

MARCH 2010 MEETING: *Willow Road Extension*



TOPIC:

Nipomo's Willow Road Extension Project has been on the books a very long time. There is a map dating back to the late 1950's with an east west line between Hwy 1 and Thompson Avenue labeled "Willow Rd". We are happy to announce that another portion of that line will soon be taking on aspects of an HMA paved road. This project is the extension of Willow Road from Misty Glen Place, crossing Pomeroy Road, to Hetrick Road. Ultimately Willow Road will extend to Thompson Avenue with a tight diamond interchange with Highway 101. Please join us this month at Rosa's Italian Restaurant to hear Dale Ramey (County of San Luis Obispo) present the Willow Road Phase I Extension project which will soon be under construction.

LOCATION:

Rosa's Restaurant
491 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA



DATE & TIME:

Thursday, March 18th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Food served family style, including: salad, two pasta dishes, fresh baked bread, and dessert.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 p.m. Friday, March 12, at the Branch web site (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. The cost is \$20 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE: *Volunteers Needed*

Over the past few years I've had the pleasure of volunteering my time for ASCE activities: SCE practitioner advisor, conferences, meetings, officer activities, etc. It has been a double-edged blessing – pushing myself out of my comfort zone (public speaking, writing articles, sacrificing time) but I've also been rewarded ten times over with professional development and personal satisfaction. To be honest, I joined ASCE to make connections with local engineers, meet potential clients, and to get involved with my local engineering community. It has provided all of that and more... ASCE can provide many opportunities for you as well.

Carolyn Berg heads up our K-12 outreach program and is always looking for volunteers willing to lend a helping hand. Some possible ways to get involved might include: asking your children's teachers if they would be interested in a presentation, being the presenter, coordinate the efforts of the volunteer presenters, etc.

Stacy Moreci and Mario Esola are in the infancy stages of starting up a Structural Technical Group for our local Branch. Anyone who has ever been involved with a startup knows that it takes a lot of time and commitment. If you practice structural engineering and have either thought about getting involved with a group or have been involved in the past and want to get involved again locally, here is an opportunity to jump in at ground zero.

Rob Down is the current President Elect of the ASCE SLO Branch. As I mentioned at last month's meeting, this year we have seen some attrition within our officer group due to employment and economic challenges. There is no doubt that Rob will be on the hunt for willing volunteers to run for office and fill the positions of next year's officers. If you have ever wanted to be an officer, there is no better time than the present.

Kari Wagner is currently heading up the efforts to throw the most magnificent 50-year ASCE anniversary party you have ever seen. I don't want to say too much here and let the cat out of the bag, but there are many ideas planned for this event which means there are many opportunities to get involved.

One thing I do want to tell you about the 50-year anniversary meeting is that it will be our Annual Awards meeting and is currently planned as an evening event some time in May. We typically have our annual meeting (and awards) in June, but we have decided to push it up a month to coordinate with the SCE National Concrete Canoe Competition being hosted by Cal Poly this year. What does this mean for you? It is time to start thinking about which individuals and which projects you (and your companies) want to nominate for awards this year. I'll be sending out much more information about this soon in a separate e-mail. If you want to get involved with this event or are a past president and want to help judge the competition, please contact me.

Thank you,

~ Jeff Spannbauer

MEET THE MEMBER - MARIO ESOLA, PE

This month, I had the opportunity to interview Mario Esola, a local Structural Engineer, who works for John A. Marin & Associates as a Lead Project Engineer.

Mario was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Concord, California. He moved to the Central Coast in 1995 to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for Architectural Engineering. While attending Cal Poly, Mario was an active member and President of The Structural Engineer's Association of California (SEAOC). Some of his favorite classes at Cal Poly were his upper division material design labs for concrete, steel, and wood/masonry. It was these classes that enabled him to put into practice what he learned in his engineering theory classes, along with giving him a good feel for what a career in Structural Engineering was going to entail. Aside from his engineering course work, Mario was also on the Cal Poly Swim Team. He swam for Cal Poly for four years and was Team Captain for two years. It was also while swimming for Cal Poly that Mario met his wife, Christina. Mario graduated from Cal Poly in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Engineering and like me, is among the lucky few who were able to stick around after graduating.

