

# ASCE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS  
SAN BERNARDINO & RIVERSIDE COUNTIES BRANCH  
LOS ANGELES SECTION , REGION 9-SINCE 1953



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2012

It is so hard to believe that we have already put the first quarter of this year behind us. The month of June is approaching fast and that is when the ASCE San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Branch will be having its 2011- 2012 Project Awards meeting

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all our ASCE branch members that we only have a short time to make our nominations. This year again we are accepting nominations in the following five categories:

- Civil Engineer of the Year, in both the public and private sectors
- Young Civil Engineer of the year
- Outstanding Civil Engineering project
- Civil Engineering Improvement Project

These awards are to recognize outstanding local Civil engineers who have demonstrated excellence in the practice of Civil Engineering. Also we would like to recognize projects that are unique, complex and beneficial to the community. You are highly encouraged to participate in this rewarding program. For more information on the application and requirements for each category, please contact Mr. Brian Wolfe at:

[bwolfe@cityofredlands.org](mailto:bwolfe@cityofredlands.org)

Sincerely, Rita Escobar Branch President

NEWSLETTER

## 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

At 5:12 am on Wednesday, April 18, 1906 the worst natural disaster in U.S. history devastated the city of San Francisco. The San Andreas fault ruptured from northwest of San Juan Bautista to the triple junction at Cape Mendocino with the epicenter located approximately 8 miles southwest of the heart of San Francisco. A seismograph in Gottingen, Germany recorded the event 5,700 miles from San Francisco. The event spans about 26 minutes. The instrument subsequently went off-scale when surface waves arrived.

The earthquake was the largest U.S. relief effort ever, including Hurricane Katrina. As much as 90 percent of the destruction in San Francisco was caused by fires fueled by ruptured gas mains. Ruptured water mains made fighting the fires futile. Attempts were made to create fire breaks by demolishing buildings with dynamite. However, firefighters were not trained in the use of dynamite and caused additional fires. As word spread that insurance companies would pay for fire damage but not for earthquake damage, many people set fire to their damaged homes and offices to maximize their compensation.

Rioting and looting was prevalent. In response, Mayor Schmitz posted notices stating, "The Federal Troops, the members of the Regular Police Force and all Special Police Offices have been authorized by me to KILL any and all persons found engaged in Looting or in the Commission of Any Other Crime."

Officials, concerned about future investments to rebuild the city intentionally underestimated the extent of the disaster. The official death toll was 375, but the estimated actual death toll is closer to 3,000. Studies to quantify deaths and damages are on going today. Current estimates put the total property damage at about \$400 million in 1906 dollars and \$10 billion in 2012 dollars.

The earthquake resulted in an immediate increase in building standards. However, officials bowing to the pressure to rebuild quickly and complaints from contractors and developers, reduced the stringent standards to below pre-earthquake levels just 13 months after the quake. Not until the 1950s did building standards again reach pre-earthquake levels.

### The Numbers:

- 7.9: estimated moment magnitude
- 20 feet: Maximum observed surface displacement
- 64%: approximate population left homeless
- 90%: total destruction attributed to fires
- 296 miles: length of the rupture
- 375: reported deaths
- 3,000: estimated minimum actual deaths
- \$400 Million estimated cost of the damage
- \$10 Billion estimated cost of the damage in 2012 dollars



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# Branch News and Ideas

## Feedback Requested:

The Riverside / San Bernardino Branch has just over 900 members, according to our official list provided by ASCE headquarters. We regularly count on 20 to 50 members to attend our monthly lunch meetings, periodical Stormwater and Geotechnical Committee meetings and other functions. What can we do to make these meetings more interesting and pertinent to attract more members? At the March meeting we handed out a feedback form, but we don't want anyone to think that this is the only way to communicate with us. Contact information for all of the Branch directors and Committee officers is in this newsletter. Please call or e-mail any or all of us with your thoughts and comments: suggestions for future branch meetings, schedule changes, program ideas, questions, comments or concerns. Should we have different meeting formats, occasional breakfast or dinner meetings, more field trips? This is your Association; what can we do to make it more meaningful and to improve its professional value for you?

## Help Wanted:

The Board of Directors of the Riverside / San Bernardino Branch is made up of seven voting officers (Past President, President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor). Attending as needed are committee chairmen (Storm Water, Geotechnical), the YMF President, and a very important additional volunteer, the Assistant Newsletter Editor. As with many non-profit organizations, this is a self-perpetuating board; members progress through the positions, starting with the Secretary, then moving annually through the Newsletter Editor's job, the Treasurer, etc., until finally becoming President. The Branch President is also a Director of the Los Angeles Section.

