



CEAC Newsletter

January
2022

Editor: Pat DeChellis

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**Materials Submitted are
Subject to the "3 R's":**
Review
Revision
Rejection

President's Message

by **Howard N. Dashiell**
Director, Department of
Transportation
Mendocino County



I have been a member and regular attendee of County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) since 2005; but I had not appreciated all the work that those serving on the governing board have done for me and this association until now. Mike Crump, who has served as Treasurer since 2016, stepped down this year and George Johnson has taken his place. For the past five years Mike has done an excellent job and in the past two years identified a pending budget crisis and made the difficult work of convincing the Board & membership of the importance of a dues increase - thank you Mike. Also, I want to thank Jim Porter, President 2.0, for all I learned about leadership in CEAC. Jim Porter served as CEAC President twice and is now our Immediate Past President 2.0... or as I refer to him our *Past Past President*.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been tough on all of us. Surely, you all have stories – let us hope that the coming year brings a subsidence of suffer-



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

ing and better days for all of us.

I believe CEAC rose to the COVID-19 pandemic challenge well. We have continued to meet and conduct association business - our policy committees have assisted CSAC staff in shaping legislation on behalf of California's counties, utilizing virtual meetings and communication via email through 2020 and most of 2021. At the Fall Conference everyone expressed their excitement to see one another in person again, and it was truly wonderful to be together in person again. I was so glad to see all of you at the Fall Conference and hope to see more of you at future conferences, regional meetings, and special events. I am honored and thankful to be your CEAC President.

It may be a cliché; but, truly, it takes a team to have a quality organization like CEAC. The backbone of our team are the seven committee chairs, and their vice chairs: Mark Strudley at Flood Control and Water Resources; Trish Tollison at Infrastructure and Development; Aleksandar Jevremovic at County Surveyor; Coby Skye at Resource Recovery and Waste Management; Jeff Pratt takes over Administration Committee; David Fleisch Chair of CEAC's Policy Committee - Transportation, and the Committee we all like the best, - Fellowship is under Pattie McNamee's leadership.

Furthermore, our Members also represent CEAC on seventeen statewide committees with our city and state partners and are a fundamental committee for California county engineers who are most often their *county's* road commissioners and maintain what is arguably every county's largest asset - their county maintained road system. The special *committee* that's *keeping* our funding needs in the public and political eye is "California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment" for which the 2020 Final Report was *completed* this past year.

Finally, a key member of our team is Merrin Gerety, our CEAC Program Manager who does a lot of work for all of us. I value the partnership we have with the California State Associations of Counties and all the staff that support us: Chris Lee, Catherine Freeman, Ada Waelder and Marina Espinoza.

Howard N. Dashiell

2022 CEAC President

SAVE THE DATES

- ♦ **2022 CEAC Spring Conference with Cal Cities Public Works Officers** - March 23-25, 2022, Monterey Marriott and Conference Center.
- ♦ **2022 NACE Annual Conference** - April 24-27, 2022, Erie County, Buffalo, New York
- ♦ **17th Annual CEAC Policy Conference** - August 18-19, 2022
Capital Event Center, Sacramento
- ♦ **CSAC 128th Annual Meeting** - November 15-18, 2022, Orange County



**CEAC would like to thank all of our
 SPONSORS
 for making the Fall Conference
 another SUCCESS Story!**





Registration for the 2022 CEAC Spring Conference is Now Open!

You are invited to the 2022 CEAC Spring Conference being held in conjunction with the Cal Cities Public Works Officers Institute in Monterey, California.

The conference is currently scheduled to be held in person but is subject to local and State public health orders.

When: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 - Friday, March 25, 2022

Where: Monterey Conference Center, Monterey Marriott, and Portola Hotel

CEAC Conference Hotel: Monterey Marriott, 350 Calle Principal, Monterey, California

Registration Deadlines:

Early Bird Registration Ends February 8, 2022

Advanced Registration Ends March 1, 2022

On-site Registration Subject to Availability

[Click here](#) for more information and to register

2021-22 CEAC Board of Directors

2021-22 CEAC Officers

President-Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County

Vice President-Brian Balbas, Contra Costa County

Secretary-Panos Kokkas, Nevada County

Immediate Past President-Jim Porter, San Mateo County (retired)

Treasurer-George Johnson, Riverside County (retired)

Treasurer -Emeritus-Mehdi Sadjadi, Marin County (retired)

Parliamentarian-Mike Penrose, Sacramento County (retired)

Historian-Dave Gravenkamp, Siskiyou County (retired)

NACE Representative-Matt Machado, Santa Cruz County

Newsletter Editor-Patrick DeChellis, Los Angeles County (retired)

CEAC Regional Directors

Northern California	Bob Bronkall	Humboldt County - serving Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity
Bay Area	Johannes Hoevertsz	Sonoma County - serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Solano
Sacramento-Motherlode	Matt Randall	Placer County - serving Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba
San Joaquin Valley	Dave Leamon	Fresno County - serving Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare
Central Coast	Kent Edler	Santa Cruz County - serving Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara,
Southern California	Nardy Khan	Orange County - serving Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura

These 16 individuals comprise the CEAC Board of Directors for 2021-22.

