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## President's Message

I wanted to talk a bit about recognizing good work at our local government agencies. At the end of this article, consider people in local government that you might nominate for our Public Agency Excellence Awards in May. The nomination form is simple and online. It only takes a few minutes to complete.

### Why do we complain about our public agency clients?

I know it's happened to you. While sitting around a table at a lunch or dinner event for engineers or land surveyors, a story begins. A member of the dinner party relates a horrifying experience with a government agency involved in their project. This story could be about a government agency approving the project, or it could be the government agency is the project owner. Soon everyone at the table is sharing their own similar story.

### Why does this happen?

For a few of reasons:

- 1) Many consultant engineers have local government agencies as their main type of client.
- 2) There are public agencies that work to be good clients, and there are public agencies that are bad clients.
- 3) At times even good public agency clients act bad, especially when their municipal attorneys get involved.

Our relationship with public agencies is like a marriage in this important way: We spend a lot of time working together. As a result, we get to know each other very well. This includes each partner in the relationship dealing with flaws and imperfections in the other partner.

*Continued on page 2*

## Calendar of Events

Meetings are at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West unless otherwise noted.

**Please note price increase:**

Member Cost: \$40 - Non-Member \$55

### March 17, 2018

2017 Public Agency Excellence Award Nominations Due

[Link](#)

### Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Joint ACEC CA-Sierra Chapter/CalMentor Dinner Meeting

Hilton Arden Sacramento West

[Register Here](#)

### Tuesday, April 10th, 2018

Ken Kerri Endowment Fund 10th Annual Luncheon

CSUS Alumni Center

Keynote Speaker:

**Mayor Darrell Steinberg**

See Attachment

### Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Legislative Visit Day

Citizens Hotel, State Capitol

[Register Here](#)



**Landon Blake**

Sierra Chapter President  
2017-2018

## Presidents Message Continued.

Continued from page 1

The intention of this article isn't to sugar coat the situation. In my 16 years as a land surveyor, I've seen people in public agencies do very bad things. This includes breaking the law and engaging in unethical behavior.

The temptation as private consultants is to use this bad behavior by a few public agencies as an excuse. We use it as an excuse to lump all public agencies into the same pile of horrible clients.

### **What challenges to great engineers and land surveyors in public service face?**

The engineers and land surveyors working in public service face several challenges that we don't deal with in the private sector. These challenges include:

- 1) The burdens of laws and regulations that make their organizations less flexible and adaptable.
- 2) Mandates from the state and federal government that are unfunded.
- 3) Ridiculous strings attached to federal and state funding for their projects.
- 4) Unreliable sources of funding for infrastructure design and maintenance.
- 5) Bands and factions within the group of citizens they serve. These groups often have very strong, and opposing viewpoints.

In addition, the leaders of the agencies in our local governments face these additional challenges:

- 1) Restrictions on their ability to hire, fire, and promote workers.
- 2) The demands of their agency legal team or elected leaders. Often these lawyers and politicians understand very little about land surveying or engineering.
- 3) A hostile regulatory environment. This rules and regulations have only made maintenance and construction more difficult over the past few decades.

When we recognize these challenges as private consultants, we begin to understand why it is so important to recognize great work by engineers and land surveyors in the public sector.

### **Why is it important to recognize great work by engineers and land surveyors in the public sector?**

Most of us appreciate a little bit of recognition for our hard work and accomplishments. Engineers and land surveyors in the public sector are no different. In many situations,

citizens fail to notice their work or fail to appreciate it. In the worst situations, we brand these professionals as leeches on human society taking advantage of the tax payer.

### **Why is it important for us to recognize the great work by engineers and land surveyors in the public sector?**

I will give you a few reasons:

- 1) These surveyors and engineers set a great example for their peers.
- 2) Outstanding examples of hard work in the public sector provide a sharp contrast to the laziness and abuse of public funds that also occur.
- 3) These surveyors and engineers are delivering good value to the taxpayers. This is a group in which all private sector engineers and land surveyors are members.
- 4) Hardworking engineers and land surveyors are in the public sector are often our best clients. They understand our work, and they value the flexible services we provide.

