

ACEC California Sierra Chapter

September 2012



President's Message

By: Steve Greenfield, President



I am honored to lead the ACEC-CA Sierra Chapter for 2012-13! This is my second opportunity to lead a volunteer board, last serving in 2008 on the Davis Chamber of Commerce Board. Coincidentally, or perhaps not, I once again find myself at the helm of a politically motivated group

during an election year. Given the Sierra Chapter's presence in the capitol that means we've got a lot of excitement and work ahead of us this year to continue our mission of being "dedicated to building a better California."

Although the recession officially ended July 2009, the California economy certainly has not experienced robust growth since then, and based on conversations I've have

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings are at the Sacramento Hilton unless otherwise noted.

5:00pm - 6:00pm Board Meeting

6:00pm - 6:30pm Networking

6:30pm General Membership Dinner Meeting

Member Cost: \$35 - Non-Member \$50

You are responsible for your RSVP and will be invoiced unless you cancel reservations 24 hours in advance.

NEW On-line Registration!!!

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4224938906>

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

Mr. Peter Tateishi, 8th Assembly District Seat Campaign Fundraiser

Location: HDR's Downtown Office

7:30-9:00am

See attached registration form and **RSVP** by Friday, August 31, 2012 .

Friday, September 7, 2012

Connecting You to Opportunities Small Business Workshop

Location: DGS Ziggurat Building, 707 3rd Street West Sacramento, CA 95605

8:00am to 12 noon

See attached flyer

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Dinner and General Meeting

Speaker and Topic:

Michael Mierzwa, CA DWR - FloodSAFE Program

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Dinner and General Meeting

Speaker and Topic:

Barbara Hayes, SACTO

ACEC Supports YES on Proposition 32

By: Chad Coleman, Director

This November the voters of California will have an opportunity to make a significant difference in the political landscape of the state by voting YES on Proposition 32. ACEC California is supporting this important proposition and has asked all member firms to contribute to the campaign.

Each member firm should have received a request for donation (formatted to look like an invoice) in August. The suggested amount is \$50 per FTE though many firms have chosen to donate more. In order to allow the campaign to make the best use of the funds, they need the donations as soon as possible. There are two options for donations: directly to the "Yes on 32" campaign (which will be a matter of public record), or to "Americans for Job Security" (which will allow the donation to remain anonymous).

The leadership of the ACEC Sierra Chapter has committed to contact every member firm in support of the YES on Proposition 32 campaign. The purpose of the contacts is to do the following: make sure that the donation request has been received, answer any questions that would remove barriers to donation, and encourage a generous donation.

The following information from the "Yes on 32" campaign is an overview of the purpose and goals of Proposition 32.

- Removes special interest money from politics:** Corporations and unions are spending millions of dollars in Sacramento. We need to cut off campaign contributions so politicians will pay attention to the voters instead of catering to the special interests.
- Bans direct corporate and union contributions to candidates:** Federal law has had this ban for over 100 years and many other states currently do as well. Proposition 32 favors contributions from individuals and constituents. If it had been in place in 2010, well over \$35 million in corporate contributions would have been wiped out.
- Prevents corporations from spreading their money across the entire state Legislature and maintaining control regardless of who is elected.** According to the *LA Times*, AT&T has contributed to every single sitting state legislator and they're not alone. During the 2010 elections, BSNF Rail spent \$295,000, covering 75% of legislative races and PG&E spread \$480,000 across 72% of races.
- Bans contributions from government contractors to elected officials who control contracts awarded to them:** The practice of "pay to play," where contributors are rewarded by contracts occurs at all levels of government. Plain and simple, it's a bribe and perception of corruption has no place in how tax dollars are spent.
- Bans payroll deductions by corporations, unions, and government employers of money to be used for politics:** Preserves every employee's right to contribute to campaigns by means other than payroll deduction (for example, by check or by monthly debit from an account or credit card), but ensures that those contributions are voluntarily authorized by the employee in writing annually.
- Assures that all political contributions are voluntary:** Individual union members are free to directly support the candidate of their choice or contribute voluntarily to their union's PAC. Employees of large corporations are free to directly support the candidate of their choice, or contribute voluntarily to the company's PAC.
- Implements reforms evenhandedly, applying each provision to both corporations and unions:** These fair and simple reforms reduce the influence of special interests across the board. Read it for yourself.

YES on 32 STOP SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY

For more information, please go to:
www.YesProp32.com

Michael Mierzwa, CA DWR - FloodSAFE Program, September Speaker and Topic

Provided by: Harvey Oslick, Director



Mr. Michael Mierzwa is a registered Civil Engineer in the State of California employed by the California Department of Water Resources as a flood policy advisor and assistant to the Deputy Director for Integrated Water Management. His specialization is the planning,

design, and financing of large-scale water resources systems and real-time emergency operations. His current focus is assessing the public benefits associated with the development and implementation of water resources projects. He has worked with the Department for 13-years.

