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President's Message

By Erik Fanselau

One of ACEC's most important missions is fighting for our industry and member firms at the local, state, and federal levels. At the state level, most of our lobbying effort focuses on defense against bills that negatively affect us, our industry, and our clients and support for bills that are beneficial to our businesses. We strategically partner with business group allies and a wide range of special interest groups to magnify our influence. Historically, we are often at odds with public unions that seek to protect and expand their membership and frequently align with some contractor groups that seek to fund and facilitate construction. Recognizing the political realities of opposition alliances and the challenges of capturing the attention of legislators for complex bills that directly affect a relatively small number of constituents, we are selective in the bills that we sponsor ourselves. With that in mind, I am pleased to share with you that as a direct result of dedicated effort at the state level over the past eight years, ACEC's sponsored bill, AB 334, was signed into law by the gov-



Erik Fanselau
Sierra Chapter President
2023-2024

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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—November 15, 2023

General Membership and
BOD Dinner Meeting

Speaker:

Maria Lehman
ASCE National Past President

Topic:

Infrastructure Spending Priorities

[Registration Link](#)

December 2023

Holiday

No General Membership Meeting

Friday—January 5, 2024

APWA-ACEC Joint Luncheon

Speaker:

Assemblymember Josh Hoover

Location:

The Dante Event Center
2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95825

Please visit www.acec-ca.org for a complete list of upcoming webinars and on-line classes.

November 15th Sierra Chapter Dinner Meeting Promo

By Erik Fanselau, President



Please join us for our next dinner meeting on November 15th. Our featured speaker will be Maria Lehman, PE, ENV SP, F.ASCE, ASCE national past-president and Infrastructure Market Leader for GHD. She previously served as Chief Operating Officer and Acting Exec-

utive Director of the New York State Thruway Authority and Commissioner of Public Works for Erie County, NY. Maria has over 40 years of multi-discipline experience in both the public and private sectors. Maria will be speaking to us about national infrastructure policy and priorities. In today's unstable political climate, infrastructure spending has never been more important. You won't want to miss it!

October 18th, 2023 Meeting Recap—CA Dept. Water Resources

By Lincoln Lehman, Secretary/Treasurer



The October ACEC monthly meeting featured guest speaker Randy Fessler, Principal Engineer & Construction Branch Manager for the California Department of Water Resources

(DWR). Randy began his presentation by welcoming all consultants in attendance and sharing that he has previously worked as a consultant and understands our business.

Randy's presentation highlighted the Pajaro River Emergency Levee Repair Project that was performed by DWR. Shortly after midnight on March 11, 2023, the Pajaro River levee failed approximately 10 miles inland from the Pacific coast, creating a 120-foot-wide breach, resulting in uncontrolled flows onto the adjacent farmland and ultimately flooding the town of Pajaro, where nearly 17,000 people were forced to evacuate.

Randy reviewed the sequence of events leading up to DWR's presence on the site and how DWR assumed responsibility for the emergency repair. Prior to the levee failure, the local reclamation district had installed a muscle wall in an effort to stabilize the levee. As the water continued to rise, the mus-

cle wall failed and the levee breached. When the reclamation district requested help from the State, DWR was the first agency contacted to provide help. DWR assessed their resources and response time and determined they had the ability to support this emergency project.

The first order of work for DWR was to establish a stable point of access to the repair site. After reviewing the site, there was only one feasible access point that could be established, upstream of the breach. Once access was established, DWR could start attempts to close the breach. Their initial plan was to use the National Guard's Chinook helicopters to place rock-filled super sacks. After two attempts, it was determined that the weather posed too great a risk for that operation.

DWR moved to Plan B, which was to bring in track mounted dump trucks that rotate on a turret like an excavator. This eliminated the need to back on-road trucks down the levee. The on-road trucks delivered rock to a staging area, where loaders loaded the track dumps. The track dumps traveled to the breach area, rotated 180 degrees, and dumped rock into the breach. Using this method in a 24-hour operation, DWR was able to close the

Top Golf Extravaganza

By Erik Fanselau

On October 25th, the Sierra Chapter hosted our first PAC fundraiser event at Top Golf in Roseville. We had a great turnout and the evening was filled with good conversation, good food, and fun. It was entertaining to watch everyone let their hair down a little and demonstrate their golf skills. I wanted to extend my thanks to all of you that supported the event by purchasing tickets. We had attendees

from the East Bay as well as Southern California. This event went a long way towards helping us meet our PAC fundraising goal for this year as we raised almost \$4000 from this event. If you missed it, we hope you will join us next year. Many thanks to our sponsors: ACEC California, AECOM, Gannett Fleming, and Wood Rodgers who helped make this event a roaring success.



Our very own Marco Palilla demonstrates what he plans to do in retirement.



The synergy between the Sierra and East Bay Chapters was off the charts.