All of the reasons I listed above merit recognition by private consultants in the engineering and surveying community.

### **How can you recognize our local agencies in Central California that are setting a good example in the way they handle the engineering and surveying aspects of their organization?**

What can you do to recognize great engineers and land surveyors in public service? Here are a few suggestions:

- 1) Thank them in person for their work.
- 2) Recognize their dedication and accomplishments in your local professional associations and publications.
- 3) Publish a profile of their recent projects or programs on your company web-site.
- 4) Send them a thank you note from your team. Include personal signatures from your team members.

### **Conclusion.**

Don't forget to consider engineers and surveyors you know doing a great job at our local government agencies in Central California. If it is merited, consider nominating there agency for one of our Public Agency Excellence Awards and invite them to our dinner meeting in May.

Landon Blake, President 2017-2018

## Past Presidents Dinner and Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Award Ceremony – February Meeting Recap

By Marco Palilla, Director

Our seventh Annual Past President's Dinner and Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Award Ceremony as another awesome evening of history and celebration for the Sierra Chapter. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, your illustrious past presidents were joined by an assortment of mem-



bers and guests including our Guest Speakers, Sacramento County Engineer Kent Craney and Mark Thomas Principal Matt Brogan. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening's

pageantry and presentations!

Although the parade of Past Presidents was impressive, the highlight for me was handing out the Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship check to Joseph Prescott of the University of the Pacific (see photo). Joseph was selected from a large pool of applications and was truly deserving. Susan Fleming Bentley was also in attendance and joined the ceremony. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the scholarship. Remembering Tim's legacy in this way is absolutely a win-win for our Chapter and the schools in our area. Thanks are

also due the California Transportation Foundation (CTF), who administers the fund. In addition, the Sierra Chapter Board approved another \$2,000 donation to the scholarship which is now an endowed scholarship!

Following the scholarship presentation, Kent Craney and Matt Brogan provided an excellent overview of the latest developments at Metro Air Park. This included the long history



surrounding the site near the Sacramento International Airport, the fascinating Amazon project and the efforts to build a new interchange to serve the site.

Finally, Past Presidents joined us from as far back as 1994-1995, Paul Enneking (when we were still CELSOC) up through and including the most recent Past President, Dana Remington. After dinner, we gathered for the ritual "Past President's Photo" see below. Thanks again to all the Past Presidents, Kent and Matt, Susan Fleming Bentley and our scholarship winner for making this another awesome Sierra Chapter event!



2018 Sierra Chapter Past President's Dinner  
February 21, 2018

Left to Right: Eddie Kho, Tom Holdrege, Chuck Cunningham, Bob LoRusso, Paul Enneking, Tom Blackburn, Rob Salaber, Marco Palilla, Dana Remington, Harvey Oslick

**ACEC-CA Sierra Chapter  
Member Profile**

**Imagine your firm's profile here.... For Free!**  
**Please contact Kathy Wickam-Vice President if  
you would like to take advantage of this free  
advertising offer.**

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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 Kathy Wickam, Vice President.

**ACEC**

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
California

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**Calmentor** NORTH REGION

# A CALMENTOR AND ACEC SPONSORED EVENT

WEDNESDAY | 03.21.2018

6:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.



Join us for a panel discussion focusing on SB1 and the current outlook on transportation. Panel members from Caltrans, ACEC and local agencies will discuss how SB1 is affecting their organization, current projects, and legal challenges with SB1. The panel will also respond to audience questions.

SPONSORED BY:



### LOCATION

Hilton Sacramento Arden West  
2200 Harvard St.  
Sacramento, CA 95815

### COST

\$40.00 per attendee  
(Includes Dinner)

### RSVP

Before March 21, 2018

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/calmentor-north-region-16920726735>

For questions, contact:

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# ACEC CALIFORNIA – SIERRA CHAPTER 2017 PUBLIC AGENCY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**April 18, 2018**  
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

## SELECTION

There is a 3 step selection process:

- #1: The ACEC Sierra Chapter member firm completes a simple online nomination form.
- #2: The award committee reviews and scores the nominated agencies. A winner is selected in each category.
- #3: A winner is selected in each category.

