

President's Message

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President's Message

May 3, 2016 was a pretty big day for ACEC. SB 885, the Duty to Defend legislation, was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Though there's still a long road ahead to get to the point where we, as consultants, will not be held financially responsible to defend our clients for issues that are not our responsibility, this key hurdle has been cleared!

I was happy to personally thank Senator Wolk for her support and effort. A huge factor in this success was the Senator's reputation. Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, the Committee Chair, asked probing questions and essentially got the opposition to agree that there is an issue that should be addressed. Senator Jackson's put it in Senator Wolk's hands to further refine the bill to better address some concerns that should not prevent us from achieving our fundamental objective.

Our opposition was formidable. School districts, municipalities, agencies and the building industry lined up and voiced opposition. This parade may have been what triggered Senator Jackson to voice a concern that the bill might negatively impact infrastructure improvements. To that we can vehemently state that ACEC

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Calendar of Events

Meetings are at the Sacramento Hilton unless otherwise noted.
Member Cost: \$35 - Non-Member \$50

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

General Meeting

11:30am—1:30pm

Speaker: Will Wong, City of Modesto, Utility Planning and Projects

<https://acec-ca-sierrachapter-may2016luncheon.eventbrite.com>

Elections for the 2016-2017 Sierra Chapter Officers and Board of Directors will be held during the May Chapter luncheon meeting.

Saturday, June 11, 2016

Summer Social at La Provence in Roseville
5:00pm

No General Meetings in July or August

Wednesday, July 13—15, 2016

Board & Leadership Training (Southern California)

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

General Meeting - Speaker TBD

September 25 - 28, 2016

State Conference & BOD Meeting (Hawaii)

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

National Fall Conference (Colorado)



Harvey Oslick

President

Will Wong, City of Modesto, Utility Planning and Projects—May Meeting Speaker

Provided By: Landon Blake, Secretary/Treasurer



Will Wong joined the City of Modesto in 2001 and currently manages the engineering and capital planning for all water and other utility infrastructure as the Deputy Director of Utility Planning and Projects. He oversees a department of 40 engineering and administrative professionals. Before joining the City of

Modesto, Will worked on various municipal and industrial waste water projects around California as a project manager for Jones Environmental. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from UC Davis.

Joining us as our May meeting speaker, Will's topic will address recent and upcoming utility infrastructure projects in the City of Modesto, including the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Project.

Maryn Pitt, City of Turlock—April Meeting Recap

Provided By: Landon Blake, Secretary/Treasurer



At the March 2016 meeting Maryn Pitt was our guest speaker. Maryn currently serves as the economic development director for the City of Turlock along with several other roles for the City. During her talk Maryn highlighted recent economic development activities in the City, including the development of

industrial and agricultural processing parcels west of Highway 99. She highlighted ways in which Turlock attempts to

facilitate job growth through its policies, including master planning infrastructure where practical, ensuring good coordination and communication between city departments furthering development, and holding free weekly pre-development meetings with developers and land owners.

Maryn emphasized that a key to Turlock's recent success in economic development is viewing city government as a facilitator of projects instead of just a regulator, and focusing on support of businesses that will bring quality jobs to the City.

ACEC-CA, Central California Chapter Events, Modesto, CA

Provided By: Landon Blake, Secretary/Treasurer

On Wednesday, July 13th our guest speaker will be Monica Nino from San Joaquin County. She will be talking to us about the joint effort by San Joaquin County and the City of Stockton to develop Airpark 599 right next to the Stockton Municipal Airport.

This meeting will be hosted at the Hawkins and Associates Engineering office at 436 Mitchell Road in Modesto from 11AM to 1PM. Lunch will be provided. There is no charge to attend the meetings. If you'd like to attend a meeting listed above, or

would like to suggest a speaker or topic for a future meeting, please contact Landon Blake by e-mail at lblake@hawkins-eng.com.

