

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

MARCH 2007 MEETING:
Paso Robles Sewer Master Plan

For our March branch luncheon, we are pleased to have Joshua Reynolds, from the San Luis Obispo office of Boyle Engineering, provide a brief summary of Boyle's update to the Sewer Master Plan for the City of Paso Robles.

The City of Paso Robles is currently updating their Sewer and Water Master Plans as a response to their General Plan update completed in 2003. The City provides sewer service to the residents of Paso Robles, a portion of Templeton Community Services District, and the California Youth Authority Facility; an area of approximately 35 square miles. The extensive system of over 115 miles of sewer mains, 14 sewer lift stations, and 7,800 sewer connections pose unique situations in the development of this project. Josh will provide an overview of master planning challenges, techniques used in analyzing lift stations and gravity sewers, and discuss flow projection methods used in updating the Sewer Master Plan for the City.

Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us on Thursday, March 15th at AJ Spurs restaurant in Grover Beach!

MARCH 2007 MEETING

LOCATION:

AJ Spurs
1760 El Camino Real
Grover Beach, CA

DATE & TIME:

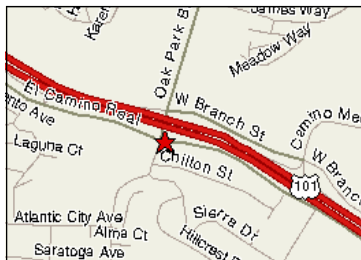
Thursday, Mar. 15th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Food will be your choice of Tip Serlion, BBQ Chicken or Vegetarian Plate and will include a beverage, soup, beans, salsa, salad, rice pilaf, bread and a rootbeer float for desert.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, March 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:
Diablo Canyon Memories

For my first job after graduating from Cal Poly I worked for a major East Coast contractor during construction at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in the early 1980's. Through the years, I have come across numerous people that worked there around the same time and it is often fun to swap stories of common experiences. Those were unique days, with a few thousand workers concentrated in a remote jobsite nestled on a particularly beautiful stretch of coast line rarely seen by outsiders, except perhaps by sport fishermen or whale watchers looking in from offshore. The surreal juxtaposition of scenic beauty and an industrial construction site was further enhanced by the colorful assortment of pipe fitters, welders, ironworkers, electricians, and engineers from around the country working together in close proximity. They referred to themselves and we came to know them as "migrant nuclear workers." In my work as-building pipe supports and later as a field engineer, I dealt regularly with field construction crews, quality control inspectors, quality assurance personnel as well as Bechtel and PG&E engineers. In this interaction, I learned to appreciate and respect the perspectives and challenges faced by each group as we worked together on complicated projects in an often stressful work environment. Adding to the stress were the close quarters, demanding schedules, and 60, 72 and sometimes 84 hour workweeks. Given the environment, it was understandable that frustration would often be expressed in the form of signs or posters in work areas:

Sign at a construction foreman's desk – "There comes a time in the life of every project when the field crew needs to march into the engineer's office, pry the plans from his hands and get the thing built."

Sign at a field engineer's desk – "No one is completely worthless, they can always serve as a bad example."

Poster in the QA/QC office – "When you are surrounded by alligators, it is sometimes difficult to remember that your primary objective was to drain the swamp."

In retrospect, I can see how the time I spent at Diablo Canyon was beneficial preparation for my later experiences working with other engineers, contractors, property owners, regulators, plan checkers, developers, consultants, environmental planners, inspectors,

(Continued on page 2)

Check out the photos taken at recent branch meetings on the SLO Branch website at www.ASCESLO.org/Gallery

MEET THE MEMBER - CARMEN FOJO

Carmen Fojo, Senior Staff Engineer for the Utilities Division of San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works, is a new member of the ASCE SLO Chapter.

She describes herself as an “opportunist” - her engineering career was unplanned. She took the opportunities that presented themselves.

Her first love was chemistry, but when she graduated from San Jose State in 1970 she realized she “couldn’t work in a lab.” Her father then helped her find a job as a junior high school science teacher and she did that for the next 2 years. Teaching, however, was not a good fit.

She knew she didn’t like smog, and she wanted to do something good for the environment, so she jumped at the chance when offered a scholarship to Stanford in a new curriculum – Environmental Engineering. After receiving her MS in 1974 she worked for SRI (Stanford Research Institute) as an environmental analyst, working on evaluating the environmental costs of oil shale, coal mining, and coal gasification.

