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**President's Message**  
*By Tom Sell*

Hello, Sierra Chapter. I wish you all a happy New Year! I like to scan past newsletters for inspiration when writing my message. I resisted the urge to copy/paste our current Director, and then-President, Dana Remington's message about atmospheric rivers. I wish everyone well that has been negatively impacted by these short-term, high-intensity storms. While Mother Nature keeps us humble, these challenges provide us with opportunities to continue learning and innovating, two mainstays of our profession.

These cornerstones will come together many times over the next several months as student programs across the region compete in robotic challenges, concrete canoe races, steel bridge design, and other events. These programs welcome volunteers from the professional community to serve as mentors, technical experts, and judges. If you or your firm are unable to give your time, please consider other donations that help defray the cost of materials and students' travel to competitive events.



**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, February 8, 2023**  
 Past President's and Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Dinner

**Speaker:**  
**Raul Laborin, ACEC-CA President**  
[Register Here](#)

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**  
 Joint Calmentor North Region & ACEC Sierra Chapter Sponsored Event

**Speaker:**  
**Eric Souza, Dept. of Transportation**  
 (Registration Details Coming Soon)

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**  
 4th Annual Young Professional Luncheon Forum  
 (Registration Details Coming Soon)

**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, January 6, Joint APWA/ACEC, City of Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen

By Tom Sell, President



**Bobbie Singh-Allen**  
City of Elk Grove Mayor

We had a great turnout for our annual joint meeting with the Sacramento Chapter of APWA. This year's event featured Bobbie Singh-Allen, Mayor of the City of Elk Grove. With a population projected to exceed 220,000 within the next decade, Mayor Singh-Allen and other Elk Grove leaders are acting now to create a vibrant and sustainable city with innovative spaces to live, work and play. Bobbie Singh-Allen was elected Mayor of the City of Elk Grove in November 2020 and reelected to her second term in November 2022.

Mayor Singh-Allen spoke about several projects recently completed, including the reconstruction of Railroad Street and Old Town Plaza. Mayor Singh-

Allen highlighted that the project managers and engineers leading these improvements were all women.

Projects currently underway include widening of Grant Line Road and reconstruction of Kammerer Road. Upcoming projects include improvements to the Highway 99 and Whitelock Parkway interchange, Elk Grove Station, and Laguna Creek Inter-Regional Trail Corridor. The collective goal of these projects is reduce traffic congestion, increase mobility, and enhance the community's access throughout the City of Elk Grove. Several of our member firms were recognized for their support of the City of Elk Grove on these projects.

Mayor Singh-Allen also spoke about a planned relocation of the Sacramento Zoo into the City of Elk Grove. Along with the recent opening of the Sky River Casino, the zoo relocation will help to make the City of Elk Grove a tourist destination.

## Past President's and Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Dinner Meeting – February 8, 2023

By Marco Palilla, Past President



**Tim Fleming, Past President**  
1995-96

Please plan to attend our Past President's Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> when we will recognize and honor our amazing Past Presidents (a complete list is below) and award the 2022 Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarships. Yes, we gave out two \$5,000 scholarships again this year! The

scholarship, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, is dedicated to the memory of one of our most accomplished and well liked Past Presidents, Tim Fleming, who passed away unexpectedly in 2010. This year's winners are

Raven Cochrane and Judy Magaña, both from Sac State. They will be attending the dinner meeting to be recognized and receive their scholarship checks.

The meeting will also include guest speaker Raul Laborin Jr., who is our current ACEC-CA President and Vice President with WSP in the Bay Area. Raul will give us an update on what is happening at the State level.



**Raul Laborin**  
2022-2023 ACEC-CA President

If you attended this event in the past you know that we have many special guests representing the rich

(Continued from page 2)

history of our Chapter. This is a meeting you will not want to miss as we award the latest Tim

Fleming Memorial Scholarships and mingle with the people that created our Chapter's tradition of excellence.

