

ASCE

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2012

March President's Message

As professionals, we are always looking for opportunities to develop our skills, advance our knowledge, further our career and reinforce, enrich and expand our business relationships and professional network. The American Society of Civil Engineers provides to its members a variety of benefits. Some of these benefits consist of networking opportunities, education, exclusive online resources, Magazines and discounted publications, and personal fulfillment.

The San Bernardino and Riverside County Branch holds every month a lunch meeting on a regular basis. At these meetings you as a member can enrich your network opportunities by keeping existing business relationships and making new ones. At the same time you get the chance to listen to speakers with diverse backgrounds and specialties discussing the current events and latest news related to the field of Civil Engineering. Also for those who are interested in expanding their knowledge or need any continuing education credits, ASCE offers a series of seminars, conferences, and online classes to keep them up to date with the latest trends. This information gets distributed to members only via email or via mail as hard copies. The ASCE website is a great tool that provides good information as well. As a member you also received discounted publications and a free subscription to "Civil Engineering" Magazine. Do you know that ASCE offers discount rates to its members on variety of services? For examples, discount on rental cars like, Budget, Avis, Hertz and even car insurance discount with Geico Auto Insurance. But aside from all this, my favorite benefit is

Continued on Page 5

NEWSLETTER

CHILI'S® CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS NIGHT!



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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS NIGHT, CHILI'S WILL DONATE 15% OF THE SALES YOU BRING IN TO
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CIVIL ENGINEER

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.asce-sbriv.org/>

March Meeting

Engineering in County Governments

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

A Panel Discussion

George A. Johnson, P.E., is Director of the Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency, responsible for land use and transportation matters through overall management of the six separate departments that make up the Agency. George has 27 years of experience in land use, planning, survey, engineering, construction and transportation at local, regional, State and federal levels.

Granville M. (Bow) Bowman, P.E., P.L.S., is Director of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works. He has been employed professionally for 45 years in both private and public sectors. Prior to coming to San Bernardino County, he served in Clark County, Nevada, San Diego County, and in the Cities of Oxnard and Malibu. He was Senior Vice President of Kercheval Engineers in San Diego, overseeing offices in Las Vegas, San Francisco and Birmingham.

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Time: 11:30am to 1:00pm
Location: Mexicali Bar & Grill
1690 Spruce Street at
Chicago Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507
Cost: \$25 members w/ RSVP
\$30 non-members or no RSVP
\$15 students
Deadline: Please reserve by
March 12, 2012
Additional Info: John B. Rogers, P.E.
jrogers@cleengineering.com,
(909) 229-5143
or: Steven Ledbetter, E.I.T.
sledbetter@tkeengineering.com,
(951) 680-0440

Spring Field Trip

March 23, 2012

All-American Asphalt, Inc.

Corona

All-American Asphalt has been in business in Southern California for over 40 years. Starting as a trucking company, it has evolved into a material production and construction company with five asphalt plants in Westminster, Corona, Irvine, Irwindale and San Fernando, all served by the Corona quarry. This tour will involve a brief history of the Company, an overview of the quarry and crushing plant, and a tour of the asphalt plant, followed by lunch.

Date: Friday, March 23, 2012
Time: 10:30am to 12:30 PM
Location: All-American Asphalt
1776 All-American Way, Corona
East of I-15, South of Magnolia
Avenue Meet at Flagpole on left side
at end of haul road.
Host: Robert Schwartz, Quality Control
Manager
Cost: Free! Lunch courtesy of All-American Asphalt
Deadline: Please reserve by March 21, 2012.
Limited by bus
capacity to first 25 reservations.
Additional Info: John B. Rogers, P.E.
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or: Steven Ledbetter, E.I.T.
sledbetter@tkeengineering.com,
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Preview: www.allamericanasphalt.com

THIS MONTH IN ENGINEERING

MARCH, 2012 THE FIRTH OF FORTH BRIDGE NORTH AND SOUTH QUEENSFERRY EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

The British Isles were the birthplace of the worldwide railroad industry. The natural terrain in England, Wales, and Scotland led to a need for many bridges across the waterways, estuaries and valleys in this compact land. Many pioneering Civil Engineers were involved, including Thomas Telford, George Stephenson and his son Robert, Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Barker. Bridge construction took place during the industrial revolution, beginning with stone arch bridges and masonry structures, followed by cast and wrought iron arches, some very unusual tubular structures. Eventually steel bridges became the norm, made possible by the development of the Bessemer process in 1855 and refined by the Siemens-Martin open hearth process in 1875, which yielded steel of dependable quality.