Can you count the number of current and past presidents in this picture?



The action was non-stop.

ACEC Scholarship Applications Due by January 26, 2024!

By Marco Palilla, Director



Every year, the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation seeks the best and brightest engineering and land surveying students in California and awards scholarships to them.

Over the years, ACEC California has awarded over \$700,000 in cash grants to hundreds of outstanding students.

The ACEC California Scholarship Awards are funded through generous donations from ACEC California Chapters, member firms, principals and employees. Donations to the Scholarship Foundation, a public non-profit benefit corporation, are tax deductible. Every dollar goes directly to the student – no money is used for overhead or administrative costs. The ACEC California Scholarship Foundation is administered through the generous volunteer work of ACEC Chapter members.

ACEC California will be awarding up to \$65,000 in scholarships for qualified engineering and land surveying students throughout California for the 2024-2025 academic year ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each. Sierra Chapter members serve as liaisons with local colleges and universities to distribute applications and promote the scholarships. I send information to Sac State and UOP while Rosa Griggs takes care of UC Davis.

ACEC-CA will be accepting applications until 5:00pm on January 26, 2024. All of the necessary information as well as the scholarship application are available at this link:

www.scholarshipappwww.acec-ca.org/scholarshipapp

The packages were also recently e-mailed to college Engineering Departments throughout California.

If you know a student who may be eligible for this year's scholarship, please pass this information on to them.

Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship Applications are due Friday, December 8th!

By Marco Palilla, Director



Applications are now being accepted for the 13th Annual Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship. Over the last 12 years, this

fund has awarded 17 scholarships (some years we award more than one) worth nearly \$50,000. You might remember that we increased the scholarship to \$5,000 in 2021 and added Graduate Student eli-

gibility. 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, Raven Cochrane and Judy Magaña, both from Sac State, 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

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Continued from page 1—President's Message

error on September 30th, and will take effect on January 1, 2024. This bill addresses language in Government Code 1090 that, in some cases, precluded consultants that participated in earlier phases of a project from proposing on subsequent phases. This new bill allows public agencies more freedom in determining their own

contracting decisions without fear of conflict of interest disputes. It also grants safe harbor protections against criminal, civil, and administrative enforcement to those that follow it. As a result, it will expand the contracting opportunities for our members. Many thanks to ACEC California's Director of Government of Affairs, Tyler Munzing, and his team for this win for our industry.

-erik

Continued from page 2—Tim Fleming Recap

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 tirelessly 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 Presi-

dents Dinner scheduled for February 21, 2024. Reserve this date on your calendar now!



Raven Cochrane - Sac State

Judy Magaña - Sac State

Continued from page 2—Oct. Meeting Recap

breach by March 14th. During that time, the breach would grow to a maximum opening of 325 feet. Once the breach was closed, they switched to 12-hour daytime shifts to place finer material that would hydraulically fill the remaining voids in the placed rock.

On March 18th cleanup of the site began, providing aggregate base along the levee, removal of excess stabilization material, repairs to private fencing, and replacement of the old access road with a new section of hot mix asphalt. DWR coordinated with local property owners to ensure that adequate cleanup was provided. Cleanup of the site and demobilization of equipment was completed on March 25th.

ACEC Sierra Chapter Firm Profile



RICK

ENGINEERING COMPANY



CIVIL ENGINEERING



SURVEYING & MAPPING



COMMUNITY PLANNING



3D LASER SCANNING



CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



TRAFFIC PLANNING & ENGINEERING



GIS & GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & ENGINEERING



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



URBAN REVITALIZATION



STORMWATER / ENVIRONMENTAL



WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING



Scott Lillibridge, Associate Principal
(916) 638-8200 | 2525 East Bidwell Street, Folsom, CA, 95630

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RIVERSIDE • LAS VEGAS • DENVER • PHOENIX • TUCSON

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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.

Point of Contact:

Donald Blackburn, Vice Pres.
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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
California

Newsletter Editor

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ACEC California Sierra Chapter

You are cordially invited to attend:

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

ACEC-CA Sierra Chapter Monthly General Membership Dinner Meeting



Guest Speaker:

**Maria Lehman, PE, ENV, SP, F.ASCE,
ASCE National Past-President and
Infrastructure Market Leader for GHD**

Topic:

National Infrastructure Policy and Priorities.

On-line Registration/RSVP:

[Register Here](#)

**R.S.V.P. Deadline:
Friday, November 10th**

5:00pm-6:00pm:	BOD Meeting
6:00pm-6:30pm:	Networking
6:30pm-8:30pm:	Dinner Meeting


Hilton
SACRAMENTO
ARDEN WEST



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

Tim Fleming Memorial Scholarship \$5,000



Now Accepting Applications!

- Forms Due December 8, 2023 -

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://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/TimFleming>