Next year Steven Ledbetter will become Newsletter Editor; while Kenneth Cox, the current Assistant Newsletter Editor, becomes Secretary. We need to fill Ken's job with a capable and enthusiastic volunteer to start on this ladder. If you would be interested, or know of someone who might be, please let us know. The pay is minimal; the rewards are substantial.

## Linked In:

The professional networking site, Linked In, hosts two groups of interest to our profession, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and "Civil Engineering and Land Development Professionals". As of March 22, the ASCE group has 6 ongoing active discussions, 6 new discussions, 13 job discussions, and 25 job postings. Go to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

## Newsletter Mailings:

The vast majority of recipients of this newsletter receive their copies by e-mail. However, we still print and mail about 150 copies to members who do not have e-mails on file. Printing and mailing costs are pretty significant, and every dime spent reduces the amounts we have for programs and scholarships. If you receive a printed copy by mail and would be willing to switch to e-mail, please contact the Editor, [jrogers@cleengineering.com](mailto:jrogers@cleengineering.com), and also contact the ASCE national office to request an update to your profile. We will plan to eliminate mailed hard copies completely in the next few months.

# April Meeting

## The 2005 La Conchita Landslide: The Critical Role of the Engineer In Designing Public Works



Robert C. Ceccon is a shareholder in the Litigation Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon. He attended Columbia University and UCLA School of Law. Mr. Ceccon is an expert on the California Tort Claims Act and has authored two books for the California Continuing Education of the Bar: Action Guide: Handling Claims Against Government Entities and California Government Tort Liability Practice. He has represented numerous public entities including Barstow, Beverly Hills, Brea, Buena Park, Calimesa, Carson, Hesperia, Indio, Lynwood, Malibu, Palmdale, Pasadena, Rancho Cucamonga, Redondo Beach, Rialto, Stanton, Temecula, Upland, West Hollywood and the County of Ventura.

Mr. Ceccon was lead trial counsel for the County of Ventura in two lawsuits brought by more than 80 plaintiffs arising out of the La Conchita landslide of January 10, 2005, which resulted in 10 deaths and numerous claims for personal injury and property damage. Among other things, plaintiffs alleged that the landslide was caused by the County's retaining wall at the base of the landslide. Mr. Ceccon successfully defended the County against all claims.

Mr. Ceccon will discuss the La Conchita landslide, a forensic analysis of the causes of the landslide, the role of the engineer in designing public works, and how the project documentation prepared by engineers can be crucial to minimizing the public entity's exposure to liability.

- Date:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012
- Time:** 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
- Location:** Old Spaghetti Factory  
11896 Foothill Boulevard  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
- Cost:** \$25 members w/RSVP  
\$30 non-members or no RSVP  
\$15 students
- RSVP Deadline:** April 10, 2012
- Additional Info:** Matthew Addington, (909) 477-2710  
[matthew.addington@cityofrc.us](mailto:matthew.addington@cityofrc.us)

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 ASCE  
 NEWSLETTER**

For more info or to send a post  
 email Brandon Reyes, PE @  
 breyes@rbf.com or call at  
 909.974.4967

Advertising cost apply



**BURNED OUT?  
 HUNGRY?**

**Join the San Bernardino/Riverside County YMF @  
 ESPIAU's Restaurante y Cantina  
 in the Claremont Village  
 Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> AFTER YOUR EXAM UNTIL 8 PM  
 TO UNWIND, RELAX & EAT FREE FOOD  
 ALL TEST TAKERS ARE WELCOME**

**THE FOOD IS SPONSORED BY YOUR FRIENDS AT ASCE**

[www.asce.org/membership](http://www.asce.org/membership)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER CONTACT:

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# Owner's Special Provisions

## Section 1A - The Truth

The requirements of Division 01 and of those documents under bidding requirements and conditions of the contract and anything else we don't think looks good here is null and void. If you know what's good for you, you'd read this real close (meaning the contractor).

1.1 The work we did is clearly showed in the attached plans and specifications. Our engineer, whose had plenty of college, spent a lot of time when he drew up these here plans and specifications, but nobody can think of everything. Once your bid is in - that's it, brother. From then on, anything wanted by our engineer, or any of his friends, or anybody else (except the contractor) shall be considered as showed, specified or implied and shall be provided by the contractor without no expense to nobody, but himself (meaning the contractor).

1.2 If the work is did without no expense to the contractor, then the work will be took down and did again until the extra expense to the contractor is satisfactory to our engineer.

