



COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

March/April 2020

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"All of a sudden, the world has run out of toilet paper and hand sanitizer, and we're being taught how to wash our hands again." - Hannah Nguyen

Running out of toilet paper was not one of the problems that I expected to experience when faced with a pandemic. We've been warned about times like this for years; yeah, I watched the Science Channel shows and attend Disaster Council meetings. COVID19 makes us all very anxious because things have changed so quickly in all of our lives, here and worldwide. This is highlighted by getting a year's worth of major news stories in a twenty-four-hour period day after day for weeks.

Society could very easily slip into pandemonium; and as I reflect on that, I realize how important it is to every American that they have an operating and dependable Public Works. This is what binds the fabric of America together, and for the most part, binds the world together. Why? Because Public Works is there to make sure that the everyday expected things are going to happen; your garbage gets emptied, you have water at the house, there is no problem with the sewer lines, the roads are clear to allow our supply chain to function (toilet paper to the store), and you can still ride a transit bus in most locations. Further, the public can be confident that if something breaks such as a waterline or a storm drain gets plugged, Public Works will be there to fix it. Every one of those actions provides reassurance to the public that some things in this nation are still under control. This is what we do, and that is what the public sees, which keeps things calm.

As Public Works employees, we are first responders providing essential services to the public. This means that we are out on the front line, and that many of our staff face significantly elevated risks to exposure. That is why it is so crucial that we have information and resources available for us to use in order to carry out our department's duties and responsibilities safely.

To that end, here are a few resources that CEAC has set up to assist.

1. Establish a Peer Exchange website (information is attached to this e-mail). This is similar to what the Surveyors' email listserv does, but provides a better platform to catalog and retain important discussions and documents. I encourage everyone to participate.
2. Currently there is a weekly Peer Exchange phone call at 3:30 pm every Friday where we exchange stories and ideas of how we all are going about solving issues that we encounter. All Directors have been given the call-in number. If you need it, contact Merrin for the information. We have 150 lines available, so please take that under consideration. This will likely continue for the next 4 to 6 weeks depending on the situation.
3. Need more FEMA Classes? Consider an online course for you or your staff, including things like **IS-520** Introduction to Continuity of Operations Planning for Pandemic Influenzas, and **IS-522** Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics.
4. As President, I have outreached to APWA and League of Cities to find more opportunities for collaboration. Hopefully I will have more information soon.
5. Keep up to date with information from NACE.
6. Sign up for the CTC workshop to let them know if you are having trouble making the May 1st deadline for the RMRA project list submittal:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5139196918975766541>

As we come to grips with this new normal, now more than ever CEAC, with its hundreds of years of experience within its active, retired and CLODS membership is ready to step up to help. It goes beyond the conferences and meetings in times like these, to be a group to help support all that we



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do. I appeal to you to use these resources as a means of getting through today, and adapting to the situations that will come tomorrow.

As we go through these times together, we have to be helpful and supportive to each other. Please do not hesitate to reach out with concerns, questions or contributions of what you have learned, including creative ideas that we might want us to consider utilizing during this period. I'm all ears and can be reached at rippettt@trinitycounty.org, share it on the new Peer Exchange website, or share it during the Friday Peer Exchange phone call.

What tomorrow brings is unknown. Everyday brings new problems and makes yesterday's issues seem trivial. Tomorrow will bring us a new reality. I wish I could say things are going to get better, but we will have to go through a dark period before we get there. Please be assured that each and every one of us in the CEAC family is there for you during this time.

This is what CEAC as an organization is about.

Take good care of yourself, try to see the good in things, work on keeping positive, watch over the ones you love during this time and do what you can to keep them safe.

Sincerely,

Richard Tippettt - 2019-20 CEAC President
Director of Transportation - Trinity County

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