2021-22 CEAC Officers



From left to right-**Howard Dashiell**, President; **Brian Balbas**, Vice President; **Jim Porter**, Immediate Past President; **George Johnson**, Treasurer; **Matt Machado**, NACE Representative; **Dave Gravenkamp**, Historian; **Pat DeChellis**, Newsletter Editor; **Panos Kokkas**, Secretary; and **Mehdi Sadjadi**, Treasurer Emeritus-not present - **Mike Penrose**, Parliamentarian



NACE Officers with CEAC President and Vice President

Center of the picture:

Todd Kinney, NACE President,
Clinton County Iowa

Far right in the picture:

Jeff Blue, NACE Secretary/
Treasurer, Champaign
County, Illinois

2022 CEAC Policy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

Administrative Committee

Chair, **Joshua Pack**, Butte County
Vice Chair, **Tom Mattson**, Humboldt County
Vice Chair, **Phil Doudar**, Los Angeles County
Vice Chair, **Mark Pestrella**, Los Angeles County
Vice Chair, **Johannes Hoevertsz**, Sonoma County

Flood Control and Water Resources Policy Committee

Chair, **Mark Strudley**, Santa Cruz County
Vice Chair, **Nardy Khan**, Orange County
Vice Chair, **Dave Leamon**, Stanislaus County
Vice Chair, **Glenn Shephard**, Ventura County

Infrastructure & Development Policy Committee

Chair, **Trisha Tillotson**, Nevada County
Vice Chair, **Warren Lai**, Contra Costa County
Vice Chair, **Rebecca Taber**, Placer County

Resource Recovery & Waste Management Policy Committee

Chair, **Coby Skye**, Los Angeles County
Vice Chair, **Jared Carter**, Madera County
Vice Chair, **David Garcia**, Nevada County
Vice Chair, **Johannes Hoevertsz**, Sonoma County

Surveyor Policy Committee

Chair, **Aleksandar Jevremovic**, Santa Barbara County
Vice Chair, **Ian Wilson**, Alameda County
Vice Chair, **Danielle Goshert**, Napa County
Vice Chair, **Pat Minturn**, Shasta County

Transportation Policy Committee

Chair, **David Fleisch**, Ventura County
Vice Chair, **Stephen Kowalewski**, Contra Costa
Vice Chair, **Jeff Moneda**, San Diego County
Vice Chair, **Najee Zarif**, San Joaquin County

Fellowship Committee

Chair, **Pattie McNamee**, Contra Costa County (Ret.)
Vice Chair, **Jim Porter**, San Mateo County (Ret.)
Member, **Martin McIlroy**, MGE Engineering
Member, **Traci Bartlett**, NCE
Member, **Jason Jurrens**, Quincy Engineering

Scholarship Committee

Chair, **Scott DeLeon**, Lake County
Vice Chair, **Alicia Meier**, Mendocino County
Vice Chair, **Glenn Shephard**, Ventura County



Fellowship Committee

L-r—Jason Jurrens, Pattie McNamee,
Tracy Bartlett, Martin McIlroy

Meet the 2021-22 CEAC Secretary-Panos Kokkas

"I am happy to be back with the Counties and with all the great people at CEAC. I am also fortunate to be reconsidered for CEAC Secretary and grateful to the CLODS for their faith in me," Panos informed me when asked for an updated bio to re-introduce you to the 2021-22 CEAC Secretary.

Panos Kokkas, the 2021-22 CEAC Secretary, is a results-oriented dynamic professional with extensive technical and management experience in the public and private sectors across the country. He has expertise in the full spectrum of Engineering and Public Works management, including planning, financing, budgeting, project management, engineering, construction, and operations & maintenance activities for municipalities, counties, state agencies, and utility districts. He has been an active member of CEAC for over 12 years and served in many roles.

In his current position, as the Director of the Public Works, County Engineer and Road Commissioner, for Nevada County, he directs and manages all the functions of a full service Public Works department, responsible for the county's transportation & utility infrastructure system, solid waste services, ten wastewater treatment plants, the countywide fleet services, and transit. He oversees the County's comprehensive operations, and multi-year CIP budgets for road, bridge, utilities, fleet, transit, solid waste, and service district improvements.

Panos began his career in the private sector, where he gained experience in design and construction, from small residential to large commercial and large public works projects.

In the Town of Danville, he managed the approval process of privately funded projects, both residential and commercial. He then moved to Contra Costa Water District, where he worked on unique capital projects. One of the unusual projects resulted in subsequent technical paper he co-authored and was selected as one of the topics to be presented during the tenth earthquake conference in Madrid, Spain. (Bureau, G., & Kokkas, P. "Seismic retrofit of liquid storage tanks." *Earthquake Engineering: Tenth World Conference*, Madrid, Spain, 1992).

As a good husband, he followed his wife when she was transferred to Illinois. At the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Tollway), he managed large transportation projects. At the same time, he was an Adjunct Professor of Management at DeVry University in Addison, Illinois, from 1998 to 2005 where he taught Project Management and Principles of Management courses to senior students.

Upon returning to California, he served as the Assistant Director and Director of Public Works at Yolo County, and Director of Public Works for the City of Manteca.

As a young engineer, in 1984, he served the Montana section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as its Chairman of the History & Heritage Committee. He completed the construction history of "The Going-To-The-Sun Road" in Glacier National Park and delivered the keynote address in Glacier National Park during the dedication ceremony, when the Road was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark on July 27, 1985.

Panos received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Montana State University, and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Saint Mary's College of California. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in California, Montana, and Illinois.



2021 CEAC Engineer of the Year



Howard Dashiell's professional career has spanned nearly 40 years in both the private and public sectors. He has been the Mendocino County Director of Transportation since 2005, and their County Surveyor since 2010. Prior to joining Mendocino County, he was the Branch/Project Manager for the Lakeport office of the engineering firm Carlile Macy Mitchell & Heryford. He has a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly SLO.

In the Fall of 2019, Howard was introduced as the new Secretary for CEAC. Shortly after the start of 2020, an opening was created as Vice-President of our organization and Howard graciously stepped-up and handled both positions. In 2021, when the normal rotation of officers would have placed him in the Vice-Presidency, the President position was vacated and Howard finished the year performing those duties – including presiding over the first in-person conference in two years in November in Monterey, the CEAC Fall Conference.

