

Newsletter for the San Luis Obispo / Central Coast Branch • February 2007

FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING:

Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project

For our February luncheon, we are pleased to have Jack Walker from Caltrans present on the much-anticipated Highway 46 widening project. Jack is a Senior Transportation Engineer in Caltrans District 6/Central Region and the Design Manager for the project. The purpose of the proposed project is to minimize fatal accidents, improve safety, and reduce congestion on State Route 46 between Paso Robles and Cholame, a critical east-west corridor connecting the Central Coast and Central Valley areas of California. The project limits are from Airport Road, just east of Paso Robles, to the eastern most junction of State Routes 46 and 41, commonly known as the "Wye", a distance of approximately 24.1 miles.

The presentation will provide a general review of the proposed conversion of State Route 46 from a two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane, access controlled, divided expressway. It will review public and environmental needs and requirements, the proposed design alignment alternatives evaluated, the status of the current selected alternative, including expected project phasing and funding. Make sure to mark your calendar and join us at Marie Callender's in Pismo Beach for this timely presentation.

FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING

LOCATION:

Marie Callender's
2131 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA

DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Feb. 15th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Buffet including cornbread, fountain drink, slice of pie, and choice of: 1) lemon chicken with rice pilaf, 2) fresh lemon-pepper salmon with rice pilaf or, 3) vegetarian fettuccine alfredo.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, Feb. 9th, 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:

Awards and Scholarships

This month, I would like to highlight some recent statewide recognition our County has received and also put in a plug for local recognition our Branch is looking forward to giving.

On January 8, 2007, Jennifer Epp, the ASCE Region 9 Awards Committee Chair, informed the SLO County Public Works Department that the Lopez Dam Seismic Remediation Project had been selected as the Region 9 Geotechnical Project of the Year. The newly formed Region 9 includes the entire state of California and consists of 17,000 members in four sections: Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. The Lopez Dam project had previously received the SLO Branch's Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award at the December 2005 Branch Meeting, and went on to be selected as the L.A. Section's Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project for 2006. According to Jennifer Epp, the Lopez project competed with 26 other projects nominated for 6 categories of Region 9 awards, and each of the 26 projects had already received an award at the Section level. This award is an honor for both our County and the SLO Branch. The award will be given at a special luncheon during the Region 9 Infrastructure Symposium which is being held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento on February 5.

With regard to local recognition, our Branch is pleased to be in a position to build on our scholarship program which was inaugurated last year. The scholarship will again be awarded this May at our combined luncheon meeting of the SLO Branch and student chapter of ASCE, the Cal Poly Society of Civil Engineers (SCE). To be eligible for the scholarship, candidates must be an active member of SCE at Cal Poly and an ASCE student member at the time of application and award, have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5, have completed at least one year as a full-time student at Cal Poly and be declared as a Civil or Environmental Engineering major. As was the case last year, the application submittal and judging criteria have been developed to help level the playing field somewhat by weighing GPA against other items such as resume, letter of recommendation and essay, with consideration given to SCE participation and community involvement. Last year, we were able to award scholarships to two worthy students from an outstanding group of applicants.

This year, the Branch officers are looking to build on the success of last year's program by soliciting contributions from local individuals and engineering firms to increase the

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www.ASCESLO.org

(Continued on page 2)

MEET THE MEMBER - KATIE GRIMM**NEW NEW NEW**

This month's member is a new member, a new employee, and works for a firm new to the county.

Katie Grimm is an assistant Engineer with Rick Engineering Company in their new office on Tank Farm Road. She's a recent Cal Poly graduate and was active in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) there. Growing up in the Fresno area she was attracted to engineering through her interest in math and science courses in high school and college.

She values her connection to ASCE because "once you've left school the



Society provides an important opportunity to connect to other people in the profession."

Before taking her present position she worked for CalTrans as an engineer and as a student intern, and

also for Lars Anderson & Associates of Fresno. She joined Rick Engineering in December, 2006, and is working on a road widening project in Calaveras County as well as a small drive-through coffee shop in Atascadero. Rick Engineering Company was founded in 1955 and is a multi-disciplined planning, design and engineering firm. The San Luis Obispo office, which opened last August, is one of seven offices in California and Arizona.

She enjoys mountain biking, and has been traversing the County's numerous trails for 2 years. She claims to be very much an amateur, and has the scars to prove it. "I wouldn't say I conquered the trails, but rather they conquered me." Madonna Mountain (Cerro San Luis) is one of her favorite rides.