## AWARD CATEGORIES

- Excellent practice of qualifications-based-selection for engineering and surveying services.
- Excellent use of consulting engineers and surveyors.
- Excellent monument preservation practices.
- Excellent use of tax dollars for public infrastructure.
- Excellent use of technology to design, build or maintain public infrastructure.

## RULES FOR NOMINATION

- The public agency must be located in California.
- The public agency must be nominated by an ACEC Sierra Chapter member firm.
- The public agency must have demonstrated the excellence during the 2017 calendar year.
- A public agency can be nominated for more than one award category.

**March 16, 2018**

Deadline for award nominations.



**ACEC Sierra Chapter**  
2017 Public Agency Excellence Awards  
April 2018  
**Award Category Explanations**

The ACEC California Sierra Chapter Public Agency Awards for 2017 have 5 award categories. This document briefly explains each of the categories.

**Category #1: Excellent practice of qualifications-based-selection for engineering and surveying services.**

To qualify for this award a public agency needs to have demonstrated they regularly follow a qualifications-based-selection process for their acquisition of engineering and surveying consultant services. The public agency could demonstrate this by:

- 1) An understanding of QBS and a public commitment to comply with QBS requirements.
- 2) The integration of QBS in their RFQ and RFP process.
- 3) A selection of engineering and surveying consultants based on qualifications and not on low price.

The agency selected for this award should have also shown they support the spirit of QBS, and don't merely pay lip-service to its requirements. It should also show reasonableness when negotiating contract language.

**Category #2: Excellent use of consulting engineers and surveyors for the design and maintenance of public infrastructure.**

To qualify for this award a public agency needs to have demonstrated a regular and consistent use of consulting engineers and surveyors from the private sector to supplement the work of the public agency teams. The public agency could demonstrate this by:

- 1) Past use of consulting engineers on a large project or set of projects.
- 2) A written policy of the agency encouraging the use of private sector consultants.
- 3) A regular process to collect statement of qualifications from qualified engineering firms that are then placed on an on-call list and are actually awarded projects from the public agency.

**Category #3: Excellent monument preservation practices.**

To qualify for this award a public agency needs to have demonstrated excellent monument preservation practices. The public agency could demonstrate this by:

- 1) The integration of monument preservation steps into the permit and inspection process for work in their jurisdiction.
- 2) The performance of monument preservation on construction projects the public agency has funded or managed.
- 3) The application of resources or technology to improve monument preservation within their jurisdiction.

**Category #4: Excellent use of tax dollars for infrastructure.**

To qualify for this award a public agency needs to have demonstrated excellent use of tax dollars for the design and construction of public infrastructure. The public agency could demonstrate this by:

- 1) Innovation to design and construct infrastructure projects more affordably.
- 2) Long-term vision and planning that saves money by ensuring existing infrastructure is fully utilized and properly maintained.



- 3) The use of funding mechanisms that ensure infrastructure is paid for by the people that benefit from it.
- 4) The establishment of reliable funding sources for public infrastructure that enable regular maintenance or improvements and that allow for long-term planning.
- 5) Establishing public-private partnerships that allow private sector innovation to reduce the risk and cost of public infrastructure projects.

**Category #5: Excellent application of technology for infrastructure projects.**

To qualify for this award a public agency needs to have demonstrated the application of technology for the design, construction, or maintenance of infrastructure projects. This shouldn't be the use of technology solely for the sake of technology, but the use of technology in a way that improves the delivery of services to the public. The public agency could demonstrate the excellent application of technology for infrastructure projects by:

- 1) Applying technology to improve the way projects are designed.
- 2) Applying technology to improve the way projects are constructed.
- 3) Applying technology to improve the way projects are maintained.
- 4) Applying technology to improve the way projects are planned.