Within DWR's Division of Flood Management's FloodSAFE Program Management Office, he led the overall communications and outreach associated with the \$4.9B FloodSAFE California Initiative. In addition to being

responsible for coordination with external Federal, State, and local agencies and the general public, his role as the Division of Flood Management's communications lead also includes coordinating and assisting all of the other programs and projects related to one of the Department of Water Resources largest efforts since the construction of the State Water Project in the 1960s and 70s. Starting in 2011 he was also placed in charge of all of the technical development associated with the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and the development of Department policy's focused on quantifying the system-wide benefits associated with flood risk reduction projects and assessing the hydraulic impacts and risk transfer related to improvements of flood management facilities and operations.

Mr. Mierzwa will present information about how DWR has organized work related to the FloodSAFE Program and provide hints about future FloodSAFE efforts and how this fits in with the broader context of Integrated Water Management as well.

President's Message continued

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with many of you, many of our chapter's firms continue to struggle. We need to continue to focus our efforts on supporting policies and candidates that we believe will not only be better for California businesses, but specifically for our engineering/surveying profession.

To that end, the Sierra Chapter has not sat idly over the summer. We have arranged a fundraiser for Peter Tateishi running for the hotly contested Assembly District 8 seat. Details for the September 5 breakfast event can be found in this month's newsletter and I strongly encourage you to attend. The ACEC PAC will match our support so your attendance will double in value.

In addition to candidate support there is an extremely important proposition on November's ballot that has the

potential to greatly impact the ability for unions to unfairly develop huge political war chests. Dubbed the Stop Special Interest Money or the Paycheck Protection proposition, Proposition 32 bans unions and private corporations from taking automatic deductions from employees' paychecks for political use. Chad Coleman, our newest Sierra Chapter Director, has stepped up to the plate to lead chapter support for the proposition and has written an excellent summary for this month's newsletter (see Pg. 2). You should have received a fundraising invoice in support of Prop. 32 from ACEC-CA and possibly a follow-up call from one of our directors. I strongly urge you to support the campaign as this will have lasting positive benefits for businesses in California!

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An ACEC-CA Company Profile

SIEGFRIED

Founded in 1955, Siegfried is the largest multidisciplinary design and engineering firm headquartered in San Joaquin County that provides civil engineering, structural engineering, landscape architecture, surveying, and planning services. With offices in Stockton, San Jose, and Sacramento, Siegfried is recognized as one of the foremost professional services firms in Northern and Central California.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

With a long history of successful projects, Siegfried understands the unique needs facing our clients. We work closely with all project team members to produce the most appropriate solutions to any civil engineering challenge. Our approach is based on tightly managed processes which include knowledge of agency requirements, open communication, and innovative design solutions.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

Our expertise in structural engineering is based on over 57 years of designing buildings and related structures. Our clients rely on our ability to balance deadlines and budgets with the design insight required for structural work. Our team offers an in-depth knowledge of current building codes, the ability to anticipate the unexpected and creative insight.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

At Siegfried, we combine the art and science of landscape architecture to create memorable and enduring outdoor spaces. Our designs seamlessly blend softscape and hardscape elements by responding to natural land features that are ultimately user focused - our goal is to inspire people to interact with their surroundings. The broad knowledge and experience allows us to utilize a multitude of materials and techniques to deliver the best solution for any project.

SURVEYING

When accuracy matters, our team of surveyors excels because at Siegfried, technology drives results. With the

advanced capabilities of GPS and TPS, combined with the human insight needed to apply them, we deliver reliable and accurate surveys you can build on.



San Joaquin Regional Transit District Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Stockton, CA



Sutter Gould Stockton Ambulatory Surgery Center, Stockton, CA



UC Davis Student Community Center
Davis, CA

CONTACT INFORMATION

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July 2012 ACEC-CA Board Meeting Highlights

By: Steve Greenfield, President

The ACEC-CA Board met for its quarterly meeting in July in Manhattan Beach after a morning session of New Leader Workshops. Highlights are summarized below. If you would like additional information on any of the items please feel free to contact any of the Sierra Chapter State Directors (Bob LoRusso, Marco Palilla, Ed Henderson, Steve Greenfield) or checkout the state website at www.acec-ca.org.

Our new State President John Moossazadeh led the meeting. After a brief reminder that the Chapter of the Year Award submissions will be due in October, John led a discussion regarding fundraising for Prop 32 - Stop Special Interest Money Now. Due to the importance of this proposition passing, the Board voted to send fundraising requests of \$50/FTE to all member firms. Firms that are concerned about anonymity will be provided an option to donate without their firm being identified. More information on Prop 32 is summarized in an article in this newsletter.

The Board was updated on ACEC-CA's positions on November's propositions. In addition to supporting Prop 32, ACEC-CA has decided to oppose Propositions 30, 38, and 39 which are all tax measures. No positions were taken on the remaining propositions which were determined to not directly affect our industry.

The Board passed a resolution commending sponsoring agencies and participating firms for their involvement in the Presidio Parkway Public-Private Partnership (P3) project.