The Firth of Forth presented a formidable obstacle to the rail line running on the east coast from London to Dundee and Aberdeen. The bridge was designed by John Fowler and Benjamin Baker, who assumed the work from Thomas Bouch; he was relieved when his earlier Forth of Tay in Dundee collapsed with great loss of life. Fowler & Baker designed a pair of back-to-back cantilevers spanning a clear 1,780 feet. Total length of the two-track rail bridge is 1.6 miles. The major towers and cantilever sections incorporated almost 51,000 tons of riveted steel (how many of us have actually worked on riveted steel structures?).

Work began in 1883; the Bridge was completed in 1890, with the last ceremonial rivet being driven on **March 4, 1890** by the Prince of Wales, who later became King George VII, Great-Grandfather of the current Queen Elizabeth II.

Civil Engineering Connection: This article is taken in part from the story, "Bridges of Britain" by William D. Middleton (1928 – 2011) in the January 2012 issue of "Trains" magazine. Middleton spent 30 years in the U.S. Navy as a Civil Engineer. After retiring from the Navy, he had a second career as a writer, journalist and photographer, pursuing his lifelong interest in trains.. He published 23 books, 80 articles in "Trains" magazine, and had 20 "Trains" covers to his credit.

Local Connection: In June 2007, 26 Cal Poly Pomona Civil Engineering undergraduates, including YMF President-Elect Julianna Gonzalez, travelled to London, where they studied Bridge Engineering and Advanced Bridge Engineering in an intensive one-month program, for which they were granted 8 credits. On weekends the group toured the country, visiting museums and many of the bridges they were studying, including the Firth of Forth Bridge.

The Bridge is now an ASCE International Civil Engineering Landmark,



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President's Message continued

the personal fulfillment that I get, the feeling that I'm doing something for my community. As an example of this is that this coming March 03, I will be participating in a community service event that the San Bernardino & Riverside younger member forum (YMF) is preparing for the City of Riverside "Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful" If you would like to participate go to our website for more information on this event.

Finally as civil engineers we should be proud to be members of the American Society of Civil Engineers. An organization that provides to its members ways to improve themselves not only on a technical level but also on a personal level, where people have common professional interest and similar business concerns. Invite your professional colleagues and friends who are not yet members to join us and let them know the importance and benefits that they can get by being a part of a professional organization like the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists

Engineers in California are accustomed to receiving an occasional letter from Sacramento bearing the familiar logo of our State Board of Registration. Most are routine, containing renewal invoices, acknowledgements of address or organization changes. We need to be reminded occasionally of the requirements to file address changes and to notify the Board when we leave a job or accept a new position..

Palms start to sweat, however, when the envelope bears the return address of the "Enforcement Unit" of the Board. I received such a letter last year, resulting from a complaint filed by a client on a small but complex project that we started in 2006. In the letter, I was accused of violating Section 6775(c) of the Business and Professions Code, preparing plans in a "negligent or incompetent manner".

Several weeks of intense work followed, preparing a twelve-page response which accompanied two FedEx boxes of plans, plan check comments, letters, e-mails, diaries and photographs. Then came several months of nervous anticipation, followed by a request for more detail. More waiting. Finally, another letter from the Board: "...you acted in a manner that is consistent with the standard of care . . . it has been determined that no disciplinary action will be taken, and this case has now been closed." Guarded relief and subdued celebration!

After my case was resolved, I had a chance to talk by phone with Nancy A. Eissler, Enforcement Program Manager, who filled me in on some of the facts regarding the Board and its staff. They are responsible for licensing all of the Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and, because of an Agency merger, Geologists and Geophysicists, in California, along with Engineers and Land Surveyors in Training. (Would it surprise you to learn that there are less than 200 geophysicists in the

Continued on page 8

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Geotechnical Committee Dinner Meeting

The Geotechnical Committee met for dinner at Zendejas Mexican Grill in Rancho Cucamonga on February 8th. Mr. Jeffrey R. Keaton (Senior Principal Engineering Geologist, AMEC) presented a summary of the use of Geophysics for detection of subsurface voids, liquefaction analysis, and landslide investigations.

Mr. Keaton explained that implementation and limitations of geophysical methods are often poorly understood by practitioners and not well explained to clients. An example was given where resistivity surveys indicated several “anomalies” on a gas storage facility where void spaces were a concern. The client misunderstood “anomalies” to mean “voids”. Subsequent drilling indicated very dry loose soil, but no void within the anomaly.

