

ASCE

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



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

May 2012

EXAM TIME . . .

This month, engineers and surveyors across California have been subjecting themselves to various degrees of torture, sleepless nights and worries of all sorts, anticipating the exam cycle that was completed in mid-April. The mayhem began on Thursday, April 12 with the California-specific "Seismic Principles" and "Engineering Surveying", followed on Friday, April 13 (anyone superstitious?) with the National exams for Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical disciplines. Starting on the same date and continuing on Saturday was the two-day national Structural Engineering exam. Saturday was also the day for Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Land Surveying (the old EIT and LSIT exams). The following week, Monday, April 23, was the date for the new computer-based exam for California Land Surveyor candidates. It was given for the first time at private testing sites by a Board contractor. All other exams in Southern California were given either at Fairplex in Pomona, or at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

This is scary stuff. Many applicants have spent weeks or months cramming, attending review courses given by private firms, colleges and universities, and by professional societies. Costs of prep and review ranged from a few hundred dollars to thousands.

Test strategies were debated, textbooks and reference books were porcupined with tab indexes, file cards and clips. Hand carts and book boxes were hastily cobbled together. Does my calculator fall within the prescribed limits? What should I eat or drink before or during the exam (a recent LA Times article touted the magical benefit of drinking a few beers the night before an exam).

Continued on page 3

This Month in Engineering

Kenneth Cox, Assistant Newsletter Editor



The Golden Gate Bridge

The Golden Gate Bridge opened on May 27, 1937. The opening festivities lasted for a week. The festivities were well earned. There was nothing simple about the bridge construction. Early political opposition was led by the ferry personnel, engineers and politicians. Joseph Strauss earned the post of chief engineer, through his innovation and forceful determination. Fourteen years of work were required from Strauss before the project was approved in January of 1933.

The soil investigation alone bore a price tag of \$35 million dollars. The bridge would cross several geologic units including serpentine, sandstone and basalt. The bridge's proximity to the San Andreas Fault imposed extreme seismic requirements upon the structure. Joseph Strauss's solution was thought to withstand any earthquake; however modern analysis indicated a vulnerability to collapse triggered by the failure of supports on the 320 ft arch over Fort Point. A 392 million dollar seismic retrofit program was initiated which is scheduled for completion this year.

The structural designer, Charles Ellis (who never received credit for his contributions to the bridge) disagreed with Strauss over several key issues. Strauss told Ellis to take a vacation and then fired him.

The project leaders were safety conscious and the bridge construction was significantly safer than the industry average of one life lost per million dollars of project cost. Major credit for the safety of the bridge construction is due to the innovative use of a safety net stretched below areas of active construction. Accidents did happen however: a ship plowed through a trestle, storms required abandoning and dynamiting a 10,000 ton floating caisson, and a tower structure fell into the safety net killing 10 men.

The 50th anniversary celebration in May 1987 closed the bridge to vehicles and allowed pedestrians to cross the bridge. Ineffective crowd control resulted in the bridge becoming congested with about 300,000 people. The center span flattened out under the weight.

Despite the challenges, the iconic structure was built to last as long as there are funds to maintain it.

The Numbers:

- 4 pay scale in dollars per day for unskilled laborers.
- 692 height in feet of the suspension towers above the water.
- 4,200 length in feet of the center span.
- 8,981 total length in feet of the bridge.
- 27,572 number of wires in each of the main cables.
- 80,000 length in feet of wires in the main cable.
- 390,000 cubic yards of concrete.
- 1,200,000 approximate number of rivets.



Golden Gate Opening Day 1937

Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Message	1	AECOM: The Future Runs Through Ontario	8
In This Issue/ This Month in History	2	Bill Young Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament	9
Field Trip: All American Asphalt	3	Storm Water Committee Meeting	10
The Mighty Task Is Done	4	Landslide & Slope Stability Course/ White Water Rafting	11
Board of Directors / Newsletter Going Digital	5	Calendar / Membership Information	12
May meeting / Newsletter Info	6	Business Cards	13
2011-2012 Awards Program/2011 ASCE CYM Employer Recognition Award Ceremonie	7	Reminders	14



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

Editors's message Continued

State-wide, there were 1,000's of applicants taking all of these exams, in all disciplines.

