did a great job.

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NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING

LOCATION:

Marie Callendar's
2131 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA

DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Nov. 16th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Buffet including cornbread, fountain drink, slice of pie, and choice of: 1) roast turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, 2) pot roast with mashed potatoes or, 3) vegetarian fettuccine alfredo.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, Nov. 10th, at the Branch web site www.ASCESLO.org. For questions, contact Nola Engelskirger at 805-788-2100 or by email at nengelskirger@co.slo.ca.us. The cost is \$15 for members or guests and \$6 for student members.



PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:

Infrastructure Investment

About the same time you are reading this newsletter, millions of California voters will be going to the polls to determine the political futures of several candidates and to decide the pace at which California's infrastructure is improved. Several bond measures were placed on the ballot earlier this year that will provide or assure funding for such critical infrastructure elements as transportation, housing, educational facilities, flood control, water supply and water quality. In addition, the passage of Proposition 90 could severely limit the ability of local governments to use the process of eminent domain to acquire land for improvement projects. Yesterday, you may have received an e-mail from ASCE Government Relations Staff encouraging you to vote yes on Propositions 1A, 1B, 1D, 1E and 84 and to vote no on Proposition 90.

These ballot initiatives coincide with the recent release of the ASCE Infrastructure Report Card for the State of California. The overall grade point average for California's Infrastructure was a C-, based on the grades for the following categories: C- for Aviation; F for Levees and Flood Control; D+ for Parks and Open Space; C+ for Ports; B for Solid Waste; D+ for Transportation; D+ for Urban Runoff; C+ for Wastewater; and C+ for Water. Additional information, including grading criteria, is available on the ASCE website: www.ASCECAReportCard.org. Efforts to create the report card have been in the works for the past few years. The report card is intended to be a tool to educate both the general public and legislators on the importance of infrastructure and the need for proactive involvement (i.e. funding). According to research performed by the ASCE Government Relations Committee, only a very small percentage of legislators came to office with an engineering degree, or even technical training. This provides a context for the media blitz that was orchestrated by ASCE and other sponsoring organizations for the official unveiling of the report card on the steps of the State Capital in September of this year.

In my 20 years of public and private sector work in engineering in this County, I have become familiar (sometimes too familiar...) with the deficiencies of much of our infrastructure on the Central Coast, and have experienced first hand the frustration of trying to communicate the need and to find funding for solutions. I personally feel that it would be advantageous for our local Branch to begin the process of preparing a Report Card for our County, as several other counties in California have done

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MEET THE MEMBER - DAN NUTTER

Dan is this year's SCE president, and he wants to make an impact. "I just feel that to make a difference, especially in the lives of those around you, then you really have to shoot for the highest position you can attain."

Come spring he's hoping to lead his Cal Poly SCE team to another victory in the SCE Pacific Southwest Regional Conference in San Diego - Dan's hometown. He was born and raised there, and came straight to SLO after high school. He got interested in Civil Engineering because of its practicality. That interest, coupled with abilities in math and science, has gotten Dan into his 4th (and final) year of engineering school. He enjoyed internships as a project engineer working on elementary schools, and as a



transportation engineer working on preliminary planning for adding high-occupancy-vehicle lanes onto an existing freeway.

But school's not over for Dan. He's applied to numerous law schools and hopes to practice construction law after getting his PE. He knows that

there is a need for construction lawyers with technical knowledge and practical construction experience. And yes, he does hear a lot of lawyer jokes, especially from his father who is a pilot. Unfortunately, all these lawyer jokes are also pilot jokes (hint: punch line involves gravity) and none are suitable for publication.

Dan got started with SCE through the concrete canoe project and knew it was imperative that he got active with SCE as a leader. He notes all the great activities the SCE organizes such as a backstage tour at Disneyland, the bonfire they hold each year to burn the previous year's seismic design model, and a tour of Hearst Castle (ticket price subsidized by SCE).

We are very pleased to be associated with such an active and enthusiastic leader at Cal Poly SCE. Say "Hi" at our next luncheon and ask him to tell you one of those lawyer jokes that we can't print.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP (CONT)

Teamwork was demonstrated by the two husband and wife teams, **Ed and Donna Sullivan** and **Erin and Reuben Westmoreland**. With no trash pickers, **Don Druse** was inspiring, picking up trash at a rapid rate only using his gloved hands. **Natalie Ergish** and **Betsey Sale** showed camaraderie as they united in the cause, "I'll do it, if you do." **Stephen Chee** maintained a positive outlook during the entire expedition, taking note of all the interesting items we found. **Chris Pratt** showed fearlessness, as he was probably the only student functioning in a positive effort before 9 am after a long night during Homecoming Weekend. **Courtney Howard** showed her dedication by making the longest commute of the group all the way from

Paso Robles to be there that morning. **Sylas Cranor** went the "extra mile" by going to help the other group that was cleaning up the more challenging Prado to Los Osos reach, after his team was already done with the Madonna to Prado reach. Of course, no one would have had enough energy if **Nola Engelskirger** hadn't brought the coffee and giant bagels.

