



# CEAC NEWSLETTER

December  
2023

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

**Editor:** Pat DeChellis

## President's Message

by **Panos Kokkas**  
Director of Transportation  
Trinity County

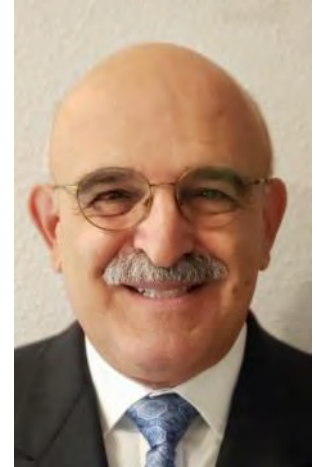
It is both an honor and a privilege to be selected to serve as your 2024 CEAC President. I am grateful to the CLODS for selecting me to ascend through the CEAC Chairs to become President. In 2009 Steve Mellon of Quincy Engineers introduced me to CEAC and I am forever grateful. As many of us know, CEAC has served as a vehicle for sharing information and advocacy in addition to creating lifelong friendships.

I first became active in CEAC as a Regional Director in 2013. Since then, I have served as a member of the TCC Committee, Vice Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee, Local Streets and Roads Committee, Vice Chair and Chair of the Special Projects and Oversight Committee. And finally, this year I am honored to be CEAC President. Among others, I am also the recipient of the prestigious CLODS award for two years in a row for two different counties.

I would like to express my appreciation to both Brian Balbas for all of his work as CEAC President this past year, and Howard Dashiell for his work as CEAC Past President. We are so grateful to them for undertaking the Herculean task of updating CEAC bylaws, in addition to leading our organization.

As my first order of business, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to Scott, Ian, and Fritz. Scott McGolpin, Director of Public Works for Santa Barbara County, on receiving the "Engineer of the Year" award; Ian Wilson, County Surveyor for Alameda County, for receiving the "Surveyor of the Year" award; and Fritz Buchman, Public Works Director for San Joaquin County, for receiving the prestigious "CHIC" award. These are all much-deserved awards for Scott, Ian, and Fritz.

During our Fall Conference, we were fortunate to have our NACE President Jeff Blue and his wife, Kathy, attend as well as NACE executive Director Kevan Stone. Both Jeff and Kevan provided us with insight



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

from the national perspective of county-related information, such as sustainable road funding.

As many of you know, Policy Committees are an excellent opportunity to hear the latest information on legislation, policy, and best management practices for the work we do serving our citizens. We had great networking opportunities with our peers, sponsors, and other agency partners; both at the committee meetings and hospitality suite. CEAC is truly an outstanding organization and the talent that each member brings to the organization is simply incredible. I hope to see all of you at our next conference.

Throughout the years CEAC has effectively influenced regulation and the legislative process. As an example, Kiana Valentine, CSAC Legislative Representative, worked diligently with Caltrans to revise the procedures in order to expedite approval of the indirect rates, for federal projects, to the current Risk Approval method, which is completed in three to four months than the previous three to four-year time-frame, and allows for local agencies to be paid for their indirect rates prior to the project's sunset date.

CEAC was also instrumental in advocating for the augmentation of the Gas Tax, through the Local Streets and Roads Report, which was the basis for SB1 approval. This funding is key in maintaining safe roads which by default keep our citizens safe. The power and influence of this great organization is real and if harnessed correctly, can provide positive results and improved services to all of our citizens.

As we move into 2024, all California counties will be concerned with preserving the road funding methods for both routine maintenance and construction as well as facing technological changes such as the use of hybrid and electric vehicles. The increased use of hybrid and electric vehicles has a positive effect on the air quality, but a negative effect on the road fund revenue based on our current collection methods. Road usage is increasing, while the gallons of gas sold is decreasing drastically and the sales decrease directly affects the available revenue for the road funds. We had similar challenges with respect to gas taxes and the respective revenue for road repairs before the passage of SB1. Caltrans and other states are working on developing new methods to maintain the road fund, including the Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT), which is changing at a disproportionate rate to the influx of electric vehicles. It is time again for action for the road fund revenue and other many upcoming issues.

As an organization, we need to keep our eye on the horizon to what could be affecting counties in the future. What can we do at CEAC to support our fellow engineers and counties? As we move toward, more environmentally friendly practices for transportation and maintenance, how do we address policy changes to ensure all of our citizens are safe on the road? These and more issues affecting county operations have been and will continue to be part of our policy committee discussions.

The strength of the CEAC organization is in the diversity of our members and our unity of purpose. The dedication, energy, and incredible knowledge of the membership, the CLODS, the CSAC staff, and Merrin Gerety (CEAC Program Manager) are a testament to our organization's strength. Merrin has already been extremely helpful since I was selected as Secretary in 2021 and I know I will enjoy working with her over the next year. There are many challenges ahead, and these can be resolved, modified, or revised with all of us working together to achieve our common goals.

Again, I want to say thank you to the CLODS for inviting me to be a part of the CEAC leadership team, and allowing me the honor of assuming the role of President. Thank you to the Board of Directors of CEAC, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of our policy committees, and our Regional Directors. An organization is only as strong as its participants, and CEAC's strength today is due to the leadership and expertise each of you brings to your roles in this association.

Thank you to our members, sponsors, and affiliates. Your involvement, input, ideas, and suggestions are critical to our success in improving the quality of life for the communities we serve as county engineers.

I will work to represent our 109-year organization to the best of my ability. I look forward to working with our CEAC Board, including our Vice-President David Leamon, our Secretary Johannes Hoevertsz, and our Immediate Past President Brian Balbas on CEAC priorities. I would like to congratulate Johannes Hoevertsz on being selected as the CEAC Secretary; I know he will do a great job for all of the CEAC members.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Palm Springs in April as we host the 2024 NACE Conference.

Panos Kokkas  
CEAC President 2023/24





CEAC would like to thank our  
2023 Annual Meeting SPONSORS

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# HAPPENINGS Around the State....

## SAVE the DATES

- **2024 CEAC Spring Conference - *NOT HAPPENING*** due to hosting of the 2024 NACE Annual Conference
- **2024 NACE Annual Conference** - April 15-18, 2024, Palm Springs, Riverside County
  - *The 2024 conference is being held Monday thru Thursday, not Sunday thru Wednesday*
- **2024 CEAC Policy Conference** - August 22-23, 2024, Sacramento
- **2024 CSAC Annual Meeting/CEAC Fall Conference** - November 18-22, 2024, Pasadena, Los Angeles County
- **2025 CSAC Annual Meeting/CEAC Fall Conference** - December 1-5, 2025, Santa Clara County



### Now Accepting 2024 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Nominations!

Nominate a project or program that your county has deployed to preserve and protect the public's investment in the local street and road system.

**Nominations are due January 29, 2024**

Award winners announced late February, and award presentations scheduled during the 2024 Cal Cities Public Works Officers Institute and CEAC Policy Conference.

Visit the Save California Streets website for more information and to submit a nomination:

<https://savecaliforniastreet.org/award-program/>

## Volunteers Wanted!

Please consider becoming a NACE 2024 Annual Conference Volunteer.

