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## President's Message

What bar can Sierra Chapter raise? Does it matter if it's an open bar or a cash bar?

If you were able to plow through my verbose message last month, you know that I'm not a big supporter of the Raise the Bar initiative. I just don't think that the proposed solution is either a necessary or appropriate fix. I'm too much of an engineer sometimes. I want to fully understand a problem and find an efficient way to solve it. If the problem is that engineers are not keeping up with the latest technology and regulatory requirements, then continuing education and specialized certifications that demonstrate expertise in specific areas may be a better solution than requiring initial specialization, which would come with a Master's degree before licensure, to practice general civil engineering.

A problem I want to solve as Chapter President is declining participation in Chapter events. We had a special event in September which was a good success, but, attendance at the October meeting was lower than we had hoped it would be. Based on Chapter history, the target attendance bar should be about 35 people.

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## Calendar of Events

Meetings are at the Sacramento Hilton unless otherwise noted.

Member Cost: \$35 - Non-Member \$50

### Wednesday, November 18, 2015

**Note Different time and venue**

\*\* General Lunch Meeting \*\*

\*\* Red Lion Woodlake \*\*

Speaker: Dave Miller, Director, Public Works & Community Development, City of Folsom

11:30 am - 1:30pm

<http://acecsierrachapterlunch-woodlake-wednesdaynov182015.eventbrite.com>

### No December Meeting

### Friday, January 8, 2016

Joint Lunch Meeting w/APWA - Speaker TBD

### Thursday, January 28, 2016

ACEC-CA Board of Directors Meeting & EEA Banquet – San Diego

### Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Past Presidents Dinner

### Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Joint Meeting with Calmentor - HSRA - Lunch @ SACOG Building



**Harvey Oslick**

President

## What's Happening in Folsom - November Meeting and Speaker Topic

By: Mark Gilbert, Director



Mr. David Miller will be joining us for our November lunch meeting. Dave was named the City of Folsom's Public Works and Community Development Director in 2012. His department is responsible for street construction and maintenance, transportation and traffic planning, solid waste, recycling,

HazMat, planning, building, engineering, housing and arborist duties. He served as the City's Community Development Director from 2007 to 2012.

Dave is a graduate of the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Design (Architecture) and holds an AICP certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners. Dave's professional experience includes a broad range of public and private sector work, such as the Executive Director of a municipal redevelopment agency and Director of Public Works, and

Development Manager for joint development projects for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. He has 7 years experience as sole proprietor of a consulting business in Redwood City that offered project management services to large scale developers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dave also spent 9 years as a partner in commercial real estate development firms headquartered in Foster City and Monterey, California, which involved office, shopping center and high end retail centers.

Dave's work experience has taken him to Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and California. He and his wife Susanne have four children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Miller will highlight current City of Folsom commercial and residential projects both North of Highway 50 and south of Highway 50 in the newly annexed area. He will also preview some major issues in the City's draft General Plan soon to be daylighted.

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## Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship – Now Accepting Applications

By: Marco Palilla, Director



I am happy to announce that the Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship is now accepting applications! Now in its 5th year, the annual scholarship is awarded to a Junior or Senior majoring in Civil Engineering/ Transportation at California State University Sacramento, University of California Davis, or University of the Pacific. Last years winner, Spencer Ord,

Tim Fleming, Sierra Chapter Past President, 1995—96

was a Sac State student. Applications are due by December 11, 2015.

The official flyer is attached to this newsletter. The scholarship is administered by the California Transportation

Foundation. If you know a college student that qualifies, please pass the flyer on to them.

The Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship was established in the name of our good friend and Sierra Chapter Past President, Tim Fleming, who passed away unexpectedly in November 2010 at the young age of 51. Tim was a graduate of the University of the Pacific and Stanford University and served our industry tirelessly as a leader and colleague. This scholarship honors his legacy and reminds us all that life is precious.

This year's winner will be selected and then honored at our next Past Presidents Dinner tentatively scheduled for February 2016.

## What's Happening in Elk Grove - October Meeting and Speaker Recap

By: Kevin Gustorf, Director



At our first monthly luncheon meeting of the 2015-16 business year, many of our industry colleagues gathered at the Hilton Hotel for networking and socializing. The Sierra Chapter was treated to a tag-team discussion from Mr. Christopher Jordan and Mr. Darrell Doan from the City of Elk Grove. Mr. Jordan, who works in the City Manager's office, began the presentation by providing an overview of the current and upcoming major projects in Elk Grove. The City is currently preparing a comprehensive



update of the General Plan, which will provide the framework for much of the future planned development in the City. The City is in the midst of the largest and most ambitious master planned project in City history, the 1,200-acre employment-focused Southeast Policy Area (SEPA). The City is taking a proactive approach of planning and installing the infrastructure to enforce the City's commitment to the project and attract the development community. In addition, the City

is proceeding with other major projects; such as the 1.3 million square feet outlet mall dubbed "The Outlet Collection at Elk Grove," the 76-acre Civic Center and Community park, and the 100-acre multi-sport complex.