A major hiccup appeared when Civil - Engineering Surveying test-takers discovered that the scheduled test had been corrupted. A clerical error resulted in the April 12 exam having to be rescheduled to early June. The positive news about the rescheduling is that it will be administered on a flexible schedule over seven days June 2 – 9 excepting Sunday, at one of 20 Prometric CBT (Computer-Based Testing) centers throughout the State. This new protocol for computer based exams was to be first implemented in October, but by working closely with the Board's contractor, they were able to use it for this make-up April exam instead.

Additional good news from the Board is that the exam results will all be available under the original schedule, currently anticipated by the end of June

Most of us have experienced the trauma of exam-taking. Engineers who completed college 20, 30 or more years ago still tell of nightmares about exam room scenarios, facing an exam in a subject they've never heard of, or starting a semester's worth of reading the night before a final. We all remember our fellow test takers, the ones who whined and cried about how hard an exam was, and whose posted results were ten points higher than anyone else, and the overconfident ones who sheepishly signed up for the next round of tests before the last results were even posted. We know of a Civil Engineer in the Bay Area who took the Structural Engineering exam eight times, finally passing it just before his 65th birthday.

The Truth: Exams don't stop with the passing of this latest round. Every job in our professional career is another exam, every project, every submittal. Each time we finish a set of retaining wall calcs, or calculate a dirt quantity, or size a storm drain pipe, or finish a draft Water Quality Management Plan, we are completing another exam. It's all part of this wonderful profession of Civil Engineering.

FIELD TRIP

ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT

Twenty two Branch members and guests were met on the morning of March 17 at All-American Asphalt in Corona by All-American's Quality Control Manager, Robert Johnson for a tour of their state-of-the-art facility including a quarry, rock crushing plant and asphalt plant, all automated, computer controlled, safe, clean and quiet. A highlight of the trip was meeting Mark Luer, All-American's President, in the asphalt plant control room, which has the look and feel of a modern airport control tower.

Photos by Brian Wolfe and Steve Ledbetter



The Mighty Task is Done

*Written by Joseph P. Strauss, Chief Engineer, Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District
upon completion of the building of the Bridge in May 1937*

At last the mighty task is done; Resplendent in the western sun
The Bridge looms mountain high; Its titan piers grip ocean floor,
Its great steel arms link shore with shore, Its towers pierce the sky.
On its broad decks in rightful pride, The world in swift parade shall ride,
Throughout all time to be; Beneath, fleet ships from every port,
Vast landlocked bay, historic fort, And dwarfing all--the sea.
To north, the Redwood Empire's gates; 'To south, a happy playground waits,
in Rapturous appeal; Here nature, free since time began, Yields to the restless moods of man,
Accepts his bonds of steel. Launched midst a thousand hopes and fears,
Damned by a thousand hostile sneers, Yet ne'er its course was stayed, But ask of those who met the foe
Who stood alone when faith was low, Ask them the price they paid. Ask of the steel, each strut and wire,
Ask of the searching, purging fire, That marked their natal hour; Ask of the mind, the hand, the heart,
Ask of each single, stalwart part, What gave it force and power. An Honored cause and nobly fought
And that which they so bravely wrought, Now glorifies their deed, No selfish urge shall stain its life,
Nor envy, greed, intrigue, nor strife, Nor false, ignoble creed. High overhead its lights shall gleam,
Far, far below life's restless stream, Unceasingly shall flow; For this was spun its lithe fine form,
To fear not war, nor time, nor storm, For Fate had meant it so.



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For more info or to send a post
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909.974.4967

Advertising cost apply

Newsletter to go All Digital

The Riverside / San Bernardino Branch sends this newsletter to about 1,000 members and guests each month. Although most ASCE Members in the Inland Empire have e-mail addresses on file with ASCE National, we still have to print and mail about 130 copies, Which adds to our monthly expences. Our budget is limited (is there anyone not in this position these days?) Instead of spending on printing and mailing costs, we would like to be able to put this money towards student scholarships and other branch activities.

The Board of Directors has decided to stop sending printed copies by regular mail to members, starting in October 2012. If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, please take a few minutes to make sure your ASCE information is complete and accurate. The September issue will be the last one you will receive by regular mail.

