



CEAC Newsletter

June 2016 Editor: **Pat DeChellis**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By **Matt Machado**, Director of Public Works
Stanislaus County

It has been quite a year so far. I am proud to be your 2016 President. I believe that we are making a difference in sharing our concerns with our local, state and federal leaders. Our voices are being heard regarding the lack of transportation funding and storm water regulations that have put unfunded requirements upon our local agencies. I am confident that our State legislation will find a solution in the near term for our transportation financial needs. I am hopeful that this can be achieved this year. More on these efforts in a bit.

My presidency started off in December in Monterey County. It was a great month - President Obama signed a long term transportation bill, the FAST Act and the CLODS kicked off their 50-year anniversary. The fun continued in January when I was fortunate to join the Southern California Regional CEAC Meeting. They are great hosts with great presentations. Thank you Vince Gin and Bill Brunet. Next stop was Tulare County in February for our San Joaquin Valley Regional CEAC meeting. The San Joaquin Valley group meets 9 times per year; what a great group they are.

The March highlight was our CEAC Spring Conference held in conjunction with the League of California Cities Public Works Officers Institute. Nearly 400 of us attended this conference in Sacramento. Dan Walters kicked off the event with insight into Sacramento politics -UGH!!! This was followed by our committee meetings and some great breakout sessions. Of course, the Spring Conference wouldn't be the same without our evening of celebrating the famed Buffalo Bull Award. Thank you, Pat DeChellis, for putting together a great program and helping us find the most deserved recipient for this year's award. **Jeff Pratt**, how could you??? Then, at the end of March we celebrated Pat's

CALIFORNIA
Counties



President's Message (continued)

retirement. WOW!!! What a career!!! Thank you again, Pat, for all that you have done and continue to do for our industry and organization. "PALMAM QUI MERUIT FERAT - You have certainly earned it!!!"

In mid-April, I attended the Bay Area Regional CEAC meeting where we heard an update on how to fund storm water regulations, or not fund. We strategized and strategized yet found no simple solution. Perseverance and creative thinking will continue to be our direction. It was off to Tacoma, Washington the last week in April for the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) Annual Conference. Everything went off without a hitch, Snappy-E-Tom was a success, and I was able to meet our new NACE President, Brian Stacy, from Pierce County, Washington. I invited Brian and his wife, Colleen, to our Fall Conference in Palm Springs. Thank you everyone who helped out at the Snappy Tom reception!!!

And, then it was May, the Governor's May Revise, May flowers and all that. No flowers in the budget for Transportation, dang! The CSAC Legislative Conference was well attended and included blocks of time for us to meet with our State Legislatures to discuss all things funding, transportation and storm water. One-on-one meetings with our representatives always seem to go well. Everyone agrees there is a problem with transportation funding and there is a solution right around the corner. Unfortunately, the corner is full of potholes, narrow lanes, and guard rail falling off the cliff. We did have an amazing rally on the steps of the Capitol where hundreds of people gathered. We had great speakers, great chants, great media coverage, and great energy. Will it make a difference??? We will see!!!

Transportation funding is our number one priority. California needs \$13.5 billion of new annual funding just to maintain and repair state highways and local roads, much less improve safety and mobility. CSAC is asking for \$6 billion a year, enough to reduce backlogs and begin to improve the overall condition of the transportation network. Governor Brown's proposal is a good start, but doesn't go far enough. Senator Beall's SBX1-1 and Assembly Member Frazier's AB 1591 raise more revenue and also include sensible reforms and accountability. Streamlining CEQA makes sense for projects in existing rights of way or that reduce Green House Gases. The longer we wait, the more it will cost.

Have a great summer! See you at the **Bedroll Conference** August 10-12, 2016 at Lake Almanor in Plumas County and the **Policy Conference** the following week, August 17-18, 2016 in Sacramento. -Matt

County Engineers Association of California 11th Annual Policy Conference

SACRAMENTO . AUGUST 17-18 . 2016



Member Spotlight: Tour of Duty as Bay Area Regional Director

By Stephen Kowalewski,

Deputy Director, Contra Costa County Public Works



I have been asked by the very convincing CEAC Newsletter Editor, Pat DeChellis, to tell the story of my experience as the Bay Area Regional Director. My tenure as Regional Director started out innocently enough. I remember my Director, **Julie Bueren**, and San Mateo County Public Works Director, **Jim Porter**, approached me after a Central Coast Regional Meeting and asked, “Hey...how would you like to be the Central Coast Regional Director?” Fairly new to CEAC, and having these two powerhouse directors asking me to do something, I said sure I’ll do it. Soon after taking on the position, I found out that things weren’t going to be business as usual with the Central Coast Region. My first task as Regional Director was to merge the Central Coast and North Coast Regions.

On April 29, 2011, the North Bay Region and Central Coast Region held a joint meeting hosted by the City and County of San Francisco. We had a good meeting and realized how much we have in common.

During the meeting, a proposal was brought forward to determine if it would be beneficial for the Central Coast Region and North Bay Region to merge into one region. The Regions share the same Caltrans District and Metropolitan Planning Organization and many of our issues are fairly similar. Both Regional Directors solicited input from membership of the two Regions and determined that all counties responding to the solicitation indicated a preference to merge.

Just like that, I went from being a Regional Director of a four-county Region to a Regional Director that included all nine Bay Area Counties. It has been a great experience. Merging these two Regions gave me the opportunity to interact with other CEAC Board members and other members of the Central Coast and North Bay Regions. I realized quickly how helpful and knowledgeable everyone is. They were always willing to share their thoughts and history on the regional structure. Another great benefit of the merger was my interaction with CEAC and CSAC staff. As always, they were very helpful and supportive as I navigated the merger process and got up to speed on my new responsibilities.