Mario interned with Cannon during his last year at Cal Poly, and continued to work for Cannon until 2007. Since then, Mario now works for John A. Martin & Associates managing Design Development and Construction Document Phases of Structural Engineering projects. Mario also produces three-dimensional dynamic models for large buildings and inter-

YMF CORNER – HAPPY HOUR

LOCAL - Just hours after our March ASCE meeting, you are invited to join us for a drink, delicious fries, and maybe even tri tip (if you feel like gettin' crazy)! It's happy hour at Firestone Grill, conveniently located steps away from Farmer's Market. Students will be unwinding from finals week and professionals will be unwinding from... well, everyday life. Here's a chance to get to know each other a bit, watch sports, and relax.

What? Happy Hour!
Where? Firestone Grill, 1001 Higuera St., SLO
When? Thursday, March 18th, 5:15- 6:15 p.m.

L.A. YMF – Kern River Water Rafting/Camping Trip. Join the L.A. YMF group for a little whitewater fun. It includes two nights of camping, rafting for a half day, inflatable kayaking, meals, and drinks for \$150! What a deal! If you're interested, contact Rocio Duran at rduran129@hotmail.com or (714) 614-0727.

For more information on what happy hour is (you never know, someone might not know yet) or if you have ideas for future events, please contact Carolyn Berg at (949) 422-3616 or ckberg2@gmail.com.



prets the results of those models. One of his favorite projects so far has been the Buena Vista Casino, which is the largest structure he's designed. The Buena Vista Casino is a 145,000 square foot structure that includes a casino, a multi-purpose room, a Blues Lounge, a VIP Wine Lounge, two dining areas with kitchens, and more. This project also utilized 3-D Building Information Modeling for coordination and construction documents. Mario is currently working on investigative and design work, and looks forward to being able to share what he's learned about Structural Engineering with developing Structural Engineers.

Aside from his career, Mario devotes his time towards his family, his church, and the development of the ASCE San Luis Obispo Branch Structural Technical Group (STG). Mario and his wife Christina recently celebrated their 9th wedding anniversary and have two children, Lloyd who's almost 5, and Henry who's almost 2 1/2, along with a cat named Speedo

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2009 REGION 9 AWARDS

On February 9th, 2010, ASCE Region 9 held their annual awards banquet in Sacramento. The awards banquet honors the outstanding people and projects of the year in the State of California. This year the San Luis Obispo ASCE Branch had two award winners. The first winner was Poly Canyon Village, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for Outstanding Sustainable Project of the Year. The Engineer of Record was Cannon. The second winner was Kari Wagner, P.E. of Wallace Group for Practitioner Advisor of the Year. Congratulations to both for a job well done in representing the San Luis Obispo ASCE Branch.

SAVE THE DATE!

ASCE SAN LUIS OBISPO
American Society of Civil Engineers BRANCH

50TH Anniversary

Celebration

Thursday Evening, May 20th

Featuring:

- Projects and People of the Year
- Host CP and the National Competition
- Key Note Speaker and Past Presidents
- Raffle Prizes and more!

6TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

All too often, the state's infrastructure (roads, highways, water systems, sewer systems, etc) is neglected resulting in degradation that results in failure. As engineer's, we are responsible for the health and safety of the public and thus, maintaining our State's infrastructure should be our highest priority. Unfortunately, our State Legislatures don't always understand this fact and don't pull the resources (money) needed to maintain these facilities at an acceptable level. On February 10th, 2010, ASCE held its 6th annual Legislative Fly-In in Sacramento. The purpose of this event is two-fold. The first is to educate the legislatures at the Capitol about ASCE and the importance of infrastructure, help lobby for upcoming legislation such as the Water Bond, and bring local infrastructure issues to the forefront. The second is to educate the ASCE members and bring to light the importance of being active with the State Legislatures on a continuous basis.

