President’s Message

Another month has gone by and my term is nearing its end. It’s hard to believe that the year is almost over. I have a theory on that subject. For a five year kid a year is 1/5th (20%) of his/her lifetime and they have no memory of the first couple of years and for somebody who is 40 years old (another kid) a year is 1/40th (2.5%) of their lifetime. So the older we all get the smaller percent of our life is a year. Sorry for the squirrel moment. Back to my message, this month has been the most difficult edition to find something semi interesting to write about.

This past week I participated in my Legislative Visit Day (LVD) at the State Capitol. In discussions with fellow Chapter members, who have attended previous LVD, I learned that we don’t always meet directly with the Senate or Assembly members. More often than not you would meet with a staff member who may have the ability to communicate our message to the legislative member better than we might be able to.

Marco Palilla is the Sierra Chapter grass roots chair and has been to numerous D's. His organization and leadership skills were very apparent to this rookie and I was paired with other members who have previous experience.

(Continued on page 2)
President’s Message continued

The ACEC CA staff had created a list of talking points for each of our scheduled visits. It’s amazing how much effort and preparation that Kelly and her staff have done prior to LVD. They all need a nice round of applause and a big Thank You from the membership.

As most of you may have heard and if you haven't, you must have been climbing Mt Everest or someplace similar. Governor Brown last week signed SB1 the 10 year $52 billion dollar transportation funding bill. I’m certain that most of our member firms will see some of this work and will benefit from the improved transportation facilities around the state with these new funding dollars. Time will tell though. There was another bill signing at the same time, SB 496, this is our "Duty to Defend" bill that ACEC CA has been working on for a number of years. Let's have a toast to the ACEC CA staff for all of their hard work on this issue.

Our next Chapter meeting on May 17th and will be a lunch meeting at Sacramento Hilton. The featured speaker will be Jose Ramirez, Senior Civil Engineer with Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. He will be discussing the South County AG program. This is a reclaimed water program supplying water to agricultural interests and others in the southern part of the County.

Next ACEC State event will be the annual State Conference in Incline Village, Lake Tahoe on October 8 - 11, 2017. I hope to see everybody in May at the Sierra Chapter ACEC lunch meeting.

Cheers!

Jose Ramirez, SRCSD—Speaker, May 17, 2017
By: Debanik Chaudhuri, Director

José Ramirez is a Senior Civil Engineer with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San). He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering from Sacramento State University and is a registered Civil Engineer in the State of California. He has over 20 years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of water supply and wastewater facilities. He is currently managing the Water Recycling Program for Regional San. His work focuses on expanding the capacity of this program to achieve a goal of reusing 30-40 MGD of recycled water over the next two decades in Regional San’s area. His presentation will focus on South County Ag Program. The South County Ag Program proposes to use tertiary-treated recycled water to irrigate allowed crops (e.g. alfalfa, irrigated pastures, etc.) on permanent agriculture lands and habitat mitigation lands through new recycled water transmission and distribution systems.
Meeting Recap, April 19th, 2017– Matt Machado, Public Works Director, Stanislaus County
By Dana Remington, President

At our May meeting Matt Machado, the Public Works Director for Stanislaus County, gave a talk about transportation funding and upcoming projects. His talk included a detailed overview of the structure and funding of Measure L, the transportation funding measure passed by Stanislaus County voters last year. He also discussed his preferred solutions for public transportation funding moving forward.

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 Landon Blake, Vice President, for submission details.

ACEC-CA 2017 Legislative Visit Day Recap
By Marco Palilla, Sierra Chapter Director

On May 2, 2017, the Sierra Chapter joined nearly 100 members from around the state for our 2017 Legislative Visit Day. This is our annual occasion 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. It is also a great opportunity to remind legislators how important the engineering and surveying industry is to the daily lives of every Californian.

(Continued on page #4)
Sierra Chapter members who attended Legislative Visit Day included Bob Lokteff, Dana Remington, Ted Hopkins, Marco Palilla, Harvey Oslick, Debanik Chaudhuri, and Eddie Kho. Not pictured: Matt Brogan and Steve Greenfield.

The day kicked off at The Citizens Hotel with an Issues Breakfast that focused on our recent successes with Senate Bill 1 (Transportation Funding) and Senate Bill 496 (Duty to Defend). We then walked over to the Capitol for our morning meetings with Assemblymembers (or their staff) Cooley, Dahle, Aguiar-Curry and Flora; plus Senate members (or their staff) Pan, Gaines, and Nielsen. We also promoted our amazing scholarship program and the ACEC Engineering Excellence Award winners in our area.

Sierra Chapter members Bob Lokteff, Marco Palilla and Ted Hopkins with legislator Richard Pan’s Senate Fellow, Tyler Aguilar during Legislative Visit Day.
During lunch back at the Citizens Hotel we heard from Senator Anthony Canella and his successful ability to pass Senate Bill 496, Duty to Defend. The bottom line was timing played a key role. Senator Canella received a standing ovation for his efforts. Afternoon meetings continued through 5:00 PM with Assemblymembers (or their staff) Bigelow, Gallagher, Cooper and Kiley; plus Senate members (or their staff) Galgiani and Dodd. After the legislative meetings, everyone met up at Chops for a friendly outdoor reception. Thanks again to the Sierra Chapter members who made this another successful event!

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RICK is a premiere multi-disciplinary planning, design, and engineering firm known throughout the Western United States for providing unparalleled service and value to every client since 1955. Our company’s broad array of design disciplines allows us to provide comprehensive services that can be managed in-house to assure optimum project quality and efficiency. Our suite of services includes:

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We at RICK look forward to the next 60 years proudly serving the communities we live in.
You are cordially invited to attend the:

**Joint ACEC Sierra Chapter & APWA Water Committee Luncheon Meeting.**

**Wednesday May 17th, 2017**

**Guest Speaker:**

**José Ramirez, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, SRCSD**

Mr. Ramirez’ presentation will focus on the South County Ag Program.

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**On-line Registration/ RSVP:**

[https://may17-2017.eventbrite.com](https://may17-2017.eventbrite.com)

*If paying by cash or check at the door, please either “RSVP Only” at the above Eventbrite link, or email dlocicero@acec-ca-sierra.org for reserving your seat.*

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**Hilton Sacramento Arden West**

Meetings are held at the Hilton unless otherwise noted.

**Hilton Sacramento Arden West**

220 Harvard Street
Sacramento, CA

- **10:30am - 11:30am:** BOD Meeting
- **11:30am - 12:00pm:** Networking
- **12:00pm - 1:30pm:** Membership Meeting