After the merger, things settled down and I started arranging regular meetings. It was easier said than done at the time. I tried soliciting availability from all the members, but with such a large group and busy schedules, it was often difficult to find an open date and time to meet. But, we did find time to meet and we had some great meetings. As Regional Director, I tried to find topics that would be meaningful to all members and that spanned the Public Works field, such as transportation, flood control, airports, County facilities, etc. We have great members that brought interesting and diverse topics to the meetings and provided a great learning experience for all. Although our membership have many common interests, it was often very interesting to hear how each agency approached solving common issues. I think this is and will continue to be the greatest benefit of holding regional meetings.

As the years went on, I was finding it more and more difficult to find available meeting dates. So, rather than trying to find available dates, I just booked four meeting dates well ahead of time and told the members to put it on their calendars before they got booked up. That worked out fairly well with pretty good turnout at

Member Spotlight: Tour of Duty as Bay Area Regional Director (continued)

subsequent meetings. Some meetings involved up to thirty participants with great discussions. This system of setting up regional meetings worked much better. I just needed to make sure the proposed meeting dates didn't conflict with the hundreds of other association meetings, conferences, and CEAC functions.

Overall, I found the experience as serving as the Bay Area Regional Director a very gratifying one. I was able to meet many new agency and consultant staff and be involved in some great discussions regarding the Public Works field. I have also been able to build strong working relationships with CEAC and CSAC staff. Another benefit of being the Regional Director is having the meetings at your office and being able to invite your own staff to help get them involved in the CEAC organization.

Although my time as a Regional Director has come to an end, I will always be involved in CEAC in one capacity or another. I would like to thank a few people that have really helped me through this experience. First and foremost, I would like to thank **Merrin Gerety**. She is truly a great all around person and has supported me not only in my Regional Director position, but also with my work on the CEAC Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Committee. I would also like to thank all of CSAC staff for keeping our membership well informed of important topics and providing detailed updates for our Regional meetings. I would also like to thank **Julie Bueren** and **Jim Porter** for giving me this opportunity. It has definitely been a growth experience professionally. Finally, I would like to thank Pat DeChellis, for just being an all-around superstar CEAC member that I could watch and learn from. Watching Pat in meetings and seeing how he identified important CEAC topics helped me in finding interesting and useful topics for our Regional meetings.

After five years as the Bay Area Regional Director, I want to say thank you to the Region and good luck to **Matt Tuggle** as the new Regional Director. I know he will do an excellent job for the Region and CEAC.

Region	Director	Member Counties
Bay Area	Matt Tuggle	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma
Central Coast	Tom Fayram	Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz
Sacramento Motherlode	Panos Kokkas	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba
San Joaquin Valley	Richard Schwarz	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare
Southern California	William Brunet	Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura
Northern California	Scott DeLeon	Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

New CEAC Affiliates

Aircon Energy provides energy conservation measures and HVAC solutions throughout California.

Aircon's in-house staff includes a team of engineers, project managers, control specialists, installers and an experienced service division. **Aircon** also works with some of the best and most experienced outside engineers and sub-contractors in the business.

Andy Roth

Director of Energy Services

Aircon Energy, Inc.

830 W. Stadium Lane

Sacramento, CA 95661

ARoth@airconenergy.com

Fax: 916-922-6481

Cell: (650) 687-7002



4LEAF, Inc. (4LEAF) is a multi-discipline engineering firm providing services throughout the Western United States. The dedication of staff combined with our proven systems has consistently met the needs of our clients, leading to **4LEAF's** great success. Our clients value our continuous flexibility, proactive communication, and unfailing dedication resulting in projects that are on time and on budget.

Bert Gross

Vice President

4Leaf, Inc.

8896 N. Winding Way

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

bgross@4leafinc.com

Phone: (916) 965-0010



4LEAF, INC.

Tensar International Corporation specializes in solutions for common site development problems such as grade changes requiring retaining walls and poor soil conditions affecting the cost of roadways, parking lots, and building structures.

Tensar provides attractive alternatives to conventional site development practices in commercial, industrial, and residential construction; transportation infrastructure; resource extraction operations; coastal and waterway development; and municipal and industrial waste containment.

Gene Weddle CDT, LEED GA

Regional Manager – Pacific North

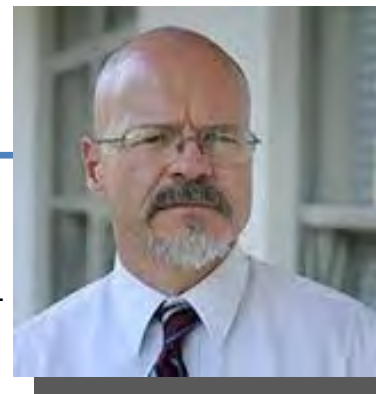
Tensar Corporation | Cell 925.979.8407

gweddle@tensarcorp.com



NACE Report – Spring 2016

By **Scott D. McGolpin**, CEAC Rep to the NACE Board of Directors,
Director of Public Works Santa Barbara County



NACE held its annual conference this year on April 24-28th in Tacoma, WA. We had a great turnout of CEAC members, over 20, led by our President, **Matt Machado** who represented CEAC very well. The Western Region location certainly helped with attendance. I want to encourage each CEAC member to attend a future conference as this is a great learning and networking experience. We do have another Western Region location coming up in the Fall; the NACE/AACE Western Regional Conference - October 26-28, 2016 in Laughlin, NV. Another opportunity for CEAC to make a great showing as well!

A highlight of this Conference was the installation of **Julie Bueren**, CEAC member, CLOD and Contra Costa County Director of Public Works, as the NACE Western Region Vice President on the NACE Board of Directors (3rd time). I can tell you from seeing Julie in action, California is well represented at the national level and her input on the Board is much valued. Julie also had the opportunity to speak at the Tuesday lunch and introduce the CLODS in attendance this year to the conference attendees. NACE was very gracious providing time to CEAC to highlight our beloved CLODS in honor of their 50th Anniversary.