Email Matt Machado at:

**[matt.machado@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:matt.machado@santacruzcounty.us)**

3 Days of Innovation, Education & Relationship Building

400+ Fellow County Road Officials

85+ Exhibits at the Trade Show

45+ Technical & Management Presentations

5+ Professional Networking Events

35+ PDH Opportunities

***Please note that hotels will only be available for arrival on Monday, April 15 and the room block requires a Friday, April 19 checkout***

March 1, 2024 - Delegate Early-Bird Registration Deadline

March 13, 2024 - Hotel Cut-off Date



# NACE REPORT



## Howard Dashiell CEAC NACE Representative

### Happy Holidays to All

NACE 2024 Planning Chair Matt Machado is moving forward with some 37 CEAC committee members to organize an exciting conference in Palm Springs on Monday, April 15th (arrive) to Friday April 19th (depart). This event will replace the normal CEAC Spring Conference for 2024 and provide for an additional nationwide perspective at technical sessions. Be sure and mark your calendars!

NACE 2024 Delegate Registration is \$995 for NACE/CEAC county staff members (\$945 Early Bird rate) and is now available using the link in the email sent to your CEAC principle member (Director); if your director lost the email contact me for info. NACE Housing opened on December 4th. The conference hotel - Renaissance Palm Springs rate is \$209 and the Courtyard Marriott (overflow) rate is \$189. Housing information and a draft schedule of the NACE Conference is posted on the NACE website <https://www.countyengineers.org/2024-annual-conference-general>

In other NACE news, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors (BOD) met in Chattanooga in concert with the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association. The Board of Directors approved the 2024 budget, learned about the plans for NACE 2024 in Palm Springs, and heard from Scott Butler, Executive Director of the Good Roads Association of Ontario, Canada.

The BOD was given a task to poll their state members as to whether they could or would be able to attend a NACE conference in 2027 if it were to be held in Toronto, Canada. The BOD recognized that there are opportunities for our members and our Canadian counterparts to learn from each other by hosting a joint conference, but we also know that traveling to Canada can be challenging for our members and we want to do what is in the best interest of our delegate members and corporate members. So please respond to a poll which was sent via email link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8Y2LNCM>

On September 29th Western Region Vice President, Matt Machado (Santa Cruz) held the NACE Western Region Quarterly Meeting via Zoom where state representative from Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Colorado & Arizona discussed issues in their states.

NACE also recently partnered with National Association Counties (NACo) to produce a webinar regarding the New Waters of the US (WOTUS) Rule (A County Engineer's Perspective) with three presenters including our own Giles Mathews – Regulatory Permitting Manager, Orange County, CA. If you missed the webinar you can find it at NACo web page: <https://www.naco.org/event/what-know-about-new-conforming-wotus-rule-county-engineers-perspective>

As CEAC members you are all also members of NACE so check out the resources at the newly reinvented web page at <https://www.countyengineers.org/>

Howard N. Dashiell, NACE Representative



# NACE 2024



## Monday, April 15

**Golf** - Details TBD

**Registration** -

Opens 10:00am

**Welcome Reception**

5:00-6:30pm

## Tuesday, April 16

- Opening Session
- Technical Sessions
- Exhibit Hall Opens
- Exhibit Hall Reception
- Guest program kicks off with breakfast and an amazing day riding the Palm Spring Aerial Tramway the top of Mount San Jacinto, 10,834 feet above the Chino Canyon where guests will enjoy “lunch with a view”!



## Wednesday, April 17

- Technical Sessions
- Exhibit Hall
- Conference Wide Event - you do not want to miss this event!

## Thursday, April 18

- Technical Tour to include a Geologic Presentation and Tram ride to the top of Mount San Jacinto, 10,834 feet in elevation
- President's Reception and Annual Banquet

<h3>GENERAL INFORMATION</h3> <p><b>Palm Springs in Riverside County, California</b> is known for its hot springs, stylish hotels, golf courses and spas. It's also noted for its many fine examples of midcentury-modern architecture. Its core shopping district along Palm Canyon Drive features vintage boutiques, interior design shops and restaurants. The surrounding Coachella Valley offers hiking, biking and horseback riding trails.</p> <p><b>Join Us:</b> In April 2024, the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) will host the Annual Meeting/Management &amp; Technical Conference in Palm Springs, CA.</p> <p><small>photo credit: visitpalm springs.com &amp; greaterpalm springs.com</small></p>	<h3>TRAM TOUR</h3> <p>The Palm Springs aerial tramway is a major gateway to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.</p> 	<h3>DOWNTOWN PALM SPRINGS</h3> <p>One of several locations to walk, sightsee, and shop.</p> 		
<h3>THINGS TO SEE &amp; DO</h3>				
<h3>CABAZON OUTLETS</h3> <p>A shopping oasis, with several open-air outlet mall retailers.</p>	<h3>GOLF</h3> <p>Golf courses run by the prestigious Club of PGA West and home to the annual Desert Classic tournament.</p>	<h3>AIR MUSEUM</h3> <p>Educational museum with exhibits of WWII aircraft.</p>	<h3>WALK OF STARS</h3> <p>Walk of fame in downtown Palm Springs, where "Golden Palm Stars" honoring various people who have lived in the greater Palm Springs area are embedded in the sidewalk.</p>	<h3>LIVING DESERT ZOO</h3> <p>Zoo and botanical garden combination dedicated solely to the deserts of the world.</p>
<h3>JOSHUA TREE</h3> <p>A national park known for its rock formations &amp; trees.</p>	<h3>CASINOS &amp; SPA</h3> <p>Agua Caliente &amp; Morongo are just two of the casino &amp; spa resorts in Palm Springs.</p>	<h3>STAGECOACH FESTIVAL</h3> <p>The world famous country music festival happening every April.</p>		



# 2023-2024 CEAC Officers

SACRAMENTO – The County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) recently elected its officers for 2023-2024 at the Association’s 129th Annual Meeting held in Alameda County.

Trinity County Director of Transportation, **Panos Kokkas**, will serve as President of the organization for the coming year. Also elected were Stanislaus County Public Works Director, **David Leamon**, as Vice President, and Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Director, **Johannes Hoevertsz**, as Secretary. Contra Costa Public Works Director, **Brian Balbas**, will serve as the Immediate Past President.



From right to left - **Panos Kokkas**, President; **David Leamon**, Vice President; **Johannes Hoevertsz**, Secretary; **Brian Balbas**, Past President; **Mehdi Sadjadi**, Treasurer Emeritus; **George Johnson**, Treasurer; **Mike Penrose**, Parliamentarian; **Dave Gravenkamp**, Historian; and **Pat DeChellis**, Newsletter Editor. Not pictured - **Howard Dashiell**, NACE Representative.

## MEET THE NEW CEAC SECRETARY - JOHANNES HOEVERTSZ

On August 2, 2022, Johannes was appointed by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors as the Director of the combined Transportation & Public Works and General Services Departments.

In October 2017, the Board of Supervisors appointed Johannes as the Director of Transportation & Public Works Department.

Johannes has over 24 years of experience in public works service. From 1999 to 2015, Johannes worked in increasingly responsible positions in Fresno and Madera Counties, and then moved to Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works at the beginning of 2015. Johannes has held the positions of Assistant Engineer, Senior Engineer, Division Manager, Road Commissioner, Deputy Public Works Director, and Public Works Director.



Johannes holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University Fresno, and is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer. He is a member of the County Engineers Association of California, the National Association of County Engineers, the American Public Works Association, the Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, and the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission.

