

DECEMBER 2009 MEETING:  
*ASCE and Government Relations*

**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 \$10 discount on your meal for anyone that donates a toy valued at \$10 or more.

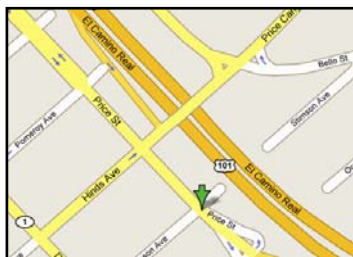
**TOPIC:**

Do you ever have any questions about what is going on in Sacramento? How are the decisions that are being made in Sacramento impacting the civil engineering profession? How can I get more involved with promoting the civil engineering profession and legislative activities? Well, now is your time to find out these questions and many more.

We are pleased to welcome this month, Mr. Richard Markuson from the Pacific Advocacy Group based in Sacramento. Richard is the Chief Lobbyist for Region 9 ASCE. Richard's main focus is keeping ASCE's Region 9 Directors and Government Affairs Committee apprised of the happenings in Sacramento. He will be coming to San Luis Obispo to discuss topics such as the new water bill, the legislative fly-in and other interesting things going on with ASCE and Sacramento. Please join us at Rosa's, for an interactive discussion on the hot topics of Sacramento... and no, we are not talking about Maria Schriver driving and talking on her cell phone. Come prepared to ask questions or just come and listen to what Richard has to say. Either way, it should be an exciting lunch.

**LOCATION:**

**Rosa's Restaurant**  
491 Price Street  
Pismo Beach, CA



**DATE & TIME:**

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 pm (Noon)

**MENU:**

Family style is back and includes: salad, two pasta dishes, fresh baked bread, and dessert.

**RESERVATIONS:**

Please sign up by 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 11, at the Branch web site ([www.asceslo.org](http://www.asceslo.org)). Please attend the luncheon if you sign-up – some restaurants 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 Liz Moody at (805) 704-7912 or by email at [LizM@cannoncorp.us](mailto:LizM@cannoncorp.us). The cost is \$20 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:  
*Adding Value*

Listen, I know that every single one of you is stretched right now. We each wear a multitude of different “hats.” When we choose to spend our lunch time with ASCE, we are consciously making the decision that ASCE is more important than the list of hundreds of other priorities: work, home, other associations, etc... I’m in the same boat.

Our time is limited and valuable. Especially in today’s economy agencies and private firms are removing expenses that do not provide value. That is why when you make the decision to attend the monthly lunch meeting or read the ASCE e-mails, I want to personally make sure you get the biggest bang for the buck—the most value for your time and money spent. But, I need your help to really hone in on what you think is valuable.

One idea that I’ve already set into motion is the meeting format. Those of you who attended last month’s lunch meeting (the Hollister Bridge Project) probably noticed a change from the historical luncheon, presentation, and site-visit format. Historically luncheons that included a site visit typically consumed upwards of two and a half hours. That’s bad enough for you and me, but think of the poor presenter who had to spend even more time preparing the power point presentation.

The modification to the format of last month’s luncheon is one example of our attempt to use our time wisely. For those who didn’t attend, the total meeting lasted approximately 1 ½ hours (approximately the same duration of our normal meetings). It started with a 45-minute lunch/social/announcements, a 10-minute drive to the site, and ended with a 35-minute on-site presentation and Q&A session. I received numerous comments (thank you for your feedback) that the meeting format was awesome. That being said, I hope you’ll be happy to hear we have several more site visit type luncheons planned in the upcoming months.

Another great idea that came from you we set into motion this month by adding a “Project of the Month” article to the newsletter. This was a great idea and provides yet another opportunity to learn about all the interesting project happening around us every day – and right here in our local communities.

But what else can we do to add value to the time and effort you spend with ASCE? I know it is yet another tug on your time, but I value your opinions and suggestions and would love to hear from you. ([jeffs@cannoncorp.us](mailto:jeffs@cannoncorp.us))

~ Jeff Spannbauer

**MEET THE PROJECT - STATE ROUTE 46 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Every month we include an article in the monthly news letter highlighting a local ASCE Member. This month we thought we'd try something a little different and highlight a local engineering project. The State Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project is the project I have chosen to highlight this month.

The Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project is a \$30 Million, 23 mile long project that will upgrade the existing two lane conventional highway into a new four lane divided highway. When completed, it will stretch from the city of Paso Robles to the 41/46 interchange near the City of Cholame. This is a very busy stretch of highway that is one of the main access routes from the Central Valley to the Central Coast. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and reduce congestion.

The design of the project was done in-house by Cal-



trans District 5 Transportation Engineers, as well as the Construction Management. Papich Construction is the Contractor. I spoke with John Luchetta of Caltrans, who is the Project Manager, and asked him if there was any difficulty with receiving funding for this project. John responded saying, "Yes, there is a tremendous amount of competition state-wide for very limited transportation funds." I also asked John about the local community's reaction to the project. "The local community was very supportive of this project.