Once again, the NACE Annual Conference was very informative. There was a continued strong emphasis on roadway safety and practices. Safety is our No. 1 priority in Santa Barbara County and I am sure it is in yours. This year's conference also included breakout sessions on Drones and Driverless Cars. A topic we have all thought about; however, implementation is much closer than we anticipate. I look forward to learning more on



these two types of vehicles and how we as County Road Commissioners and Public Works officials are ready for full implementation.

The California contingent, led by **President Machado**, hit it out of the park with our annual Snap-E-Tom Reception on Wednesday morning. We had a good turnout of NACE attendees who came to sample our world famous drink – ok that may be a stretch, how about our NACE famous drink? **President Machado** added a new twist this year that made us much



NACE Report - Spring 2016 by Scott McGolpin (continued)

more efficient and provided a consistent taste to each drink served. I am sure this revelation will go down in the CEAC history books unless we forget about it before next year....

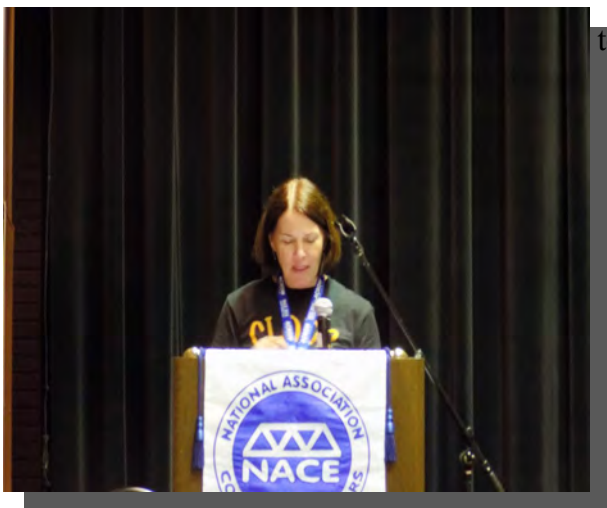
Speaking of next year, following are the **future NACE Conferences to add to your calendars:**

- NACE/AACE Western Regional Conference - October 26-28, 2016, Laughlin, NV
- 2017 NACE Annual Conference - April 9-13, 2017, Cincinnati, OH
- 2018 NACE Annual Conference - April 22-26, 2018, The Dells, WI

Additionally, the NACo Annual Conference this year will be held this year in Long Beach, CA, July 22nd through the 25th. I encourage anyone who can attend to do so. The committees are where the action is and if you enjoy having the opportunity to influence “BIG” policy issues, this is the place to be! This is the same conference where CSAC and CEAC in Fort Worth, TX started the national discussion to save funding for our On System non-NHS bridges. As you know, today these bridges have a funding source in the recently approved Federal Transportation Bill because California said, “wait a minute”.

I was recently asked to serve as the Western States NACE Representative on the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). This organization’s purpose is to assist in the development of standards, guidelines, and warrants for traffic control devices and practices used to regulate, warn and guide traffic on streets and highways. The NCUTCD recommends to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to other appropriate agencies proposed revisions and interpretations to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and other accepted national standards. My first meeting is in June, so stay tuned. As I learn more about this role, I will communicate back and also ask for your assistance on topics I can bring

to the table from California. **Take care all, Scott**



Julie Bueren, NACE Western Vice President and Director of Public Works Contra Costa County, at the Delegate and Guest Luncheon on Tuesday, April 25, in Tacoma, WA, NACE Annual Conference - recognizing the **CLODS** for their 50 years of service to County Engineering in California.



Some of the CEAC contingent at the 2016 NACE Annual Conference



Julie Bueren, Mark Schleich, Pat-tie McNamee and Tom Mattson at the NACE night-out in Tacoma enjoying the city's rich maritime heritage at the Foss Waterway Seaport



John Presleigh and Matt Machado at the Car Museum, Tacoma, Washington



Droppings

from out of the past

BY

Dave “Road Runner” Gravenkamp

CEAC Historian

“Snap-E-Tom”

Received a call from Mike Sadjadi this morning (April 27, 2016) from Tacoma, WA during the Snap-E-Tom Reception at the NACE Annual Conference.

Mike asked the “who, what, when, where, and why” questions about the history of the Reception which of course I couldn’t answer on the spot. I did recall that I’d once wrote a Droppings article about the Snap-E-Tom Reception some years past. As my filing system leaves a lot to be desired, I spent the better part of the afternoon looking for the article and finally found it in the June 2008 Issue of the CEAC Newsletter.

Here it is.....

The NACE 2008 Annual Conference is now history as is another CEAC-hosted Snap-E-Tom Reception. I am told that about 120 guests were served at this year’s event.

Did you ever wonder when the Snap-E-Tom Reception started and why it has continued?

*I may have already told this story, but if I can’t remember, then there is a good chance that you can’t either. Like most of my stories about our history, they in large measure come from **The Old Crow, Bill McIntosh**. Bill, throughout his career as Lassen County Public Works Director, and probably still*

today, kept a daily diary. No doubt his diaries have enabled him to accurately “recall” our past.

