



CEAC Newsletter

September 2022

Editor: Pat DeChellis

Inside this Issue

<i>President's Message</i>	Page 1
<i>2022 CEAC Policy Conference</i>	3
<i>Save the Dates</i>	4
<i>What's Happening Around The State</i>	4
<i>What's Happening at CSAC/CEAC</i>	5
<i>In Memoriam - Michael Carlson</i>	6
<i>NACE Report</i>	10
<i>2022 NACE Snap-E-Tom</i>	11
<i>Snowing in Buffalo</i>	13
<i>Niagara Falls</i>	14
<i>NACE President's Dinner, Installation of 2022-23 Officers, Scott McGolpin's introduction into the NFL</i>	15
<i>2022 Buffalo Bull Award Recipient -MIA</i>	16
<i>Droppings-"The CLODS - The Beginnings"</i>	17
<i>Sonoma County Report</i>	19
<i>Humboldt County Condor Update</i>	20

President's Message

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



CEAC held its 17th Annual CEAC Policy Conference on Thursday and Friday, August 18-19, 2022, at the Capital Events Center in Sacramento, across the street from the California State Association of Counties offices. CEAC added a virtual option for the Policy Committee Meetings for those who preferred to avoid travel. This was a "test case" and we sincerely apologize for any technical difficulties. We will see if the virtual option will be available for future conferences.

I want to express my thanks to our members who are serving on the many California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Caltrans sponsored Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Implementation Sub Working Groups. These groups are ensuring that the IIJA funding flows to our local projects while providing us the opportunity to have input on how the State will carry out the process – the groups are listed below, and if you want to listen in on their virtual meetings you can visit Caltrans' website: <https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/infrastructure-investment-act>

Safety - Sub-working group lead - on the Safety Program (Rachel Carpenter and Simran Bains), Local Assistance co-leader (Robert Peterson)

Materials Submitted are subject to the "3 R's":

- Review**
- Revision**
- Rejection**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Fix-it-first - Sub-working group lead – Asset Management (Michael Johnson), Local Assistance co-leaders (Robert Peterson) for local Highway Bridge Program and Maintenance (Sergio Aceves)

Reimagining Highway Investments/Carbon Reduction Program - Sub-working group lead – (Jeanie Ward-Waller), co-leader (Cory Binns)

Climate Resilience and Adaptation - Sub-working group lead – Transportation Planning (Leah Fisher)

Active Transportation - Sub-working group lead – Sustainability (Tony Dang) and Design (Janice Benton)

Transition to Zero-Emissions - Sub-working group lead – Sustainability (Tony Dang)

Local hire/Contracting - Sub-working group lead – Civil Rights (David Deluz) and Legal (Erin Holbrook or designee)

Transit and Rail - Sub-working group lead – Rail & Mass Transit (Momo Tamaoki)

Freight/Goods Movement - Sub-working group lead – Transportation Planning (Yatman Kwan)

Overall Funding Split Between State/Local and Across Programs - Sub-working group lead – Budgets (Keith Duncan)

Tribal Government - Sub-working group lead – Office of Race & Equity (Lonora Graves)

This past April, the California Loyal Order of Dedicated Servants (CLODS) again demonstrated their overwhelming support for the CEAC organization by attending the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) conference in Buffalo, New York. Yours truly had never made a Snap-E-Tom cocktail before, so a very experienced CLOD had to instruct me on the proper way to cut a lime. I continue to be amazed at the professional and life skills I've learned during my seventeen year-membership in CEAC.

In closing, I would encourage our members to look within their organizations for worthy candidates (college student interns or staff family members) for the CEAC Memorial Scholarship Program. CEAC cash scholarships are available to qualified engineering or land surveying students pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or land surveying. For more details see: <https://www.ceaccounties.org/resources/ceac-scholarship-program/>.

We thank all of you who attended our Spring Conference, and additional thanks to those who contributed upwards of \$1,400 towards scholarships. We hope to award up to three scholarships this fall.

Howard N. Dashiell
2022 CEAC President

17TH ANNUAL

CEAC POLICY CONFERENCE

AUGUST 18-19 / SACRAMENTO, CA



CEAC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE



WHAT'S HAPPENING Around the State!

