

DECEMBER 2008 MEETING:  
*The California Building Code*

**TOYS FOR TOTS DONATIONS:**

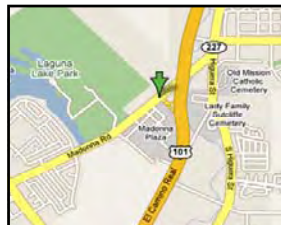
The Branch invites you to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Toys for Tots Foundation. As an incentive to participate, the Branch will offer a \$5 discount on your meal for anyone that donates a toy valued at \$10 or more.

**TOPIC:**

The new 2007 California Building Code became effective on January 1, 2008. The new California Building Code is based on the 2006 International Building Code and it is significantly different than the Uniform Building Code. At this month's meeting, Stephen Hicks, Supervising Plan Reviewer for San Luis Obispo County, will be reviewing the changes to the California Building Code, adopted by reference in Title 19 of the County's building code.

**LOCATION:**

**Madonna Inn**  
100 Madonna Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA



**DATE & TIME:**

Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 pm (Noon)

**MENU:**

Food will be your choice of roast sirloin of beef, boneless chicken breast, or steamed vegetables with rice pilaf. Entrees are served with green salad, homemade dinner rolls, along with coffee, iced tea, or milk. All choices come with a dessert from the bakery.

**RESERVATIONS:**

Seating is not limited. Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Branch web site ([www.asceslo.org](http://www.asceslo.org)). Please attend the luncheon if you sign-up – Madonna will charge the Branch for every seat we reserve, regardless of the actual attendance. If you have specific dietary restrictions or have questions, please contact Tom Zehnder at (805) 544-4011 or by email at [TomZ@wallacegroup.us](mailto:TomZ@wallacegroup.us). The cost is \$20 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:  
*Some Thoughts on Water*

The forecast for 2009 according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: equal chances of a wet year or a dry year. After two below-average rainfall years, most would agree that a rain dance is in order. However, ask a civil engineer and you can get a variety of perspectives. Those in development must consider management of stormwater to maintain the integrity of their structures and their designed uses, and to comply with regulations. Those in flood control must consider management of stormwater through their facilities to protect life and property even when fires and lack of maintenance funding can require those facilities to perform under conditions different from the "design" storm. Those in transportation must consider management of stormwater in order to convey people safely over, around or through it in its varying quantities and phases. While those in water embrace stormwater - collecting and accounting for water in every effective way to ensure human and environment needs can be met in times of abundance and scarcity.

A movement is underway, that has received greater attention in recent years, to integrate the management of water in a way that helps to accomplish the objectives of all the perspectives outlined above. At the State level, it is manifested in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. This program encourages multiple agencies with jurisdiction over common water resources to form a regional water management group (RWMG) to ensure projects and policies are implemented in such a way that integrates water supply, water quality, ecosystem, and flood control benefits. As an incentive, RWMGs that develop Plans meeting State Guidelines are eligible to apply for grants to implement the projects identified in their Plan. (Our region's IRWM Plan is located at [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org), by the way – add your project today!)

A great way to integrate these benefits, which happens to be a strategy often implemented with support from grant funding, is through low impact development, or LID. In addition to flood control through stormwater management, the benefits of LID, when implemented appropriately, range from maintaining or enhancing pre-development recharge to a groundwater basin to ensuring water is of better quality when flowing to aquatic ecosystems to installation of multi-purpose aesthetic development features that are carbon negative. As we are beginning to understand the potential impacts of climate change, implementing LID will become more and more critical as a tool to put stormwater to its most beneficial use and sustain water resources into the future.

Our branch has had the opportunity to learn about LID concepts and projects through luncheon presentations and seminars. Most recently, members attending the branch's annual seminar on December 5<sup>th</sup> learned about the LID Manual being developed to help guide design

## MEET THE MEMBER - RILEY GERBRANDT, P.E., A.M.ASCE

This month we have an opportunity to meet Riley Gerbrandt, who is a Project Engineer at GeoSolutions, Inc. in San Luis Obispo. Riley received his M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a specialization in geotechnical engineering from Cal Poly in December 2006. We sat down to discuss his background and thoughts on the local civil engineering industry.

Riley was born and raised just outside of Santa Cruz in the town of Ben Lomond. Riley was drawn to engineering from a young age as he always enjoyed designing things and figuring things out. He loved Legos as a child and built many extravagant and complex structures. His aptitude in science and math combined naturally with this interest in design. He graduated from the local public high school, San Lorenzo Valley High School (as Valedictorian) in 2001 and moved to San Luis Obispo to attend Cal Poly. Riley is a strong enthusiast of outdoor activities and chose to specialize in geotechnical engineering at Cal Poly with an intent to merge the outdoors with the engineering workplace. So far, he has been pleased with his selection and career path.