Our mailing list comes from the ASCE national database, so any changes to your contact information should come to us from that source. Members are encouraged to check the database periodically to make sure your information is correct. Go to www.asce.org. On the Society home page, in the menu bar at the top of the page, select "My ASCE", on the following page select "Enter myASCE", at the bottom of the text, then enter your user name and password, and follow the instructions to establish or update your personal data page.

May Meeting:

I-215 WIDENING PROJECT “#215BIGSHIFT”

**Tim Watkins, Public Information Specialist
San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG)**

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Time: 11:30am to 1:00pm
Location: Hilton San Bernardino Hotel
 285 Hospitality Lane
 San Bernardino, CA 92408
Cost: \$25 members w/ RSVP
 \$30 non-members or no RSVP
 \$15 students
Deadline: Please reserve by March 12, 2012
Additional Info: Brandon Reyes, P.E.
 breyes@rbf.com (909) 974-4967



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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 1/4 Page (per issue) \$75

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.

For Billing information contact:

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2011-2012 AWARDS PROGRAM

The Riverside / San Bernardino Branch follows many other ASCE Branches, Section, and Districts as well as the National organization in recognizing outstanding projects and individuals in several categories each year. Last year's local project winners were San Bernardino Associated Governments for the I-10 Widening project through Redlands, and RBF Consulting for Downtown Indio Revitalization, Phase I Infrastructure Improvements. Several individuals were honored, including current Branch President, Rita Escobar, whose attendance at the Awards Ceremony required a behind-the-scenes intervention by her supervisor at AECOM.

The Los Angeles Section held their version of an awards program, with the results publicized at the Annual Meeting in October. Several projects in the Inland Empire were recognized, along with many worthy individuals in both public and private employment.

Particularly in this recovering economy, stimulus money has resulted in many projects worthy of consideration. There is still time to submit an application: the deadline for all categories is May 31, 2012. Contact Past President Brian Wolfe, bwolfe@cityofredlands.com, for more information or for a copy of the simple application.

2011 ASCE CYM Employer Recognition Award Presentation

By: Robert Vasquez



On December 20, 2011 the San Bernardino / Riverside Counties Younger Member Forum, represented by the 2011 YMF President Robert Vasquez, presented the 2011 ASCE National Committee on Younger Members employer recognition award for exemplary support of young engineer involvement in ASCE activities to the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The award was accepted by the District's Chief Engineer and General Manager Mr. William "Dusty" Williams on behalf of the District during an annual Christmas breakfast and awards ceremony at the Districts headquarters in Riverside. After receiving the award Mr. Williams commented on the important role that ASCE plays in an engineer's career development and how this goes hand in hand with one of the Districts goals to develop well rounded engineers within their staff.

This award recognizes organizations, both public and private, which exhibit exemplary encouragement and support for young engineers on their staff to

be actively involved in ASCE activities. To be considered for the award an organization had to be nominated by members of their staff who are members of ASCE. Some examples which highlight the districts commitment to career development and to encourage young engineer involvement in ASCE are the following:

- The General Manager is a regular guest speaker at Younger Member Forum Meetings. Project management training is provided to young engineers as they are mentored on the job on managing a project from the planning phase through construction. Along the way young engineers learn to use a work breakdown structure for their projects and implement it using software such as Microsoft project.
- The District provides tuition reimbursement for employees who want to pursue advanced degrees, and send its engineers to various seminars throughout the year
- The District's General Manager is extremely supportive of young engineer's involvement with ASCE. All barriers to ASCE involvement are removed. For example, young engineers are given extended lunch hours to attend a branch luncheon.

The commemorative plaque can be seen displayed in the main lobby of the District's headquarters. The District will continue to encourage its engineers to be involved in ASCE activities and as such will likely be a contender for the award in the coming years.

For AECOM Transportation Engineers, the Future Runs through Ontario

Having earned the moniker, “Southern California’s Next Urban Center,” Ontario, California, offers engineers a cornucopia of opportunity.

“I came to the United States from Vietnam about 40 years ago,” explains AECOM associate vice president and civil engineer Hiep Bui, P.E. “And I’ve been a registered engineer in California for 29 years.”

After graduating from Texas A&M University with a civil engineering degree, Bui amassed a wealth of transportation engineering experience during 26 years with the California Department of Transportation. With the global firm AECOM (www.aecom.com) for the past five years, Bui credits Ontario’s strategic location with keeping things interesting for transportation engineers.