1.3 Our engineer's plans is right as drawn. If sumthin is drawn wrong, it shall be discovered by the contractor, corrected, and did right at no extra expense to us. It won't cut no ice with us or our engineer if you point out any mistakes our engineer has drawn. If you do, it will be a long time before you do any more work for us or him (meaning the engineer).

1.4 The contractor is not supposed to make fun of our engineer, his plans, or the kind of work we're having did. If he does, it's just too bad for him (meaning the contractor).

1.5 Any contractor walking around the jobs with a smile on his face is subject to the review of his bid.

1.6 If the contractor don't find all our engineer's mistakes before he bids the job, or if the contractor ain't got enough sense to know that our engineer is going to think up a bunch of new stuff that's going to have to be did before the job is complete, then it's just too bad for him (meaning the contractor).



## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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### Advertising Information:

To place ads, contact the editor.  
Payments are due 30 days from the date of Publication. Copies must be received by the Editor by the third Thursday of the month prior to publishing.

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## ENGINEERS' WEEK 2012

Engineers' Week, February 19-26, was concluded successfully in Riverside and San Bernardino counties with another exceptional dinner meeting of the Inland Empire Council of Engineers and Scientists at the University of Redlands. Members of ASCE met with their counterparts from American Society of Mechanical Engineers, California Society of Professional Engineers, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, American Public Works Association and Society of Military Engineers to hear Mike Markus, P.E., General Manager of Orange County Water District describe in detail the District's Groundwater Replenishment system, the largest indirect potable water reuse facility in the world, and the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award from ASCE.

During the week, local ASCE members visited high schools in Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Perris, Murietta, Temecula and elsewhere to present Civil Engineering career information to students. One response is perhaps typical:

"Hello,

**I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the three guest speakers who came to talk to my AVID Classes. They provided a wealth of information about the field of engineering. They sparked interest in this field for several of my students. It was wonderful to have them both present their powerpoint and interact with the kids. Please pass on our appreciation.**

**Thank you again. Brenda Chiuminatta, Teacher, AVID Program, Temecula Valley High School March 16, 2012"**

It doesn't need to stop here. Schools are always anxious to have outside speakers, whether for a full assembly or for individual meetings with key prospects. The Branch has an excellent Powerpoint on the subject, and ASCE National has many handouts and promotional items. Contact any Board member if you would be interested in doing a presentation at your local high school or middle school.

## 2012 ASCE / CLSA GOLF TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER BILL YOUNG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Links at Summerly in Lake Elsinore will be the venue on Friday, May 18 for a golf tournament to benefit the Bill Young Memorial Scholarship fund. The tournament, starting at Noon, is sponsored jointly by the Riverside / San Bernardino Branch and the Younger Member Forum of ASCE, and by the Riverside / San Bernardino and the Desert Chapters of California Land Surveyors Association. Players, sponsors and event volunteers are needed.

William H. "Bill" Young, for whom the scholarship is named, is remembered with great respect by the Land Surveying community locally as well as on a State and National level.

Bill was born in 1934 in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He started work with Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in 1957, eventually becoming Chief of Surveying and Mapping. He also was President of the Board of Directors of Analytical Photogrammetric Surveying from 1970 until his death in 2006. After his retirement from Flood Control in 1996, he continued working to elevate the profession of Land Surveying on a national basis.

In 1992 Bill was appointed to the Research Committee on Geodesy of the National Academy of Sciences. He was a founding member and Board chairman of the California Spatial Reference Center, and an Executive Committee member of the Integrated Global Positioning System Network of the Southern California Earthquake Center. SCEC, headquartered at University of Southern California, is a community of 600 scientists from 16 core institutions and 47 participating institutions, founded in 1991.

Married for 51 years at the time of his passing, Bill and Mollie lived in Riverside where they raised 3 daughters and 2 sons.

## **CAL POLY STUDENTS ON A ROLL**

The Riverside-San Bernardino Branch is privileged to have two exceptional universities in our area with accredited Civil Engineering programs, Cal Poly Pomona and California Baptist University.

The Student Chapter at Cal Poly Pomona hosted ASCE's Pacific Southwest Conference for Student Chapters March 22-24. Over 1,000 student members registered from 18 Universities in 5 states. The focus of the conference was on student competition, and the host school fared very well indeed. Cal Poly student chapter teams placed first in the Geotechnical, Environmental, Surveying, and Impromptu (communications and writing) events. They also placed Second overall in the Technical Paper and Concrete Canoe events, and Sixth in the Steel Bridge competition.