For Howard's tireless support and dedication to CEAC, he was awarded CEAC Engineer of the Year for 2021.

2021 CEAC Surveyor of the Year



Joseph Morris has been the San Luis Obispo Deputy County Surveyor since 2012. He has a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly SLO, and prior to coming to SLO County, he was the Director of Surveying for Wallace Group, a central coast engineering company for 15 years. Prior to this, Joe owned his own surveying company, Twin City Surveying, for five years.

Joe has been a member of California Land Surveyors Association for 37 years. During that time has held the positions of Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Director of the Central Coast Chapter. Joe has always volunteered to help in any way possible, most recently volunteering to perform field work on the Chapter's GPS Benchmarks project for the NGS.

Joe has been a fierce advocate for monument preservation, and has been instrumental in the County's conversion to an all-digital map review process. He has always acted with incredible integrity, and has always comported himself as a true professional. He has mentored many of the local surveyors in the SLO area, including Edward Reading An Louis Obispo's County Surveyor.

Joe is retiring at the end of this year. What better way to send him off than honoring him with this award for all of his work for County Surveying in California.

HOWARD DASHIELL installed as THE 2021-2022 CEAC PRESIDENT



Jim Porter, Immediate Past President, looking on as **Rick Tippett**, President 2019-20, “crowns” Howard with the CEAC Helmet which contains a “memento” from each Past President.



Howard with the CEAC Cap “I’m their Leader. Which way did they go?” and the Satchel.



Howard with his daughter and wife at breakfast on Friday before his installation.

CHICS Golden Egg Award

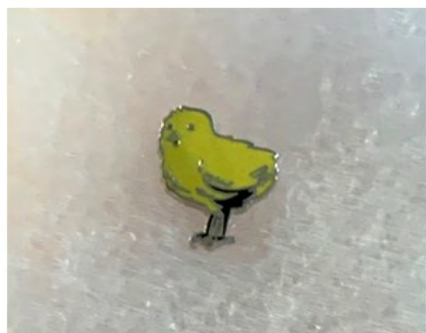


California's Honorable Intrepid County Sisters (the CHICS) came upon the CEAC scene at the CLODS Barbecue in 2006 to challenge the organization to accept and encourage participation from a more diverse membership than had been its history. Back then they were a small group of about a dozen women from counties, CSAC and affiliates.

The CHICS were created with a mission to increase diversity in CEAC membership and involvement. And to provide a forum for networking, support and camaraderie. They promote the furthering of diversity in CEAC through our Golden Egg Award. The CHICS Golden Egg Award reflects their mission in recognizing someone who is furthering that goal in CEAC or in their own organization.

George Johnson was selected for this year's Golden Egg Award. The CHICS were very impressed by the diversity of George's executive team at Riverside County under his leadership as the CEO. George retired from Riverside County in December 2020. George was also CEAC President 2007-08.

The CHICS no longer present a certificate or Golden Egg to the recipient. They honor the Recipient with a CHIC lapel pin. See a picture of the lapel pin below.



Past Recipients

2007 Mort August
2008 Mike Walford
2009 Peter Rei
2010 Phil Demery
2011 Pattie McNamee
2012 DeAnn Baker
2013 George Bradley and Doug Wilson
2014 Ken Miller
2015 Pat DeChellis
2016 Karen Keene
2017 No Award Given
2018 Melody DeLeon and Kiana Valentine
2019 Johannes Hoevertsz
2020 Rick Tippet

OTHER RECOGNITIONS at THE FALL CONFERENCE



Doug Wilson, CEAC President 1996-97, for all of his contributions to CEAC and County Engineering



Howard Dashiell, CEAC President (center), and **Brian Balbas**, CEAC Vice President (far left), recognizing:

Catherine Freeman, CSAC Legislative Representative (2nd from the left);

Ada Waelder, CSAC Legislative Analyst (2nd from the right); and

Merrin Gerety, CEAC Program Manager (far right)

for all of their contributions to CEAC and County Engineering.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST



FRIDAY BREAKFAST



CLODS BBQ



From left to right: **Scott McGolpin**, **Tom Bolich** (former Santa Cruz County Public Works Director), **John Presleigh**, **Dave Gravenkamp**, **Jim Porter**, **Mike Walford**, **Max Bridges**, **Mike Crump** (resting his chin on the toilet), **Tom Mattson**, **Peter Rei**, **Doug Wilson**, **George Johnson**, and **Mehdi Sadjadi**.
Laying across the table, l-r: **Jeff Pratt** and **Pat**



CLODS preparing and then serving at the BBQ. You can barely see the serving container for the BBQ beans in the far background. See the next page for a close-up.

CLODS BBQ



Todd Kinney, NACE President, presents **Howard Dashiell**, CEAC President, and **Mehdi Sadjadi**, CEAC Treasurer Emeritus, a plaque from NACE recognizing CEAC for their dedicated support of NACE and the nation's local road professionals.



Monterey County hosted the CLODS BBQ at Laguna Seca Raceway.

From right to left—Randy Ishii, Director Monterey County Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks; Lisa Harris, Administrative Services Assistant; and Tom Bonigut, Interim Assistant Director of Public Works, Facilities and Parks.

See the “serving container” for the BBQ Beans.

Picture to the right—L-r: **Scott McGolpin**, NACE Immediate Past President; **Jeff Blue**, NACE Secretary/Treasurer; and **Todd Kinney**, NACE President



They are FINALLY Honored!!!



from left to right:

Rick Tippett, Trinity County, retired October 2021.

Jim Porter, San Mateo County, retired July 2021.

George Johnson, Riverside County, retired December 2020.

George receives his "clock" from Mehdi.

Jim and Rick show off their clocks.