Our February meeting was successful on both accounts. The ASCE-SLO Branch sent one representative, Kari Wagner, P.E. of Wallace Group to meet with Senators and Assembly People from both the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo area. Kari is also now participating in the Region 9 Government Affairs Committee and will be co-chairing the committee in the up-coming year. If you have any questions about this committee, its purpose or how to get more involved in voicing your concerns about the state of the infrastructure, please contact Kari at (805) 544-4011.

MEET THE MEMBER (CONT.)

and a dog named Lilly. He is also an active member of First Presbyterian Church in San Luis Obispo, and together with his wife, is a founding member of the Journey Group, a young family fellowship group. Mario has also taken it upon himself to co-chair, along with Stacey Moreci, the start up of a Structural Technical Group through the San Luis Obispo Branch of ASCE.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mario for taking the time to speak with me, and answer all my questions. I was really surprised to hear about all the activities Mario is working on with business and his personal life. For those of you looking for advice from your peers, Mario would like to add, "Live your passion, it will make you a happier person." Thanks again Mario Esola for being this month's Meet the Member.

Shameless Plug for STG...

Are you a local Structural Engineer looking to connect with other Structural Engineer's within our community? Are you looking for fun and informative ways to network and learn

about training opportunities with other Structural Engineers, and feel that ASCE doesn't fit your structural needs? Then look no further, STG has what you need! Your local ASCE Branch, along with Mario Esola, and other local Structural Engineers, has put together a local Structural Technical Group just for you!

STG is currently an ASCE SLO Branch Committee that is exploring the local Structural Engineering community's interest in participating in events intended to advance and serve the Structural Engineering profession within our community. Some of STG's future goals include;

- Lead efforts to strengthen public affairs and promote public involvement.
- Improve the educational process for Structural Engineers.
- Improve the quality of business/professional practices among Structural Engineers.
- Enhance technology and information transfer.
- Lead efforts to write standards and influence codes.

- Enhance the image of Structural Engineering and Structural Engineers.
- Lead efforts to improve communication and cooperation among Structural Engineering organizations nationally and globally.
- Influence research to improve the technical practice of Structural Engineering.
- Serve and advance the art and science of Structural Engineering worldwide.

The STG (via the Structural Engineering Institute, SEI) would also like to provide a forum for research, education, design, testing, manufacturing, construction and operations in the Structural Engineering profession.

This group is open to anyone interested in Structural Engineering or learning more about Structural Engineering. STG is currently planning on meeting every other month, with their next scheduled meeting being in April. For more information, contact Mario Esola at mesola@jamaslo.com, or Stacey Moreci at smoreci@jamaslo.com.

~ Anthony J. Severy

Structural Technical Group (STG) Announcement

The next STG Meeting is scheduled for April. The exact date and location of the meeting has not yet been determined. The STG Leadership committee will meet Tuesday March 9, 2010 to set the date. For more information, contact one of the STG co-chairs, Mario Esola at mesola@jamaslo.com, or Stacey Moreci at smoreci@jamaslo.com.

K-12 OUTREACH: *Bridge Design and Testing*

Please join me in thanking our volunteers who spent time in over 20 local classrooms last month! While volunteers visited classrooms, they announced the annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Contest. Students will design, construct, and test their bridges at Cal Poly. Last year's winner held over 1,000 pounds, so get ready to be impressed by our local youth's innovative designs! This event is in conjunction with the Cal Poly Open House, so grab your tennis shoes, come watch OR volunteer as check-in host or contest judge, experience the exciting load testing, meet the contestants, then head out to see what Cal Poly has pulled together for this year's Open House.



Upcoming Outreach Event:

What? Cal Poly Popsicle Stick Bridge Contest
When? Saturday, April 17, 2010
 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where? Cal Poly, Building 13

Contact Carolyn Berg at (949) 422-3616 or ckberg2@gmail.com if you have some outreach ideas or want to get involved.

K-12 Outreach Week Classroom competition: Build the strongest support system using 5 paper clips and 5 note cards.



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 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 Tuesday 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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