Johannes is married and has two children, Jahrod and Jahcob. In his free time he can be found listening to live music at Friday Night Live, kayaking Yorty Creek, biking, flying drones, talking on GMRS and HAM radios, and visiting the beautiful sites that Sonoma County has to offer.



## CLODS BBQ



First row, l - r: **Matt Machado, Peter Rei, Dave Gravenkamp, Mehdi Sadjadi, Doug Wilson, Daniel Woldesenbet** (host);

Second row, l - r: **Jim Porter, Julie Bueren, Tome Mattson;**

Third row, l - r: **George Johnson, Mike Penrose, John Presleigh, Pat DeChellis,**



**CLODS with their helpers - Sabrina (Jim Porter's wife), Luann (George Johnson's wife) and Rose (Mike Penrose's wife)**



# CLODS BBQ





# CLODS BBQ



**Brian and Nicole Balbas (top right)**

**2018 Fellowship Committee (below left) L - R: Steve Mellon, Pattie McNamee, Mort August, and Terry Abbott**

**2023 CEAC Fellowship Committee (below right) L - R: Martin, McIlroy, Pattie McNamee, Jason Jurrens, and Mike Leacox. Tracy Bartlett and Jim Porter not pictured.**



**NACE FAMILY (right)**

**L - r: Kathy Blue, Jeff Blue (NACE President), and Kevan Stone (NACE Executive Director)**

**HAPPY CLODS BBQ PARTICIPANTS!**  
(bottom left and right)





## CLODS BBQ





## CLODS BBQ





## CLODS BBQ

### Representatives from HOST COUNTY ALAMEDA



Picture above - front, l - r: **Chris McCoy, Juan Sanchez, Tristan Rodgers, Amanda Real, Daniel Woldesenbet, and Amber Lo;**  
back row, l - r: **Alyssa Hernandez and Leslie Robertson**

Picture to the left

**Tristan Rodgers, Daniel Woldesenbet, and Brent Kelley**



Picture to the left

**Juan Sanchez, Leslie Robertson, Tristan Rodgers, Amanda Real, and Chris McCoy**





## CEAC FRIDAY BREAKFAST



**CLODS** - l - r: **George Johnson** (2007-08), **Max Bridges** (1997-98), **Tom Mattson** (2012-13), **Daniel Woldesenbet** (2011-12), **Mike Penrose** (2014-15), **Mike Crump** (2006-07), **Mehdi Sadjadi** (1998-99), **Rose Penrose**, **Peter Rei** (2008-09), and **Dave Gravenkamp** (1991-92).  
Standing in the picture to the right - **Matt Machado** (2015-16) and **Scott McGolpin** (2013-14); **Scott** was also the **NACE President 2020-21**.





## CEAC FRIDAY BREAKFAST



## INSTALLATION of OFFICERS



From r - l: **Panos Kokkas**, President; **David Leamon**, Vice President; **Johannes Hoevertsz,,** Secretary; **Brian Balbas**, Past President; **Mehdi Sadjadi**, Treasurer Emeritus; **George Johnson**, Treasurer; **Mike Penrose**, Parliamentarian; **Dave Gravenkamp**, Historian; and **Pat DeChellis**, Newsletter Editor. Not present - **Howard Dashiell**, NACE Rep.



**Brian Balbas** (left) presents newly installed CEAC President, **Panos Kokkas**, with the President's Hat which is inscribed:

***“Which Way did They Go”***



## CEAC GOLF from Martin McIlroy



## THE WINNERS

**Low Gross** -- Michael Watari 79

**Low Net** -- Michael Leacox 72

### Closest to the Hole:

#4 Tyler Bodnar -- 21-inches

#7 George Johnson -- 35-feet

#11 Jeff Blue (NACE Pres) -- 3-feet, 4-in

#16 Scott McGolpin -- 9-feet 9-inches

### Long Drive #13

Women -- Katrina Lynch

Men -- Juan Ramos

### Yellow Ball Tournament

1st Place -- Team of Watari, Fragiao,  
Bodnar, McILROY -- 80 Gross

2nd Place -- 96 Gross

3rd Place -- 101 Gross

Two teams did not finish as they lost the  
ball on the course.





# 2023 CEAC Engineer of the Year

It is my pleasure to nominate **Scott McGolpin** as the **2023 CEAC Engineer of the Year**.

## A little background about Scott:

- 2007 – Present - Director of Public Works, County of Santa Barbara; Scott oversees the Water Resources, Resource Recovery and Waste Management, Transportation, Surveyor, and Administration Divisions including a staff of approximately 300 employees and a budget of \$172 million; Scott began his career with Santa Barbara County in 1988 as an Associate Civil Engineer.
- Scott has been a leader in pavement preservation since 1999, which means selecting the right road at the right time for the right treatment," a program Scott championed in Santa Barbara County
- Early in Scott's tenure (1994) at the County and with his efforts the "Road Maintenance Annual Plan or RdMAP" was developed. The Transportation Division had long sought a means to accomplish its mission to provide a clear path, a smooth ride, and a safe trip for the traveling public. RdMAP reflects public input and requests, Board of Supervisors' priorities, County Executive Office (CEO) input, Street Saver® Pavement Management Program, and staff's professional assessment of Transportation facilities and roadways.
- 1981 – 1991 - Staff Sergeant, US Marine Corps
- 2014 CEAC President/NACE California State Director
- 2017 Western Region Vice President
- 2018 NACE Secretary
- 2020 NACE President
- Scott was a part of the Santa Barbara County Executive Club for their united way drive in 2011. Under Scott's leadership the County's Pavement Preservation Program has received numerous awards. These awards include the 2005 Award of Excellence in Contracting from the California Chip Seal Association; the 2005-2006 Past President's Award for Emulsion Excellence from the Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturing Association (AEMA); the prestigious Pavement Preservation. Task Group's 2008 Program of the Year Award
- The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) honored Scott McGolpin with the prestigious Circle of Service Award two times in five years, which is presented to county officials, staff and other association-affiliated members who provide exceptional service. Scott was specifically selected for his leadership of the County Engineers Association of California and his participation in local transportation and resource recovery technology projects. His first Circle of Service Award was in 2009 for creative ways in educating the public on the effects of the proposed Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) cuts. His second Circle of Service Award in 2014 for leadership of the CEAC for his participation in local transportation and resource recovery technology projects.
- On April 8, 2015 Santa Barbara County Public Works Department received the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Award for the Hollister Avenue Cold In-Place Pavement Recycle; Project presented by CSAC and the League of California Cities.
- Published Articles: Waste Today Magazine is a publication of the Recycling Today Media Group (RTMG) - July 20, 2021 - \$130 million solid waste recycling operation has recently begun operations at the Tajiguas Landfill in Santa Barbara, California.



Thank you for the opportunity to submit this nomination of a deserving member.

# 2023 CEAC Surveyor of the Year

**Ian Wilson** is an embodiment of precision, professionalism, and innovation in the field of land surveying, which has earned him the esteemed nomination for the CEAC Surveyor of the Year Award. As the current County Surveyor for Alameda County, Ian's expertise resonates through his unwavering dedication to excellence and community service.

Ian's remarkable journey began at Caltrans in the 90's, where as a Transportation Surveyor, he led from the front, managing a team responsible for varied and complex surveying projects. His natural leadership and meticulous attention to detail became the cornerstone of his career, paving the way for his entrepreneurial spirit to flourish when he established his land surveying company specializing in small land development and custom home sites across Southern California.

