President’s Message

The start of the Sierra Chapter 2015-2016 term brings with it a new event and new Chapter Board members, but also some continuing issues. First off, we’re starting the term with an exciting new Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards event! We had some great projects nominated for awards and we’re looking forward to celebrating these remarkable accomplishments. Secondly, due to the meeting cancellation in April and some unexpected Board turnover, we’re going to vote on the new Chapter Board at the September meeting, because this was not done in May. The Chapter Awards event is the first of what the new Board hopes will be many interesting events that will entice members to attend.

An issue for the Sierra Chapter is declining participation which we hope to turn around this year with better events and communications. Please help us reduce this trend!

Continuing issues for ACEC-CA include addressing infringement on the ability of municipalities to contract out for engineering services, failure of public agencies to use qualifications based

(Calendar of Events)

Meetings are at the Sacramento Hilton unless otherwise noted.
5:00 - 6:00pm Board Meeting
6:00 - 6:30pm Networking
6:30pm General Member Dinner Meeting
Member Cost: $35 - Non-Member $50

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner
https://wednesdayseptember232015eea.eventbrite.com

September 30, 2015
State EEA Competition Deadline

October 8-9, 2015
State Board Meeting – Yosemite
http://www.acec-ca.org/doc.asp?id=2348&parentid=2284

October 21, 2015
General Dinner Meeting
Speaker TBD

Thursday, October 22, 2015
Engineers Without Borders Fundraiser and Silent Auction
6 - 8 pm, Blue Prynt Restaurant
815 11th St, Sacramento, CA 95814
See attached flyer

November 18, 2015
General Dinner Meeting
Speaker TBD

(Continued on page 3)
1st Annual Sierra Chapter Excellence Awards

You won’t want to miss the first Sierra Chapter meeting of the 2015-2016 year on September 23!

We’re having the first Sierra Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards event where we’ll recognize some remarkable accomplishments of member firms with awards for three projects. After brief presentations about these projects, we’ll have the honor of hearing from Assemblymember Bill Dodd give us his thoughts on funding of infrastructure.

Assemblymember Bill Dodd, Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards Speaker

By: Steve Greenfield, State Director

Assemblymember Bill Dodd was elected in November 2014 to represent the 4th Assembly District, which includes all or portions of Lake, Yolo, Napa, Sonoma, Solano, and Colusa Counties. Bill was a successful business owner for nearly 25 years, building and managing one of the largest full-service Culligan Water operations in California. Hearing the call to public service he ran for the Napa County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and served 14 years. Bill maintained an active role on numerous boards and commissions over that time, and helped pave the way for the successful completion of Napa’s flood control project. This helped protect thousands of properties from flooding, restored 900 acres of environmental wetlands, and spurred $1 billion of investment in local businesses. Committed to giving back and building a better future for California, Bill is also heavily involved in local charities and was honored in 2014 by the Napa Chamber of Commerce as its “Citizen of the Year” for raising over $3 million for local charities.

Assemblymember Dodd lives in Napa with his wife Mary and they have five grown children and four grandchildren.

He will discuss his thoughts on infrastructure funding for our state as well as his upcoming senate run.

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.

Point of Contact:
Dana Remington, Vice President
530.885.7072
dremington@andregg.com
President’s Message continued

(Continued from page 1)

selection and consultants being asked to sign uninsurable contracts. Addressing the local participation issue will help us address the statewide issues.

I want to point out that our Board meetings are, of course, open to members. Attending a Board meeting can be a great way to learn more about the issues that we face as an industry and state and local ACEC activities. I encourage all members to try to make it to at least one Board meeting during the year, in addition to the chapter meetings.

Also, this newsletter and meeting announcements have a relatively limited distribution. We’d like to see the distribution list expanded to all managers at our member firms and up-and-coming leaders. For ACEC to succeed at its mission, we need your involvement. Please forward this newsletter to people at your firm who might be interested and let Debbie LoCicero (dlocicero@acec-ca-sierra.org) know if you would like to be added to our list. I understand that we all get a lot of junk e-mail. But, you are paying for membership in this organization and you can get the most value from this membership by having people at your firm be active in it.