SAVE the DATES

- ◆ **CSAC 128th Annual Meeting** - November 14 - 18, 2022, Anaheim, Orange County
- ◆ **2023 CEAC Spring Conference** - March 8-10, 2023, Universal City, Los Angeles County
- ◆ **2023 NACE Annual Conference** - April 16-20, 2023, Orange Beach, Alabama

Changes in Public Works around the State.

- Glenn County—**Donald Rust** appointed Director of Public Works, February 2022

Previously, Mr. Rust was the Director of Planning and Community Development Services Agency for Glenn County from March, 2018 until his appointment to Director of Public Works; City Administrator for the City of Oroville from March 2015 to March 2018, and Director of Community Development and Public Works Department for the City of Oroville from December 2010 to March 2018.



- San Joaquin County—**Fritz Buchman** appointed Director of Public Works, June 2022

Mr. Buchman joined the Public Works Department in 2011 as the Deputy Director of Development Services. He has more than 30 years of public works experience ranging from flood management, water resources, and transportation, to community infrastructure planning and delivery.

Prior to joining the County in 2011, Buchman worked as contract staff for the City of Elk Grove Department of Public Works for eight years as Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer, Development Engineering Manager, and Capital Projects Manager, and was with the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works for 12 years.



Buchman is a Registered Civil Engineer and Traffic Engineer with the State. He is also a Certified Flood plain Manager with the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

- Mariposa County—**Shannon Hansen** was recently appointed Director of Public Works.
- Mono County - On July 12, 2022, the Board appointed **Paul Roten** as the Public Works Director. Under direction of the County Administrative Officer, the Public Works Director collaborates with Division managers to oversee the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations of Mono County roads, bridges, parks, facilities, landfills, and transfer stations. Mr. Roten has both private and public sector engineering experience, and has worked for the Public Works Department since 2014.



• **Los Angeles County appoints new Assistant Director**

On May 20, 2022, **Miki Esposito** was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of Public Works for Los Angeles County overseeing Construction Management and Development Services/Emergency Management Core Service Areas.

Ms. Esposito previously served as the Director of Transportation and Utilities for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska and most recently she was the Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Lincoln.

Ms. Esposito has special expertise in natural resources and environmental law and policy with a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Baker University in Kansas.

She graduated from El Camino High School in Oceanside and now returns to her home state.



WHAT'S HAPPENING At CSAC/CEAC

CHRIS LEE SAYS GOODBYE TO CEAC AND CSAC

“After nearly nine years at CSAC and over 14 years since I started my career in Yolo County, I’m excited but also a little sad to announce that today (July 8th) is my last day at CSAC. I’ve enjoyed working with all of you on behalf of California’s counties and hope we will have opportunities to collaborate in the future.

Starting next week, I’ll be joining Politico Group, where I will continue to advocate on housing, transportation, and related policy issues.”

Best wishes, Chris

You might have seen them or actually met them at the recent CEAC Annual Policy Conference - two new members of the CSAC/CEAC Team:

Mark Neuburger is the CSAC Legislative Representative in the Housing, Land Use and Transportation policy area.

Prior to joining CSAC, Mark worked in the Judicial Council's Governmental Affairs Unit where he was responsible for assessing the fiscal impacts of legislation the office followed as well as a variety of policy areas including court technology, facilities, traffic, and criminal fines. From 2014 to 2018, Mark worked for the Department of Finance as a Budget Analyst in the Forecasting, Labor & Transportation Unit. In this role he managed, oversaw and performed budget control functions totaling \$3.5 billion that supported the High-Speed Rail Authority, Department of Motor Vehicles and State Transit Assistance program. Additionally, he participated in the legislative budget process, including attending pre-hearing meetings with legislative staff and testifying in legislative budget committee hearings. He began his career in state service in 2013 working for as a regulatory analyst with the Department of Fish and Wildlife where he was responsible for writing regulations for the state's oil spill prevention and response program. In 2011-12 he was a Judicial Fellow with the Sacramento State's Capitol Fellows program and was placed at the Placer County Superior Court. During his time as a Fellow, he worked on a variety of projects including court operations, technology projects and budget implementation. Prior to his career in public policy Mark worked in the insurance industry adjusting auto, disability and workers' compensation claims. Mark graduated from CSU Sacramento with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and M.A. in International Affairs.