*Bill indicated that the first Snap-E-Tom Reception was the inspiration of **Jack Lambie**, Los Angeles County Engineer, NACE President 1960, and CEAC President 1967. The National Association of Counties (NACo) held their annual conference in San Diego in July 1965. Jack figured it would be a good idea for CEAC to host a reception for the NACE members that were attending the NACo conference. He recruited **The Stud Pelican II, Bruce McClain**, Director of Public Works for Monterey County, NACE Western Region Vice-President 1965-66, and CEAC President 1966, and **The Old Crow**, CEAC President 1964 and NACE President 1968, to gather the necessary supplies for the reception. The first Snap-E-Tom Reception was held at the Hotel El Cortez, was well attended and, according to Bill, was “impressive” to the attendees.*

The next year, 1966, the NACE Annual Conference was held in Cleveland. Both Bruce and Bill attended and decided to have another reception. Two cases of Snap-E-Tom mix was shipped in by Greyhound bus. As a hospitality suite wasn’t available, the reception was held in their room. Needless to say, it was a bit crowded. NACo met in New Orleans that year, and the Lambie-led clan put on the third California Snap-E-Tom Reception in two years at the Monteleone Hotel.

The following year, 1967, the NACE Annual Conference was held in Seattle. To show a little “class”, Bruce and Bill bought three gallon jugs of the cheapest juice you could find, emptied the jugs, filled them with the Snap-E-Tom mixture, set up a table at the entrance to the elevator at the base of the Space Needle, and served Snap-E-Toms to the members as they headed to the top of the Needle. Later the same year, NACo met in Detroit, coincidentally at the same time as the Detroit riots. On the first night of the conference, a 9:00pm curfew was in effect in the City. On the second night, the curfew was extended to 10:00pm. Despite these



Droppings

from out of the past

obstacles, California managed another reception. Two more receptions were held in 1968, the first in April at the Savory Hotel in Des Moines at the NACE Annual Conference and then in July at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., at the NACo Annual Conference. Bill indicated that his suite at the Savory Hotel was so large that it had three room numbers, more than enough room for all of the Snap-E-Tom attendees to fit comfortably.

Starting in 1969, only one Snap-E-Tom Reception was held each year – in conjunction with the NACE Annual Conference. From 1977 through 1983, receptions were again held at the spring NACE Annual Conference and the summer NACo Annual Conference. It was during this period that **Donna Castleberry, Clay's wife** (Clay was CEAC President in 1976) made a beautiful Snap-E-Tom banner for use at the receptions.

During the 70s and early 80s, NACE became more independent and the Spring Conference became the major annual meeting for the organization. The Snap-E-Tom has since been held only at the NACE Annual Conference.

It is quite interesting that CEAC no longer asks to host the Reception; NACE automatically puts it on the program. This important CEAC/NACE tradition has now been going non-stop for forty-four years.

I never ceased to be amazed how pieces of our CEAC history including the Snap-E-Tom Reception, the Buffalo Bull Award, and the CLOUDS BBQ have carried forward through the years.

(Editor's Note: The Snap-E-Tom Reception has now been going non-stop for 52 years.)

LA Zoo's California Condor turning 50

from the Press Democrat, April 21, 2016

The Los Angeles Zoo says one of its most famous residents is turning 50 this month. Topatopa is the oldest known **California Condor** in North America.

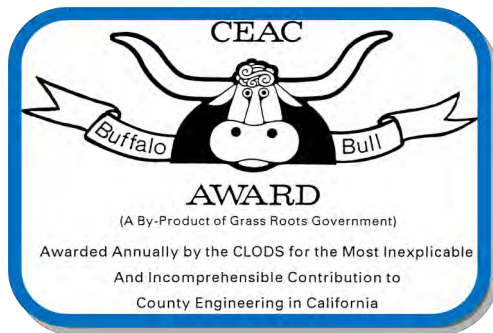
He was hatched sometime in April 1966 and a year later became the first wild-born condor captured for a breeding program to save a species on the verge of extinction.

Topa is now the proud father of 34 chicks including one that hatched on April 4th. Some chicks have been released back into the wild.

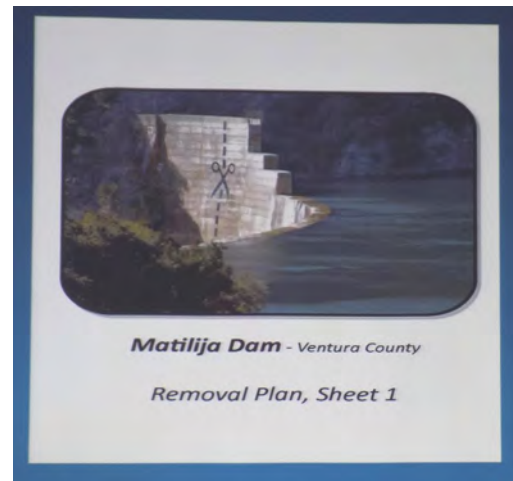
There are now around 415 California Condors in North America.



Buffalo Bull Award 2016



The CLODS' Tres Pinos Committee considered all nominations received for the prestigious Buffalo Bull Award for the most deserving "sole" (buffoon). At the President's Banquet during the 2016 Spring Conference, the award was presented to **Jeff Pratt**, Ventura County, for his "SHEAR Removal Plan for Matilija Dam".



CEAC President Matt Machado (2015 Buffalo Bull Award Winner) presenting the 2016 Award to **Jeff Pratt**, Ventura County.



Jeff Pratt and the Buffalo Bull Award taken in Jeff's Office. With a such a fantastic view, no wonder Jeff is always smiling.

Ventura County Hosts the 2016 Public Works Secretarial Seminar

By Jeff Pratt, Public Works Agency Director

We were honored to be the host County for the 31st Annual Public Works Secretarial Seminar, where our teams shared best practices with fellow Public Works professionals. Seminar highlights included talks on El Niño preparation, a behind-the-scenes tour of the nearly completed Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) hospital replacement wing, and benefits of implementing Lean Six Sigma practices to help departments run more efficiently.



David Fleisch, Director, Ventura County Transportation Department, with the **Buffalo Bull Award**, at the 2016 Public Works Secretarial Seminar hosted by Ventura County. David was filling in for **Jeff Pratt** during these picture-taking events.

