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**President's Message**  
 By Tom Sell

Hello, Sierra Chapter! It was great to see so many of you at the September meeting as we kicked off the 2022-23 year. We have elections coming up November 8. ACEC-CA's mission statement is "Professional engineers and surveyors dedicated to building a better California." Learning about and voting on candidates and issues that work toward or against that mission is one way member firms participate in this mission. Please visit the [ACEC-CA website](http://www.acec-ca.org) for more information on its advocacy for the industry.

Building a better California takes qualified and talented professionals across our organizations. Finding those professionals is an ongoing concern across the industry. We can all look for opportunities to engage and mentor future generations of professionals, innovators, and leaders. The Sierra Chapter supports several youth and collegiate programs, competitions, and scholarships. Please reach out to one of the board members for more information on these programs, how you can be involved, or to share information on other local programs focused on developing future leaders.



**Tom Sell**  
 Sierra Chapter President  
 2022-2023

**Calendar of Events**

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

**Member Cost: \$50 - Non-Member \$60**

**ACEC Sierra Chapter**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

General Membership & BOD  
 Dinner Meeting

**Speaker: Derek Minnema, Executive Director Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority**

Topic: Capital SouthEast Connector JPA, Sacramento Measure A

[Register Here](#)

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

General Membership & BOD  
 Dinner Meeting

**Speaker: Sean McGuire, Board Member, State Water Resources Control Board**

**Friday, January 6, 2023**

Joint Luncheon with APWA,  
 Location: Dante Club

**Speaker: Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen (invited)**

**ACEC California**

**See attached flyers**

Please visit [www.acec-ca.org](http://www.acec-ca.org) for a complete list of upcoming webinars and on-line classes.

## Meeting Recap—Wednesday, September 21, Jerry Brown, CEO of Waterology Consulting and Executive Director of the Sites Reservoir

By Howard Michael, Director

During our September meeting, Jerry Brown, CEO of Waterology Consulting and Executive Director of the Sites Reservoir Project presented on the Site Reservoir Project. Mr. Brown oversees the Sites Reservoir project development by a multi-disciplined team of consultants, contractors, and experts. As California needs to address its statewide water management challenges by implementing innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply, the Sites Reservoir Project is a part of the solution. Sites Reservoir is an environmentally beneficial, off-river reservoir that will capture excess water from major storms and save it for drier periods, helping California's farms, businesses and cities continue to supply reliable water when other sources are low. Sites Reservoir will greatly increase flexibility, reliability and resiliency of statewide water supplies in drier periods.

During Mr. Brown's presentation, he demonstrated that the Sites Project has broad statewide participation from 17 Sacramento Valley agencies, 2 Bay Area agencies, 2 San Joaquin Valley agencies and 8 Southern California agencies. In addition to these 29 agencies, 12 other agencies occupy a waiting list in anticipation of becoming supporters of this much

needed water storage project. The Sites Reservoir Project is a "right-sized" project based on a rigorous value planning effort that cut roughly \$2 billion from its original plan making this reservoir more affordable, permissible, and buildable. The project offers climate change resiliency as it captures excess flow from the Sacramento River, is an off-river reservoir which avoids environmental impacts associated with damming a river, and adds 1.5 million acre-feet of water into the statewide system to ease pressure on other water sources during droughts. The Sites project is a locally invested project with federal and state investment, amounting to 56% local, 25% federal, and 19% state participation. The project is estimated to cost \$3.9 billion dollars (2021\$) - \$0.58B (15%) for environmental mitigation, \$2.77B (70%) for construction, and \$0.58B (15%) is being set aside as contingency to account for unforeseen measures. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2024 and is believed to take 6 to 8 years to construct and up to 5 years to fill the reservoir, and to be serviceable after year 2 of reservoir filling.

The ACEC Board of Directors thanks Mr. Brown for his time in offering a very informative and engaging presentation.