Hiep Bui, Cristina Gaytan and Brian Smith on the I-215 Project

“We’re working on several area projects. Perhaps the most significant right now is the \$270 million I-215 widening and reconstruction project. But other important transportation projects include the I-15 Base Line Road interchange improvement reconstruction and the I-215/Clinton Keith Road project.”

As a veteran, how does Bui view the P.E. exams taking place in California now? “The young engineers in our office are generally comfortable with the process. Of course, they would be happier if they had more time to prepare. But that’s all part of it.”

AECOM civil engineer Brian Smith, P.E., knew he wanted to be an engineer in high school. Starting with drafting classes, he worked his way through internships and part-time jobs before earning his civil engineering degree from CalPoly, Pomona in 2001. For him, the Ontario area provides specific advantages.

“I was working at a firm where I had previously interned, but I missed working on the larger transportation projects that I had been exposed to. At that time, AECOM was moving an office to Ontario for the I-215 project. I started there the day the office opened.”

After a year on the I-215 Segments 1 and 2 projects, Smith earned the position of lead engineer on the I-215 Segment 5 project. But he gained a variety of experience on other projects as well, such as the I-215 at Clinton Keith Interchange project in Murrieta. Currently he’s focusing on the Magnolia Avenue Grade Separation project, a railroad grade separation project involving Riverside County and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad.

Smith still remembers the P.E. certification process: “When I took the test, my wife and I had a one-year old, which made it difficult to find time to study. My advice to young engineers is to take the test as early as you can. As your career and life progress, it only becomes harder to find time to prepare.”

“There are a lot of requirements for certification; it’s not an easy process,” adds AECOM civil engineer Cristina Gaytan, P.E. “But that’s how it should be.”

Starting in her high school engineering club, Gaytan recognized her calling early on. During summer breaks she attended the Summer Transportation Institute, a program promoting transportation careers. That cemented her desire to be a civil engineer in transportation. Today, she puts her zeal to good use on several large transportation projects.

“Right now, I, too, am working on the I-215 project. But the wonderful thing about this area is the sheer number of signature transportation projects. Ontario is a great place for transportation engineers.”



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,
you can still help
with this tournament!
We are looking for
VOLUNTEERS
to work this event!

The cost is **\$100.00** per player
and **\$75.00** for students with college ID.
Please mail registration form and checks,
NO LATER THAN MAY 11, 2012, payable to:

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Contact Steve Ledbetter directly for sponsorship arrangements.



Stormwater Committee

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Topic: Caltrans Highway Design Manual (Hydrology Chapter) – Update

Synopsis: Update and explanation of the changes made to Caltrans hydrology procedures specifically for desert application.

Caltrans recognized the need for hydrologic methods that reflect the unique properties of California's desert storms. At the request of Caltrans HQ, an applied research study was performed in which a suite of hydrologic methods was analyzed, including flood-frequency analysis, regional regression equations, and rainfall-runoff simulation. Sediment/debris bulking methods were also investigated.

The results of the entire study were incorporated into Chapter 810 (Hydrology) of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM), including new regression equations that were found to produce better flow estimates than the USGS equations. Improved hydrologic methods can be an important tool for better floodplain management in California's desert regions.

This topic will be presented by Mr. Jake Gusman, P.E., D.WRE, Project Manager, WEST Consultants, Inc.

Time:

6:00 - 6:30 pm: Check-In/Networking
6:30 - 7:00 pm: Dinner
6:45 - 7:15 pm: Presentation
7:15 - 7:25 pm: Q&A
7:30 pm: Adjournment

Location:

Hilton San Bernardino
285 East Hospitality Lane
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909)889-0133

Cost:

Members \$35 prepaid; \$40 at the door (with reservations); Non-members and walk-ups \$45.

Send your request for a vegetarian meal to Cynthia.Gabaldon@urs.com

Reservations: RSVP by May 14, 2012 at 12 noon to Cynthia.Gabaldon@urs.com. No refunds after this date. Include the names of all persons attending with membership number (if applicable). Your advance reservations, made and honored, are essential to fulfilling our catering commitment. No shows will be billed. Seating is limited and payment at the door will be accepted based on availability. Reservation response is still necessary. By mail, please make checks payable to **"ASCE Stormwater Committee"** and mail to:

Bill Flores Jr.
ASCE Stormwater Committee Chairman
HDR Engineering, Inc.
2280 Market St. Suite 100
Riverside, CA 92501

Parking: Parking is free.