With five departments encompassing a wide variety of services and projects, the Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) personnel need a boot camp to fully understand the scope of work they do on a daily basis! The 31st Annual Public Works Secretarial Seminar (PWSS), sponsored in part by the **County Engineer's Association of California**, was just that for attendees. VCPWA provided valuable insight to other counties across the state - from critical El Niño preparation to Lean Six Sigma practices. "It's nice to be here, with other professionals that are doing the same thing that you're doing, dealing with the same problems that you're dealing with and learning in a relaxed environment.," said **Elizabeth DeHayes of Riverside County Flood Control**.

The event took place April 27-29, 2016 at the VCPWA's Saticoy Yard. As this year's host county, VCPWA had the opportunity to focus on education and issues specific to their operations; showcasing more unique projects. "This conference is all about networking with each other to find out what works with your department," explained **Connie Strottrup, a retired Administrative Assistant from Santa Clara County**. "Hearing everybody talk about new ways and new procedures is really helpful as things are changing so fast."

Ventura County Hosts the 2016 Public Works Secretarial Seminar

(continued)

The seminar kicked off on Wednesday with a reception and dinner followed by a welcome by **David Fleisch, Director, VCPWA Transportation Department**, and a keynote speech by **Bill Nash, Ventura County Public Information Officer**. The following day included a presentation on El Niño storm preparation by **Kevin McGowan, Assistant Director of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services**; a Lean Six Sigma presentation by **Steve Huber, consultant**, and **Derrick Wilson, Staff Services Manager with Integrated Waste Management Division**; and a discussion with **Watershed Protection District Director Tully Clifford** on groundwater sustainability.

Attendees also watched a skid-steer demonstration, before an afternoon tour of the new state-of-the-art VCMC hospital replacement wing. "I really liked the hospital tour," said DeHayes. "We were all amazed at the level of detail. Having the Chief Deputy Director, who is also an RN, on the project was so helpful."

Friday brought another busy day of presentations and field trips, this time focusing on the Donlon Road Realignment Project and site tour, with a tour guided by Transportation Department engineers Alison Sweet and Sujin Beck. "The Donlon Road tour was a really good experience," said **Denae Davis, Administrative Secretary from Stanislaus County**. "We deal with a lot of paperwork and plans behind the scenes. So being able to go to the field and see the project firsthand was a great experience." An update on the plans for next year's seminar, which will be hosted by Stanislaus County, was also provided. After lunch, the attendees were taken to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and treated to a docent-led tour, before returning to the Crowne Plaza.

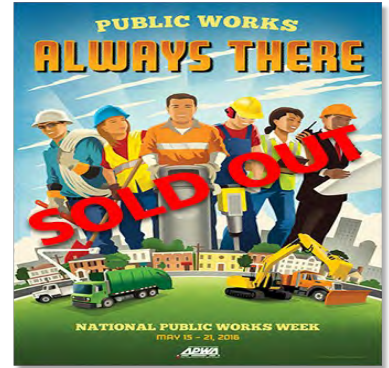
VCPWA's own **Glenna Inouye, Adrienne Burks, Tammy Butterworth, Maryann Jordan**, and **Denise Santoyo** spent months planning an effective, interesting program that focused on education and issues specific to Ventura County. Thanks to all who helped and presented.

Editor's Note: Jeff, you and your VCPWA Team have done good.! I heard several compliments about the program that you and your Team put on. Well done!!! Thank you.

Imperial County Department of Public Works Shows Residents and Children how they Work for the Public

Reported by Edwin Delgado, Staff Writer, Imperial Valley Press

Seeking to inform the public about what they do, the Imperial County Department of Public Works hosted its 10th annual open house at its administrative office in El Centro on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. The event was designed to make the public more aware of the various divisions within public works, how each functions, and give the public an idea of the amount of work that has to happen for any project.



“We try to show people what we do and we have been very successful,” said **ICDPW Director Bill Brunet**. “A lot of people are unaware of what it takes to do a project. They see physical construction but there is a lot that has to be done before anyone goes to work.”

Bill said that the event also gives him an opportunity to talk to some of the residents and answer their questions and concerns of how the department operates. He is also often able to clarify how the funding mechanisms work for the various improvement projects the department undertakes.

As part of the open house, the department had some heavy equipment on display such as excavators and water tankers. Public Works staff that use this equipment on a regular basis were on hand to talk to the visitors about how each one operates and what type of work it is used for.

In recent years, the department has focused on bringing more children to learn more about what they do. “We’re really focused on the children. They think it’s neat,” Bill said. “We want to give them an opportunity to see what is going on and it is good for us that they see everything. Then, they go talk to their parents about what they did and the message gets out.”

This year, 170 children attended the event. “We have never had this many children before. Now, they have a better idea of what public works does. What we had today is a great example of how successful it has been,” **Bill** said.

Inside the office, each division had its display of work that they perform and some of the tools they use for their job. “It was great. I have lived in El Centro for a long time and I have never realized what goes on inside the building,” said DeAnza Magnet School Teacher Helen Wong. “This was an eye-opening experience for me and my students.”

One of her 6th graders, Adriel Ballesteros, said what he enjoyed the most was learning more about the bucket truck which is often used to help with tree removal and site cleanup. “It is good to learn something different.”

Another 6th grader, Jayden Ramirez, also enjoyed the displays of the heavy equipment. “I learned a lot about how the department works to protect the roads and how they help improve the Valley,” she said.

One of the main reasons that the open house is important is to expand the possible career choices that the children take into consideration. “This is a great career path. There are good jobs and good places to work. We want to expose the kids to that,” **Brunet** said. “This could be a chosen career path if they so choose it.”