Engineering Geologists Conclusion: Yes, that adequately explains the very high resistivity within the anomaly, and can occur from natural gas transmission through a sand layer.

Clients Conclusion: Geophysical methods do not work.

As professionals, we need to understand our tools and know how to explain them to our clients.

Kenneth Cox, P.E., G.E.

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Project Update Proposed Liberty Quarry

Granite Construction’s appeal of the Riverside County Planning Commission’s denial of their Surface Mining Permit application for the proposed 135-acre quarry on a 414-acre site west of Interstate 15 adjacent to the San Diego County border was heard by the Board of Supervisors starting on January 31, and continuing in all-day hearings, again at the Riverside Convention Center on February 7, moving to the Board Chambers on February 7. Granite was supported by a large number of Union members in green t-shirts and hats, and opposed by the Pechanga Tribe, the City of Temecula, San Diego State University, and a large number of other groups and grass-roots individuals, many wearing their signature bright orange colors. The final vote on November 14 by the Board, after six Planning Commission and three Board hearings, each extending for a full day, was to confirm the Planning Commission and deny the project. Supervisors Buster and Stone voted to deny along with Chairman Tavaglione. Supervisors Ashley and Benoit voted in favor.

The project is officially dead at this point. Granite can appeal to the courts, but legal experts familiar with the case have offered the opinion that there are scant grounds for such an appeal. Granite can, of course, redesign and resubmit it as a new application.

As before, Stay Tuned!

State?) The Staff deals with about 136,000 active licenses involving between 90,000 and 100,000 individuals, including those with multiple licenses. They also manage expired and retired licenses, reinstatements and fee delinquencies, along with all of the examination work..

During the last fiscal year, the Enforcement Unit took in 418 new cases and closed about 400. At the end of the year, there were still 318 active cases pending. Of the closed cases, 122 were dismissed with no violation, or because of insufficient evidence. Almost 300 registrants were found to have committed some violation. Ten were referred to local District Attorneys' Offices to pursue criminal action, most relating to unlicensed activity. Over a hundred were determined to be severe enough that penalties were assessed, ranging from informal citations to formal rebuke by the Board, including probation, license suspension or revocation. In almost all cases where the registrant was found to be at fault, the State will ask for reimbursement to cover the cost of the investigation, including fees paid to the outside Independent Expert Consultants (about which more later).

Engineers, surveyors or geologists who are penalized have rights of due process, and can file appeals, which are heard by Administrative Law Judges. Because the Board itself is made up of a majority of public members who do not necessarily have any technical qualifications, the Board is not generally involved in investigative matters, although they do approve formal disciplinary actions.

All of this sounds expensive; it's surprising to learn that all of the Board activities are self-supporting, with no money coming from the State General Fund. Exam fees, enforcement reimbursements and license renewals cover virtually all of the costs of supporting the Board and its 40 Staff employees. In the past, vacancies have resulted in overwork of the remaining staff, but they are now at full complement. The State's very public fiscal crisis has not had much effect on the agency.

Economies have resulted from eliminating the published newsletters and printed lists of licensees, although all of the same information is available on their website at www.pels.ca.gov or www.geology.ca.gov. The website also includes a detailed list of enforcement actions, which thankfully does not include my name.

The Staff makes extensive use of Independent Expert Consultants, and they are always looking for help in this area. An Expert must be experienced in the specific area of practice defined in the complaint, as well as being physically near the site of the case to account for geographic differences in the standards of practice. This can be problematic, as the Expert cannot know the person being investigated, for obvious reasons. Experts are generally given up to 15 hours to examine documents and report on a case, for which they are paid \$75/hour.

My dealings with the Staff of the Board were exceptional; the analysts are professional and helpful to deal with, and I was always treated fairly and with respect.

Lessons learned:

1. Vet clients thoroughly. Even if you are starving, it is sometimes in your best interest to turn work away. Follow your instincts.
2. Never, ever, work without a contract. The law requires it. If the scope changes, "put it in writing."
2. Keep records. Write everything down, document all actions, and save every scrap of paper, every progress plan, CAD version and e-mail. Organize your records; a box of loose documents isn't much help after a few years in storage.
3. Communicate. Follow up every phone conversation, no matter how trivial or how nasty, with a confirming e-mail. Keep your client informed as to your progress – or even your lack thereof. If you are having problems with a reviewing agency, another consultant, a lender, anyone involved in the project, expect the client be a part of the solution. Many cases that end up in the Board's Enforcement Section could have been resolved through better communication between all parties during the design process.