A testament to his expertise and foresight, Ian not only managed all licensed operations but was pivotal in integrating GPS technology and introducing scanning advancements while serving as the Survey Lead at Cardno, from 2008 to 2014. Ian emphasized not just precision in surveying but also progression in technological application.

In January 2015, Ian channeled his comprehensive knowledge and experience into his own venture, offering specialized survey services. However, his entrepreneurial journey soon expanded to encompass larger, more diverse projects as he took on the role of Project Manager at BKF Engineering. Here, Ian's strategic marketing and project development skills shone brightly, earning him the respect of his peers and the wider Bay Area community.

Ian's exceptional leadership and operational expertise were further recognized as he became the County Surveyor for San Mateo County in May 2018, where he effectively managed the survey unit, enhancing the department's productivity and accuracy.

Currently, as Alameda County's County Surveyor since October 2019, Ian oversees crucial operations from maintaining the County's survey control network to enforcing survey-related policies. His emphasis on excellent customer service, high-quality control standards, and the encouragement of best survey practices has set new benchmarks in the field.

Beyond the technicalities, Ian is a guardian of the land's history and a steward of its future. His proactive supervision of the monument preservation program ensures the longevity of our geographic heritage, while his expert advice shapes the landscapes of tomorrow.

Ian's nomination for the CEAC Surveyor of the Year Award is a celebration of a career that is as diverse as it is distinguished. It is a recognition of a professional who not only maps our world but also charts the course for those who follow in his footsteps. Ian's influence extends beyond the boundaries he surveys; it lies in the integrity, passion, and precision he brings to every facet of his profession.



**Ian Wilson** receives the 2023 CEAC Surveyor of the Year Award from CEAC President **Brian Balbas** in the picture above; in the picture below, **Ian** is assisting **Brian** in honoring **Ray Mathe** as the 2022 CEAC Surveyor of the Year.





# CHICS Golden Egg Award

**California's Honorable Intrepid County Sisters (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.

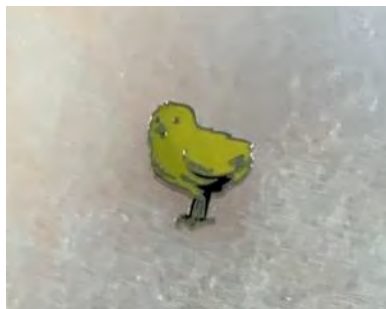


Fritz Buchman, right; Merrin Gerety, center; and Julie Bueren, left-honoring Fritz

**Fritz Buchman was selected for this year's Golden Egg Award. Fritz was nominated by Kristi Rhea, Deputy Director, San Joaquin County Public Works, based on the following:**

- Fritz supported the promotion of the first female Sr. Engineer at the department; she is now the first Engineering Services Manager over Design Engineering.
- He supports investing in future leadership, high profile (executive management) roles within the department, for women and minorities within the department.
- Embraces the diversity of the department, including his own leadership team.
- Fritz has taken intentional steps to provide executive team members with opportunities to expand their knowledge of the organization in preparation for future promotional opportunities. Specifically, he has included them in discussions regarding areas that are outside of their direct span of control (i.e., Najee Zarif being allowed to participate in Water items) such that they exposed to both technical and non-technical/political issues.
- Fritz consciously allows for his direct reports to meet with elected officials and the County Administrator's Office without him. This allows those individuals to gain experience with difficult conversations and managing expectations while still being responsive and providing customer service. These experiences are invaluable for those aspiring for growth opportunities.
- Fritz advocates for staff and highlights their contributions to the organization, particularly embracing the value that their diverse perspectives bring to the team.

*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 to the right.*



## 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  
2021 George Johnson  
2022 Brian Balbas

# 2023 Buddy Award

**The CEAC Buddy Award is presented to the spouse of a county engineer for his/her dedication, support and love for his/her spouse.**

**Linda Dashiell, Mendocino County, 2023 Buddy Award Winner**  
*Submitted by Nicole Balbas, Contra Costa County*

*Linda provided her continued support and help for Howard who essentially held the CEAC Office of President for almost two years. Linda stepped in and was instrumental in making last year's Annual Fall Conference a success despite Howard falling ill and being unable to participate in the last couple days of the conference in Anaheim. Linda not only took care of Howard, but she ensured that the incoming President (Brian Balbas) had all the necessary information and materials to conduct CEAC business in Howard's absence.*

*Linda has also been incredibly helpful with various conference events over the years. Making handmade gifts for our 2022 NACE President Chris Champion and his wife Jana; helping to coordinate sightseeing activities; participating and helping wherever she could at the NACE Conference in Alabama in 2023; and helping with the guest program planning for the upcoming NACE 2024 NACE Conference in Palm Springs. Working with the guest program committee, Linda and Howard are working to create a memorable and fun guest program at NACE in April, 2024!*

*For all these reasons, and likely many more, Linda Dashiell is our 2023 CEAC Buddy Award winner. Congratulations Linda!*

This year's Buddy Award was presented by **Nicole Balbas** (top right) to **Linda Dashiell** (middle right). Linda was not able to attend the Fall Conference; she was home taking care of Howard! For those who might remember, Linda presented the award to Nicole in 2022 (bottom right).



## Previous Buddy Award Recipients...

2022 Nicole Balbas (Brian Balbas)	2003 Nancy Brogan, Fresno County (Richard)
2021 Delores Sadjadi (Mehdi Sadjadi)	2002 Sharon LaBelle, Alameda County (Don)
2020 No Award Given	2001 Sandy Miller, San Bernardino County (Ken)
2019 Sue Tippet (Rick Tippet)	2000 Delores Sadjadi, Marin County (Mehdi)
2018 Lourdes Pratt (Jeff Pratt)	1999 Dawn Davis, Merced County (Verne)
2017 Maren Presleigh (John Presleigh)	1998 Barbara Hunter, Plumas County (Tom)
2016 No Award Given	1997 Jill Shaul, Lake County (Gerry)
2015 Rose Penrose (Mike Penrose)	1996 Carol Welton, Fresno County (Richard)
2014 No Award Given	1995 Willa Coleman, Tehama County (Larry)
2013 Ari DeChellis, Los Angeles County (Patrick DeChellis)	1994 Dawn Davis, Merced County (Verne)
2012 Ralph Chappell, Contra Costa County (Julie Bueren)	1993 Linda Wilson, Tulare County (Doug)
2011 Pam Hospers, Butte County (Mike Crump)	1992 Carol Callahan, Stanislaus County (Harold)
2010 Marlene Demery, Sonoma County (Phil)	1991 Ginny Pierson, Imperial County (David)
2009 Delores Sadjadi, Marin County (Mehdi)	1990 Alice Hirata, San Joaquin County (Henry)
2008 Luann Johnson, Riverside County (George)	1989 Pam Walford, Contra Costa County (Mike)
2007 Paula Zicker, Placer County (Wes)	1988 Jane Head, Sonoma County (Don)
2006 Esther Shiu, Contra Costa County (Maurice)	1987 Claire Sans, San Mateo County (Bob)
2005 Dee Dee Bridges, San Benito County (Max)	1986 Dixie McIntosh, Lassen County (Bill)
2004 Karen Hackworth, Placer County (Tim)	1985 Bev Protopapas, San Luis Obispo County (George)
	1984 Liz Hanna, San Diego County (Ed)
	1983 R.J Massman, San Diego County



# Celebrating Steve Mellon!

**Steven Lester Mellon** was born on November 20, 1956. As a kid he moved all around northern California as his father Floyd was a Caltrans bridge construction engineer. (Bridges and engineering are in his blood!)