Member Retirement

WARREN D. “DUSTY” WILLIAMS

General Manager-Chief Engineer 2003-2016
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Warren D. “Dusty” Williams, a committed member of the CEAC Flood Control Policy Committee, retired on April 14, 2016 after an illustrious 41-year career with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Dusty started his career with the District in the Summer 1975 as a Professional Student Intern and then was hired full time in 1977 as a Junior Engineer upon graduation from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. Over the next 26 years, Dusty quickly rose through the ranks at the District holding the positions of Assistant Engineer, Associate Engineer, Senior Engineer, Chief of Design and Construction Division, Chief of Planning Division, and then, Assistant Chief Flood Control Engineer. His dedicated service to the residents of the County culminated with his appointment in 2003 to the position of General Manager-Chief Engineer by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.



Dusty is recognized as a national leader on levee safety, flood risk management, stormwater capture, environmental regulatory issues, and Waters of the U.S. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies since 2006 and is the Immediate Past President of that organization. Dusty was appointed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army to serve on the National Committee on Levee Safety - one of 16 appointees nationally, and has testified before Congressional Committees on numerous occasions on such important issues as levee safety and amendments to the federal Clean Water Act. Dusty was a recipient of the U.S. Army's Commander's Award for Public Service.

Dusty has also been a strong local partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guiding ongoing and critical federal projects including the Santa Ana Main Stem Project and the Murrieta Creek Flood Control Environmental Restoration and Recreation Projects through technical, fiscal, and administrative hurdles. Dusty was an effective leader due to his depth of knowledge, effective communications skills, and more importantly, his commitment of excellence to the communities he served.



Dusty taught civil engineering courses part time at the University of California, Riverside from 1991 to 2001 and at his alma mater, Cal Poly Pomona, from 2005 to 2008. He has also been a Board Member of the United Way of the Inland Valleys since 2014.

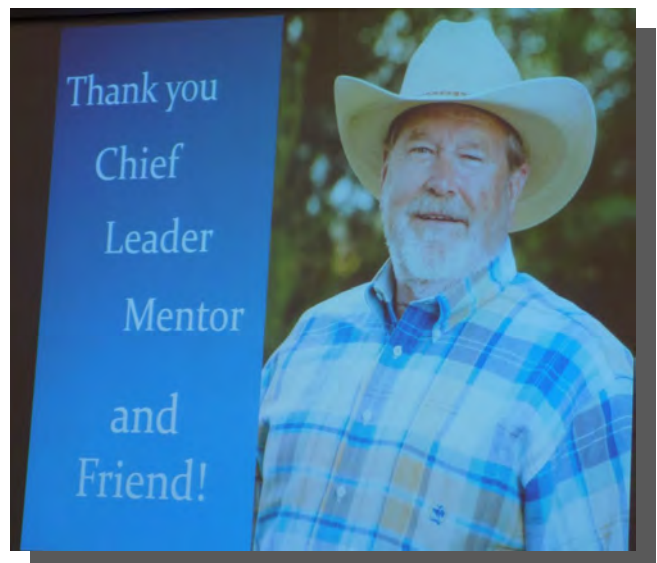
Member Retirement—WARREN D. “DUSTY” WILLIAMS (continued)

A celebration of Dusty’s upcoming retirement was held on April 11, 2016 at the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District. It was very well attended by retirees that previously worked with Dusty, current staff, several of the current members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, and CEAC members. Many paid tribute to Dusty and the work that he accomplished for the residents of the County.

Dusty’s philosophy – “We are first and foremost a public agency, funded by public tax dollars. Our fundamental mission is to protect people and their property from flooding through responsible and efficient stormwater management.”

“To achieve this lofty goal, the District has developed and adheres to an explicit philosophy, strive for excellence with integrity, earn respect of the public, other engineering organizations and policy makers, require accountability at all levels, accord respect, recognition and trust to all, maintain open communication at all levels and effectively implement the District’s mission statement.

“If, through your dealings with this office, you are disappointed or dissatisfied with the professionalism and courtesy of our staff, or the level of service you receive, I would appreciate hearing from you.”



CEAC 100 Years

By **Ken Miller**

For quite some time our CEAC Roster has listed as “unknown” the third President of our association. The search for this unknown President is now over thanks to an old newspaper article recently located.

The March 24, 1917 “Sacramento Union” newspaper reported on the events of the annual convention of the California State Association of County Surveyors that had concluded the previous day in Sacramento. Part of the article indicated that the association had elected officers for the ensuing year including: J. A. Sourwine of San Bernardino, President; M.C. Polk of Butte, Vice President; and Drury Butler of Sacramento, Secretary and Treasurer.

While the referenced news article answered one question, it, when combined with several other newspaper articles, has raised new questions about our organization that still require further investigation to fully understand and answer including the association name and the order of some of our early Presidents. Hopefully, these can be addressed in future newsletters.

Following is background on Mr. Sourwine, our third President:

James Arthur (J. A.) Sourwine, known to most of his descendants as “The Major”, was born on August 6th, 1884 in Buffalo, N.Y. to James H. Sourwine and Anna Tims Sourwine. He grew up in Upland, California (where his father owned a grocery and some orange groves) and graduated from Pomona College with a degree in Civil Engineering.

He married his first wife, Anita May Julien on June 8, 1907 in Reno, Nevada. Their oldest child, Julien Goode Sourwine was born in Reno the following year. The family returned to Upland, California where William Arthur Sourwine was born in 1910. They then moved to Ithaca, New York while James pursued a graduate engineering degree at Cornell University. Their third child, and first daughter, Mary Nevada Sourwine was born there in 1911. The family returned to May's family home in Reno, Nevada where their fourth and last child Anita Louise Sourwine was born in 1914.



James served as the San Bernardino County Surveyor and Engineer from approximately 1915 thru 1917. His exact period of service to the county is unknown.

During his time with the county, one of his most significant projects was his design and the construction of the Old Trails Bridge crossing of the Colorado River at Needles, California in 1916. At the time it was the longest arch bridge in the United States. The highway bridge was replaced by an Interstate 40 bridge in 1966, but remains in service today as a bridge carrying utility lines across the river.