Kristina Gallagher is the CSAC Legislative Analyst in the policy area of Housing, Land Use and Transportation.

Prior to joining CSAC, Ms. Gallagher worked at Governmental Advocates, inc., having joined the lobbying and consulting firm in 2014. At Governmental Advocates, Ms. Gallagher worked on local government, non-profit and professional trade association issues. Prior to joining Governmental Advocates, Ms. Gallagher worked at the State Capitol in Governor Edmund G. Brown's Constituent Affairs Unit where she completed casework for the constituents of California and specialized matters concerning the California Health and Human Services Agency. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Utah State University.



In Memoriam

Michael Joseph Carlson

Contra Costa County

September 5, 1963 - July 28, 2022

Michael Joseph Carlson passed away Thursday, July 28, 2022 at the far too young age of 59.

Mike started with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department in the Construction Division as a Staff Engineer after graduating from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo on August 3, 1987. He retired as a Deputy Public Works Director on March 30, 2019 after 32 years of dedicated service to the residents of Contra Costa County.



Mike worked in many facets of the Public Works Department including Transportation Engineering, Design, Construction and of course Flood Control where he championed many great initiatives and programs. As Flood Control Division Manager and Deputy Director he was instrumental in developing a proactive outreach and education program about various flood control opportunities and challenges. He was the driving force in many initiatives such as “Give the Natives a Chance”, coordinating volunteers to plant native plants back into our flood control facilities to deter invasive species from taking over the habitat. He also worked hard on annual clean-up efforts and other annual programs such as Arundo removal in many of our creeks and channels, as well as our “Stay out Stay Alive” channel safety education program.

Mike was active in the County Engineers Association of California and became a lifetime member in 2019. He worked to highlight flood control funding and maintenance challenges throughout our state. Mike was the Chair or Co-Chair of the Flood Control Policy Committee of CEAC for over four years and as mentioned was part of a sub-committee working on flood control funding issues. Mike continued working within the CEAC family taking a position at NCE and working with many in his new role with them.

While Mike’s efforts on these important projects and programs was successful and to be commended, Mike’s true legacy can be found with his family and the friendships and partnerships he cultivated over his entire lifetime. Mike was a proud and dedicated husband and father. His wife Kim has been a true and committed partner marrying Mike at Tilden Park on New Years Eve in 1989. Mike and Kim have supported, cared and thrived as husband and wife over 32 years and balanced their careers while raising an amazing family. Mike was so proud of his three children, Kasey, Taylor and Conner. Each of them thriving in their own way due to Mike and Kim’s love and support.

Mike brought that same energy and passion to all of his interactions. He was always the life of the party and virtually impossible to miss when he was near you. He enjoyed talking and sharing stories and ideas with everyone and would truly take interest in those he encountered.

Since Mike’s retirement from the County, he and the family made sure to live life to the fullest, even when COVID-19 provided challenges. Mike worked hard to follow his dreams and maintain his friendships because that was who he was... he was a good friend to everyone he met. The world was a brighter place because of Mike Carlson and we will forever remember the light he brought to all of us who were fortunate enough to have known him.





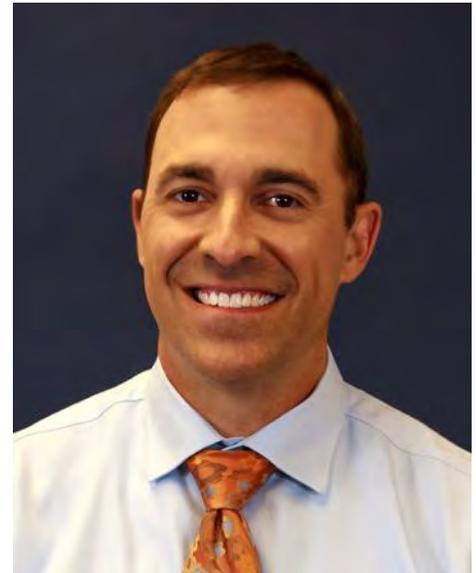


We Miss You, Mike!