We are also planning a workshop in April entitled "Effective Acquisition of Land Surveying Services for Public Infrastructure Projects". If you'd like to attend or are interested in helping teach the workshop, please reach out to Landon and let him know.

ACEC-CA 2016 Legislative Visit Day Recap

By Marco Palilla, Sierra Chapter Director

On April 5, 2016, the Sierra Chapter joined other chapters from around the state and over 100 members for our 2016 Legislative Visit Day. This is our annual opportunity to meet with our legislators and their staff to explain our views on various issues that impact our industry. In my opinion, this is one of the most important activities for ACEC since it provides direct access to the people that have such impact on our businesses.



Sierra Chapter members Bob Lokteff (foreground) and Steve Greenfield (right side) with Assemblymember Kristen Olsen at the Legislative Reception.

The day kicked off at The Citizens Hotel with an Issues Breakfast that focused on Senate Bill 885 (Duty to Defend), which is being sponsored by Senator Lois Wolk. We then walked over to the Capitol for our morning meetings. At lunch we heard from Senator John Moorlach and ACEC National President Steve Hall. Afternoon meetings went through 4:30 PM after which everyone met up at Chops for the Legislative Reception.

Sierra Chapter members who participated in Legislative Visit Day included: Eddie Kho, Steve Greenfield, Ted Hopkins, Jeff Cox, Kevin Gustorf, Bob Lokteff, Harvey Oslick, Mark Rodgers, Tom Sell, Tony Martin, Landon Blake, Chad Coleman, Ryan Kersting and Marco Palilla. If you missed this years event, be sure to join us in 2017.

President's Message continued

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would not support laws that would make infrastructure delivery more challenging. As this bill moves forward, we should emphasize this point.

Special thanks goes to Roger Ball of Rick Engineering. His passionate plea for justice was truly moving. From Roger's oration, the Committee gained the understanding that consultants were being saddled with legal costs to defend others after the courts found no fault in the consultant's work. Roger deserves an inbox full of grateful e-mails for the extraordinary effort he has put into this cause leading up to and including May 3rd. Thank you, Roger!

Finally, Gene Erbin, ACEC-CA's attorney, did a magnificent job presenting clear arguments and responding to questions. The opposition tried to convince the committee that the issue is about insurance and consultants should simply figure out a way to get insurance. Gene clearly explained that all potential avenues for this option had been exhausted. He did discuss a concept of placing a reasonable limit on the consultant's liability in response to one question. This part of the discussion may not be over.

Also, I thank all of you from Sierra Chapter who showed up to the hearing! The big turnout really helped.



An ACEC-CA Company Profile

Coleman Engineering specializes in water utility engineering. Our professional staff includes engineers and certified Water Treatment Plant Operators who have significant experience designing facilities that are economical to construct and efficient to operate. Our combination of business and technical experience results in an ability to provide outstanding consulting engineering services to private sector clients as well as public sector infrastructure owners.

Coleman Engineering provides planning, design, and construction engineering services exclusively for water projects – drinking water, wastewater, recycled water, storm water, irrigation water, etc. Our experience is specialized and focused making us experts in what we do. In addition to our demonstrated technical skills, our engineers are dedicated to outstanding client service. We accomplish this by maintaining a focus on providing service that makes our Clients jobs easier: easier during design... easier during construction... and easier operations during the life of the facility. Thorough communications and a commitment to understand the business interests of each client make Coleman Engineering a better engineering partner.

Our resume includes engineering services on pump stations, pipelines, storage tanks, and treatment plants for all water utilities.

Learn more about Coleman Engineering at our website at www.coleman-eng.com.



"The Cannery" Storm Drain Pump Station
The New Home Company, Davis, CA



"The Cannery" Agricultural Well
The New Home Company, Davis, CA



4 MG Vineyard Tank and Pump Station
Shea Homes, Brentwood, CA

2015—16 Board of Directors

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