The San Bernardino “Daily Sun” newspaper reported on August 23, 1917 that Mr. Sourwine received orders to report to the Army Engineers at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. James subsequently served in the Army Corps of Engineers Construction Battalion overseas in World War I, eventually retiring with the rank of Major.

He did not, however, return home to his wife and family after the war. He asked May for a divorce which she granted him in 1924. She continued living with her children in her family home in Reno. He later married Victoire D'Ongren (Victoria), daughter of a French artist, leaving her after she bore him twin sons who died at birth.

Following the war, his work history is a bit obscure, but it is known that he spent many years as a senior

CEAC 100 Years

By Ken Miller

engineer with the Bureau of Public Roads from which he eventually retired.

He died in Washington, D. C. in 1956 after a lengthy illness.



J.A. Sourwine

During our recent spring conference, as part of the 50th anniversary of the CLODS, a photo board was on display showing each of the CLODS. Two questions were routinely asked of the photos. Why are there eighty photos if the CLODS have been in existence for 50 years? Also, why are there gaps in the sequence?

At the time of the formation of the CLODS in 1966, all of the past presidents of CEAC who were living and accounted for were deemed to be CLODS. Accordingly, the photo board included twenty-two past presidents that served prior to 1966. In addition, over the past 50 years the CLODS have honored and welcomed another eight individuals that contributed greatly to CEAC through the years, but were not presidents. The gaps in the photo sequence are of

course those past presidents that passed on prior to the formation of the CLODS.

Unfortunately, at least one of the early CLODS was missed on the photo board and also on the CLODS tee shirts that were unveiled at the fall conference barbeque. Upon re-reading old CEAC Newsletters subsequent to the conference, I came across the January 1972 Newsletter prepared by Ed Hanna that noted the passing in November 1971 of the “senior CLOD” at the time, Edward von Geldern, Sutter County, and according to the CEAC roster, president in 1919–1920.

Following are excerpts from an article about Edward von Geldern titled “Story of an Unforgettable Character” originally written as a series of articles by Jessica Bird for the Appeal-Democrat Newspaper in 1976 and retold in the January 1984 Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, Vol. XXIII, Yuba City, California.

Edward von Geldern, the second of three sons of Otto and Matilda (Schild) von Geldern was born in San Francisco, January 27, 1887, where he also received his schooling. He attended the California School of Mechanical Arts with classes in architectural and engineering design at Mechanics Institute of San Francisco.

If his father had not been an engineer, Ed might have become an artist. When twelve years old, he was pictured in the San Francisco Examiner with a model he had made of the USS Iowa, which was then anchored in the bay. He had been on board the ship for only an hour. He went home and without so much as a picture for a guide, and using crude materials and tools, fashioned a detailed model so cleverly it won public interest. When he was thirteen, “Eddie” made similar models of locomotives and trolley cars. About this time his father began taking him on surveying trips and his interest turned to engineering.

CEAC 100 Years

By Ken Miller

Yet he continued to make models even after he was established in business in Yuba City.

Immediately after the April 6, 1906, San Francisco earthquake, Otto von Geldern reopened his engineering office just outside the ruined section of the City. His partner was Professor Herman Kower of the University of California. Edward was then only nineteen, but was privileged to work with them as they designed and resurveyed property lines for owners of many city lots in the burned area.

In June of 1907, young von Geldern was sent here (to Yuba City) by his father to survey a drainage system for a large area south of Marysville. In March of that year there had been a severe flood in the Yuba-Sutter area. In September, he was returned here (to Yuba City) by his father who was the consulting engineer for the Sutter County Levee District No. 1. Ed worked on the realignment, construction, and repairs to the levee. The population of the town had reached 1,150 and the citizens were beginning to discuss incorporation.

On December 7, 1907 Edward was granted License No. 582 as a Land Surveyor and by 1967 he had the distinction of holding a state land-surveying license for the longest period of any engineer still active in the profession in California. Although he was only twenty years old in 1907, he had already obtained an unusual amount of practical experience in the field.

In 1907 and 1908 Edward laid out and supervised construction of the first levee on the river bank opposite Live Oak, as assistant engineer for Reclamation District No. 777. In 1908 he was appointed engineer of Levee Districts Nos. 2 and 6 in Sutter County.

In 1909 he went into business for himself in Yuba City and opened his first office. Almost from the time of his arrival, Ed's home and office were located on

2nd Street. He built his (then) present office structure in October 1922, designing it to fit the residential part of the community. (The present day von Geldern Engineering Company is still located on 2nd Street.)

In 1917, Edward was married to Marjorie Lane of San Francisco. The family included four children: Edward Jr., who lost his life in a 1959 traffic accident; Richard, who headed the engineering company for many years; Mrs. Marian Anderson; and Mrs. Frances Moore. There are also ten grandchildren.

Edward von Geldern shared as an engineer in the stirring battle of the Anti-Debris Association against illegal hydraulic mining in the mountains. In his structural practice he designed bridges, industrial and commercial buildings, rice drying and storage plants, and other structures. He was the design engineer on what are now landmarks of the area, including the Nicolaus Bridge, the Knights Landing Bridge, the Sutter County offices building and the Sutter County Library. He also worked on the remodeling of the Sutter County Courthouse, completed in 1964. He drew the original plans for the Sutter County Airport.

In horse and buggy days, all field work in surveying was done afoot after Old Dobbin had carried a crew to the site. Ed von Geldern used all means of transportation - horse drawn vehicles, automobiles, river boats and airplanes. In 1932-33, when he was in charge of building the balance draw bridge over the Sacramento River at Knight's Landing, he donned a deep-sea diver's outfit to inspect the under water work.