Efforts were led by the grass roots FIX-46 Committee composed of local citizens, public officials and representatives from SLOCOG and Caltrans," replied John.

The project began in September 2002, and began construction in May 2008. The new highway is to be constructed in several segments over the next 10 to 15 years and is currently in construction at the Union segment. The Union segment begins at Union Road in Paso Robles and extends five miles east to Geneseo Road. The new east bound lanes are now nearing com-

pletion. Once complete, traffic will be diverted onto the new lanes so the existing lanes can then be rebuilt to accommodate the future west bound traffic in mid December. The improvement project is expected to be completed in early fall of 2010.

Like most people who travel this stretch of highway on a regular basis, I can personally appreciate the impact this project will have on the safety of those who travel it. I have personally seen several near miss accidents along this stretch of highway, and I look forward to seeing this project completed. I would like to thank John Luchetta and those with Caltrans for providing me with information on the State Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project. If you would like more information on the State Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project, please visit; <http://safer46.dot.ca.gov/index.html>.

~ Anthony J. Severy

**STRUCTURAL TECHNICAL GROUP**

Indra Ghosh, one of our Branch members, proposed at our Board's December meeting that we start a structural technical group. This group will arrange meetings, seminars, and other activities on structural engineering topics several times a year. Indra was the chairperson of the Structural Technical Group at Columbia Section in Washington State and also at the Central Savannah River Valley Branch, South Carolina. He is willing to help organize the structural technical group at the San Luis Obispo Branch. Our Board of Directors encourages this effort, but Indra is looking for support at large from our membership. If you are interested in joining him organize this group, please contact him at (509) 308-6701 or email him at [ighosh2000@msn.com](mailto:ighosh2000@msn.com).

**MEET STATE LEGISLATORS: *Few Spots Remain***

We invite YOU to participate in the upcoming legislative fly-in, which allows you the chance to speak with local and statewide legislators about ASCE's goals and key interests. What is a "fly-in"? The legislative fly-in consists of training during the Region 8/9 workshop for Section and Branch Leaders, a trip to our state capitol, and face-to-face time with legislators and their staff. If you choose to participate you will:

- Learn how to lobby and effectively influence elected officials
- Network with ASCE members statewide
- Discover tips on how to sustain relationships with legislators
- Hear more about key bills currently active in Congress

Attendance is limited, so respond immediately!

More details will be distributed as soon as the Section provides applications, deadlines, and the fly-in date. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carolyn Berg at (949) 422-3616 or [ckberg2@gmail.com](mailto:ckberg2@gmail.com) immediately.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The San Luis Obispo ASCE Branch is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. This is a huge milestone for our civil engineering community and we want to celebrate it the best way possible...Lets throw a party. We are setting up a 50th Anniversary Committee to help plan and coordinate events for the upcoming year, with a specific emphasis on our Annual Awards Banquet to be held in June. If you are interested in volunteering some time (a little or a lot), we could use your help. Please contact Kari Wagner at (805) 544-4011 or kariw@wallacegroup.us to find out more details. Thank you in advance for making this year for ASCE-SLO Branch a memorable one.

### K-12 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY: SLO High School Career Fair

San Luis Obispo High School is hosting a career fair on DECEMBER 18th, during which ASCE volunteers will speak to students about civil engineering. We encourage any interested ASCE members to join us for a fun-filled day discussing the career we love with students! If you are interested in participating, please contact Carolyn Berg at (949) 422-3616 or ckberg2@gmail.com TODAY!

### CAL POLY STUDENT CHAPTER BLOOD DRIVE

**When:** Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Where:** Cal Poly Campus, in front of Building 13  
**What:** SCE is hosting a blood drive for the local blood bank and is looking for support.  
**Info:** E-mail Roshani Patel for more information or to sign up at rjpatel@calpoly.edu.

### 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 next year. The fee to place a business card ad is \$100 per year. For returning advertisers, payment must be received by January 1st to continue your participation in the program. If you would like to advertise next year, please provide a check for \$100 made payable to ASCE Central Coast Branch and mail to:

Sylas S Cranor  
 ASCE Newsletter Editor  
 1310 Marsh Street  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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

## 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 on the second Wednesday of the month, every other month. For details, contact Jay Walter at jwalter@slocity.org.

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 Kari Wagner (kariw@WallaceGroup.us) or Jeff Spannbaauer (jeffs@cannonassoc.com).

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 or saldana@co.slo.ca.us 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.

**Engineers Without Borders** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Noon. For further information, contact an EWB Officer at ewb.slo@gmail.com.

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

### 2009-10 ASCE-SLO BRANCH OFFICERS

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

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