NACE REPORT



Matt Machado
NACE Representative



NACE 2022 in Buffalo was a great success.

If you happened to miss it, below is a brief summary.

In attendance were approximately 450 attendees representing more than 30 states. The general sessions were exceptional, especially Battalion Chief Richard Picciotto, the highest ranking firefighter who survived the 9/11 Twin Tower attacks. Teamwork, courage and sacrifice saved many lives. It was an emotional and amazing first-hand account of this devastating event.

In addition, there were many great learning sessions. I really enjoyed the safety track. Here is an excellent "You Tube" video to explain some basics, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wzdm798MoI8>, this would be great for outreach to our communities. The talks were not just talks, they included funding solutions. Lastly, the exhibit hall was well attended with 78 Exhibitors over 2 days. It was informational and fun.

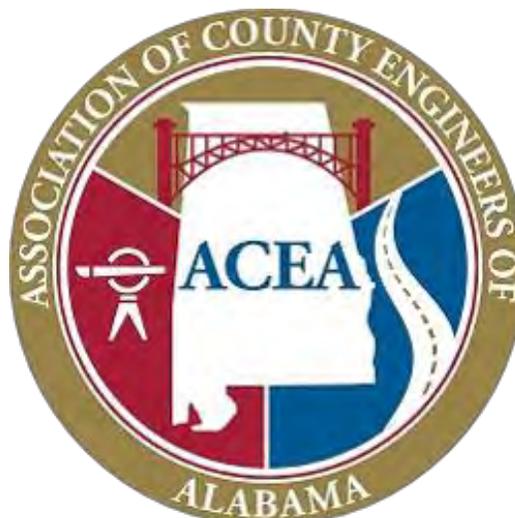
If you didn't make it to Buffalo you can start to plan for NACE 2023 in Alabama.

Are you ready for pristine white sand shores of Orange Beach, Alabama? The State of Alabama will be hosting NACE 2023 April 16-20, 2023.

The following message is from our Alabama partners. Extra special this coming year is that our current NACE President Chris Champion is from Alabama. I am sure that Alabama will turn out in big numbers to support Chris. I hope that many of you can join this big energy, big event.

The National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and the Association of County Engineers of Alabama (ACEA) would like to invite you to Orange Beach in beautiful Baldwin County Alabama. Baldwin County and the ACEA will be hosting the NACE 2023 Annual Conference and Trade Show between April 16-20, 2023. The Perdido Beach Resort (<https://www.perdidobeachresort.com/>) will be accommodating your stay and will host the majority of our conference. The Orange Beach Event Center (<https://www.orangebeachal.gov/facilities/event-center/about>) and The Wharf (<https://alwharf.com/>) will be the host for our exhibit hall, trade show, and off site event.

Registration information will be year so watch your inbox and get Coast!



available through NACE later this year so watch your flip flops ready for the Gulf Coast!

2022 NACE - SNAP-E-TOM



L-R: **George Johnson** (CEAC Pres 2007-08); **Brian Balbas** (CEAC Vice Pres); **Luann Johnson**; **Howard Dashiell** (CEAC President); **Merrin Gerety** (CEAC Program Manager); **Scott McGolpin** (CEAC Pres 2013-14 and NACE Past President); **Matt Machado** (CEAC Pres 2015-16 and NACE Rep); and **Pat DeChellis** (CEAC President 2009-10 and CEAC Newsletter Editor)

Picture taken by **Chris Sneddon** (Santa Barbara County)

Nowhere to be found: **Panos Kokkas** (CEAC Secretary); definitely in consideration for another Buffalo Bull Award (joining Tom Hunter as the only 2 back-to-back recipients; Mr. Hunter received the awards in 1997 and 1998)



Todd Kinney (NACE President; Clinton County, IA) enjoying a Snap-E-Tom before beginning a very busy day

County Engineers beginning their day with a Snap-E-Tom before continuing with the Conference