## Caltrans District 3/ACEC October 6th Meeting Recap

By Rosa Griggs, Director

The Caltrans District 3 Regional ACEC Meeting was held via Webex Thursday October 6 at 10 am. Our first presenter was Gary Arnold, Caltrans Branch Chief over Local Development Review, Equity and System Planning (LDR). LDR reviews local plans, projects, and programs to identify if there are any adverse impacts on the State Highway System. Gary explained that the following Federal, State, Local and Tribal projects are reviewed by LDR:

- Subdivisions of Land
- Commercial, including Casino Resorts

- Residential
- Industrial
- Schools and Offices
- Utility Lines
- General, Specific, & Community Plans
- Agricultural, including Forestry & Timber Operations
- Local Agency Formations & Annexations

## Caltrans District 3/ACEC October 6th, Meeting Recap (cont.)

By Rosa Griggs, Director

*Continued from page*

LDR focuses on safety, significant increases in vehicle miles traveled, accessibility and equity, access management issues, stormwater and right of way issues. Gary stressed the importance of early consultation to develop a partnership-based approach, resolve issues early and avoid unnecessary delays. Communication can be sent to the District 3 LDR

at [D3.Local.Development@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D3.Local.Development@dot.ca.gov). Gary Arnold can be reached at [Gary.Arnold@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Gary.Arnold@dot.ca.gov) & the other LDR Lead, Sukhi Johal, can be reached at [sukhi.johal@dot.ca.gov](mailto:sukhi.johal@dot.ca.gov).

The second presentation was by Kelly Dunlap and Kelly Hobbs on the improvements being made to streamline the Environmental Process. Details of the NEPA process improvements can be found: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/standard-environmental-reference-ser/policy-memos> Some highlights from topics include:

- NEPA Environmental Assessments with limited build alternatives and potentially significant environmental impacts can utilize the Streamlined Environmental Assessment template (the end result will be much more concise Environmental Assessments that take less effort to prepare and review).
- Environmental documents requiring HQ review will now be reviewed simultaneously by the District and HQ to reduce time, rather than District review followed by HQ review. One set of comments will now be provided. The District and HQ will work together to resolve comments that are inconsistent between the two groups.
- In certain situations, Caltrans will not require the Biological Opinion (BO) prior to the environmental document. This change is based on agencies requiring design that often gets developed at later

stages of the project. The final environmental document should identify the species determinations (e.g. may affect, not likely to adversely affect).

- For Section 7 Consultation: Projects that meet certain criteria may only be required to prepare a Natural Environmental Study or a Biological Assessment. Projects will not always need to prepare both documents to support consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Not all projects will need to obtain federal Species Lists. Also, certain projects with limited to no ground disturbance can prepare a “No-Effect Memo” for biological compliance rather than a Natural Environment Study.
- The Categorical Exclusion checklist is no longer needed.

Future improvements to the process include a new PES form that will be piloted next year, there is a potential for the PES process to be tied to an agency certification process. Caltrans is also exploring a process that will streamline the process between the PES & Categorical Exclusion.

Each District has a Policy and Training Coordinator to provide assistance. For District 3 these are: Quint Chemnitz: [quint.chemnitz@dot.ca.gov](mailto:quint.chemnitz@dot.ca.gov) & Lupe Jimenez: [Lupe.Jimenez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Lupe.Jimenez@dot.ca.gov). The District 3 Environmental Branch Chief is Laura Loeffler: [laura.loeffler@dot.ca.gov](mailto:laura.loeffler@dot.ca.gov).

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. If you are not on the invite for the meeting, but would like to be, please email [rgriggs@dokkenengineering.com](mailto:rgriggs@dokkenengineering.com) or [howard.michael@aecom.com](mailto:howard.michael@aecom.com).



## Meeting Promo—Wednesday, October 19, Derek Minnema, Executive Director at Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority

By Tom Sell, President



Our October meeting will feature a presentation from Derek Minnema, Executive Director at Capital South-East Connector Joint Pow-

ers Authority. Mr. Minnema will provide a brief overview of the latest project developments and be available to answer questions on the latest transportation news in Sacramento County, including Measure A on the November ballot.

## Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Applications are due Friday, December 9th

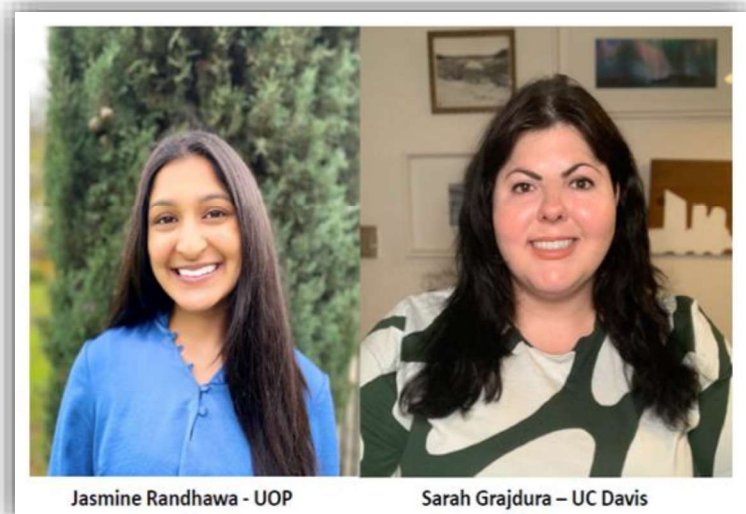
By Marco Palilla, Director

Applications are now being accepted for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship. Over the last 11 years, this fund has awarded 15 scholarships (some years we award more than one) worth nearly \$40,000. You might remember that we increased the scholarship to \$5,000 in 2021 and added Graduate Student eligibility. The annual scholarship has historically been 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.