On the National ACEC front there has been some discussion of changing the dues structure to revenue based; however, this was rejected given concern over firms not wanting to disclose revenue information.

Statewide member firms' FTE numbers are up 2 percent. Is this an inkling that we are crawling out of the recession?

The Legislative Action Committee gave an update on SB 975, a bill that would limit authority to license and regulate the practice of professions and vocations to the California Architects Board and the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. Currently law allows for various boards, commissions, and bureaus to license which led to the QSD/QSP certification, which allows for non-registered engineers to prepare and implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs). ACEC-CA is in support of SB 975 and the bill is moving through the process with ongoing discussions happening with the Governor's office to gain support.

John Zumwalt of the Sequoia Chapter was recognized for his decades long commitment on the Legislative Review Committee. John has spent countless hours reviewing reams upon reams of proposed bills looking for bills that would affect (positively or negatively) the engineering profession.

Finally, the Business Management & Insurance Committee reminded everyone that the Salary Surveys are complete and available for purchase on the ACEC-CA website.

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.** Contact Ted Hopkins for submission details.

Point of Contact:

Ted Hopkins
Shannon & Wilson
916.438.2300
twh@shanwil.com

GET NOTICED IN THE SIERRA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER!



2012-13 Board of Directors

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
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President's Message continued

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That's enough on politics for the moment! Our year ahead will continue to have many opportunities for you to network with member firms, meet potential teaming partners and clients, honor our past Presidents, celebrate excellence in engineering, and support your profession. To that end, I encourage you to attend the dinner meetings throughout the year and to "pay it forward" by bringing along one (or more) of the rising stars at your company to encourage the next generation of leadership to embrace the business side of our profession. I look forward to seeing all of you at our September dinner meeting and throughout the coming year!



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
California

Please join the ACEC California Sierra Chapter in honoring

Assembly Candidate Peter Tateishi (AD 8)

Peter Tateishi currently serves as Chief of Staff to Congressman Daniel E. Lungren. In this capacity, he manages both the Washington, DC and District Offices.

Prior to serving as Chief of Staff, Peter ran a consulting business in Sacramento and Hawaii for a year and a half. He also served as Intergovernmental Affairs Director for Congressman Lungren from 2005 to 2007.

Peter has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government from Sacramento State University and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Southern California.

He is very involved in his community where he served as a Commissioner on the Carmichael/Old Foothill Farms Community Planning Commission and was the "Honorary Mayor of Carmichael" in 2009 and 2010. Peter also served eight years on the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Board of Directors where he was elected Chairman of the Board twice and served as the President of the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members. He is the founder and CEO of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Foundation, a 501(c)3 public charity that supports and enhances parks in Carmichael.

Name(s): _____

Company: _____ Occupation _____

Address: _____

Do not use a PO Box

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____



**Wednesday, September 5, 2012
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

Location:
HDR's downtown Sacramento office
1325 J Street, Suite 1300
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Tell lobby security you are visiting HDR)

Directions:
80/50/99/5 to downtown Sacramento. On J Street, between 13th and 14th (across from Convention Center)

Parking:
Plentiful meter parking on the street (free before 8am) or in the parking garage on 13th Street between I and J.

Suggested Donation:
____ \$300 Corporate Sponsor (unlimited)
____ \$150 Individual
____ Total contribution included

Questions?
Contact Jeff Patton at (530) 887-1494
Marco Palilla at (916) 817-4878

To RSVP, please complete the registration form and fax or email back to ACEC California Sierra Chapter Member Jeff Patton no later than Friday, August 31, 2012:

Jeff Patton fax: (530) 887-1495
jeffp@blackburnconsulting.com

Make checks payable to: Tateishi for Assembly 2012
ID #1341173


Please hand deliver your check at the event.

Contributions are not deductible for federal or state income tax purposes. Proposition 34 requires donations not to exceed \$3,900 per individual or entity or \$7,800 per married couple, per election. **Paid for by Tateishi for Assembly 2012. FPPC ID# 1341173. 9321 Silverbend Lane, Elk Grove, CA 95624**

CONNECTING YOU TO OPPORTUNITIES



If you're a Small Business interested in Government Contracting Opportunities, this is an event you won't want to miss!



We invite Small Businesses (SBs), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBs), and non-profits to a **FREE** workshop to learn how to do business with the State and local government agencies. The workshop is presented by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Department of General Services (DGS) in conjunction with local agencies, special districts, and Senator Lois Wolk.

Friday, September 7, 2012

8:00 am to 12 noon

DGS Ziggurat Building, 707 3rd Street
West Sacramento, CA 95605



To sign up for the workshop, go to: www.CDCR.ca.gov/sbcw

For information on the State's certification programs and registration instructions, go to: www.dgs.ca.gov/pd/getcertified

For information call Albert Rivas at (916) 255-6192 or email SBDVBEAdvocate@cdcr.ca.gov