SNAP-E-TOM TEAMWORK



Snowing in Buffalo



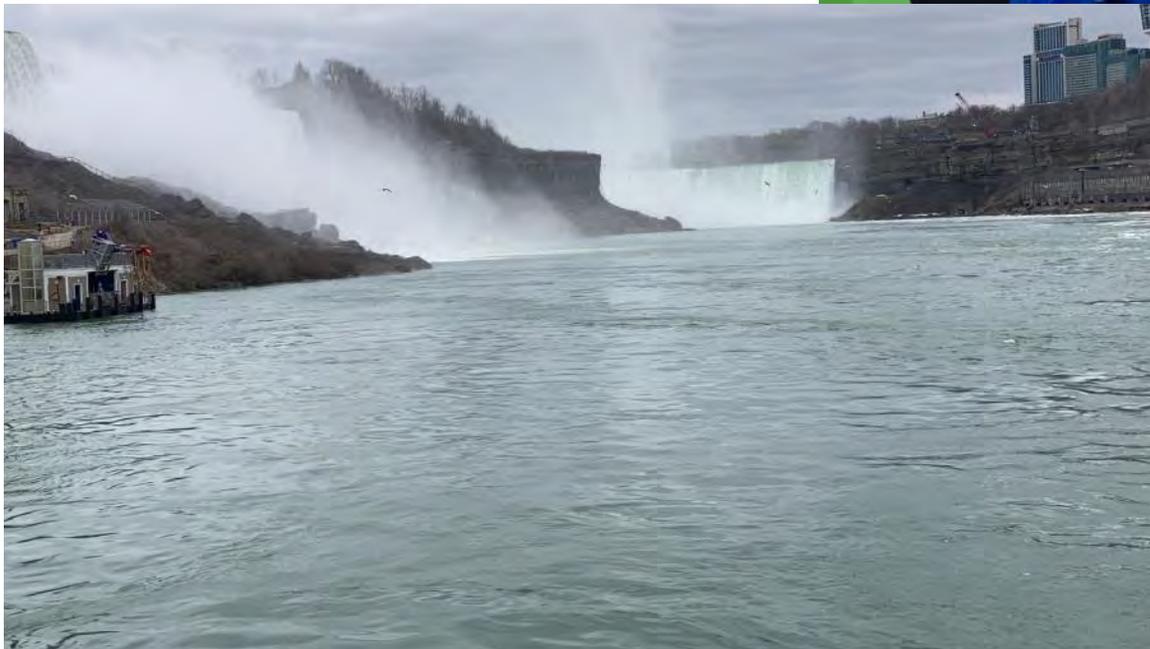
While the CEAC Team was preparing the Snap-E-Toms, it was snowing in Buffalo - on April 27th.



NIAGRA FALLS



Matt Machado and Merrin Gerety before getting on board the Maid of the Mist



Matt and Merrin on board ready for the showers from the Falls

NACE PRESIDENT'S DINNER and INSTALLATION of OFFICERS 2022-23

Picture to the right, **the CEAC Team**, from l-r: **Matt Machado**, **Merrin Gerety**, **Brian Balbas**, **Scott McGolpin**, **Howard Dashiell**, **Pat DeChellis**, **Chris Sneddon**, **Luann Johnson**, and **George Johnson**.



Picture below, **NACE Board of Directors**, from l-r: **Todd Kinney**, President, Clinton County, IA; **Jeff Blue**, Secretary/Treasurer, Champaign County, IL; **Jacob Thorius**, South Central Region VP, Washington County, IA; **Wayne Sandberg**, North Central Region VP, Washing County, MN; **Stephen McCall**, Northeast Region VP, Champaign County, OH; **Josh Harvill**, Southeast Region VP, Chambers County, AL; **Tom Fellow**, Western Region VP, Umatilla County, OR; and **Chris Champion**, President-elect, Henry County, AL.



Picture to the left—**Chris Bauserman** (center), Ohio, NACE President 2008-09, honors both **Scott McGolpin**, NACE President 2019-20 and **Tim Hens**, New York, NACE President 2018-19, to join the ranks of the **NFL (NACE Former Leaders)**. Scott is one of 5 other County Engineers from California in the NFL.