These clocks are special made by **Dave Gravenkamp** and given to each CLOD when they retire from County service. Look at the clock face—it is **backwards!!!**



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- ONE OF THE LARGEST RIGHT-OF-WAY COMPANIES IN CALIFORNIA
- HIGHLY EXPERIENCED PROJECT MANAGERS AND AGENTS ON STAFF
- EXPERIENCE WITH FHWA, CALTRANS, FTA, FRA, USACE, UPRR, BNSF, CA DWR, AND CA DGS
- STATEWIDE EXPERTS IN UTILITY RELOCATION COORDINATION
- LOCAL EXPERTS IN BUSINESS RELOCATION
- CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE MONUMENTROW.COM

Monument, a DBE, SBE and WBE certified firm, is a full-service real estate and right-of-way company providing exceptional service, strategic planning, innovation and timely delivery. We serve local, state and federal agencies, transportation authorities and engineering partners with public infrastructure projects throughout California. At **Monument**, we understand the difference an experienced, solutions-minded right-of-way partner can bring in achieving the goals and objectives of a project and that's exactly what we are. We have successfully delivered hundreds of projects as a Team, with our success attributed to our Company motto. . . we listen, we innovate, we deliver.

Monument is more than your typical right-of-way company. Our team is comprised of the best in the industry, most with over 25 years in the business and leaders of some of the largest and most complex projects delivered in the State of California. **Monument's** interdisciplinary team is composed of highly experienced project managers, seasoned acquisition agents, relocation experts and project support specialists, working together with the client to provide solutions at every phase of the project. The Monument team is known in the industry for successfully completing projects on an accelerated schedule. We accomplish this with early project planning, a clear scope of work, defined project tasks and deliverables, quality control, exceptional performance, and communication with the client and project partners. We know the importance of collaborating with stakeholders to ensure the successful and timely completion of each project. **Monument** is a project partner, equally invested in the goals and objectives of the project and fully integrated with the project team.

DBE, SBE, and WBE Participation **Monument** is certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) registered as CUCP #46456, a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) registered as Metro #8144, and a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) registered as CPUC #21001055 in the State of California.

Our Services **Monument** is a robust team of experts in many right-of-way disciplines. We are more than just acquisition and relocation. Monument offers the following full range of services:

- ♦ Project & Program Management - Planning & Programming - Property Acquisition
- ♦ Residential & Business Relocation - Property & Asset Management - Appraisal & Appraisal Review
- ♦ Title & Escrow - Condemnation Support—Feasibility Studies & Cost Estimating • Site Location & Corridor Analysis • Utility Coordination • Prior Rights Research & Investigation • In Lieu Staffing Support

San Joaquin Valley Report

Stanislaus County



**Santa Fe Bridge over the
Tuolumne River**

Seismic replacement project -
\$17.5M.



Ribbon Cutting picture – L-R:

Supervisor Buck Condit – D1
Rosa Park DeLeon –
StanCOG Exec Director
Supervisor Manny Grewal – D4,
Supervisor Channce Condit – D5
Supervisor Vito Chiesa – D2
Congressman Josh Harder,
10th Congressional District
David Leamon, PE – Stanislaus Co.
Director of Public Works

San Joaquin Valley Report (continued)

Stanislaus County



Hickman Road Bridge over the Tuolumne River- Ribbon cutting 11-22-2021

Structurally Deficient/ Scour Critical \$21M replacement project.

Old bridge behind new bridge.

San Joaquin Valley Report (continued)

San Joaquin County

East Country Club Project

Reconstruction of the entire roadway and sidewalks for two blocks of a residential neighborhood.

Picture to the left was taken before the work was undertaken.

Sonoma Ave looking west from Delaware Ave



COMPLETED PROJECT

Pictures to the left above and below —Sonoma Ave looking west from Delaware Ave.

Picture to the right above: Montana Ave looking west from Marine Ave

Picture to the right below: Montana Ave looking west



San Joaquin Valley Report (continued)

Merced County



La Grange Road Bridge over Dry Creek Bridge
Total Project Cost: \$7.2 million



Campus Parkway Project

Segments 2 & 3—Total Project
Cost: \$87,000,000



NACE UPDATE



Matt Machado
NACE Representative



As winter is upon us, it is a time to get prepared for the next construction season and to cross our fingers that we do not sustain winter damage to our infrastructure. Key to this infrastructure is federal funding.

The recently approved \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes \$550 billion for new programs and \$650 billion for the continuation of core programs, which have been previously authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and other authorizations.

This new transportation bill increases federal-aid formula for core apportioned programs (the funds that are allocated annually to States and MPOs) by about 30% across the board, depending on the individual program. Fund allocations are inclusive of surface transportation block grant program (STBGP) funds, most federal transit administration (FTA) formula funds (5307, 5311, 5339, etc.), and highway safety improvement program (HSIP) funds. Other increases of interest include a 10% increase for congestion mitigation air quality (CMAQ), and a 71% increase for transportation alternatives (TA) type funding (sidewalks, shared use paths, bicycle facilities, etc.).

In addition to funding increases over FY 2021, program funding grows nearly 2-3% per year through FY 2026. That said, direct funding for roadway resurfacing and maintenance is near status quo, with just an inflationary increase.

This new infrastructure bill will focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

As infrastructure funding has turned a major corner to support the work we all do, our next advocacy push will include environmental streamlining and FEMA process improvements. This federal advocacy work will take center stage at the upcoming [NACo 2022 Legislative Conference](#) in Washington, D.C. from February 12 – 16, 2022.