He went to high school in Sacramento where he was active in various sports including baseball and basketball. Steve bragged that he got to guard Bill Cartwright; eventual NBA Champion, and Chicago Bulls hall of fame. To give Steve credit, he never claimed to guard him very effectively



**Pattie McNamee** recognizing **Steve Mellon** at Friday's Breakfast for his 35 years of dedicated service to civil engineering.

Upon graduation, he attended the University of California Davis where he obtained a BS in Civil Engineering in 1978. Steve has mentioned that he is a proud member of the Theta Chi Fraternity, but he has never divulged what his actual GPA was.



Thereafter, he joined the Caltrans Bridge Department where he specialized in bridge design and construction management. With his intelligence, hard work, and sparkling personality, Steve worked his way through the ranks to become a Senior Engineer/Design Team Leader, directing and supervising a staff of design and drafting personnel developing plans, specifications, and estimates for bridge and roadway projects throughout California. (He was actually John Quincy, Judy Quincy, and Mark Reno's boss.)

Steve was also the Chair of the Caltrans Bridge Earthquake Committee whose responsibilities included establishing and implementing statewide seismic design criteria for use on bridges in California and beyond.

In 1992, Steve got the itch and shifted to the private sector with a startup firm - Martin and Kane. After a couple of years there, he shifted over to a growing little firm called Quincy Engineering in 1996. For over 25 years as a Principal at Quincy Engineering, he was a key leader in helping expand the firm to nearly 100 people in 5 offices in California and Oregon. He served as a bridge and transportation Project Engineer and Project Manager as well as a mentor to multiple individuals in the transportation field. With his passion for construction management, Steve also developed and led the CM division of Quincy Engineering.

Throughout his career, Steve performed preliminary design, final design, seismic retrofit and project management in delivering more than 80 projects involving over 270 bridges for Caltrans and local agencies throughout California. Some of Steve's larger bridge projects:

- Structure manager and design lead for the I-205/405 Interchange in Los Angeles, a 5 level interchange.
- Seismic analysis/retrofit of the iconic and historic Bixby Creek arch bridge in Monterey and the Donner Summit arch bridge in Nevada County.
- Project manager for the new Lake Redding Bridge, a multi-span concrete arch bridge over the Sacramento River in, well, Redding.
- Structure project manager for the 30/330 Interchange in San Bernardino, consisting of 23 individual structures.

Over the last two years, Steve has worked with Flatiron Construction as a Quality Control/Quality Assurance Engineer on the Highway 50 widening project in Sacramento.

Steve first joined CEAC in 1993. He has been an active supporter of CEAC for over 30 years, participating in and attending conferences as well as being a key member of the Fellowship Committee since 2005. He continued as vice chair of the committee until his retirement from Quincy in 2020. He was always helpful with the hospitality suite and the CLODS BBQ set up. He could be found every night behind the bar promoting fellowship by serving the CEAC members, affiliates and friends with a smile, a joke or a story.

Outside of work, Steve played Rec League softball and basketball as well as Roy Hobbs Baseball for old guys. He has also been known to shoot at ducks a lot and plays a formidable nickel-dime-quarter poker game.

Steve has been married to his wife Dorie married for over 36 years. They live in Davis CA where they raised their two daughters Kate and Christine. Steve and Dorie are retired and still living in Davis CA and are very busy with grandkids.

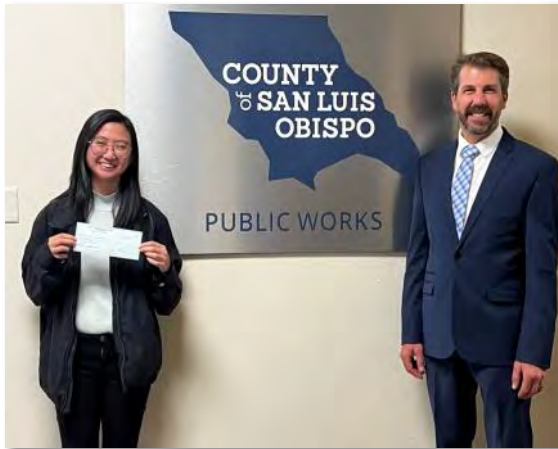
# 2023 CEAC Scholarship Award Recipients

The CEAC Memorial Fund was initially established in 1972 with the purpose of aiding deserving engineering students in their quest for an engineering degree. More recently, the award has been broadened to include students pursuing degrees in surveying.

The inertia for the Fund was the untimely and tragic death of two of our CEAC members, Bill Jones of Solano County and Howard Van Veyper of Yolo County, who perished in a boating accident on their way home from the annual meeting that year in Monterey .

Money to support this worthwhile CEAC activity initially came from CEAC members who donated to the fund in remembrance of a family member or loved one.

CEAC grants up to three \$2,000 cash scholarships to qualified engineering or land surveying students for study leading to a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or land surveying. Each student must be enrolled in upper division course work leading to a civil engineering or land surveying Degree, with a high grade point average, have demonstrated a need for the scholarship, and have participated in related outside activities such as a Student Chapter ASCE, Student Member CLSA or American Public Works Association. These various factors, including outside activities, will be considered in awarding the scholarship.



**Neslin Dineros**, picture above, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, graduating Spring 2025 Receiving the scholarship award from John Diodati, Director of Public Works, San Luis Obispo County

- Has worked as an Engineering Intern for Santa Barbara County
- Goal is to continue to work for Santa Barbara County to make positive impact in various areas of the community



**Julianna Enriquez**, picture to the left, San Francisco State, graduating Fall 2024

Receiving the scholarship award from Carla Short, Director of Public Works, San Francisco Co.

- Passionate about Environmental Engineering
- Works as a student assistant in the SFSU Engineering Department
- Student coordinator for ME-SA at SFSU
- Interned for the Whiting-Turner Consulting Co.



**Ava Pangborn**, picture to the left, Loyola Marymount University, graduating Spring 2024

Receiving the scholarship award from Steve Burger, Deputy Director Public Works, Los Angeles County

- Goal is to work for an environmentally conscious company that focuses on sustainability
- Active member of ASCE, Team Captain for the surveying and mapping team at the 2023 ASCE Student Conference
- Active member Society of Women Eng
- Interned for Haydon Construction



# 2023-24 CEAC Board of Directors

## CEAC Officers (10)

**President** - Panos Kokkas, Trinity County  
**Vice President** - David Leamon, Stanislaus County  
**Secretary** - Johannes Hoevertsz, Sonoma County  
**Immediate Past President** - Brian Balbas, Contra Costa County  
**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** - Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County  
**Newsletter Editor** - Patrick DeChellis, Los Angeles County (retired)

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## CEAC Regional Directors (6)

Northern California, **Bob Bronkall**, Humboldt County  
**Serving** Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.  
Bay Area, **Rosemarie Gaglione**, Marin County  
**Serving** Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and Solano  
Sacramento Motherlode, **Kim McFarlane**, Tuolumne County  
**Serving** Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba  
San Joaquin Valley, **Nathan Bray**, Merced County  
**Serving** Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare  
Central Coast, **Walter Rubalcava**, Santa Barbara County  
**Serving** Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara  
Southern California, **Nardy Khan**, Orange County  
**Serving** Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura

*These 16 individuals comprise the CEAC Board of Directors for 2023-2024*

## NEW COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS

**San Francisco County**- Mayor London N. Breed announced the appointment of **Carla Short** as the new Director of San Francisco Public Works, November 8, 2023. Carla has been serving as the Department's Interim Director for the past two years and has been a partner in efforts to support the City's economic recovery through cleaning and beautification initiatives. Carla began her career with Public Works in 2004 as the City's Urban Forester and moved into the bureau's top position in 2015. She filled in as the Department's Deputy Director for Operations for eight months starting in the fall of 2019, and served as Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Street-use and Mapping. A certified arborist, Carla holds a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University.

