

President's Message

Calendar

APWA/ACEC Joint Meeting  
w/ Assemblyman James  
Gallagher

Last Chance Contest

Engineering Excellence  
Award Notice

What's Happening in Folsom–  
November Meeting Recap

Blackburn Consulting,  
Company Profile

President's Message  
continued

2014-15 Board of Directors

Last Chance Flyer (see



## President's Message

*The views expressed here are mine and do not necessarily reflect those of ACEC.*

As I write this article, world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris are working on establishing a global agreement on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to limit climate change. The outcome of this Conference, and how the United States will act in response to it, will have significant local and global consequences on the environment and the economy. Addressing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change are the greatest challenges humankind has faced since the height of the cold war when global superpowers were on the brink of mutually assured destruction. Fortunately, there are engineering solutions that can help overcome the challenges we face with climate change. However, there are political and economic obstacles to implementing these solutions.

To overcome the political obstacles, we need to promote education so that more people understand the issues and therefore support the changes that will be necessary to protect us from potentially catastrophic conditions in the future. While there is uncertainty in determining the most cost-effective measures for reducing GHG

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Calendar of Events

Meetings are at the Sacramento Hilton unless otherwise noted.

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

### No December Meeting



**Friday, January 8, 2016**

### **Note Different time and venue**

Joint Lunch Meeting w/APWA  
Red Lion Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento  
12:00 noon – 1:30pm

Speaker: Assemblyman James Gallagher

Register online at

[http://sacramento.apwa.net/  
EventDetails/7200](http://sacramento.apwa.net/EventDetails/7200)

*ACEC members who are not APWA members, please register using the "paying at the door" option. The APWA website is unable to accommodate a non-member to register at the discounted rate.*

*Members of both ACEC and APWA can register & pay by credit card using your APWA member information.*

**Thursday, January 28, 2016**

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

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**

General Meeting and Past President's Dinner



**Harvey Oslick**

President

## APWA/ACEC-CA Annual Joint Meeting - Speaker Assemblyman James Gallagher

By: Marco Palilla, Director



Our annual joint meeting with the Sacramento Chapter of APWA is right around the corner and always draws a big crowd. This year's meeting should carry on that tradition with Assemblyman James Gallagher as our special guest.

Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the people of the 3rd District, which includes the Counties

of Butte, Tehama, Yuba, Sutter, Glenn, and Colusa. Major cities include Chico, Red Bluff, Yuba City, Oroville and Marysville. For the previous six years, he was a member of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors.

James earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree at UC Berkeley, where he was Editor-in-Chief of The Patriot, a nationally

recognized conservative news magazine. He is a partner in his family's farming business as well as a practicing attorney, focusing on agricultural law.

Assemblyman Gallagher serves as Deputy Republican Floor Leader in the State Assembly. He also serves as the vice-chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee; and is a member of the Assembly Appropriations, Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials, and Judiciary Committees.

James is married to his high school sweetheart Janna, and together they have three young children. He is the sixth generation of an Irish immigrant farming family that first settled in Sutter County in the late 1800s. James and Janna make their home in Yuba County. Join ACEC and APWA members on Friday, January 8th to hear the latest goings on in the California Assembly!

## Last Chance Contest

By: Harvey Oslick, President

The attached Last Chance Contest provides a great opportunity to help Sierra Chapter and ACEC-CA meet ACEC/PAC fund raising goals for the year. It would be great to see all firm principals step up and at least contribute a little; even

\$50. For those who have already contributed, thank you! For those who haven't, please consider chipping in a little to help meet the goals. Please remember that National PAC contributions must be from a personal check, cash or credit card.

## Engineering Excellence Award (EEA) Notice

By: Christian Anger, ACEC-CA Membership Director

Registration for the 2016 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Ceremony and the Current Issues Forums are now open. Please join ACEC California for an evening of celebrating the achievements of the Engineering and Surveying industries. These awards affirm the fundamental role that ACEC California member firms play in building and maintaining the quality of our infrastructure. The 2016 ACEC CA EEA banquet will be held on January 28, 2016, at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego, California, with a reception at 6:00 PM and the dinner beginning at 7:00 PM. In conjunction with the EEA event, we will be hosting a [Groundwater Sustainability Seminar](#) (ACEC CA Member & Non-Member), a

lunch forum with speakers on "[Duty to Defend](#)" (ACEC CA Members ONLY) and a Board of Director's Meeting (ACEC CA Members ONLY). [CLICK HERE](#) to register and to view the schedule of events

The Hard Rock Hotel room block cutoff deadline is January 13, 2016. ACEC CA has booked an overflow property at the Marriott with a cutoff deadline of January 7, 2016. We recommend you book your hotel before the deadline to ensure the discounted rate and availability. January is a high traffic period for the San Diego area and the hotels will not be able to extend our deadlines. [CLICK HERE](#) to make your hotel reservation.