Our 2022 winners, Jasmine Randhawa of UOP and Sara Grajdura of UC Davis each received checks for \$5,000 at our Past Presidents Dinner last February.

This year's flyer is attached to this newsletter. The scholarship is administered by the California Transportation Foundation and well supported by your Sierra Chapter. If you know a Junior, Senior or Graduate 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 tire-

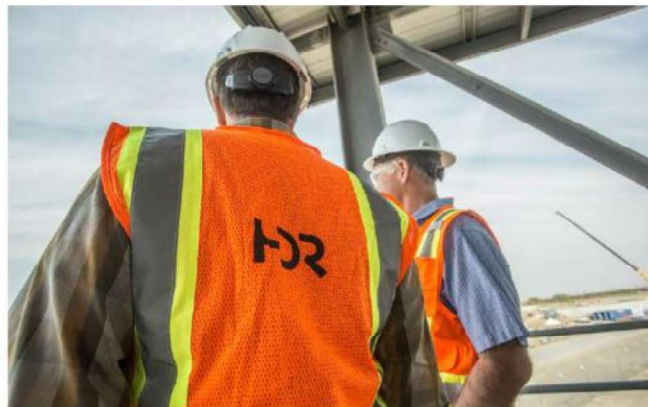


lessly as a leader and colleague. This scholarship honors his legacy and reminds us all that life is precious. This year's winner(s) will be selected and then honored at our next Past Presidents Dinner scheduled for February 8, 2023. Reserve this date on your calendar now.

# ACEC Sierra Chapter Firm Profile



**Bridging the gap  
between idea +  
achievement**



Southport Levee Improvement Project



Golden Gate Bridge, Fracture Critical Inspection Services



Balch + Helms FERC Relicensing Services

## Working together to solve challenges and meet deadlines

At HDR, we believe that the way we work can add meaning and value to the world. That ideas inspire positive change. That coloring outside the lines can illuminate fresh perspectives. And that small details yield important realizations. Above all, we believe that collaboration is the best way forward.

Albert Einstein once said that “scientists investigate that which already is; engineers create that which has never been.” Our multidisciplinary engineering experts embrace the opportunities to push boundaries and create new frameworks that can transform communities at many scales. For more than 100 years, we’ve created the water, sewer, road, and electric systems that modernize communities. Today, we design integrated systems, sustainable infrastructure and intelligent buildings that optimize operations, maximize cost savings, and reduce the incidence of failure.

We believe in a commitment to function, schedule, budget, constructability, safety, and sustainability. Our employees, working in more than 200 locations around the world, push open the doors to what’s possible each and every day.

## Together, we make great things possible

From the moment you join our family, we invest in you as much as you invest in us. Below are just some of the positions for which we are currently hiring in the greater Sacramento area. Discover your possibilities at [hdrinc.com/careers](http://hdrinc.com/careers)

- + Civil Engineer
- + Resident Engineer
- + Environmental PM
- + Electrical Engineer
- + Water Resources Planner/Engineer
- + CA Dam Risk Lead
- + Construction Inspector
- + Strategic Comms
- + Mechanical Engineer
- + Hydropower Section Lead



## 2022-2023 Board of Directors

### Officers

**Tom Sell, President**  
(Gannett Fleming)  
916.677.4775  
tsell@gfnnet.com

**Erik Fanselau, Vice President**  
(GHD)  
916.256.2677  
Erik.Fanselau@ghd.com

**Donald Blackburn, Secretary/  
Treasurer**  
(Blackburn Consulting)  
530.305.0686  
donaldb@blackburnconsulting.com

### Directors

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(J Design & Consulting Engineers)  
405.650.3711  
jdc@jdcengineers.com

**Chad Coleman**  
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**Dana Remington**  
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### State Directors