In other Cal Poly news, it was announced this week that the student team of Travis Romeyn, Matt Picardi, Cory Williams and Thomas Tran competed last week in the National Student Paper competition at ASCE's GeoCongress 2012, March 25-29 at the Oakland Marriott Conference Center, where they were awarded first place. Cal Poly Professor and Chair of the Civil Engineering Department, Dr. Francelina A. Neto, Ph.D, P.L.S. said, "We are very proud of them."

## **TEMECULA – MURRIETA GROUP**

With a population of over 300,000, the five Cities in the Southwest corner of Riverside County are somewhat remote from monthly ASCE Branch activities. Several times in the past an informal working group has held periodic meetings, often spearheaded by Ron Moreno, P.E., with RBF's Temecula office. A new opportunity has arisen with considerable potential, a "combo club", the brainchild of Eduardo Hernandez, Vollmer-Gray Labs, and others. The informal group would include members of ASCE along with "NACE International, The Corrosion Society", and "ASM International, the Materials International Society". Other participants from similar organizations could be invited, including Mechanical and Electrical, and Geotechnical engineers. An initial meeting, originally planned for March, is now anticipated in late April. Preliminary plans for the meeting include a presentation by Mr. Hernandez entitled "Construction / Product Corrosion and How You Got There", an examination of underground metal corrosion in the built environment. When details are available, invitations will be e-mailed through the ASCE Riverside /San Bernardino mailing list.



Discover  
the Spirit  
of Golf



# Bill Young Memorial Scholarship 2012 Golf Tournament & Fundraiser

*Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter of CLSA*

*Desert Chapter of CLSA*

*San Bernardino-Riverside Branch of ASCE*

*San Bernardino-Riverside Younger Member Forum of ASCE*



**Friday, May 18, 2012**  
Registration & check in at 12:00 noon  
**Shotgun Start at 1:00pm**  
*There will be lots of goodies for everyone!*

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If you are not a golfer,  
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**VOLUNTEERS**  
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The cost is **\$100.00** per player  
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Please mail registration form and checks,  
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Number of Players in Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of Other Players: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in SPONSORSHIP: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

SPONSORSHIP Opportunity of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional amount enclosed for HOLE SPONSORS or DONATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & contact information for Hole Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation:**  
\_\_\_\_ RSB-CLSA  
\_\_\_\_ D-CLSA  
\_\_\_\_ ASCE

Contact Steve Ledbetter directly for sponsorship arrangements.

## 2012 Regions 8 & 9 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders

I recently had the pleasure of attending ASCE's annual Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL), in Portland Oregon. The WSBL is part of a two-day conference that brings together about 300 students, younger member, branch, and section leaders for professional development, networking, an overview of ASCE, and technical tours.

Conference topics included: overview and organization of ASCE, ASCE Guiding Principles, ASCE finances, networking, programs to help your section/branch, a town hall meeting with ASCE presidential candidates, ASCE social media, and a Q&A with ASCE leaders; of which, two topics really stood out.

The first, ASCE Guiding Principles, discussed the strategic issues the Society is going to continue to focus on into the future. Those issues are **infrastructure**, **sustainability**, and the "**Raise the Bar**" initiative. These are the key elements ASCE feels will help shape and guide our profession. Of these, ASCE's "Raise the Bar" initiative is very important.

ASCE stated that the technical challenges facing our rapidly evolving society will require professional engineers to advance their technical excellence and professional leadership to address complex challenges facing society. The National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), and key committees of the National Academy of Engineers, among others, have all recognized the need to "raise the bar". The "Raise the Bar" initiative hopes to make the vision a reality beginning in 2020.

While this may not have a direct affect on all engineers, it most certainly will for those new to the profession. Even though making this vision a reality will take some time, younger engineers must take it upon themselves to be technically prepared in order to remain at the top of the engineering field in the future. I encourage everyone to visit [www.RaiseTheBarForEngineers.org](http://www.RaiseTheBarForEngineers.org) for more information and to become aware of the changes we engineers need to make to adapt to our rapidly changing profession.

Another topic was "The Power of One", which discussed how Sections and Branches can provide better services to its members, and the tools and resources ASCE makes available to its leaders and members. These include: the leadership and management program, helping with career resources, mentoring, ethics, certifications, honors and awards; the issues and advocacy program, helping to shape public policy, enacting strategic initiatives, as mentioned above, and public relations training; the membership and community program, providing the ASCE website with the new MyASCE section helping members connect with colleagues, membership subscriptions including the new digital version of "*Civil Engineering*" magazine, institutes, technical activities committees, local sections, branches, younger member groups, and international groups, volunteerism, outreach, activities participation, and personal and financial programs. Please refer to ASCE's recently published 2011-2012 Member Resource Guide for more information.