She's happy to be a part of ASCE and looks forward to build off the shared interests of the local civil engineering community.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Saturday, February 24, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

This Branch has a continuing commitment to our Adopt-a-Highway section on US 101, northbound between Los Osos Valley Road and Madonna Road. An expedition to clean our highway (the shoulder, actually) is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, Feb. 24. All members, adult friends, and adult hangers-on are welcome.

If you are new to the cleanup, you must attend a training session prior to the work. The training starts at 8:15 AM in the Public Works conference room in the County Government Center, 1035 Palm Street. Enter via the entrance on Palm Street near Osos Street (across the street from the city/county library).

Following training, we will assemble at the SLO City Maintenance yard, on Prado Road near US 101, to begin the actual cleanup at 9:00 AM.

If you would like to participate, please contact Courtney Howard at choward@co.slo.ca.us.

If the weather that day is horrible, the cleanup will be postponed.

ATTENTION ASCE ADVERTISERS!

Advertising in the monthly newsletter and on our web site provides you with valuable recognition in the local civil engineering community. Advertising in the Branch Newsletter is on a calendar year basis. It is time to renew (or begin) your newsletter advertisement for 2007. The fee to place a business card ad is \$100 per year. For returning advertisers, payment must be received by March 1, 2007 to continue your participation in the program. If you would like to advertise this year, please provide a check for \$100 made payable to ASCE Central Coast Branch and mail to:

Sylas S Cranor,
ASCE Newsletter Editor
868 Islay Street
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If you already advertise with us, please take this opportunity to review your current ad to make sure everything is up to date. If you would like to change your advertisement or are a new advertiser, please email a machine-readable file (.JPG, .GIF, .TIF, or similar format) or a camera-ready copy of the new advertisement exactly as you would like it to appear (files via email attachment are preferred).

If you have any questions regarding advertising in the Branch Newsletter, please feel free to contact Sylas Cranor at (805) 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

Once again, thank you for your support.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT)

amount of scholarship funding available. If you or your firm would be interested in making a tax-deductible donation to our scholarship fund, please contact Kari Wagner, our Branch President-Elect, in care of the Wallace Group at (805) 544-4011. In order for us to make final preparations for the scholarship, donations will need to be received by February 23.

~ Jeff Werst

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Last year, the ASCE – San Luis Obispo Chapter initiated an Annual Scholarship Program to recognize outstanding, accomplished SCE students. Last spring, the branch awarded two \$1,500 scholarships to SCE students who portrayed excellent leadership qualities and other desired attributes in various aspects of school and in the community.

This year, the ASCE – SLO branch has dedicated funds to continue this scholarship program. However, we need the support of our local engineering community to help award scholarships to more students. A donation, made by an individual or a company, would be greatly appreciated by our local ASCE and SCE chapters. Please assist us by making a tax-deductible donation to our scholarship fund by February 23, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Wagner at (805) 544-4011.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

View More Employment Opportunities at www.ASCESLO.org

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER - CITY OF MORRO BAY

Salary: \$4,937 - \$6,001/month + excellent benefit package (PERS 2.7% @ 55). Under the administrative direction of the Capital Projects Manager the successful candidate will perform professional engineering work for environmental, water, sewer, and other public works projects, and private development proposals and programs ensuring technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria; serve as project manager for capital improvement projects; provide support for the City Engineer including development review engineering support; assist in the selection and supervision of consultants. Qualifications: graduation from a 4 year university with a degree in Civil Engineering or closely related field and minimum of 4 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 City web-site: www.morro-bay.ca.us or call us at (805) 772-6207. Please send completed application to: City of Morro Bay Personnel Department, 595 Harbor, Morro Bay, CA 93442. Deadline: Open until filled with a review of applications to begin February 26, 2007.

CIVIL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATE I/II/III - CITY OF LOMPOC

Two full time positions available, one in capital improvement project (CIP) design/construction, and one in development review. Potential hire at any level, depending on qualifications. Salary: \$4,073 - \$4,951 per month through \$4,788 - \$5,820 per month. Open until filled, apply immediately. For detailed job bulletin visit the website at www.cityoflompop.com or call for application packet at (805) 875-8208.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like posted at no cost, contact Syllas Cranor at 781-5260 or at scranor@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.

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