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 24-27, 2022—NACE 2022 - ERIE COUNTY, BUFFALO, NEW YORK



2022 NACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BUFFALO, NY  APRIL 24-27



Droppings

from out of the past

By Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp
CEAC Historian

THE PAINTING

(Editor's Note: The following article was taken from the Spring 2003 CEAC Newsletter to provide history of "The Painting" that you may seen either at the CLODS BBQ at the last month's Fall Conference—more about that in this Newsletter—or in the Sept 2021 Issue when Peter Rei was presented "The Painting" by Mike Penrose)

Those of you attending **Mike Sadjadi's** recent retirement (March 2003) once again witnessed the transfer of ownership of **THE PAINTING**. Isn't it amazing how the offer of a simple gift often times becomes an important part of our history? Take for example the Buffalo Bull Aware (it didn't have a name then) presented in 1972 to **Irv Mohar** (LA County Road Commissioner) for "planting" plastic greenery in the median of a major thoroughfare in LA County. Not wanting this trophy to be a permanent fixture in his office, and later his den, Irv chose to share the award with his fellow County Engineers. In my humble opinion, not a one of the subsequent recipients has come anywhere close to matching the plastic tree caper although some have been pretty close.

Immediate Past President and junior CLOD **Tom Hunter** gave **THE PAINTING** to Mike as a part of Mike's retirement celebration. Barbara (Tom Hunter's wife) was so upset at the prospect of loosing **THE PAINTING** she did not attend Mike's retirement.

And, how did Tom come by **THE PAINTING**? Yours truly, as temporary owner of **THE PAINTING** at that time, was asked by Tom during Tom's reign as CEAC President, if I, as CEAC Historian, might research the history of **THE PAINTING**. As Tom had shown such a keen interest in it, it seemed natural that he become the new owner; he was presented **THE PAINTING** at his "debunking" in Pasadena in November 2002 when his reign as CEAC President ended.

And, how did I become its owner? Rather than approach this backwards, let's start at the beginning. When **George Protopapas** retired as Director of Public Works for San Luis Obispo County, he received **THE PAINTING** as a retirement "gift" from his Special Districts Administrator in January 1991.

Unfortunately, I don't know the name of the artists but that's probably irrelevant. Similarly, I don't know the cow that produced the Buffalo Bull Award which likewise is probably unimportant. George chose not to display **THE PAINTING** in his house but instead hung it prominently in his garage. After some time (like one day), Mrs. P (Bev) pronounced "Either **IT** goes or I'm outta here!!!".

The first CEAC recipients were **Verne and Dawn Davis** at our annual meeting in 1991 where George, acting on behalf of the CLODS, made the presentation at the Friday breakfast.

His presentation was prefaced by noting that Dawn had been heard to say that they needed a picture to hang over their fireplace.

Verne then devised an elaborate scheme to get rid of **THE PAINTING**. Verne's plan took the form of a contest to name the headless engineer with Marlene Demery to act as contest chairperson. The winner was announced at the Friday breakfast at the annual meeting in Palm Springs in 1992. **Henry Hirata**, San Joaquin County, was judged the winner and offered as a prize, his choice of a weekend for two in Madera or a fifth of cheap whiskey. Henry chose the latter. Second place was awarded to George and I'm sure you can guess his "prize".

Once again, Bev issued her ultimatum and **THE PAINTING** became the proud possession of Henry and Alice Hirata. No doubt George surmised that since Henry had won Verne's contest, he should be awarded the "real prize". Again, the "trophy" was presented at the Friday breakfast during the annual meeting in Long Beach 1994. There was a glitch, however. Henry and Alice had flown to Southern California and there was no way their "prize" which measures 3 1/2-feet by 5-feet could be taken home. **Richard and Carol Welton**, Fresno County, came to the rescue and offered to transport **THE PAINTING** to Clovis and then on to Stockton, if need be. Henry, in order to prevent a reoccurrence of this embarrassment, devised a way that **THE PAINTING** could be folded to facilitate transport. A secondary benefit of course would be keeping it from public view when folded.

Doug and Linda Wilson, Tulare County, became the next owners when Henry made his presentation at the spring meeting in San Diego 1996. The Wilson's had just purchased a new car with their initial trip to San Diego where it was subsequently stolen. It was indeed fortunate that **THE PAINTING** wasn't in the car at the time. Whether Henry offered **THE PAINTING** to compensate for their loss is unclear.



DROPPINGS (continued)

The Wilson's kept the "prize" longer than most, holding it until the Spring 1999 meeting in Monterey where it was presented during a roast of yours truly. **Mike Walford**, Contra Costa County, was next to own THE PAINTING when it was present as part of his retirement celebration in March 2000. Mike promptly devised a plan whereby he could divest himself of the "prize" one week later at **Art Goulet's** retirement from Ventura County. Unfortunately travel plans kept the Walford's from attending Art's party. Mike entrusted Henry Hirata to make the presentation; however, "the best laid plans...." and **THE PAINTING** greeted Mike and Pam upon their return home.

Mike's next victim was AGAIN yours truly where it was presented in true CLODS fashion at my retirement last August. Having learned the hard way that you can't trust another County Engineer, Mike made the presentation even though it was on Pam's birthday. As Paul Harvey would say, "And, now you know the rest of the story."

Although **THE PAINTING** does not fall under purview of the Tres Pinos Committee, they have strongly suggested that a policy similar to that adopted for the Buffalo Bull Award be put in place. You will recall at the recently concluded Spring Conference, the TPC pronounced there would no three time "winner of the Buffalo Bull Award. A similar policy should be put in place for **THE PAINTING**.

Editor's Note: Since this article was originally written (Spring 2003), **THE PAINTING** has been given to CEAC Past Presidents with two exceptions—Tom Flinn, San Joaquin County, and Mitch Avalon, Contra Costa County—both in 2011. I can only guess that Maurice Shiu got tired of staring at **THE PAINTING** for almost 3 years and decided that he needed to give it to someone. And, Tom Flynn's retirement was just the event!!!