### ACEC/CELSOC Sierra Chapter Past Presidents

Year	First Name	Last Name	Firm (during Presidency)
1992-1993	Jerry	Aplass	Burrell Consulting Group, Inc.
1993-1994	John	Pitalo	Morton & Pitalo, Inc.
1994-1995	Paul	Enneking	Psomas
1995-1996	Tim	Fleming*	Mark Thomas & Co., Inc.
1996-1997	Jim	Ray, Jr.	MacKay & Somps
1997-1998	Chuck	Cunningham	Cunningham Engineering
1998-1999	Terry	Lowell	TLA Engineering & Planning, Inc.
1999-2000	Carlos	Espana*	Espana Geotechnical
2000-2001	Eddie	Kho	Morton & Pitalo, Inc.
2001-2002	Les	Clark	Nolte
2002-2003	Steve	Sinnock	Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.
2003-2004	Tom	Blackburn	Blackburn Consulting
2004-2005	Rob	Salaber*	Salaber Associates, Inc.
2005-2006	Ron	Heinzen	Kleinfelder
2006-2007	Rob	Himes	Mark Thomas & Co., Inc.
2007-2008	Jeff	Patton	Blackburn Consulting
2008-2009	Christopher	Curtis	CBC Surveys, Inc.
2009-2010	Bob	LoRusso	Salaber Associates, Inc.
2010-2011	Marco	Palilla	HDR Engineering, Inc.
2011-2012	Ed	Henderson	CH2MHill
2012-2013	Steve	Greenfield	Cunningham Engineering
2013-2014	Ted	Hopkins	Shannon & Wilson
2014-2015	Tom	Holdrege	Holdrege & Kull
2015-2016	Harvey	Oslick	Wood Rodgers
2016-2017	Dana	Remington	Andregg Psomas
2017-2018	Landon	Blake	BKF Engineers
2018-2019	Debanik	Chaudhuri	Shannon & Wilson
2019-2020	Kevin	Gustorf	Wood Rodgers
2020-2021	Jerry	Jones	Morton & Pitalo, Inc.
2021-2022	Scott	Lillibridge	Rick Engineering Company

\*Passed Away

## ACEC Issues Action Alert Encouraging Repeal R&D Amortization

ACEC Advocacy, January 27, 2023

Starting on January 1, 2022, Congress changed how firms write off R&D expenses. Previously those expenses could be deducted in the year they were incurred, but now they must be amortized over five years in most cases.

Amortization of R&D expenses will cause significant

cash flow problems for engineering firms and create a disincentive for investment in innovation. It will also place the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage compared to other countries that provide greater incentives for R&D.

ACEC and its coalition allies built significant support

(Continued on page 4)



*(Continued from page 3)*

last year for legislation to repeal this requirement, but Congress couldn't come to agreement on this and other pending tax issues. The R&D legislation is being reintroduced in the new Congress and members of

the House and Senate need to hear from constituents asking them to cosponsor this critical initiative.

ACEC provides this convenient link to [Contact Your Representative and Senators](#).

## Sierra Chapter Past President Rob Salaber Passes Away

*By Marco Palilla, Director*



I am very sad to report that our great friend and Sierra Chapter Past President Rob Salaber passed away over the holidays. Many of us had just seen Rob at the AP-WA Support Staff Appreciation Luncheon in De-

cember and he was all smiles and laughing as was his usual. The news of his passing was a major shock to all of us, he was only 58. Rob was President of the Sierra Chapter back in the old "CELSOC" days. His term, 2004 to 2005, was squeezed between Tom

Blackburn (2003-2004) and Ron Heinzen (2005-2006). Rob also went on to serve as President of ACEC-CA from 2007 to 2008 as well as National Director in 2011. His accomplishments were many and I won't try to list them all here but he was a true giant in our industry. His obituary is attached to the newsletter and provides more details on his life. Rob attended many of our Past President's Dinners over the years and always had great stories to tell and passions to promote. A photograph from our 2017 dinner is below. We all loved Rob and will miss him dearly. I can only imagine how he is shaking things up in heaven as we speak! Rest in peace my friend.....