**Tom Sell, President (2026)**  
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tsell@gfnnet.com

**Scott Lillibridge (2025)**  
(Rick Engineering)  
916.638.8200  
slillibridge@rickengineering.com

**Jerry Jones (2024)**  
(Morton & Pitalo)  
916.984.7621  
jjones@mpen.com

**Kevin Gustorf (2023)**  
(Wood Rodgers)  
916.341.7760  
kgustorf@woodrodgers.com

## 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.**

#### Point of Contact:

**Erik Fanselau, Vice President**  
(GHD)  
916.256.2677  
Erik.Fanselau@ghd.com



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
California

#### Newsletter Editor

**Debbie LoCicero**  
dlocicero@acec-ca-sierra.org

# ACEC California Sierra Chapter

*You are cordially invited to attend the:*

## **General Membership Dinner Meeting**

**Wednesday October 19, 2022**

*Guest Speaker:*

**Derek Minnema,**

*Executive Director at Capital SouthEast Connector  
Joint Powers Authority*

*Presentation:*

*Latest transportation news in Sacramento County,  
including Measure A on the November ballot*

**On-line Registration/ RSVP:**

**R.S.V.P. Deadline: Friday**

**October 14th 12:00 Noon**

[Register Here](#)

### Event Schedule

**6:00pm - 6:30pm:** Networking

**6:30pm - 8:00pm:** Dinner Meeting



**Hilton**

SACRAMENTO  
ARDEN WEST

**Meetings are held at the Hilton  
unless otherwise noted.**

***Hilton Sacramento Arden West  
2200 Harvard Street  
Sacramento, CA***

# Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship \$5,000



**Now Accepting Applications!**

**- Forms Due December 9, 2022 -**

Are you a Junior, Senior or Graduate Civil Engineering/Transportation major at California State University Sacramento, University of California Davis, or University of the Pacific? Then you should apply for the Tim Fleming Memorial scholarship.

*Tim was an outstanding engineer and volunteer for communities in Northern California who unexpectedly passed away at the young age of 51. He exemplified leadership, integrity, and character. To pay tribute to his legacy as a leader in the engineering community, a scholarship was established in his name. Tim was a graduate of UOP and Stanford University and had been very active in the Sierra Chapter of ACEC California and the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association.*

This scholarship is administered by the California Transportation Foundation (CTF).



Go here for more information and forms:  
<https://www.the-ctf.org/scholarships>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 12, 2022



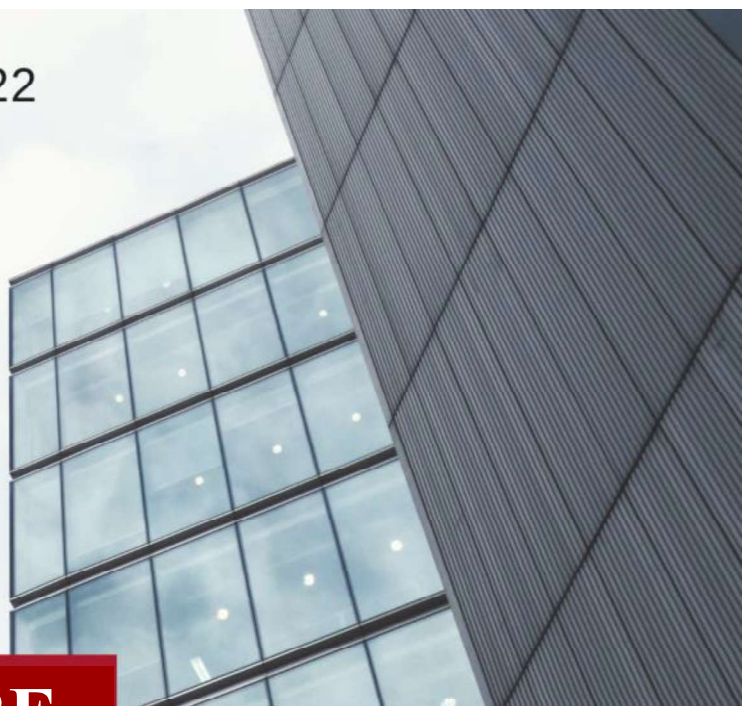
## DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION WEBINAR SERIES

[REGISTER HERE](#)

OCTOBER 13 & 20, 2022

*Advanced*

**PREVAILING  
WAGE  
WEBINAR  
SERIES**



[REGISTER HERE](#)



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*California*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 27, 2022

**REMOTE  
LEADERSHIP  
WORKSHOP**  
*HOSTED BY JEFF GROSS, GRO-NOVA*



**REGISTER HERE**

FEBRUARY 15-16, 2023

**ACEC California's  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
+ ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



**REGISTER HERE**