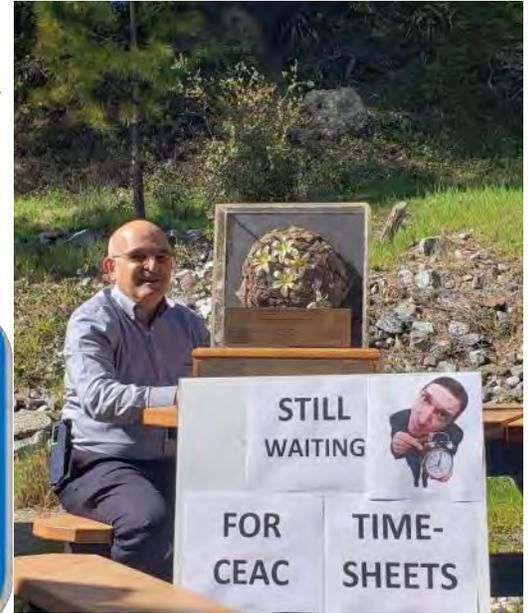
Picture to the right - **Scott** showing off his certificate as an NFLer.



BUFFALO BULL AWARD RECIPIENT- 2022 PANOS KOKKAS



**Panos Kokkas with the
2022 Buffalo Bull Award
Nevada County**



WHERE IS PANOS NOW?

SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE 2022 BUFFALO BULL AWARD, PANOS LEFT NEVADA COUNTY; IT WAS TOO, TOO MUCH FOR HIM!

DOES THAT MAKE HIM A CONTENDER FOR THE 2023 AWARD?

YOU BET IT DOES! FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF TOM HUNTER!

**Presentation of the
2023 Buffalo Bull Award
will take place at the
2023 CEAC Spring Conference at
Universal City, Los Angeles County**

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.



from out of the past

By Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp
CEAC Historian

THE CLODS - the BEGINNINGS

Shortly after his term as CEAC President, Bill McIntosh, then Lassen County Road Commissioner, on December 23, 1965 wrote to his close friend, Ed Hanna, San Benito County Road Commissioner, suggesting the possible need for a Past President's Club. Bill's letter is quoted in part as follows:

Dear Ed, Whilst sitting here with my feet on my desk, thinking of old friends, wondering how the County Engineers Association can possibly function now that I'm no longer an officer, wondering where my next drink is coming from, etc., I had an idea. The very nature of the idea immediately brought you to mind, and I would like your thoughts on the subject, and if they're in general agreement with mine, I'd like to solicit your assistance.

It appears to me that we have an ample nucleus in the CEAC for a "Past Presidents Club" (although the appropriate name should be something less formal, such as "Has-beens" or something along that line. I thought we might work up some sort of ridiculous set of by-laws, arrange a special table at the Engineer's Luncheon at the annual convention (and maybe even at the Engineer's Banquet at the ITTE gathering) and in general, just raise a little hell with the current administration.

Ed's response was immediate.

Dear Mac, Whilst sitting there with your feet on the desk and your finger in the pie, you managed to have a sound idea. You should think of old friends more often. I think we should immediately adopt your idea of the old soldiers club. Acting on your brilliant brain(?) storm, I will arrange for a special table, complete with appropriate vintage wines and a proper centerpiece for the ITTE Banquet on January 26th.

Ed went on to suggest possible names for the group including: the Stud Turtles; the Pelicans; the Seagulls; and the Condors. Further he thought the organization's members should wear costume jewelry representing the name i.e. a turtle, a pelican, a buzzard, etc. He also offered as a motto "The Best is None Too Good."

Much more concerning this fledgling organization was apparently discussed by phone, as Ed's next letter to Bill (January 14, 1966) re-

ferred to Bill as "Acting Old Crow" and his own title as "Acting Bull Condor." Also, this included an initial reference to CLODS and suggested that the Seagull might be an appropriate symbol as "All a seagull does from daylight to dark is eat, squawk and crap." Ed went on to say, "Even though the condor may be lacking somewhat in similarity to the Past President's by reason of not squawking all the time, it more than makes up by its repulsive appearance, disgusting manners, vile eating habits and slovenly personal habits."

Subsequently, Ed offered the following to Bob Glenn, Editor, which appeared in the January 1967 Newsletter.