2017 Sierra Chapter Past President's Dinner  
February 15, 2017

Back Row: Christopher Curtis, Steve Sinnock, Ted Hopkins, Ron Heinzen, Rob Salaber, Paul Enneking, Jim Ray Jr.  
Front Row: Chuck Cunningham, Bob LoRusso, Tom Blackburn, Jane Rozga, Harvey Oslick, Ed Gillum, Eddie Kho, Tom Holdrege, Marco Palilla

## Robert Louis Salaber Jr.

Robert “Rob” Louis Salaber Jr., age 58, passed away suddenly and without pain on December 25, 2022, in Caldwell, Idaho. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and coach. Known for his larger-than-life personality, Rob was a free-thinker and a steadfast leader. Anyone who knew Rob understood the profound love and pride he had for his family. He spent his last day celebrating the holidays and enjoying the company of his wife, children, and their spouses.



Rob was born on December 26, 1963 in San Francisco, CA, and was raised in Marin County. He attended UC Berkeley, where he played Varsity Rugby and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Rob began his career working for the Caltrans Office of Structure Construction from 1988 to 1994. During that time, he managed the disaster response and recovery on the Cypress Structure following the Loma Prieta Earthquake. From 1994 to 1999, he worked as a Senior Vice President for Vali Cooper and Associates. Then in 1999, Rob started his own construction and project management company, Salaber Associates, Inc (SAI). He was a proud and vocal ACEC member, serving as President from 2007 to 2008 and National Director from 2009 to 2011. After raising his family and building a thriving rugby empire in Dixon, California, Rob pursued a new dream of relocating his home and expanding SAI’s business to Caldwell, Idaho, where he had resided since 2019.

Rob had an unyielding pursuit of knowledge and purpose and he placed high values on world travel and humanitarianism. He loved being an engineer because he felt construction and public works projects provided an inherent service to humanity. This desire to serve others drove him to coach rugby at all levels and to establish a fund to support an orphanage in Nepal, Saving One Another. These efforts created what he called “ripples”—ripples of positive change that reached far beyond his immediate circle. He shared his philosophies with the people he knew, who passed those lessons onto others, who passed them onto others, and so on. As he said in his last will and testament, “[i]t’s all about the ripples.”

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Mary; his four children and their families, Madeleine (Will) Crowley, Sophia Salaber, Nicholas (Megan) Salaber, Anthony (Tess) Salaber; grandchildren, Lilah and Andrew; brother Ralph Salaber; sister, Felicia Gwynn; and parents, Phyllis and Lou Salaber.

No service arrangements have been scheduled at this time. The family would like to hold a celebration of Rob’s life sometime in Spring 2023 in Northern California. Once determined, information will be posted through SAI’s website (<https://www.saiservices.com/>).

*January 2, 2023*



## ACEC Sierra Chapter Firm Profile



### **BENNETT ENGINEERING SERVICES + Y&C TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS (DBE/SBE)**

Bennett Engineering Services + Y&C Transportation Consultants (Bennett+Y&C) merged in January 2023. We provide enduring and award-winning civil engineering services to the state, cities, counties, special districts, universities, private companies, and other professionals.

Bennett+Y&C takes pride in finding innovative and cost-effective engineering solutions to transportation, traffic, water, wastewater, drainage, site development, parks, and other important infrastructure projects.

What sets us apart is our ability to partner with clients early in project development and retain that partnership through construction.

The Bennett+Y&C culture includes a commitment to staff retention. This provides an experienced and highly technical project team. We believe offering dedicated staff and assuring a cohesive team from project inception to completion maximizes client confidence. The firm is led by talented and highly experienced, licensed professionals and provides services throughout California.

Bennett+Y&C is a California Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE #43459) and certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE #52302). Our office locations include Sacramento, Fremont, and Milpitas, with our headquarters in Roseville, California.