**Yolo County** - **Todd Riddiough** was appointed the Director of Public Works for Yolo County on December 1, 2023 replacing Vin Cay who moved onto to Lincoln, CA as the City Engineer.

# 2023-24 CEAC Policy & Other Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs

## Flood Control and Water Resources Policy Committee

Chair, **Glenn Shephard**, Ventura  
Vice Chair, **Nardy Khan**, Orange  
Vice Chair, **Walter Rubalcava**, Santa Barbara

## Infrastructure & Development Policy Committee

Chair, **Matt Randall**, Placer  
Vice Chair, **Warren Lai**, Contra Costa  
Vice Chair, **Blossom Scott-Heim**, Tuolumne

## Resource Recovery & Waste Management Policy Committee

Chair, **Tom Koutroulis**, Orange  
Vice Chair, **Emiko Thompson**, Los Angeles  
Vice Chair, **Jared Carter**, Madera

## Surveyor Policy Committee

Chair, **Ian Wilson**, Alameda  
Vice Chair, **Bob Bronkall**, Humboldt  
Vice Chair, **Steve Hennessee**, Los Angeles

## Transportation Policy Committee

Chair, **Najee Zarif**, San Joaquin  
Vice Chair, **Stephen Kowalewski**, Contra Costa  
Vice Chair, **Steve Burger**, Los Angeles  
Vice Chair, **Chris Sneddon**, Santa Barbara

## Administrative Committee

Chair, **Joshua Pack**, Butte County  
Vice Chair, **Noel Castillo**, San Bernardino  
Vice Chair, **San Chrun**, Stanislaus  
Vice Chair, **Kim McFarlane**, Tuolumne  
Vice Chair, **Joan Araujo**, Ventura

## Fellowship Committee

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

## Oversight & Special Tasks

Chair, **Panos Kokkas**, Trinity  
Vice Chair, **David Leamon**, Stanislaus  
Vice Chair, **Johannes Hoevertsz**, Sonoma  
Vice Chair, **Brian Balbas**, Contra Costa

## Scholarship Committee

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

## NACE 2024 Special Committee

**Matt Machado**, Santa Cruz, Co-Chair  
**Jim Porter**, San Mateo (retired), Co-Chair

## Transportation Co-Op Committee (TCC)

**Joshua Pack**, Butte (Northern California)  
**Mary Reyes**, Los Angeles (Southern California)  
**Mark Lancaster**, Riverside (Southern California)  
**Scott McGolpin**, Santa Barbara (Central Coast)  
**Najee Zarif**, San Joaquin (Central Valley)  
**Panos Kokkas**, Trinity (Northern California)

## Other ongoing outside committee appointments are listed on the CEAC website at

<https://www.ceacounties.org/about-us/advisory-committee-appointees/>



**Now Accepting 2024 Local Streets and Roads  
Project Awards Nominations!**

Nominate a project or program that your county has deployed to preserve and protect the public's investment in the local street and road system.

**Nominations are due January 29, 2024**

Award winners announced late February, and award presentations scheduled during the 2024 Cal Cities Public Works Officers Institute and CEAC Policy Conference.

Visit the Save California Streets website for more information and to submit a nomination:

<https://savecaliforniastreet.org/award-program/>



## Brian Balbas' Outgoing Remarks

*Editor's Note: I was very moved by Brian's outgoing remarks when Panos Kokkas was installed as the CEAC President for 2023-24 and Brian became the Past-President so I asked for a copy to include in this Newsletter. I believe that somethings need to be recorded for history.*

### **Before I invite Panos back up here, I'd like to share a few final thoughts this morning...**

Thank you once again for the opportunity to lead CEAC over this last year.

Since first getting involved with CEAC back in about 2008 I've enjoyed the opportunity to learn and grow through the sharing of information and experiences with those we work with throughout our organization... it's the "stuff" we all use to help do our jobs better and serve the public in our communities.

But CEAC is so much more than that; maybe it's because of our shared vision, goals and our common work that overlaps so much, despite the different opportunities and challenges we all face within the communities we serve, the different needs of rural vs urban, coastal vs the inland valleys or mountains.

The comradery, partnerships and friendships formed through CEAC are strong, resilient, and unbreakable. As our NACE President, Jeff Blue said earlier this week, it's a "Frarority" (both a Fraternity and a Sorority).

I think it's the nature within many of us who take on this line work. It's a unique position, it just feels different than a city and less bureaucratic than the state or obviously the feds. We are perfectly and uniquely sized to be a CEAC family, we are County Engineers and Professionals

It includes all of us, our affiliates and partners. While I've, like many of you, been involved with many professional organizations such as APWA, MSA and perhaps other regional groups in those areas we work, with CEAC, to me, it's always felt just a little more like family with our affiliate partners.

While our work is serious and literally millions of California residents rely upon the essential work we do every single day, we don't take ourselves too seriously and that is a key to keeping us grounded and able to focus when the real serious stuff hits that fan, which many of us know firsthand this last year.

This year as your CEAC President we didn't have any overly high-profile action items like a "HUTA steal", or major pushes for once in a lifetime legislation, but we did continue to make our voices heard on initiatives underway, Emergency Response administration and funding, implementation of IJA, providing support for various legislative proposals, those things we do annually.

We also worked to develop our CEAC membership and rebuild our in-person comradery that was shaken during the COVID pandemic where the word "virtual" was cemented into our daily vocabulary now with a whole new set of meetings that can be stacked literally one on top of another throughout your day now... hasn't that been a treat!

We've got many issues to proactively address now so we can be prepared for tomorrow, flood control and water quality funding, transportation funding will always be something to stay ahead of. We need to continue to rebuild infrastructure with IJA and other opportunities as they develop and we need to stay on the forefront of how we administer all the critical work we do in our agencies with constantly changing technology and tools... can you say AI?

So, thank all of you again for all of your incredible support over the last year, but also thank those of you who continue to take on roles and responsibilities within CEAC as we continue to build this incredible organization with each new generation of CEAC leaders and members.

Thank you to the wonderful CSAC staff and of course Merrin for all the great work this year, as NACE Executive Director, Kevan Stone said, you are simply the best.

## Brian Balbas' Outgoing Remarks (continued)

And finally, to the CLODS, first a sincere thank you for all the advice, guidance and help. So many of you have been extremely helpful and I thought I might do a little "advocacy" work here now, so take this in the spirit in which it is intended. A few facts that came to my attention recently...