Dear Bob, Perhaps it is time to tell some of the history of the California Condor so that people may draw their own conclusions as to why the Condor was selected as the symbol of the CLODS. This noble bird lives down in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties where it nests and rears the young. These birds breed during the first warm days of April and the mating act is accompanied by a strange ritualistic dance which I will attempt to describe, but it has to be seen to be believed. First, I should state that this bird has a wing spread of from 11 to 13 feet when fully grown and is so large and cumbersome that it cannot take off except with a long run in the open flat ground or else by running down a hillside. As a consequence, the carrion on which it feeds, first be accessible to the bird in an area where it can take off. The Condor will starve before it will go into the bottom of a gully for a dead carcass. In the old days when no one bothered burying anything and left bodies lying around all over the place, food was no problem. Now, however, if a cow dies it is off to the tallow works before it stops kicking. Even old Road Commissioners are being buried. There is a shortage of food for the Condor, and what little there is probably died from poison. This noble bird is literally being starved out of existence.

Another reason for dying out is the disgusting breeding habits of the bird. No one can tell the male from the female—even the Condors themselves have trouble except at extremely close range. Furthermore, the bird has a horrible odor problem. He stinks, and particularly so during the first warm days of Spring, which happen to coincide with the mating season. It takes about 55 days to incubate the egg and another 5 months before the baby Condor can even leave the nest. During this time it is fed regurgitated food from its Mother (How would you like regurgitated ground squirrel, probably poisoned to boot?). For another 6 or 7 months the parents of the fledgling must seek out and direct the little monster to its food before it is capable of going off on its own.

Since Condors breed but once every two years and lay only one egg, you can see that the survival problem is terrific. Each year in April, a couple of dozen of these birds show up in San Benito County and after a couple of warm days start getting ideas. (Sound familiar?). Two of these birds will start staring at each other from opposite ends of a long ridge and then start to dance. They hop around and move back and forth - swinging and swaying and from time to time they move a little closer to each other. This goes on all day long - until they finally get close enough to start getting friendly.

Finally - late in the afternoon they're getting into range of each other. (I might add that this prolonged gyration on the ridge is not a true dance at all, as ornithologists think, but a result of the odor problem, the birds are merely trying to stay downwind from each other). At last they are close enough to begin getting down to business and cutting out all the horse play. Now imagine - if you can - the chagrin



Droppings

from out of the past

of the Bull Condor when he goes in for the coup de grace and discovers to his horror – another Bull Condor. By now the mating season is over, and it is too late. He must wait another two years and hope for better luck next time. (Do you begin to get the idea why the Condor was selected for the symbol of the CLODS?). Yours truly, etc. ~ Ed Hanna

Bill and Ed eventually collaborated on a Constitution and Bylaws for the new organization, the CLODS, which were apparently approved at the ITTE meeting in 1966. An amazing rendition of the Condor as symbol of the CLODS was drawn by John Mitchell of Lassen County, who became a CLOD some 30 years later in 1996. The initial officers of the CLODS were the Bull Condor, the Stud Pelican, and the Old Crow. Today, every CLOD has a bird name.

Although their principle purpose is to endeavor to keep the County Engineers from feeling too important and being too serious, the CLODS have been known to help out on occasion with sound suggestions based upon past experience. A few activities for which the CLODS can claim at least partial credit include:

- CLODS BBQ
- Buffalo Bull Award
- CEAC Memorial Scholarship
- Nominating Committee for CEAC
- Induction of CEAC Officers

If you happen to agree that the CLODS play an important role in our organization, you might consider buying a drink for any deserving CLOD at the Hospitality Suite during the upcoming conference.