This Branch has a continuing commitment to our Adopt-A-Highway section and they made it possible to fulfill this commitment. It is hard to give up your Saturday morning for community service after working all week, so a big thank you is in order for these dedicated people. If you see any of these people around, give them a pat on the back.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT)

already. Though this may carry some political risk, I see many potential benefits for our County as a whole, including facilitating dialog and cooperation and providing the engineering community with a common tool for communication. (It might be less difficult for elected officials or the general public to appreciate the seriousness of having a 5 psi residual in a water main if the distribution system had been assigned a low letter grade because of it.) This will become even more critical after Tuesday's elections, whichever way the votes go. We will either "hit the ground running" to make sure that the Central Coast gets as much of the bond money as we can possibly qualify for, or we take a few steps back, regroup and start the process of seeking funding over again. I would appreciate feedback on this.

~ Jeff Werst

GIS DAY 2006 - NOVEMBER 15, 2006

Kennedy Library · Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

The San Luis Obispo GIS User Group is putting on this event on the third floor of the Kennedy Library on November 15, 2006 from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

There will be 6 - 10 short presentations on GIS by users, students, faculty and vendors. There will be a map gallery, exhibits, videos and refreshments.

A number of local firms, agencies and consultants will be participating. Please enjoy the afternoon and learn more about GIS!

For more information contact Carol Schuldt, GIS Resources Coordinator, at cschuldt@calpoly.edu or (805) 756-2380, or go to the web-site <http://gisug.calpoly.edu/gisday.html>.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

View More Employment Opportunities at www.ASCESLO.org

ENGINEER I - COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Salary: \$4,511 - \$5,486/month & competitive benefit package.
Filing Deadline: November 17, 2006.

ENGINEER III - COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Salary: \$5,669 - \$6,891/month & competitive benefit package.
Filing Deadline: November 13, 2006.

Perform a wide variety of professional field and office engineering work in the public works field; and do other related work as required. To learn about these opportunities and to apply on-line, please contact the County Personnel Dept. at (805) 781-5958 or go to: www.slocounty.ca.gov/hr.

ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER - CITY OF MORRO BAY

Salary: \$4,221 - \$5,131/month & excellent benefit package (PERS 2.7% @ 55). Under the administrative direction of the Capital Projects Manger the successful candidate will perform professional engineering work for environmental, water, sewer, and other public works projects and programs ensuring technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria; assist in the selection and supervision of consultants; may supervise support staff; and serves as project manager for capital improvement projects as needed. Qualifications: graduation from a 4 year university with a degree in Civil Engineering or closely related field and minimum of 2 years previous professional civil engineering experience or any equivalent combination of education and experience; registration as a Registered Civil Engineer in the State of California; valid California driver's license. To learn more about this opportunity and to obtain an application, please view the official City web-site: www.morro-bay.ca.us or call us at (805) 772-6207. Please send completed application (and resume if so desired) to: City of Morro Bay Personnel Department, 595 Harbor, Morro Bay, CA 93442. Deadline to apply: November 30, 2006.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like posted at no cost, contact Syllas Cranor at 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

The local chapter of the **American Public Works Association** meets every other month on the Wednesday before ASCE. For details, contact Jay Walter at jwalter@slocity.org.

The Central Coast Branch of the **Institute of Transportation Engineers** holds monthly meetings throughout the tri-county area. Contact Richard Marshall at 781-5252 or Rmarshall@co.slo.ca.us for details.

The Central Coast Branch of the **California Land Surveyors Association** usually meets the second Thursday of each month. Contact Rochelle Vierra at 549-3461 or Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov for more information.

Cal Poly's **Society of Civil Engineers (SCE)** welcomes local professionals to its regular meetings held alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 13-118. For further information, contact Greg Ray (gray@pismobeach.org) or Kari Wagner (kariw@WallaceGroup.us).

The Central Coast Chapter of the **International Code Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Margie's Dinner. Contact Sylvia Aldana at 781-4671 for information.

The **American Institute of Architects** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Vista Grande Restaurant (Cal Poly). For information, call Jeff Emrick at 549-8658.

The **Central Coast Geological Society** meets every second Tuesday. For information, contact Lou Blanck at 542-4626.

ASCE BRANCH OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Jeff Werst - County of SLO	781-4480 jwerst@co.slo.ca.us
VICE PRESIDENT	Courtney Howard - County of SLO	781-1016 choward@co.slo.ca.us
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Kari Wagner - Wallace Group	544-4011 kariw@wallacegroup.us
HISTORIAN	Steve Tanaka - Wallace Group	544-4011 stevent@wallacegroup.us
TREASURER	Nola Engelskirger - County of SLO	788-2100 nengelskirger@co.slo.ca.us
SECRETARY	Erin Westmoreland - Cannon Associates	544-7407 erinw@cannonassociates.us
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Syllas Cranor - County of SLO	781-5260 scrantor@co.slo.ca.us
ASSISTANT EDITOR	Malcolm McEwen - Garing Taylor & Associates	489-1321 mmcewen@garingtaylor.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Greg Ray - City of Pismo Beach	773-4656 gray@pismobeach.org
WEB MASTER	Jeff van den Eikhof - Geo-West Land Consultants, Inc.	461-5560 jav@ascoslo.org
PAST-PRESIDENT	Ed Sullivan - Cal Poly, SLO	756-1166 esulliva@calpoly.edu
STUDENT CHAPTER FACULTY ADVISOR	Gregg Fiegel - Cal Poly, SLO	756-1307 gfiegel@calpoly.edu

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www.ASCESLO.org

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