John B. Rogers, P.E

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

E.W. Moon, Inc. 3619 Motor Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90034

Engineer with FEMA funded project experience.

- Engineer with FEMA funded project experience.
- Engineer with experience in performing hydrologic studies of urban and rural watersheds, evaluation of existing flood control facilities, feasibility studies and flood insurance studies. Experience in complying with Public Works standards and procedures are required. Experience in using the Watershed Management System's Modified Rational Method (MODRAT), HEC-1, HEC-HMS, and HSPF hydrologic models is required. Also, experience with HEC-RAS, XP-SWMM/WSPG, XP-SWMM, XP2D, FLO2D, and AdH hydraulic models is required.
- Professionals experienced in Wastewater, Storm water, Solid Resources and Climate Change projects.

Inquiries with resume' to: David R. Boone, P.E., Vice President, dboone@ewmooninc.net, or (310) 815-9901 x 239.

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You can receive a daily e-mail brief from ASCE containing links to major news stories on Civil Engineering subjects worldwide. Links to national and international news articles, sustainable development, professional and Society issues, technology, job openings and related subjects are all presented in a brief and lively format.

Sign-up is free at <https://www.smartbrief.com/asce/index.jsp>, and requires only an e-mail address.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE CAL POLY POMONA STUDENT CHAPTER, ASCE MARCH 22-24, 2012

There are numerous opportunities for volunteers to assist the very active and enthusiastic ASCE Student Chapter in this regional conference, attracting 1,000 engineering students from throughout Southern California, Southern Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. Judges are needed for various engineering-related competitive events; there is a job fair, and in-kind donations for competition prizes are also solicited.

More information: http://www.projectpartners.com/society_files/50/pswc2012%20Judging-Volunteering%20Form.pdf

Or contact Conference Chair Chandni Patel at (626) 340-9799 or cdpatel@csupomona.edu.



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for landscape architects, specifiers & design professionals

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- Outdoor Living Center
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- Playground Design Center
- New Product Showcase
- and Much, Much More . . .



Sustainability Open Panel Discussion:
Biodiversity + Design
Uncovering Nature in the Urban Core
Presented by Mia Lehrer + Associates

Other seminar presenters include:

 Tom Hawkins Energy Conservation With Green Roofs	 Paul Saito, FASLA Urban Planning: Transportation Systems and the Landscape	 Ashley Calabria, Associate Professor U. of Georgia AutoCAD to Photoshop Rendering	 Judith Guido Monopolize Your Market	 Yvonne English, ASLA Lighting the Landscape	 Daniel Wilson Rainwater Harvesting: Passive and Active Systems
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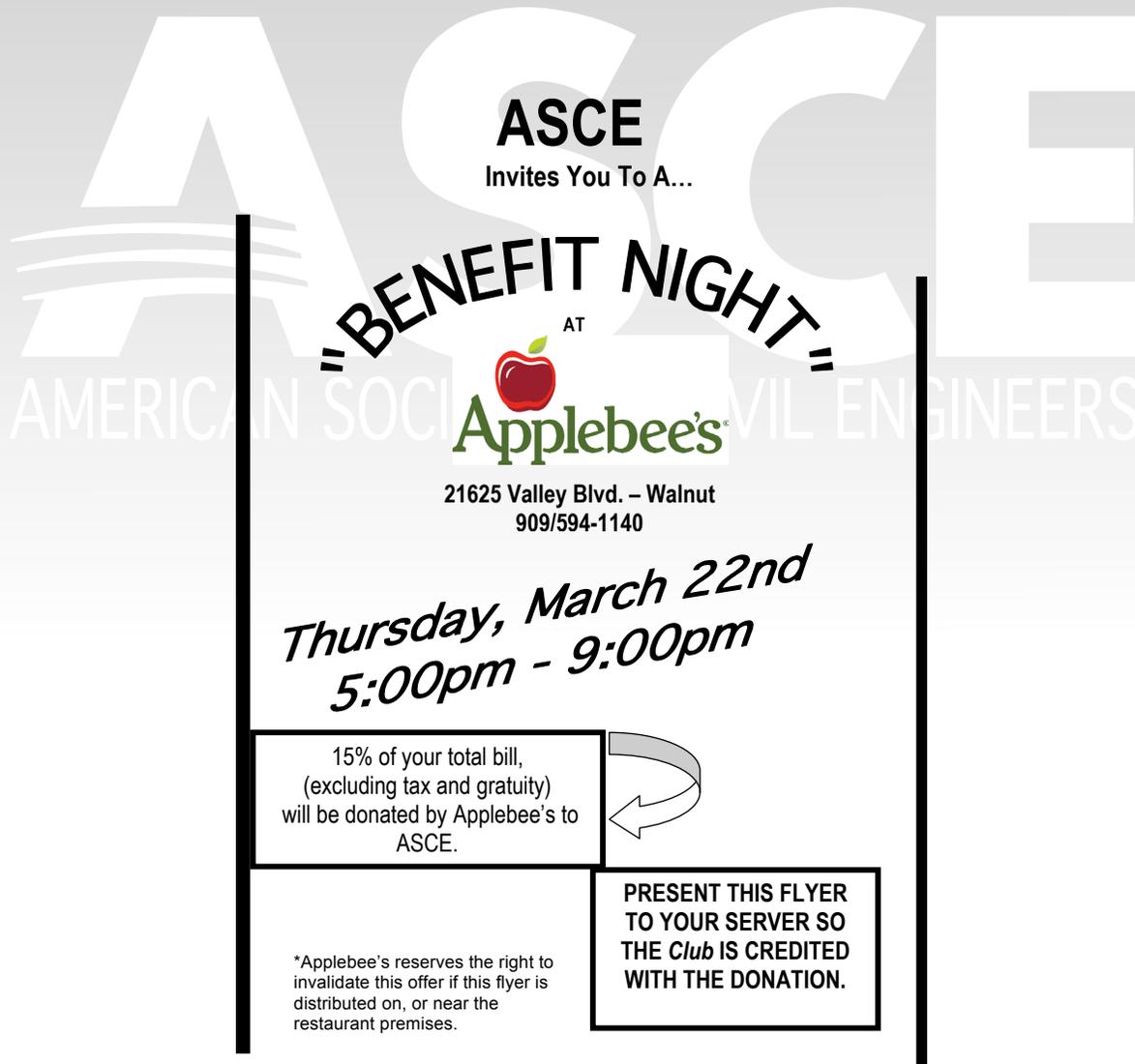
The Blood Bank for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Waiting for my 15-minute rest period to end in the canteen at the LifeStream donor center on Van Buren Boulevard, I read with considerable awe and admiration their Wall of Honor, containing the names of celebrated donors who have each contributed more than **10 GALLONS** of blood over the years. Several familiar names popped out: Bill Addington (father of Matt Addington, the Branch President-Elect), and Grant Beckland, both prominent local Civil Engineers, and Ron Barnett, recently retired from the Riverside County Surveyor's office. These guys are Community Heroes in my book. I'm sure there are more Civil Engineers in the huge list on the wall.

I'm a newcomer by comparison, still working on my second gallon. Every little bit helps, though. Donation is painless, takes about an hour, and is often accompanied by **Free Stuff**: t-shirts, movie passes, i-pod drawings, free sandwiches every Friday. There are several permanent donor sites around the area, and LifeStream's familiar buses roam the Inland Empire constantly. Check out www.lstream.org for directions and schedules.

John B. Rogers, P.E.

Editor



ASCE
Invites You To A...

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March

Mar 3 YMF Community Service Project, City of Riverside

Mar 14 March Meeting 11:30am to 1:00pm Mexicali Bar & Grill see page 3

Mar 21 Chili's Benefit Night. Diamond Bar, for Cal Poly Pomona Student Chapter

Mar 22 ASCE Benefit Night at Applebee's see page 11

Mar 22-24 ASCE Pacific Southwest Student Conference, Cal Poly Pomona

Mar 23 Spring Field Trip See Page 7

Mar 30 LA Expo See Page 10

Membership Information

Type of Membership and Annual Dues (National)

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

Professional Directory

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

**REMINDER**

**March Meeting:**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012** 1:30am to 1:00pm

Mexicali Bar & Grill

1690 Spruce Street at Chicago Avenue Riverside, CA 92507

**Spring Field Trip**

**Friday, March 23, 2012** 10:30am to 12:30 PM

All-American Asphalt

1776 All-American Way, Corona

**April Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:30am - 1:00pm

Old Spaghetti Factory



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

P.O.Box 1545

Guasti, CA 91743

FIRST CLASS MAIL