[www.ben-en.com](http://www.ben-en.com)

**TRANSPORTATION  
WATER | WASTEWATER  
HYDRAULICS & HYDROLOGY  
SITE DESIGN | SWPPP**

### Services

We understand your project requires a responsive design team that produces cost-effective solutions with close attention to your schedule. Bennett Engineering Services provides these services with attention and dedication:

- ▶ Roadway Planning and Design
- ▶ Complete Streets and Streetscapes
- ▶ Utility Relocation Coordination
- ▶ Hydraulics & Hydrology
- ▶ Traffic Signals and Lighting
- ▶ Intelligent Transportation Systems
- ▶ Construction Traffic Control
- ▶ Stormwater Detention and Retention
- ▶ Grant Funding Application and Management Assistance
- ▶ Federal Funding Processing
- ▶ Caltrans PID, PA&ED, and PS&E Processing
- ▶ Caltrans Encroachment Permit Processing
- ▶ Right-of-Way Engineering
- ▶ Permit Update and Compliance
- ▶ Regional Water Quality Control Board Compliance
- ▶ Pipelines and Pump/Lift Station Design
- ▶ Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP)
- ▶ Qualified SWPPP Developer/Practitioners (QSD/QSP)
- ▶ Construction Assistance

### Contacts

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(707) 688-0246

Mike Massaro, PE, Director of Water Resources  
MMassaro@ben-en.com  
(916) 549-6935

## CERTIFICATIONS

- **DBE - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (California Unified Certification Program, Caltrans #43459)**
- **SBE - Small Business Enterprise (State of California #52302)**

## 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

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

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

**Howard Michael**  
(AECOM)  
916.266.4938  
Howard.Michael@aecom.com

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

**Rosa Griggs**  
(Dokken Engineering)  
916.858.0642  
rgriggs@dokkenengineering.com

**Dana Remington**  
(Psomas)  
530.392.5617  
dana.remington@psomas.com

### State Directors

**Tom Sell, President (2026)**  
(Gannett Fleming)  
916.677.4775  
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)  
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Erik.Fanselau@ghd.com



#### Newsletter Editor

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



# ACEC California Sierra Chapter

You are cordially invited to attend:

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

**ACEC-CA Sierra Chapter Monthly General Membership  
Dinner Meeting honoring Past Presidents and  
Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Winners.**

Guest Speaker:

**Raul Laborin Jr., ACEC-CA President and  
WSP Bay Area Transportation Business Line Leader**

Topic:

**ACEC California Current State of Affairs**

***On-line Registration/ RSVP:***

[Register Here](#)

**R.S.V.P. Deadline:  
Friday, February 3rd**

5:00pm - 6:00pm:	<b>BOD Meeting</b>
6:00pm - 6:30pm :	<b>Networking</b>
6:30pm – 8:30pm:	<b>Dinner Meeting</b>

  
**Hilton**  
SACRAMENTO  
ARDEN WEST



**Hilton Hotel, Arden West  
2200 Harvard Street  
Sacramento, CA 95815**





ACEC  
California



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FOR ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING STUDENTS

Every year, ACEC California's Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each to deserving college students working toward a degree in engineering and/or land surveying. The top award recipient is nominated to apply for the ACEC National scholarship competition. For this scholarship year, we plan to give up to \$60,000 in scholarships to students!

Scholarship application packets are posted on our website and are also emailed to college Engineering Departments throughout California.

**\*Requirements:**

1. Be entering your junior, senior, fifth or master's degree year in the Fall of the year you are applying.
2. Upper division undergraduate students must be enrolled full-time and working toward a degree in an engineering or land-surveying curriculum approved by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).
3. Master's degree students must be enrolled at least half-time, and either be in an ABET-accredited Master of Science (MS) engineering program or have a Bachelor of Science (MS) degree from an ABET-accredited engineering program.
4. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 3.2 in completed engineering and land surveying courses and a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0.

**WILL AWARD UP TO  
\$60,000 in Scholarships**

For more information and for all requirements, visit: [www.acec-ca.org](http://www.acec-ca.org)

# Scholarship Raffle Tickets - Now Available!

**SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE**

**GRAND PRIZE**

*Win a trip for two  
to Maui, Hawaii!*



**TICKETS**

1 FOR \$20

OR

6 FOR \$99

**Contact Janae Breslin  
to purchase**

Scholarship raffle tickets are available for purchase 1 for \$20 or 6 for \$99. We will be hosting the drawing at Legislative Visit Day on May 10, 2023. The grand prize is a one week stay for two in Hawaii with \$1,000 towards airfare! All proceeds benefit the scholarship foundation. Unfortunately, due to California regulation, we are no longer able to sell the tickets online.