Below is a listing of the past custodians and the current one. The purpose of this list is to allow the CLODS to identify the proper individual to place blame for the loss of this "treasure", because the memory of the CLODS is not always consistent. Preservation of THE **PAINTING** is now **Rick Tippett's** responsibility until he can pass it on .

January 1991	George Protopapas	San Luis Obispo County
November 1991	Verne Davis	Merced County
November 1992	George Protopapas	San Luis Obispo County
November 1994	Henry Hirata	San Joaquin County
March 1996	Doug Wilson	Tulare County
March 1999	Dave Gravenkamp	Siskiyou County
March 2000	Mike Walford	Contra Costa County
March 2000	Art Goulet	Ventura County
March 2000	Mike Walford	Contra Costa County
August 2002	Dave Gravenkamp	Siskiyou County
November 2002	Tom Hunter	Plumas County
March 2003	Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi	Marin County
March 2004	Ken Miller	San Bernardino County
March 2005	Don LaBelle	Alameda County
September 2006	Tom Hunter	Plumas County
March 2008	Gerry Shaul	Lake County
April 2008	Maurice Shiu	Contra Costa County
January 2011	Tom Flinn	San Joaquin County
March 2011	Mitch Avalon	Contra Costa County
September 2012	Phil Demery	Sonoma County
March 2016	Pat DeChellis	Los Angeles County
December 2016	Mike Crump	Butte County
August 2017	Julie Bueren	Contra Costa County
April 2018	John Presleigh	Santa Cruz County
June 2019	Mike Penrose	Sacramento County
August 2021	Peter Rei	Tuolumne County
December 2021	George Johnson	Riverside County
December 2021	Jim Porter	San Mateo County
December 2021	Rick Tippett	Trinity

PASSING OF *THE PAINTING* AT THE CLOUDS BBQ

DECEMBER 2021



From **Peter Rei** to **George Johnson**



Jim Porter's turn to be the Custodian of
THE PAINTING



And, finally, **Rick Tippet** is now the Custodian of
THE PAINTING

Peter Rei Receiving *THE PAINTING*



The following is from the September 2021 Newsletter

CEAC Past President's Celebrating Peter's Retirement

From l-r: **Mike Walford** (CEAC President 1990-91, Contra Costa); **Scott McGolpin** (2013-14, Santa Barbara); **Jim Porter** (2018-19 and 2020-21, San Mateo); **Mike Penrose** (2014-15, Sacramento); **Peter Rei** (2008-09, Tuolumne); **Mike Crump** (2006-07, Butte); **George Johnson** (2007-08, Riverside); **Pat DeChellis** (2009-10, Los Angeles); **Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi** (1998-99, Marin); and **Doug Wilson** (1996-97, Tulare). Note: the only Past President in the picture who is still an active County Engineer is Scott McGolpin. All of the rest of us have retired from County Engineering.

If you are not familiar with "The Painting" that Peter received from Mike Penrose, stay tuned because I have a feeling that it will be making the rounds at the upcoming Fall Conference. There is a story behind "The Painting", but that is for another Newsletter.

BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2021



Rick Tippet

CEAC President
Director of Transportation
Trinity County

1st Nominee—Rick Tippet

At the CSAC President's Dinner at the 2019 Annual Meeting in San Francisco (right before he was going to be installed at the next CEAC President), **Rick Tippet** *ungraciously* requested the Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County – **to move to another table**. He thought that **that** table should have been reserved for him.

And, a 4.0 magnitude earthquake struck near Tres Pinos at around 7:33pm on February 12, 2020. Rick sent out the following e-mail at 7:45pm that same night:

"Tres Pinos just had an earthquake. I wonder...."

Rick, what do you wonder??? If the Tres Pinos Committee survived??

Have you EVER heard of anything as inexplicable and incomprehensible???



2nd Nominee—Panos Kokkas

This is the new Public Works Director for Nevada County, not very impressive!



And, Panos has been "touched" by the Mike Carlson hug!

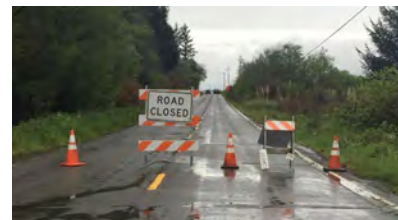


Even Tom knows what he did wrong!!!

3rd Nominee—Tom Mattson



According to the local newspaper, **Humboldt County Road Department** confirms that Eel River Drive was closed indefinitely



BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2021

(continued)



So, who received the 2021 Buffalo Bull Award???

Tom Mattson was presented the wrapped nameplate for the Award by the 2019 Buffalo Bull Award recipient, Jim Porter. It was securely wrapped so Jim did not know the recipient.

Jim was asked to select who he thought was the **“most deserving”**.

Picture at the top—Tom is unwrapping the nameplate.

Picture at the left—Tom is reading the nameplate.

Picture below —Tom is getting out of his chair to offer his thanks for receiving this Award!!!