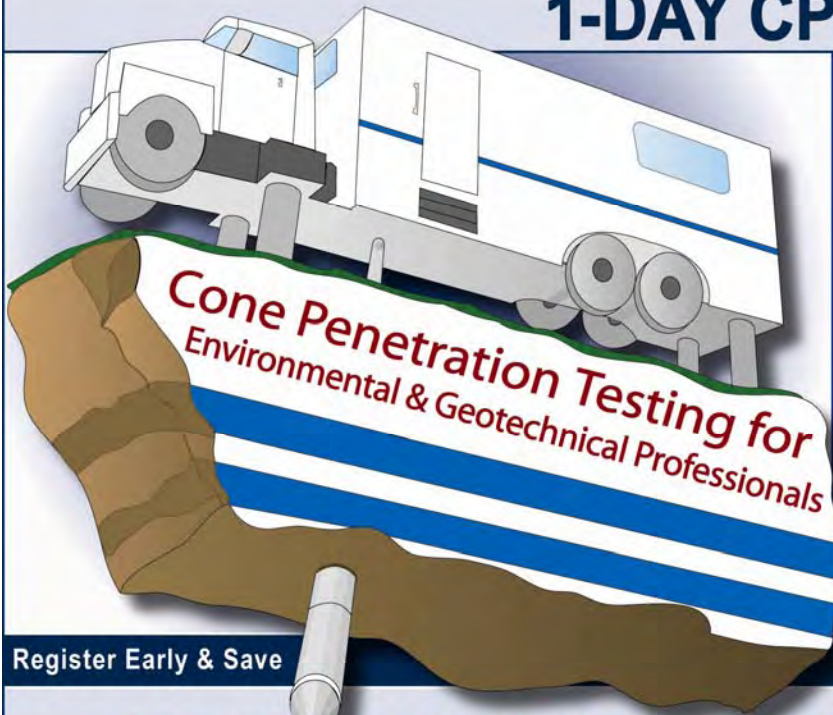
Riley recently passed the PE exam. When asked whether he had any recommendations for exam preparation for the



younger membership, his advice was simple: "Study, study, study!!!!" He mentioned that having good reference books is critical. His boss told him that research shows that those who study 200 hours for the PE pass. Riley did not let his academic accomplishments go to his head (he was second in his graduating class at Cal Poly), and instead studied the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 1-DAY CPT SHORT COURSE



### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:**

Friday - FEBRUARY 27, 2009  
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## MEET RILEY GERBRANDT (CONT.)

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*(Continued from page 2)*

recommended 200 hours, and passed on his first attempt. Congratulations, Riley!

Riley mentioned that the skills that he picked up in college that he draws upon most strongly are critical thinking, math, engineering principles, statics, and writing. He sees that writing skills have helped him the most. Riley noted "geotechnical engineers need to clearly communicate their recommendations to their clients, who range from typical homeowner to skilled craftsman."

Riley's involvement in ASCE has helped him develop business and technical relationships on which he can draw for his client base. He really enjoys meeting and connecting with other professionals at the Branch activities. Riley credits his involvement in ASCE for helping him to better understand how civil engineers, as a whole, provide assistance to the public. These contacts have broadly influenced Riley's perspective for problem solving by diversifying his overall engineering approach.

Riley sees numerous opportunities for the local geotechnical engineering community during these tough economic times including coastal developments and regulatory changes. Riley figures that affluent people will always want to move to the coast, and, therefore, we should have a continual influx of work to help develop coastal properties. Riley also expects that the amount of public works projects will increase in 2009, so the geotechnical community in San Luis Obispo may capitalize on these two types of projects during these leaner times. Another geotechnical-related opportunity is the increase in regulation required by 2007 CBC, specifically materials and soils testing for projects.

Riley was married on September 13, 2008 to his new wife, Serena. The newlyweds are enjoying spending special time together and are busy working on furnishing their home and planting a vegetable garden. This supports their common interests of cooking and healthy living. They are both happily involved at Shoreline Calvary Chapel church in Morro Bay.

Riley is one of these guys with all kinds of energy. He enjoys photography and playing most sports, especially soccer, basketball, volleyball, and rugby. Also, he runs, swims, and cycles regularly. His broader interests include camping, hiking, and traveling. Riley has been to at least 13 foreign countries, and spent a semester abroad in New Zealand (which he loved). Riley, please send the Branch a postcard from one of your upcoming adventures.

~ Jim Hanson

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Visit the ASCE-SLO Website at:  
[www.ASCESLO.org](http://www.ASCESLO.org)

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## Membership Renewal and Information Update

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Fellow ASCE Members, it is that time of year again when we must renew our annual membership with ASCE. As you renew your membership, please take the time to review your personal/employment statistics carefully and update any changes concurrently with your renewal process. Some of you have received letters and emails from me earlier this year, when I notice that certain data should be updated. Most commonly, current employer tops the list as the most common out-of-date information, followed second by outdated email addresses/phone numbers, and member grade status. Thanks for your attention to this, and please let me know how I can assist you with your membership needs.

~ Steven G. Tanaka, PE (Membership Chair)

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## ATTENTION ASCE ADVERTISERS!

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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 2009. The fee to place a business card ad is \$100 per year. For returning advertisers, payment must be received by January 1, 2009 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: Syllas S Cranor, 1310 Marsh Street, SLO, CA 93401

If you have any questions regarding advertising in the Branch Newsletter, please feel free to contact Syllas Cranor.

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## PRESIDENT PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

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*(Continued from page 1)*

professionals in LID implementation, lessons learned in LID implementation, and technical aspects of LID implementation. As we, and hopefully other champions of LID, have learned, LID is not a one-size-fits-all when it comes to implementation. Civil engineers have been handed this challenge, and are diligently working on innovative and effective solutions to the problems associated with achieving the goals of LID.

Perhaps the next application for LID is conversion of existing development where possible. Lack of resources, private property rights, and other challenges come into play with this endeavor. However, the strain on our water resources and environment may begin to outweigh those challenges over time as we search for ways to sustain our quality of life for ourselves and our future generations. Until then, kudos to those civil engineers who "walk the walk" and make conscious efforts to enhance water quality and conserve and reuse water, in all of its forms, where they live.

~ Courtney Howard

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