Being the first woman engineer and environmentalist at SRI was difficult, so she decided engineering was not for her and went back to teaching for a couple of years. While there, a consulting engineer talked her into helping him write a book on landfill gas. She got to like the landfill work better than teaching, and eventually joined LA County Sanitation District where she worked on some of the largest landfills in the world for the next ten years. Seeking out more



challenges, she applied to SLO County as the Solid Waste Division Manager. At that time the County was closing and capping the Los Osos Landfill and this project became Carmen’s – almost permanently. During her years with the County it seemed she was always working on that landfill, no matter what her other projects were.

After a brief stint with the City of Santa Maria’s landfill, she returned to SLO County and was able to convince her manager that her background in chemistry made her better suited for working on water systems. In 1999 she was put in charge of spearheading the Lopez Water Treatment Plant project, which is nearly complete. About a year ago she discontinued all participation with the Los Osos Landfill and is very happy in her current position where she manages multiple capital improvement projects at a time.

She long resisted joining ASCE because the luncheons conflicted with her mid-day exercise routine. However, after attending a few meetings she realized the value of networking, and feels that the contacts she develops within the organization give depth to her professional capabilities.

Visit The ASCE Central Coast Website at www.ASCESLO.org

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

ASCE is committed to providing top quality, state-of-the-practice continuing education to civil engineers and related professionals.

- **Design for Cold Formed Steel Structures ~New!**
March 15-16 ~ Los Angeles
- **Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Structures**
March 15-16 ~ Long Beach
- **Planning, Construction and Risk Management in Tunneling ~Newly Updated!**
March 21-23 ~ San Francisco
- **Financial Management for the Professional Engineer**
March 22-23 ~ San Diego
- **Water Hammer in Transmission and Distribution Systems**
March 22-23 ~ Los Angeles

A complete list of upcoming seminars and detailed descriptions of the seminars (by title) are available on ASCE’s national website at: www.ASCE.org/conted/seminars.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)
surveyors, and the general public. One piece of wisdom from that era that has proven insightful and applicable to my career on the Central Coast came from one of the “migrant nuclear workers,” a grizzled engineer from the deep South, who distilled his years of experience as a veteran of numerous power plant construction projects into the advice he gave me one morning between spoonfuls of Sugar Pops and sips of coffee: “Always treat your coworkers on the jobsite with respect. You never know which one may be your boss on the next jobsite.”

~ Jeff Werst

ASCE SOCIETY AWARDS

A Call For Nominations

The honors program of the ASCE is seeking nominations for awards honoring distinguished civil engineers in an effort to advance the engineering profession through the recognition of exceptionally meritorious achievement. Nominations are being accepted for the following awards in professional development, civic achievement, and humanitarian efforts through April 1, 2007:

- **John I. Parcel - Leif J. Sverdrup Civil Engineering Management Award**
To encourage effective leadership and management skills in the civil engineering profession.
- **Edmund Friedman Professional Recognition Award**
To recognize the importance of professional attainment in the advancement of "the science and profession of engineering."
- **Civil Government Award**
To recognize those members of the engineering profession who have rendered meritorious service in elective or appointive positions in government.
- **Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award**
To recognize outstanding civil engineers in public service and to acknowledge the need to have creative and highly skilled individuals in government functions.

Visit the Honors and Awards portion of the ASCE website (www.asce.org/pressroom/honors) for further information and forms.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

View More Employment Opportunities at www.ASCESLO.org

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

Salary: \$4,073 - \$4,951/ month — \$4,788 - \$5,820/month

Two full time positions available, one in capital improvement project design/construction, and one in development review. Potential hire at any level, depending on qualifications. To learn more, visit www.cityoflompop.com or call (805) 875-8208. Open until filled.

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER - CITY OF MORRO BAY

Salary: \$4,937 - \$6,001/month

Under the administrative direction, 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; assist in the selection and supervision of consultants. To learn more, visit www.morro-bay.ca.us or call (805) 772-6207. Open until filled.

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 - Boyle Engineering	489-1321 mmcewen@boyleengineering.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Greg Ray - City of Pismo Beach	773-4656 gray@pismobeach.org
WEB MASTER	Jeff van den Eikhof - Geo-West Land Consultants	461-5560 jav@aceslo.org
PAST-PRESIDENT	Ed Sullivan - Cal Poly, SLO	756-1166 esullivan@calpoly.edu
STUDENT CHAPTER FACULTY ADVISOR	Gregg Fiegel - Cal Poly, SLO	756-1307 gfiegel@calpoly.edu

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