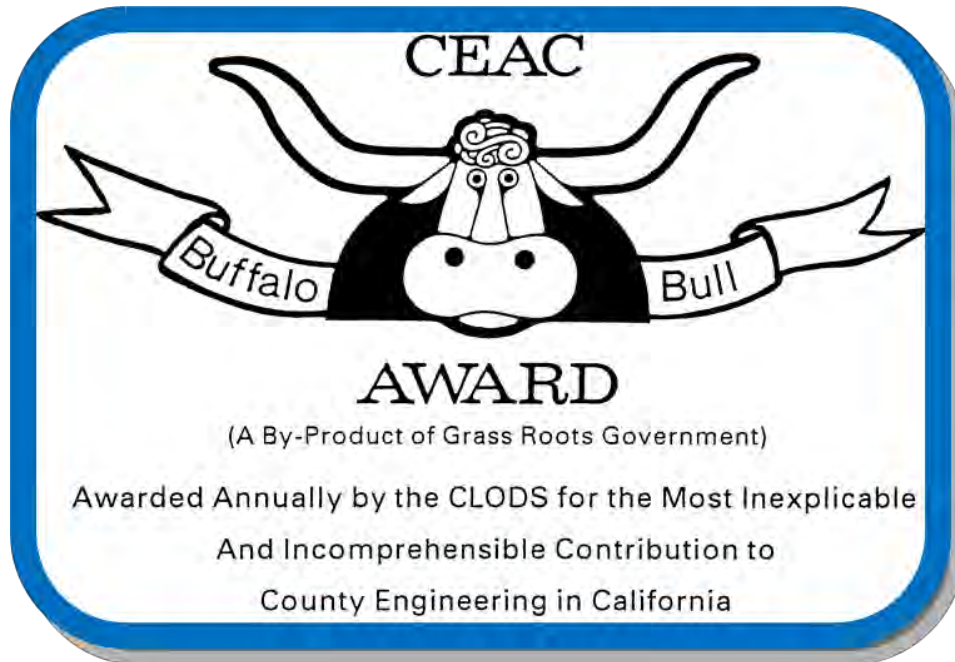
BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2021

(continued)



2021 Buffalo Bull Award in Tom Mattson's Office Humboldt County

BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2022



An Annual Tradition of the CLODS since 1972 (with some exceptions)

Come to the Spring Conference in Monterey (March 23-25) and attend the President's Banquet on the evening of March 24th to find out who will be Honored with this Most Prestigious Award for 2022.

IT COULD BE YOU!

So, if you don't want to be the next recipient, submit your nomination(s) to the CEAC Newsletter Editor for delivery to the Tres Pinos Committee.



CEAC Board of Directors

2021 Fall Conference

Friday, December 3, 2021 | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Monterey Marriott Hotel | 350 Calle Principal, Monterey

DRAFT MINUTES

11:14 p.m.

Call to Order (Dashiell)

Officers present: 9 of 10: Regional Directors: 5 of 6

Quorum Present

1. Approval of Minutes (Balbas)

September 16, 2021 - *Attachment 1* – **Motion** to approve minutes; Bronkall, 2nd; Balbas; abstain DeChellis;
Approved

2. Correspondence (Dashiell)

Receive, new Regional Director David Leamon, Stanislaus County

3. CLODS Report (Sadjadi)

Mehdi said CLODS had lots of work and catchup, including 2021/22 CEAC Secretary nominees and slate of officers, at the barbeque installed a new member and honored three CLODS who retired (George Johnson, Jim Porter, and Rick Tippet) and made the appropriate presentations. This morning administered the oath of office to the new officers. DeChellis state the Buffalo Bull Award was presented at the barbeque to make up for the missed spring conferences. The award will resume its schedule as before during the next Spring Conference. Next time it will go to a current city employee. **(Editor's Note: this was not reported at the Board meeting which makes the Secretary the #1 candidate for the 2022 Award.)**

4. NACE Report (Machado)

NACE Spring Conference in Erie County, Buffalo NY April 25-27, 2022. Really BIG news in 2024 the NACE conference will be in Palm Springs, need to restart the committee. Western region collective proposals include FEMA fix, environmental processing, and direct (XXX???) to local agencies. Chris Lee describe the new infrastructure bill well; NACE also has similar information and comparisons to past funding bills.

5. CSAC Report (Chris Lee)

Chris officially introduced Jacquelin Wong-Hernandez who is the new deputy executive director for legislative affairs she was welcomed by everyone. She has been in the position for about two months and started to learn some of the acronyms and was happy to say hello in person. CSAC staff has been working on some of the legislative priorities along with CEAC and in January staff will divert their attention to the governors budget proposal and it's affect, as the legislator is coming back for the second year of a two year session and election year including the redistricting, state legislators have to live in their district unlike congress and that will likely will have a lot of changes.

5. Regional Directors Reports

Johannes Hoevertsz – Bay Area – Not a lot to report on BA region, have not met in person or zoom, getting ready to meet in January.

Kent Elder – Central Coast – had not had a meeting since last conference and will meet on December 13, Tom Fayram from Santa Barbara County is retiring in a week and it will be a great loss to our region and CEAC.

Friday, December 3, 2021| 12:00pm - 1:30pm

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Bob Bronkall – NorCal – Dealing with the sad news and loss of Camp Connery, our bedroll conference site. We are looking for potential replacement sites and this may be a good opportunity, as PG&E was getting challenging in reserving the site. The newsletter editor requested a special invitation to the next conference.

Matt Randall – Sac/Mother Lode – (not in attendance, Brian read into record)- Met in November via zoom, the meeting was well attended by both counties and consultants, topics included introduce new directors in the region, meeting also included “get to know a director” geared towards leadership principals with Ken Grehm from Placer County, another topic was the practical use of advance construction by SACOG and both topics were well received. A schedule for next year’s meetings was also established but no details were mentioned.

David Leamon new director – San Joaquin Valley– Our intent is for the nine valley counties to engage if a county is unable to host then we will resort to a zoom meeting instead, a few counties tried to meet in person but will try their best.

Nardy Khan – SoCal – Hosting the meetings via Teams mostly virtual and went very well, last meeting was hosted by Orange County, talked about ATP, as many communities have concerns with recreation and the link is critical. Items also included flood control as Orange County is a former swamp and flood control is very important. Ventura County will host the January meeting.

The Newsletter editor asked for pictures from each region about ongoing projects to be forwarded to him so he can highlight them in each issue. An email and schedule will be sent out to remind each region about their turn to submit photographs and the respective projects information.

