President’s Message

For my last President’s Message, I’ll start by thanking all of the past presidents who provided me with this opportunity and the guidance necessary to do the job. I also want to thank Debbie LoCicero for the great job she does to make the chapter run smoothly and Lisa Thut for being a fantastic newsletter champion. Finally, I’d like to thank Dana Remington for taking over the position so I can go to Hawaii without any Sierra Chapter Presidential responsibilities.

On Thursday, May 19th, I went down to Fresno to attend the San Joaquin Valley Chapter’s Infrastructure Update program. This was a great event with excellent turnout from the public sector, elected officials and consultants. Speakers included representatives from the California Department of Water Resources, Fresno Irrigation District (FID), Caltrans District 6 and Will Kempton, the Executive Director of Transportation California. I think it would be great for the Sierra Chapter to put on a similar event. This could replace a springtime meeting when we have had a hard time with attendance. I guess that means I’m volunteering to help organize it, if next year’s board would like to do an event like it.

(Continued on page 2)
SB 885 Passes Out of the Senate
Provided By: Christian Anger, ACEC-CA Membership Director

ACEC California is pleased to report that Senate Bill 885, our sponsored piece of legislation dealing with "Duty to Defend" reform, is moving forward! SB 885 passed off the Senate Floor on June 1st, with a majority of the senators publicly supporting the design professions. In three short weeks, we anticipate this bill to be voted on by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and we firmly believe that our success in the Senate was the product of chapter grassroots efforts. To everyone who attended Legislative Visit Day, wrote a letter in support, made a phone call, visited a district office and talked to others about this bill, we thank you. There is momentum behind SB 885, and we ask that your grassroots efforts continue. We have three weeks to secure the necessary votes in the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and we will need your help. Please contact Kelly Garman (kgarman@acec-ca.org) for ways to continue SB885 moving forward.

President’s Message continued

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I found the presentation by the Assistant General Manager from FID to be especially interesting. I learned that in the FID service area that farmers don’t pay for the volume of water they use. The reason for this is that the excess water soaks into the ground and becomes groundwater supply. Sometimes, FID asks the farmers to take more water than they need to promote recharge. This situation reminds me that there are a lot of different issues and solutions across the state and we should always beware of one-size-fits-all requirements and inevitable unintended consequences.

As I write this, SB 885 is nearing its vote on the Senate floor. On May 20th, Steve Sanders, Ted Hopkins, Diane Ogden and I visited the offices of Senators Pan, Gaines and Neilsen to indicate our support for the measure. Assuming that it clears the Senate, it could be even harder to get it passed in the Assembly. So, keep an eye out for messages from ACEC-CA about SB 885 and make the time to contact your representative when action is requested.

I hope everyone has a great summer and I am looking forward to seeing you in September when we kick-off 2016-2017 with a Sierra Chapter Engineering Excellence Award program.

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.
Located in Auburn and Tahoe City, California, JK Architecture + Engineering (JKAE) has a 30 year history of offering award-winning design and comprehensive planning services to our clients through expertise driven design and leadership. Our process is based upon a simple approach of IMAGINE + DESIGN + CREATE. We work collaboratively with our clients to capture their vision, identify elegant, sustainable, cost effective solutions and deliver virtually constructed documentation. This client centered and engaging process creates a foundation to transform our client’s vision to reality.

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GET NOTICED IN THE SIERRA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER!

**Would you like to see YOUR FIRM listed in this Newsletter?**

ACEC-CA/Sierra Chapter firms in good standing are invited to submit a company profile for inclusion in this newsletter. **Firms that have not been featured in the last two years are invited to participate again.** Contact Dana Remington, Vice President, for submission details.

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