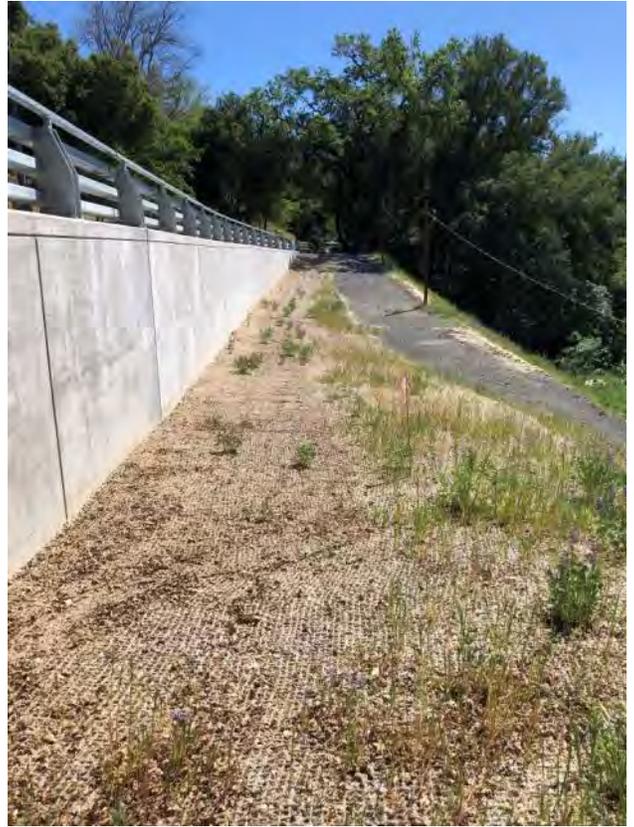
Condor by John Mitchell December 1965



SONOMA COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS



Geyserville Ave Retaining Wall Improvements



Caz Hwy Retaining Wall Improvements



Jewett FDR



Mountain Home Ranch Road Improvements

The Yurok Tribe Reintroduced Four Young Condors

From the Local Coast Outpost Serving Humboldt County. By Andrew Goff



For the first time in more than a century, endangered Prey-go-neesh (California condors) can now be seen flying over Northern California's redwoods. On May 3, 2022, the Yurok Tribe successfully released the first pair of condors, out of a group of four, in Redwood National and State Parks, establishing the northernmost condor release area to date, and reclaiming a significant part of their former historic range, from which they've been absent since 1892.

"This journey towards restoration began in 2003, when a panel of Yurok elders made the decision that Prey-go-neesh was the highest priority land-based animal to return to Yurok ancestral territory due to the Yurok's deep cultural connection to the birds," said Yurok Wildlife Department Director **Tiana Williams-Claussen**.

The reintroduction effort builds on over a decade's worth of planning and preparation initiated by the Yurok Tribe with support by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, State and other partners. "For countless generations, the Yurok people have upheld a sacred responsibility to maintain balance in the natural world," said **Joseph L. James**, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe, in the days leading up to release. "Condor reintroduction is a real-life manifestation of our cultural commitment to restore and protect the planet for future generations. It is a historical moment in the Yurok Tribe, as we introduce our condors back home, providing that balance for us. Our prayers are answered."

The four condors, including one female and three males, are between two and four years old, an ideal age range where they would leave the care of their parents in the wild. Although it will take several years until these birds are at an age to reproduce in the wild, we believe we have a model for success with future northern reintroduction efforts.

The Northern California Condor Restoration Program will collaboratively manage this flock from a newly constructed condor release and management facility in Northern California, near the Klamath River in Redwoods National and State Park.

"The return of the condors to the skies over the Redwoods represents a significant milestone in the restoration of this magnificent forest to its former glory," remarked Redwood National and State Park Superintendent **Steve Mietz**. "This project is a model for listening to and following the lead of the park's original stewards, healing both our relationship with the land and its original people."

With the release of these birds, the Northern California Condor Restoration Program team officially joins the larger California Condor Recovery Program led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The recovery efforts include three additional release sites in California, one in Arizona and one in Baja Mexico. Each release site is championed by a partner in condor recovery.

"The reintroduction of condors into Northern California is truly a monumental moment," said **Paul Souza**, Regional Director for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Region. "This effort builds upon the program's collective knowledge and history of releasing condors and showcases the benefit of partnering with tribes and others to implement recovery of listed species. We are proud to support this collaborative and innovative partnership with the Yurok Tribe and Redwood National Park. Together we can recover listed species for future generations."

"PREY-GO-NEESH KEECH KE-ME'-YEHL – CONDORS HAVE COME HOME." – The Yurok Tribe