7. Treasurer's Report (Crump) - Attachments 2 & 3

Outgoing Treasurer Mike Crump summarized the attached treasurer’s report. **Motion** to accept the report; DeChellis; 2nd Sadjadi; **Approved**. Mike also summarized next year’s proposed budget including dues increases based on the population of each county, **Motion** to approve the proposed budget; Machado; 2nd Bronkall; **Approved**. Thank you, Mike Crump, for all your dedication as treasurer. The final budget will be approved during the spring conference and will be presented by the new Treasurer George Johnson.

8. Committee Reports:

Administrative – Brian Balbas – Good meeting, good attendance, great information and presentation by Coby about SB1383, will be discussing for some time to come and great roundtable discussion. Mr. Pratt was just appointed chair for next year.

Flood Control and Water Resources – David Leamon – Long presentation with many details by DWR, 100% funded if working with disadvantage communities. US weather service as expected discuss drought and more drought very interesting.

Infrastructure and Development – Trisha Tillotson - No information as the meeting was cancelled.

Resource Recovery and Waste Management – Catherine Freeman – Coby made a great presentation for SB1383 the topic of the day. Lots more information coming on that topic.

Surveyor – Catherine Freeman – Good conversation; Pat Minturn (Shasta County) came in and talked about a slide that was happening under Shasta Lake, also how things work at the state level including impacts on monuments and surveying from disasters including landslides and fires, which are not covered by the ER programs, and the need to fund them. Bronkall volunteered to draft a one-page statement about the issues we faced, which will be used by NACE, to eliminate FEMA’s rejection of funding for the monument reestablishment and preservation.

Transportation – Dave Fleisch – Thank you CSAC staff at the CSAC Land Use and Transportation Committee 2/3 for the topics were on transportation, which was great, including conversation about the potential revenue and future of the transportation gas tax. Not part of our committee but good for the county supervisors to know. Also, good discussion about AB 43 the new legislation about the speed limit setting, very informative. There are several subcommittees in transportation that we need to fill.

Fellowship – Pattie McNamee – Great to see everyone in-person, Martin and Tracy were good and learning, Jim Porter will be the new trainee during the spring conference (God help us). We made \$620 in donations for the scholarships. If non-CEAC people come in we should require them to donate to the scholarship, especially the City people during the spring conference. The all-time CEAC highlight was in 2012 in Fort Worth when a CEAC member thought he was a bull rider ... and earned the ultimate bull prize.

Oversight – Howard Dashiell - not met, next meeting is in January.

Scholarship – Scott DeLeon not able to attend. Howard mentioned we need to check with the university systems to advertise for the scholarships and how to use their web to inform engineering students about the scholarship.

9. Unfinished Business (Dashiell)
None

10. New Business
None

11. Life Membership
Tim Goncharoff (Elder) – Attachment 4 – Motion; Elder, 2nd DeChellis; Approved

12. Announcements
None

- Scheduled Conferences – Merrin Gerety highlighted the up-coming conferences.
- ◆ CEAC Spring Conference, Monterey, California, March 23-25, 2022
 - ◆ NACE Annual Conference, Erie County (Buffalo), New York, April 24-27, 2022
 - ◆ CEAC Policy Conference, August 18-19, 2022
 - ◆ CSAC 128th Annual Meeting Orange County, November 14-18, 2022

- CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule
- ◆ CEAC Spring Conference, Monterey, California, March 25, 2022
 - ◆ CEAC Policy Conference, August 18-19, 2022
 - ◆ CSAC 128th Annual Meeting Orange County, November 14-18, 2022

12:20 pm Adjourn – Motion; Machado, 2nd; Porter

Friday, December 3, 2021| 12:00pm - 1:30pm

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Meeting Roster

Officer	Office	County/Organization
Howard N. Dashiell	President	Mendocino
Brian Balbas	Vice-President/	Contra Costa
Panos Kokkas	Secretary	Nevada
Jim Porter	Immediate Past President	San Mateo (retired)
George Johnson	Treasurer	Riverside (Retired)
Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi	Treasurer-Emeritus	Marin (Retired)
Mike Penrose (np)	Parliamentarian	Sacramento (Retired)
Patrick DeChellis	Newsletter Editor	Los Angeles (Retired)
Matt Machado	NACE Representative	Santa Cruz
Dave Gravenkamp	Historian	Siskiyou County (Retired)
Regional Directors	Region	County
Johannes Hoevertsz	Bay Area	Sonoma
Kent Edler	Central Coast	Santa Cruz
Bob Bronkall	Northern California,	Humboldt
Matt Randall (np)	Sacramento Mother Lode	Placer
David Leamon	San Joaquin Valley	Stanislaus
Nardy Khan	Southern California	Orange
Committee Chairs	Committee	County
Brian Balbas	Administration	Contra Costa
Pattie McNamee	Fellowship	Contra Costa (Retired)
Mark Strudley (np)	Flood Control/Water Resources	Santa Cruz
Trisha Tillotson (np)	Infrastructure and Development	Nevada
Howard Dashiell	Oversight	Mendocino
Coby Skye (np)	Resource Recovery & Waste Mgmt.	Los Angeles
Scott DeLeon (np)	Scholarship	Lake
Aleks Jevremovic (np)	Surveyor	Santa Barbara
David Fleisch	Transportation	Ventura
CSAC/CEAC Staff	Title	Agency/County
Chris Lee	Legislative Representative	CSAC
Catherine Freeman	Legislative Representative	CSAC
Ada Waelder	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Marina Espinoza	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety	CEAC Program Manager	CSAC/CEAC
Others in Attendance		
Max Bridges	CLODS	San Benito (Retired)
Phil Doudar		Los Angeles
Mary Reyes		Los Angeles
Janice Thompson		Sonoma

Not present (np)