**Example Nominations**

Below are two examples of the type of information that should be included in the online nomination form explaining why a public agency should be selected for an award:

*Example Nomination of Excellent Use of Consultant Engineers and Surveyors:*

In the Fall of 2016 the voters of the City of Red Creek passed Measure C, which authorized a 1% sales tax increase to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel within the city. The City of Red Creek Public Works Department, with the support of the mayor and city council, put together an on-call consultant list for engineering and land surveying services to support the design and construction of infrastructure projects funded by the tax. This list serves as the sole source of engineering and land surveying consultants that can be selected for projects funded by the tax. The on-call consultant list was assembled using qualifications-based-selection procedures. During the 2017 calendar year the City awarded over \$750,000 in design projects funded by the sales tax to private civil engineering and land surveying firms in the region.

*Example Nomination of Excellent Monument Preservation Practices:*

The Twin Oaks Irrigation District began construction of a new water intake facility on the Twin Oaks River and corresponding large diameter pipeline on the in 2017. As part of the engineering services on the project, the District required monument preservation be performed by the design consultant team. This included land records research, field surveys, preparation of a pre-construction record-of-survey, and preparation of a post-construction record-of-survey. As part of the monument preservation effort on the project, over 86 property corner monuments were identified and surveyed at the intake facility and along the 4.5 miles of pipeline. Of these 86 monuments, 12 monuments were reset or rehabilitated after construction. This project is an example of the excellent monument preservation practices the District applies to all of its infrastructure projects.

**ACEC-CA Legislative Visit Day: May 8, 2018 – Registration is now open!****By Marco Palilla, Director**

Registration is now open for our 2018 Legislative Visit Day! The date is Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> which 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. infrastructure funding, CEQA reform, 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 year's event was a big success and we want to maintain our momentum. Additional details for this year's event are below:



The events kick-off on Monday evening, May 7<sup>th</sup> with an ACEC Federal PAC Fundraiser and Reception from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. LVD starts with a Welcome Breakfast at 7:30am. The breakfast will be followed by legislative office visits, a policy luncheon and more legislative office visits after lunch. Additionally, ACEC-CA will offer a special "Legislative Training Session" for first and second time attendees. The day will end with a reception honoring legislators, state officials and staff from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

The Welcome Breakfast and Luncheon will take place at the Citizen Hotel. The Capitol Appointments will take place at the California State Capitol, while the Legislative Reception will be held at Brasserie Capitale.

Register at this link:

<https://acec-ca.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=990883&group=>



**2018 ACEC California  
Legislative Visit Day  
May 7 – 8, 2018**

**Monday, May 7**

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Federal PAC Reception</b> <i>Location TBD</i>
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**Tuesday, May 8**

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<b>Opening Presentation &amp; Issues Breakfast</b> The Citizen Hotel Metropolitan Terrace
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Capitol Appointments</b> State Capitol
<i>9:30 AM – 10:30 AM</i>	<b>1-hour Legislative Training Session: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time LVD attendees</b> The Citizen Hotel – Metropolitan Terrace
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	<b>Legislative Luncheon</b> The Citizen Hotel Metropolitan Terrace
1:30 PM - 4:45 PM	<b>Capitol Appointments</b> State Capitol
<i>1:30 PM – 2:30 PM</i>	<b>1-hour Legislative Training Session: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time LVD attendees</b> The Citizen Hotel – Metropolitan Terrace
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<b>Legislative Visit Day Reception</b> Brasserie Capitale

**Locations:**

**The Citizen Hotel**  
926 J St

**The State Capitol**

**Brasserie Capitale**  
1201 K Street #100





**KENKERRI**  
ENDOWMENT FUND

**TENTH**  
ANNUAL  
LUNCHEON

TUESDAY,  
APRIL

**10**

SACRAMENTO STATE  
ALUMNI CENTER

11:30 A.M. – 2 P.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER |

**Mayor Darrell Steinberg**

Mayor, City of Sacramento  
Former Senate President pro Tempore,  
California State Legislature

**DISCUSSING**

Sacramento's future infrastructure needs



For more information, please contact: *Ashley Mihok* at  
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