ASCE has also made significant gains in getting civil engineering and the Society's mission recognized in the media. Gaining national attention from the President's State of the Union Address, Mike Rowe's episode of "Dirty Jobs: Dirty Infrastructure" referencing ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure, and from civil engineering ranking number six on the list of America's top 100 jobs in "Money" magazine, among others.

ASCE membership isn't about paying your annual dues, it is a career investment. No matter what stage of your career, ASCE aims to help you grow professionally. Currently, the Los Angeles Section and its Branches are facing challenges enrolling and retaining our members. It is the Sections' and Branches' job to help spread the word about ASCE and its value. To do this our Branch is in discussion to create a new position for a membership champion, an eager and passionate engineer to use the Society's available resources to promote the value of civil engineering and ASCE. The Civil Engineering profession provides us with a respected career, room to advance, and the ability to support our families; it is up to engineers to give back, whether in volunteering your services with ASCE or supporting the voice of Civil Engineering: **American Society of Civil Engineers.**

*By Steven Ledbetter*

*San Bernardino/Riverside Branch Secretary*



# Santa Ana River Watershed 2012

## Implementing the Vision



April 25, 2012 • National Orange Show Events Center, San Bernardino, CA

***Convened by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)  
and coordinated by the Water Education Foundation***

Join us on April 25, 2012 to discuss the importance of the Santa Ana River Watershed and how we will implement plans to improve the quality and reliability of our water supply. This is a working conference with audience feedback.

### **What will be discussed?**

- How watershed management results in a healthier environment and reduces permit compliance costs
- Preparing for bigger storm events and making use of water
- How land use decisions influence water quality and supply
- Leveraging local resources
- Finding efficiencies in regulatory compliance
- How working across traditional boundaries saves money and maximizes public benefit

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The conference starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

**Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are available for this one-day conference.**

Contact [jnordmann@watereducation.org](mailto:jnordmann@watereducation.org) for more information.

# April

- Apr 14 YMF Booth at FE/EIT Exam, Fairplex Pomona. Happy Hour following See Page 5
- Apr 18 April Meeting 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Old Spaghetti Factory, Rancho Cucamonga, See Pg. 4
- Apr 25 SAWPA Santa Ana River Watershed Conference, Orange Show Events Center, San Bernardino. See Page 11
- May 18 Bill Young Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, Lake Elsinore See Page 7&9
- May 23 May Meeting, San Bernardino Association of Governments. Save the date!

## Membership Information

Type of Membership and Annual Dues (National)

<b>Students:</b>	Free
<b>Associate Member:</b>	\$50 year of baccalaureate Degree and first year after, then incremental increases to \$205 over five years.
<b>Member:</b>	\$205 annually
<b>Affiliate:</b>	\$205 annually
<b>Section (Branch) Dues:</b>	\$45/year

1. National ASCE Student Membership is now FREE! Those who have chapters or clubs still must be a member of them before joining National. Log onto <https://www.asce.org/online/> fill out the short application and instantly become a member of ASCE or call 1-800-548-ASCE (2723)
2. Online Membership renewal available, go to <https://www.asce.org/renewal/inforenewal.cfm>. You need your membership number, all payments must be made with a major credit card. An e-receipt is transmitted to the member upon completion of the transaction.

Over the summer your ASCE San Bernardino – Riverside Branch will be contacting you for a business card advertisement in your monthly newsletter. The proceeds from the business card ads defray the costs of newsletter so that the Branch funds can be used for purposes of providing student scholarships, Engineer’s Week in February where the Branch volunteers make presentations to the local high schools to generate interest in the field of engineering, and other community programs. The cost of the newsletter advertisement is \$250 for a one-year subscription of 10 issues. Included with the Business Card advertisement is a business spotlight in the monthly newsletter where one or two businesses are highlighted. If you would like to reserve your spot early for next years newsletter please contact your Treasurer for next year – Brandon Reyes 909.974.4967 and let him know which month you would like your Business Spotlight (1st in line gets first choice).

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Please see contact information below to have your companies business card displayed here.

If you'd like to have your business card or company information listed in the Professional Directory, Please Contact: The Branch Treasurer, Brandon Reyes at (909) 974-4967, or email at breyes@rbf.com



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**April Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:30am - 1:00pm  
Old Spaghetti Factory, Rancho Cucamonga  
See Page 4

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