- According to our CEAC website the CLODS were created in 1966 by Bill McIntosh ("Old crow").
- The initial officers of the CLODS were Ed Hanna (Bull Condor), Bill Jones (the Stud Pelican) and as I just mentioned Bill McIntosh (the Old Crow).
- Now, Bill Jones was the PW Director for Solano County, which is the county directly north of Contra Costa County, our next-door neighbor if you will, more on that in a minute...
- Ed Hanna was the PW Director for San Benito County, Bill McIntosh was PW Director for Lassen Co.
- But an interesting fact, McIntosh is short for MAC, as in MAC computers which so many of us use daily to connect to the world. Where was the MAC invented, in Silicon Valley, Santa Clara Co.
- Stay with me here - San Benito Co. is directly south of Santa Clara, you might say, next door neighbors.
- Now, I've been called many things over the course of my career, and I certainly count lucky as one of them, but this "alignment of the moon and the stars" couldn't be more clear to me...
- I was born in 1966, the same year the CLODS were formed. And, I was born in Santa Clara, literally the birthplace of the MAC, whose name came from Bill McIntosh, one of the first officers of the CLODS.
- San Benito County, where Ed Hanna worked, was my next-door neighbor PW Director at that time.
- Now, 57 years later, I work at Contra Costa, the next-door neighbor to the county that Bill Jones was Director of Solano County.
- So, the founding fathers of the great CLODS, the epicenter of the formation of this incredible collection of CEAC Past Presidents, has taken place either in or as part of my next-door neighborhood.
- You know what they say, "Birds of a feather..."
- If you live in a neighborhood with good folks like that maybe, just maybe, you got a shot...
- But then the final alignment of the stars that made it so crystal clear to me, look what was in the paper just a few short weeks ago! (See the picture to the left). **The First Flock in 100 Years! Six California Condors Explore Mount Diablo & Contra Costa County.**
- Just saying, maybe something for the CLODS to consider as they decide my fate a later this morning.



*Editor's Update: Past President Balbas was selected to be a CLOD, even considering this "performance"!*





## MEET the New DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS, MERCED COUNTY

And

## The New REGIONAL DIRECTOR for the SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

**Nathan Bray** has been appointed as Merced County's Public Works Director and Road Commissioner effective January 1, 2024. Nathan has a long history of working in the public sector and municipal engineering field. He grew up in the small town of Janesville, California in Lassen County. He attended College of the Redwoods before transferring to California State University, Chico where he graduated with a bachelor's of civil engineering in 2007. While at CSU, Chico, he served as the vice president of ASCE student chapter, was a member of the 2005 and 2006 steel bridge competition team, and helped form the Engineers without Borders student chapter.



Nathan started his career at the City of Turlock in 2006. During his tenure, he oversaw all aspects of municipal engineering from conception to completion of projects, private development review, administering the 5-year CIP and budgeting. The last three and a half years he served as the City Engineer and Development Services Director which oversaw Engineering, Building, Planning and the City's transit service.

After leaving the City of Turlock in 2021, Nathan worked at NorthStar Engineering in Modesto as a senior project manager. He was responsible for the permitting and agency coordination of large master plan areas as well as municipal infrastructure projects. He briefly served as the City Engineer for the City of Modesto in a consultant role.

Nathan has a passion for public service and in June of 2023 he joined Merced County as an assistant public works director responsible for the Roads Division. Merced County has approximately 1,754 miles of maintained roads, 160 miles of dirt roads and 401 bridges. Effective January 1, 2024, Nathan will be responsible for the roads, CIPs, professional services, fleet, building maintenance services, parks and recreation, admin and fiscal divisions. Additionally, he was appointed the CEAC Regional Director for the San Joaquin Valley for 2024.

Nathan is married to his wonderful wife Loni Silveira. He has one daughter, Maddox, who is graduating Turlock High School this year. In his free time he enjoys traveling, golfing and playing board games with his family and friends.

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## The CEAC Forum is here!

Do you know about the CEAC Forum? The CEAC forum is an on-line place where you can ask questions and get answers from other counties. It's like a private club just for California county public works staff; however content posted on the forum is likely subject to PRAs. If you don't already know about it, you will likely find it to be a great resource. The CEAC forum can be found here: <https://www.ceacounties.org/forum/>. There is also a link to it on the CEAC website under the *resources* pull down menu.

It requires a password to access so you will need to sign up for an account. Once your account is approved (it takes a day or two), you will then have access to forum. There is some one-time setup/configuration that you need to do. When you sign up for an account, you should receive an email from Bob Bronkall (Humboldt County) or Ian Wilson (Alameda County) which includes the *Getting Started Guide* which will walk you through the one-time setup configuration that needs to be done in order for you to make the most of the forum. If you didn't receive the *Getting Started Guide*, please email Bob Bronkall ([bbronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:bbronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us)).



By Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp  
CEAC Historian

## CEAC Hard Hat

If you attended the 2023 CEAC Fall Conference in Alameda County, you would have witnessed the handing over from the CEAC Past President to the incoming CEAC President the CEAC Hard Hat. See the picture to the upper right where **Brian Balbas** is handing The Hat to **Panos Kokkas**. As you can see, The Hat is adorned with a "bunch of stuff".

What you may not recall is that although we don't know exactly which Past President started this tradition, Bill McIntosh believes that he was one of the first when he became CEAC President in 1963. In 1964, Bill presented The Hat adorned with a Lassen County A-1 route marker decal to his successor, Dave Pierson.

It is also believed that the additions made to The Hat in the early years were to make it functional, e.g. running lights, horn, beer dispenser, etc. It would appear that later on the additions reflected something which occurred during the President's term in Office. For example, the guy jumping rope atop The Hat was added by Art Goulet, CEAC President in 1990. Those attending CEAC Board meetings at the Lake Almansor Bedroll Conference will recall Art "jumping up a storm" in the Camp Conery parking lot. The can of Snappy Tom was added by Mike Walford, CEAC President 1991. Seems as though Mike was forced to use a substitute mix at the Snappy Tom Reception during the 1991 NACE Annual Conference in Cincinnati, OH. The train was added by Max Bridges, 1998 CEAC President, to signify his "jumping ship" to run the North Coast Railroad. Time Hackworth, 2005 CEAC President, added a small measuring tape on which he placed the Placer County logo. In addition, Tim added a California quarter with condor, dime, nickel and penny (change) to signify the changes taking place in county government and in our Association at that time.

In 2006, I tried to identify as much "stuff" as possible and learn why it was added. I did not get a lot of responses. To my repeated inquiries. So, I have asked the Newsletter Edi-



tor to document each year the addition so years from now we will know who added what and why they added it.

The picture above is CEAC President Panos Kokkas with the addition from **Brian**. He added "Biden Bucks" as we are all trying to get some IJIA funds from the infrastructure bill. The other side of the addition is a check from FEMA since right after I become President, we received a record year of rainfall and so many counties are looking to FEMA to get some emergency relief funds. **See below for copies of the Biden Bucks and the FEMA Check.**

So those of you who want your addition to be recorded for history, please send the description of your addition and why you added it to The Hat to the Newsletter Editor at [ceacnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:ceacnewslettereditor@gmail.com).