Mr. Doan, the City's Economic Development Director, discussed the City's strategy to evolve the City's business climate. The ultimate goal is to attract more jobs and business sectors to Elk Grove and to better balance the resident-to-job ratio. The City is focusing to attract new and/or growing sectors, such as health-care, education, and government services. The City has created a business-friendly environment through incentives and an innovative new program called "Permit Simplicity," which streamlines the permit process to grant building permits in one-day. Within days of our meeting, the City announced that Costco was moving into Elk Grove, validating the program is working.

The duo's discussion confirmed that there is a lot of development and capital improvement activity in Elk Grove, and the growing City will soon shed the moniker of being Sacramento's bed-room community.

## ACEC Legislative Visit Day: April 5, 2016 – Save the Date!

By Marco Palilla, Sierra Chapter Director/Grassroots Chair

It is not too early to mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 5th for ACEC-California's 2016 Legislative Visit Day. This is our annual opportunity to meet with state legislators (Assembly and Senate) and promote our



consulting engineer and land surveying agenda. Most of you already know what that agenda is: i.e. improved indemnification, infrastructure funding, contracting out, QBS, alternative delivery, etc., but it is this day when our members from all over California converge on the Capitol and talk with one voice. Last March's event was a big success and included a visit from Governor Brown who was declared "Infrastructure Champion of 2014". Get this event on your calendar now and stay tuned for more updates as we get closer.





## An ACEC-CA Company Profile

Holdrege & Kull Consulting Engineers and Geologists (H&K) provides geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, and construction quality assurance services for public and private projects, including roadways and bridges, schools, hospitals and other essential services facilities, dams and reservoirs, communication towers, and energy projects such as photovoltaics and hydropower. H&K's primary offices are located in Nevada City, Truckee, and Chico, with satellite offices in Yuba City, Murphys, and Fresno.

Our 50-person staff includes engineers, geologists, hydrogeologists, field and laboratory engineering technicians and inspectors. Both of our labs are fully approved by DSA, Caltrans, AASHTO, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

H&K has worked on several recent award-winning projects. We served as the geotechnical engineer of record and provided construction materials testing and inspection for the Dorsey Drive Interchange on State Route 49 in Grass Valley, which earned two 2014 project of the year awards from the Sacramento chapters of ASCE and APWA. Our foundation design for the Bloomer Hill Communication Tower located east of Lake Oroville earned honors from APWA, ACEC, and ASCE.

H&K serves on the Caltrans Districts 1 and 3 on-call contracts and is currently providing construction-phase geotechnical engineering services associated with the Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway. We are providing geotechnical design and pile load testing for the 156-megawatt Comanche Solar project in Pueblo, Colorado, which will be the largest PV installation (1,300-acres) west of the Mississippi River.

H&K's environmental division performs site characterization and risk assessment and remediation for sites regulated by the California EPA, and we have provided services for eight USEPA-funded Brownfields assessment and cleanup projects. We perform mine permitting and reclamation design under SMARA and water quality evaluation and permitting under the California Water Code and CCR Title 27.

H&K is a California Small Business Enterprise. Learn more about us at [www.HoldregeandKull.com](http://www.HoldregeandKull.com) or watch the video at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ6yNSZcVYk>



Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway Folsom CA



Dorsey Drive Interchange Grass Valley, CA



Comanche Solar Pueblo, CO

## President's Message continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

With attendance down to around 25 people, we need to take action to improve the situation.

To help identify the problem and potential solutions, I sent out a survey to find out what I might be able to do to encourage more people to come. One issue I faced is that I really didn't get a statistically significant response, though I do appreciate the 15 percent of survey requests that were completed. But, as stereotypical engineer, I used the available data.

Based on responses to the survey of Chapter members, we switched our normal meeting time to lunch and arranged for speakers from local municipalities to talk about their future plans. This didn't help much for attendance at the October meeting, but, I'm hoping for a better result in November.

The program at the November meeting will provide information about the City of Folsom. So, if you do work in Folsom, or if you want to work in Folsom, you should attend the meeting. If you know someone who might be interested, call them and encourage them to come, too.

We really want up-and-coming leaders to start attending meetings regularly. It's important for the future leaders of engineering companies to develop an understanding of the political issues that face our industry and the processes that are used to protect the ability of consultants to provide valuable services. Chapter meetings are a great way to learn

about current issues and events associated with public policy and our profession. Whether or not you can attend the meeting in November, you should send someone from your firm. In addition to learning about current issues, it's also a great way to network with other firms. Please help me help Sierra Chapter reach the bar of 35 attendees for the November meeting.

Looking beyond November, there won't be a Chapter meeting in December. On January 8th, there will be a joint luncheon meeting with APWA. The February Chapter meeting will be a dinner meeting honoring past Chapter presidents. In March, we're planning a joint luncheon with Calmentor. After that, we could continue with lunchtime meetings, or move back to dinnertime.

One drawback to moving our regular meeting time to lunchtime is that it isn't conducive having a cocktail before the meeting. An idea was discussed at our last Chapter Board meeting to see if there was any interest in firms sponsoring a pre-dinner cocktail hour. The Chapter may try this at the meeting in February. We may promote sponsorships with opportunities to give brief presentations during dinner. If there is interest, we might see if we can reach the attendance goal by going to the bar. This may be a reasonable and efficient solution to the attendance problem. Please let me know if your firm would be interested in supporting this "To the Bar" initiative.

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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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