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

By: Mark Gilbert, Director



Dave Miller, the City of Folsom's Public Works and Community Development Director, gave a nice overview of what's happening in the City of Folsom. Besides sharing new updates to the City's General Plan, Dave also shared the latest and greatest happenings both North and South of Highway 50. And just when you

thought Folsom had everything, just wait to see what happens over the next few years. For example...

- Do you like to exercise? Try the new Lifetime Athletic coming soon or take in the 2016 AMGEN time trials at the Historic District finish line.
- Are you into the outdoors and sports? Try the new Dick's Sporting Goods coming soon.
- Looking for some fresh Asian foods and supplies? Try the new Ranch 99 Market or Makuni Restaurant coming soon.
- Need assistance? Try the new Assisted Living Facility coming soon
- And if you like theatre and arts, don't forget the state-of-the-art Harris Center at Folsom Lake College.

The City is also very active in evaluating and maintaining City-owned infrastructure so they can properly manage annual expenses. They recently completed a pavement management plan that resulted in accelerating some pavement maintenance projects to provide more uniform expenditures in preserving the roads. The City's also involved in numerous storm drainage

improvements that will hopefully reduce cost claims to the City.

South of Highway 50 a whole new part of Folsom is soon emerging. The community will feature a new town center urban feel that creates an "urban experience in suburbia". The initial \$40 million backbone infrastructure will serve the first 2,500 units with build-out rates expected to be about 500 to 600 homes per year, with the first homes appearing in summer 2017.

The City's General Plan Update now addresses climate action plan and sustainability, includes stormwater and landscape practices, evolves transportation planning from LOS toward reducing total vehicle miles traveled, and works toward connecting neighborhoods by adding sidewalks and new bike routes. The new plan will encourage more mixed use as older strip commercial redevelops and includes a new City Corporation yard south of White Rock Road.

Several new corporate headquarters have made their home in Folsom including Tosheba, Foxpro, Safe Credit Union, and Powerschool.

## 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





## An ACEC-CA Company Profile

Founded in 1998, Blackburn Consulting (BCI) is a geotechnical/environmental consulting, materials testing, and construction management firm with offices in Auburn, West Sacramento, Fresno, and Modesto. BCI concentrates on public sector projects and specializes in levees, dams, water tanks, pipelines, water/wastewater treatment plants, roadways, bridges, and landslide mitigation. BCI's unique commitment to public sector projects results in an up-to-date knowledge of state and local agency requirements, which leads to efficient analysis, less review time, and practical solutions. BCI has a staff of over 45 that includes civil engineers, geotechnical engineers, geologists, engineering geologists, construction managers, inspectors, material testers, field and laboratory technicians, drafters, and support staff. Most of BCI's registered professionals have over 20 years of experience in central and northern California.

BCI played key roles on four of this year's ASCE award-winning projects:

- Feather River West Levee Rehabilitation Project, Quality Assurance Materials Testing
- US 50 – El Dorado Hills Interchange Phase 2 Project, Geotechnical Engineering
- Elk Grove Creek Trail Crossing at State Route 99, Quality Assurance Materials Testing
- Railyards Boulevard, Geotechnical Engineering

BCI works hard to provide a superior level of geotechnical insight and expertise on projects. When it comes to providing services for a project:

- We work closely with the team to develop the appropriate scope of work.
- We prepare well thought out, concise consulting that often saves construction dollars and minimizes design/construction misunderstandings.
- With in-house laboratory testing, we closely observe and manage the schedule and results.
- We maintain frequent and clear communications. Over 85% of our work is for repeat or referral clients.

Blackburn provides consultants who are experienced problem solvers, focused on client satisfaction. To see additional projects exemplifying our commitment to quality work, visit us at [www.blackburnconsulting.com](http://www.blackburnconsulting.com).



Feather River West Levee Rehabilitation Project, Sutter County: "Deep Mix Slurry Wall Construction"



Mid-Western Placer Regional Sewer Project, Placer County: "Construction of new 108' diameter clarifier at Lincoln Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility."



Sacramento Railyards Bridges and Roadway Infrastructure, City of Sacramento: "Aerial Shot Showing Railyard's 5th and 6th Street Bridges"

## President's Message continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

emissions, and while there is uncertainty about how fast global temperatures and sea level will rise, there is no uncertainty that human-generated GHG emissions are causing significant damage to the environment. For example, a major issue besides global warming is that increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is causing ocean acidification which is, in turn, disrupting marine ecosystems. Therefore, we need to better explain the basics of what is happening, where there are uncertainties and where there are none. We also need to better educate ourselves so that we can clearly and authoritatively debunk misleading statements made in the political and public sectors. As engineers, we promote the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics. It therefore behooves us to consider how politicians are responding to climate science as we make decisions about whom to support.