Photographing and surveying from the air was begun by Edward after he purchased a cub plane. Altogether, he owned five larger planes. Ed took his first flight in 1914 in an open model bi-plane. He got his own pilot's license when he was seventy years old.

CEAC 100 Years (continued)

By Ken Miller

Through the years, Edward was always involved in civic activities in Yuba City including designing and building floats for parades and celebrations, and designing scenery for and performing in the local theatre. He once produced a float that was a full sized replica of an old mule drawn street car. Edward always drew cartoons, posters and other works of art. His hand drawn Christmas greetings were prized possessions among his friends and associates.

In 1969, Edward was honored for his long affiliation with the County Engineers Association, during their annual conference. He also received awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers and in 1966 was presented with a lifetime membership to the society.

In 1971, at the age of 84, Edward von Geldern passed away after a lengthy illness.



Edward von Geldern in Later Years and in 1905 as a Student in San Francisco

In addition to his work as engineer for the several levee districts noted in the article, during his career Edward served as County Surveyor and County Engineer for Sutter County, City Engineer for Yuba City and performed in private engineering for many years.

In gathering information for this article, I was able to talk to Edward's son, Richard von Geldern, on two occasions during April 2016. Richard (now 89 years of age) was able to not only verify much of what is presented, but also related a number of memorable stories and events in the life of his father such as the numerous Yuba City civic activities that Edward delighted in being involved with. Richard also related how another CLOD, **Clay Castleberry**, during his many years in Sutter County, would often stop by their engineering office for coffee and friendly talks.

2016 Spring Conference Special Recognitions



Dave Gravenkamp (center), finally receiving his CLODS clock after all these years! He retired in 2002, only 14 years ago!!!



Ken Miller (left) is honored for his 10 years of Service as the CEAC Newsletter Editor, only the 4th Editor since the Newsletter began in December 1961.



Mehdi Sadjadi (right) is honored for his 14 years of Service as the CEAC Treasurer.



From left-right, **Jeff Pratt**, **Jim Porter**, and **John Presleigh** - the 3 nominees for the coveted 2016 Buffalo Bull Award.



Tom Gau, former Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County, is honored at breakfast on Friday with a CEAC Life Membership for his 30 years of service to San Joaquin County and his many years of service to CEAC.

Trivia Time - follow-up from the March 2016 Newsletter Issue

TRIVIA TIME!!! - For those of you who are under the age of 55, which of the following can you name/identify?

1) Which CLOD (not counting our current Newsletter Editor) recently filed their papers to retire from Los Angeles County?

2)



3)



4)



5)



6)



7)



8)



9)



10)



Trivia Time - answers to the Trivia Questions and responses received

ANSWERS

- 1) Dave “Road Runner” Gravenkamp - the correct question was, “Which CLOD (not counting our current Newsletter Editor) recently applied for membership in the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County? “
- 2) Ricky Nelson, singer/songwriter - who remembers the television show “The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet” which aired on ABC from 1952 to 1966 starring the real-life Nelson family?
- 3) Brown bag or sack lunch
- 4) The penmanship chart above every blackboard in elementary school showing both cursive and printed/block letters
- 5) A mimeograph - a duplicating machine that produces copies from a stencil, now superseded by the photocopier (aka the xerox machine)
- 6) Diaper pants - went over cloth diapers to prevent leakage onto clothes and bedding (before disposable diapers were available)
- 7) Transistor radio - first produced in 1954 and changed the listening habits for many a teenager; billions were sold in in the 1960’s and 1970’s. In the 1980s, transistor radios were replaced by devices with higher quality sound. My first transistor radio only had an AM band.
- 8) Jacks - predominantly played by girls, I often played with my sister and her friends. Jacks is an easy-to-learn game that can be played indoors on a hard floor or outdoors on concrete. It can be played in groups, pairs, or solo. All you need is a small bouncy ball and a set of jacks.
- 9) Counter at a Drug Store Soda Fountain - dispenses and serves carbonated soft drinks, called fountain drinks. Soda “jerks” served them up.
- 10) Buss Fuses used in old electrical fuse boxes before circuit breakers were installed in lieu of.

Follow-up question - many people stopped replacing the worn out buss fuses when they “blew” by doing what in order to get the lights back on or the appliance to work.

Three responses were submitted. One of the submittals did not meet the eligibility requirements since he exceeded the maximum age of 55 by a few years. However, his responses were definitely noteworthy; not only did he get them all correct, but he also provided a short story for each answer. He even knew the answer to Q1 and also knew what the correct question was. This response was provided by our very own CEAC Historian, **Dave “Road Runner” Gravenkamp**.

Jennifer Goff, Supervisor Support Services, **Butte County** Department of Public Works got eight answers correct. Yes, Jennifer, the answer to Q1 is not Mike Crump. The correct answer to Q7 is **transistor** radio.

The third response was from **David Leamon, Stanislaus County**, who got 7 answers correct. You are right, Dave, the picture in Q2 is too good looking to be a younger me.

Follow-up question Q2 - what did Ricky Nelson and I have in common?

Thank you, **Dave**, **Jennifer**, and **Dave** for submitting responses. Interested in answering the follow-up questions? Please send responses to **Merrin** at mgerety@counties.org.

Editor's Note

The following pictures are included in this edition of the CEAC Newsletter to share with you some of the excitement and enjoyment I had at my retirement celebration on March 31, 2016 after more than 42 years of service with the County of Los Angeles. Much of the credit goes to my wife, **Ari**, and key individuals at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works without whose time and energy the celebration would not have been such a success. In attendance were upwards of 40 CEAC members and spouses and CSAC staff, including many CLODS.



Editor's Note: March 31, 2016 Retirement Celebration at Almansor Court, Alhambra, CA



Editor's Note: March 31, 2016 Retirement Celebration at Almansor Court, Alhambra, CA