To reduce your carbon footprint, carpooling is encouraged.

**Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists-Inland Empire Chapter
And The
American Society of Civil Engineers-Inland Empire
Present On: **Saturday, May 12th, 2012****

Landslide and Slope Stability 1-Day Short Course For Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers

PROGRAM AGENDA

7:30	Registration, Parking & Coffee/Tea
8:00	Welcome & Introduction <i>Debbie Kunath, AEG-IE, & William Kitch, ASCE-IE</i>
8:15	Topographic Map Interpretation of Landsliding <i>Frank Jordan, John R. Byerly, Inc.</i>
9:00	Computer Based 3D Stereoscopic Photo Analysis of Landslides <i>Woody Higdon, Geo-Tech Imagery International</i>
10:00	Hardrock Landslides: Part 1: Recognition and Failure Mechanisms Part 2: Misinterpretation of Landslides as Faults <i>Michael W. Hart, Engineering Geologist</i>
11:00	Simple Concepts Useful for Characterizing Complex Bimrocks Underlying Slopes <i>Ed Medley, Geopractitioner</i>
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Soil Strength Parameters for Stability Analyses <i>Prof. Donald Coduto, California State Polytechnic Univ., Pomona</i>
3:00	Stability Computational Methods <i>Dr. William Kitch, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona</i>
5:00	Course Adjournment and Thank You's

**Saturday, May 12th, 2012
8 am to 5 pm
U.C. Riverside Extension
Center - Rooms D/E
1200 University Ave.
Riverside, California**

**Fee: \$130
Payable at the door to AEG-IE**

**by Check, Cash, Money Order
(Sorry-No Credit/Debit Cards)
Student Discount with Student I.D.**

**Enrollment Reservation
Required by:
Wednesday, May 2, 5 pm**

RSVP at: aeginland@gmail.com

Questions? frank@ohnrbyerlyinc.com

Photo Credit: Michael Hart
La Jolla Landslide Headscarp

Speaker Volunteers Needed

9-12 Grade Student Outreach No Prior Experience Needed

Are you looking for an opportunity to present and encourage students to attend college & promote civil engineering?

We are looking for volunteers—interested in talking with AVID students at Redlands East Valley High School about college and civil engineering.

So, if you think this sounds interesting & would like to be a part of something fun & educational, please come out and support the ASCE YMF event.

For more information: Contact Mark Swanson, PE @ mwsanson@aei-casc.com or @ 909.802.0587

**Friday
May 11, 2012**

**Time:
7AM -3PM**

**Where: 31000 E. Colton Ave
Redlands, CA 92374**

White Water Rafting

JUNE 1-3, 2012

Lower Kern River

Includes:

- 1 Full Day of Rafting with a Deli Lunch (includes all equipment)
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- Dinner Cookout
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(Fri-Sun with meals & parking)

To rsvp contact: **Rocio Duran**
rduran129@hotmail.com
714-614-0727

Please make payments to: **ASCE YMF**
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Deadline: May 1, 2011

11300 Kernville Road Kernville, CA 93238
More Information & Directions:
www.whitewatervoyages.com

May

- May 11 YMF presentation to AVID Students, Redlands East high School, all day. Volunteer Presenters needed
- May 10 SAWPA One Water One Watershed Implementation Workshop, Riverside
- May 12 Geotechnical Short Course, Landslide and Slope Stability, all day, UC Riverside Extension
- May 14 Riverside County Flood Control, Dedication Ceremony, LID Demonstration Project, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- May 16 Stormwater Committee Dinner, San Bernardino
- May 18 ASCE and CLSA, Bill Young Memorial Golf Tournament, The Links at Summerly, Lake Elsinore
- May 23 May Lunch Meeting, 11:30 - 1:00, San Bernardino Hilton. Tim Watkins, SANBAG, I-215 Widening, I-10 to I-210. See Page 6
- June 1-3 YMF Camping and Whitewater Rafting, Kern River
- June 27 Annual Awards Luncheon, Location TBA

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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**May Meeting:**

**May 23 Lunch Meeting.  
See Page 6**

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