My primary objective as Sierra Chapter President is to support ACEC-CA’s mission of “Professional engineers dedicated to building a better California.” Of course, there are many different perspectives that results in a variety of opinions on what it means to build a better California. I encourage representatives from our member firms to come to our meetings and engage in discussions to share their various perspectives to help guide the organization’s advocacy efforts to accomplish this mission.

I believe that building a better California requires providing the infrastructure necessary to support economic and environmental sustainably. Infrastructure includes both the physical systems, such as transportation networks and water supply, as well as the organizations upon which we depend. Deteriorating roads, groundwater overdraft, rising sea levels, unfunded public employee pensions, shortages of affordable housing and overwhelming student loan debt are examples of issues that need to be addressed to achieve sustainability. Positions we take as an organization can help influence legislation and promote actions of private companies that will facilitate development of infrastructure needed for sustainability.

On the surface, it may appear that the problems are insurmountable, but they are not. The perpetual problem is that there never seems to be enough revenue to meet government obligations and maintain current infrastructure, let alone to build new systems. But, sticking with the status quo will not resolve issues with traffic congestion, water supply, disaster preparedness and education. Problems abound with the current population and it will just become more challenging to achieve economic and environmental sustainability as the population continues to grow. Solutions are possible with the right political action that stimulates innovation and ever increasing efficiency. Efficiency and innovation are the hallmarks of the private sector. We can solve the problems, but we need appropriate government actions that result in the private sector being tasked with delivering solutions.

(Continued on page 5)
Morton & Pitalo, Inc. has been “Serving Our Clients to Build a Better Community” since 1977. The firm has successfully completed thousands of civil engineering, land planning and land surveying projects throughout California. Our professional services have been provided to private sector clients on commercial, office, industrial, healthcare, institutional and residential developments; and to public sector clients on roads, public works, schools, parks and assessment districts. Our qualified professional staff has been assembled from the best talent in the fields of civil engineering, land planning, and land surveying; enabling Morton & Pitalo, Inc. to handle large scale, multi-discipline projects with in-house staff, thus saving our clients’ money.

Recent projects include providing surveying and engineering support services for the Sacramento Kings Entertainment and Sports Complex (ESC). Morton & Pitalo, Inc. also provided professional support services for the recently opened Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD) District’s Blue Line Extension having assisted on both the two aerial structures projects and the Cosumnes River College Light Rail Station, which is the firm’s 8th SRTD Light Rail Station Project. On the private sector side, Morton & Pitalo, Inc. provided their professional expertise on the West Roseville Specific Plan, which is the latest of several specific plans in the City of Roseville. A more recent master plan community, which was approved in 2014, is the Tesoro Viejo Specific Plan in Madera County that helped spur the opening of the firm’s Fresno Office in the summer of 2014.

M&P has recently been recognized by the Sacramento Business Journal in their Top 25 Engineering Companies for 2013 and 2014, while also ranking in the more prestigious Top 25 Fastest Growing Companies in the Greater Sacramento Region. The firm’s success is being celebrated by the recent opening of their Sacramento Office in the Natomas Area at 2870 Gateway Oaks Drive.

Morton & Pitalo, Inc. is both a Caltrans certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and a State DGS certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE)

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President’s Message continued

(Continued from page 3)

The success of our organization’s efforts to building a better California depends on our members. Increasing your participation, whether it’s through a discussion of issues at local meetings, participation on committees, meeting with elected officials or other actions, will result in improving our messages and increasing our influence. Please let me know (hoslick@woodrodgers.com, 916-326-5297) if there’s anything I can do to help make ACEC better! I’m looking forward to engaging with our members to make this a successful year for Sierra Chapter as we work together to build a better California.