Please contact Janae Breslin, [jbreslin@acec-ca.org](mailto:jbreslin@acec-ca.org) to purchase tickets. Staff members will also have tickets available for purchase during our Annual Conference in February.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ACEC California's ANNUAL CONFERENCE

+ ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



FEBRUARY 15 & 16, 2022 | HYATT REGENCY, ORANGE COUNTY

*ACEC California's keystone annual event for our 600+ Engineering & Land Surveying firms. The Annual Conference is an opportunity for owners & principals from across California to network, learn and get inspired.*

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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#### **DIAMOND | \$8,500**

*4 All-Inclusive Tickets (4 Annual Conference, 4 EEA) · 1 Exhibitor Booth · Introduction for Speed Sessions · Premium pre-event media recognition · Premium event recognition and logo on signage · Promotional item in Conference Tote Bag · 15% off Additional Sponsorships. (LIMIT 1)*

#### **LUNCHEON | \$7,500**

*3 All-Inclusive Tickets (3 Annual Conference, 3 EEA) Introduction to luncheon · Recognition on registrant communications · Logo on signage. (LIMIT 1)*

#### **CEO LUNCH & LEARN | \$7,500**

*3 All-Inclusive Tickets (3 Annual Conference, 3 EEA) · Event Introduction · Recognition on registrant communications · Logo on signage. - This event takes place on during the Speed Sessions on February 16th and will be a moderated panel of industry CEO's. (LIMIT 1)*

#### **WELCOME RECEPTION | \$6,500**

*3 All-Inclusive Tickets (3 Annual Conference, 3 EEA) · Event Introduction · Recognition on registrant communications · Logo on signage. (LIMIT 1)*

#### **PLATINUM | \$5,500**

*2 All-Inclusive Tickets (2 Annual Conference, 2 EEA) · Premium pre-event media recognition · Premium event recognition and logo on signage · Promotional item in Conference Tote Bag · 10% off Additional Sponsorships. (LIMIT 2)*

**TO SPONSOR:** Contact Christian Anger at [canger@acec-ca.org](mailto:canger@acec-ca.org)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2023 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS BANQUET

Supporting Students, Strengthening the Future of Engineering



### SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FIFTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

ACEC California Engineering Excellence Awards  
February 16, 2022, 5:30 PM  
Hyatt Regency, Orange County  
11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840

*By supporting the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation, you help cultivate the best and brightest of the next generation of engineers and land surveyors.*

All proceeds benefit the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**DISCOVER**  
**ENGINEERS WEEK**  
FEBRUARY 19–25, 2023

# CREATING THE FUTURE



Celebrate  
amazing engineers  
and inspire the  
next generation!



[DiscoverE.org](https://DiscoverE.org) #Eweek2023



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Girl Scouts' Heart of Central California Council celebrates Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day



DISCOVER  
GIRL DAY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

# CREATING THE FUTURE

Inspire the next generation of innovators.

Introduce a girl to engineering.

DiscoverE.org/GirlDay  
#GirlDay2023

The poster features two stylized girls running. The girl on the left is wearing a red shirt and black pants, holding a globe with a rainbow and sun. The girl on the right is wearing a yellow shirt and black pants, holding a globe with a circuit board. The background is white with small blue stars.

**ACEC California is collaborating with the Girl Scouts' Heart of Central California Council to host an event at the State Capitol on February 23 to celebrate Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (Girl Day). For Girl Day, the Girl Scouts will bring their STEM truck and also some scouts to help put on the event, which will be from approx. 8am – 2pm. ACEC-CA is seeking volunteers to attend and assist. For more information, or if you are interested, please contact Gaby Cervantes at [gcervantes@acec-ca.org](mailto:gcervantes@acec-ca.org)**