Our role as engineers requires us to make appropriate, supportable decisions concerning both temporary and permanent projects which could create a hazard to life, health, property, or public welfare. While GHG emissions do impact life, health, property and public welfare, these impacts are generally outside of our direct responsibility. We are tasked to design facilities to accommodate climate change and the rise of the sea level. For tidal conditions and stream flows, long-established engineering procedures call for the expert evaluation of historic events to predict what could be the possible results of our current actions in the future. This traditional process is challenging because it is based on relatively short, and often poor, records. Also, there is considerable uncertainty in the appropriateness of using any particular probability distribution to extrapolate to potential extreme events. The traditional processes, while not perfect, do provide a basis of design that demonstrate an appropriate standard of care. Climate change calls into question the appropriateness of looking to the past to provide a basis for future designs. Climate change is making it even harder for us to design for protection of life and property.

Economic challenges associated with addressing GHG emissions and climate change are compounded by the need to transition to clean energy while simultaneously building systems that will adapt to anticipated changes in long-term weather patterns. Globally, the challenges are compounded further by the rapidly growing energy needs of developing countries. Because we all share the same atmosphere, we all must fund the transitions needed to achieve a sustainable future. Funding of these transitions, however, is a monumental task. This is because the benefits of achieving sustainability need to consider a 20-year to 50-year planning horizon, and the terms of office for politicians are between 2 and 6 years. Too many people make decisions based on achieving short-term satisfaction rather than their best interests for the long-term. It will be difficult to transition away from relatively plentiful and cheap fossil fuels, especially for those whose incomes are dependent on carbon-based fuels. Therefore, politically feasible solutions need to consider the professional and economic transitions people will need to make.

At the opening of COP21, a poignant video made by astronauts from around the world set the tone for the significance of the conference. Cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian citizen in space, stated: "Sustainable development is impossible if it is accompanied by non-sustainable consumption." As a group of professionals who promote sustainable development, we should consider all of the factors associated with sustainability when designing to avoid hazards to public welfare.

Ultimately, the long-term welfare of humankind is dependent on achieving a sustainable balance between consumption and what can be derived from renewable resources. Private sector engineers will be instrumental in achieving this balance in a way that improves standards of living. It is my hope that we can move beyond political rhetoric so that we can work more effectively at achieving true sustainability.

## 2015—16 Board of Directors

### Officers

**Harvey Oslick, President**

(Wood Rodgers)  
916.326.5297  
hoslick@WoodRodgers.com

**Dana Remington, Vice President**

(Andregg Geomatics)  
530.885.7072  
dremington@andregg.com

**Landon Blake, Secty/Treasurer**

(O'Dell Engineering)  
209.571.1765  
Lblake@odellengineering.com

### Directors

**Landon Blake**

(O'Dell Engineering)  
209.571.1765  
Lblake@odellengineering.com

**Chad Coleman**

(Coleman Engineering)  
916.791.1188  
chad@coleman-eng.com

**Mark Gilbert**

(ENGE0)  
916.786.8883  
mgilbert@engeo.com

**Kevin Gustorf**

(Michael Baker International)  
916.928.5166  
Kgustorf@mbakerintl.com

**Marco Palilla**

(HDR Engineering, Inc.)  
916.817.4878  
Marco.Palilla@hdrinc.com

**Tom Sell**

(SAGE Engineers, Inc.)  
916.677.4775  
tsell@sageengineers.com

**Kathy Wickham**

(Parsons Brinckerhoff)  
916.567.2520  
wickam@pbworld.com

### State Directors

**Harvey Oslick (2019)**

(Wood Rodgers)  
916.326.5297  
hoslick@WoodRodgers.com

**Tom Holdrege (2018)**

(Holdrege & Kull)  
530.478.1305  
tholdrege@HandK.net

**Ted Hopkins (2017)**

(Shannon & Wilson)  
916.438.2301  
twh@shanwil.com

**Steve Greenfield (2016)**

(Cunningham Engineering)  
530.758.2026  
steve@cecwest.com



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
California

*Lisa Thut, CPSM (Geocon)*

*Newsletter Editor*

*916.759.3851*

*Thut@Geoconinc.com*

*Debbie LoCicero*

*Recording Secretary*

*916-203-2474*

*dlocicero@acec-ca-sierra.org*

*Chris von Collenberg*

*Webmaster*

*cvc@wavecable.com*