## CEAC Board of Directors

129<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting/Fall Conference

Oakland Marriott City Center/Oakland Room

1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA

November 17, 2023| 10:15am- 11:45

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

10:15 am

**Call to Order** (Kokkas) Officers present: 9 of 10: Regional Directors: 4 of 6;  
Quorum Present

1. **Approval of Minutes** (Kokkas)  
August 25, 2023 - **Attachment One - Action Item – Motion to** approve minutes:  
Move to approve – Leamon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Khan; **Approved**
2. **Correspondence** (Kokkas) – No Correspondence.
3. **CLODS Report** (CLODS) (Sadjadi)
  - a) Treasurer Emeritus Sadjadi – Compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Penrose for their work on the CLODS BBQ that turned out fabulous. Sadjadi encourages everyone to attend NACE 2024 in Palm Springs.
4. **NACE Report** (Machado)
  - a) Looking forward to NACE 2024 in Palm Springs. NACE 2025 will be in the Chicago area and in Fort Worth, Dallas in 2026. Toronto, Canada is being considered for 2027. Machado shared that a nationwide survey went out to members to gauge interest in going to Canada and encouraged everyone to complete the survey.
  - b) February 2024, NACE is going to DC to meet with elected officials and Federal Agencies. Machado shared that he believes that FHWA and FEMA issues are still relevant to discuss in Washington and requested input from the group on other potential subjects.
5. **CSAC Report** (Gerety) - San Francisco has a new Public Works Director, Carla Short. Ian Wilson shared that San Francisco also has a new County Surveyor, Kate Anderson. CSAC appreciates the relationship with CEAC and will continue moving forward working with the CEAC Board of Directors. Other members of the CEAC team were absent due to illness.
6. **Regional Directors Reports**
  - a) **Bay Area** – Rosemarie Gaglione was absent.
  - b) **Central Coast** – Machado supplied an update for Walter Rubalcava. Have been meeting regularly, Walter is doing an excellent job. They mostly meet virtually on Teams and once a year they do an in-person meeting
  - c) **Northern California** – Bob Bronkall - They had their last meeting in November 2023 and agreed to set up a schedule for periodic meetings with invites sent by email and it's on everyone's calendar. They talked about having in person meetings as well as zoom meetings. Bronkall is close to launching the Bedroll Conference again, possibly in July 2024. Bronkall was unanimously selected to continue as Regional Director for 2024.

- d) **Sacramento Mother Lode** – Kim MacFarlane – They had good attendance at their October meeting. They discussed the FEMA process and last year's storms. Kim shared that while some counties have far more damage than others, a common theme is the frustration of the teams with the process, from inexperienced staff to timeliness. They also discussed pavement management and it sounds like most counties are using Street Saver. Future topics include maintenance agreements with Caltrans, fleet and CARB, and Rule 20A.
- e) **San Joaquin Valley** – Fritz Buchman – They had their last meeting of the year in Fresno, October 2023. Nathan Bray, Merced County was elected as the new regional president, and Sam Churn is the new regional vice-president. Fritz will continue to serve as the treasurer for the region.
- f) **Southern California** – Nardy Khan - Their last meeting was in September in Los Angeles (LA) County. They did a survey to see if people wanted to meet in person or virtually, unanimously it was virtual. There was discussion on LA County safe, clean water program, traffic safety, Vision Zero, the safety corridor that becomes effective in June of 2024, bike ordinances, a lot of bicycle issues with the increase of E bikes, and a good discussion on EV conversion.

7. **Treasurer's Report (Johnson) - Attachment Two - Action Item** - The current year 2023 reflects revenues trending higher than was originally anticipated in the budget and that's primarily because we've had great participation from our member counties and affiliate members. 57 of the 58 counties paid their membership fees and their local streets and roads assessment. Thanks to the Regional Directors for continuing to make that a priority. We would like to see 58 out of 58 counties. We are actively involved with Siskiyou County to encourage their participation. The final budget for the year is still pending numbers from the Spring and Policy Conferences.

Johnson wanted to highlight that in this written Treasurer's Report the NACE Planning Committee has requested a line item, asking for \$35,000 potential expenditures. The anticipation is that we will be able to generate enough contributions from our sponsors to cover the expense. There will not be an expense to the CEAC account.

**Motion** by Johnson to approve the proposed 2024 budget and direct the Treasurer to develop the final 2024 budget to be presented to the Board of Directors at the Spring Conference 2024. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leamon. **Approved**

## 8. Committee Reports:

a) Administrative – **Pack**, It was nice to go early in the conference schedule. A couple of topics were discussed: San Joaquin presented on their Public Works Academy and shared what they're doing to train staff and develop in house talent. San Luis Obispo County presented on DMV licensing and some of the new rules about commercial driver's license that have significant impacts on our departments. Pack presented and received feedback on either starting or restarting a CEAC coaching and mentorship program, creating opportunities to connect leaders in our organization with emerging leaders. Pack hopes to take that information to start working on drafting a potential program and reach out to the group sometime in the first half of December 2023. Pack asked whether there is going to be an effort to have committee meetings at the NACE conference in Palm Springs. **Machado** recommended that we have them; and to plan to have them.



- b) Flood Control and Water Resources – **Khan**, they talked about legislation and supplied an update on different funding opportunities or bonds. Discussed SB 706 as it relates to progressive design build water and other agencies. They had two excellent presentations, one from DWR and another one from the Coastal Commission talking about sea level rise. They also talked about future topics. Agreed to start a policy library to collect different authorities that counties have, and possibly add them to the CEAC forum.
  - c) Infrastructure and Development – **Trisha Tillotson**, They had good turnout. Discussed legislative updates on ADUs, and discussion and presentation from Frontier Energy and Contra Costa County about zero emission vehicles and transition plans. It seemed to be a really engaging topic and had a lot of input coming from the committee. It was requested to bring back the topic in the spring for further discussion. Another suggestion included a trench cut guideline book.
  - d) Resource Recovery and Waste Management – **Jared Carter**, Great presentation from Sonoma County on their disaster debris plan. They also had a good presentation on SB 54, the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act. SB 1383 updates were shared with CSAC making it a priority next year. Future topics include illegal dumping and SB 1383.
  - e) Surveyor – **Ian Wilson**, Encouraged use of the Forum. Had a lively discussion about AB 423. They also discussed forming a committee to manage the 2025 upgrade of the CEAC mapping guide. Mapping guide has been produced since 1990. The guide has become the de facto standard of practice throughout the state of California. They are also working with League of California Survey Organizations LCSO and the California Land Surveyors Association CLSA on monument preservation and durability issues. Very robust conversation on this issue and opportunities to improve the system for years to come. Lot Line Adjustment process standardization across counties is also being considered. Expanding membership to the Forum was also discussed. **Brian Balbas** volunteered to work on this issue with Bob Bronkall, and Josh Pack.
  - f) Transportation – Absent. Report skipped.
  - g) Fellowship – **Patty McNamee**, Successful hospitality suite. All the donations are appreciated.
  - h) Oversight – **Brian Balbas**, Focusing on the budget.
  - i) Scholarship – **Brian Balbas** commended Alicia for the excellent job with the scholarships and distributing the checks.
9. Unfinished Business (Balbas)
- ARTICLE III Dues and Assessments Update – Bylaws amendment (*Dashiell/Balbas*)- **Attachment Three – Action Item** – Brian Balbas and Howard Dashiell worked on this item amending the article to increase dues by 10% per year in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and include an annual CPI starting in 2026.
- Recommended Motion** – Approve the amendments to Article III Dues and Assessment as presented on Attachment Three in the Agenda. **1<sup>st</sup> – Balbas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sadjadi – Unanimous**

- b) 2024 CEAC Policy Conference dates and location (Gerety) – August 22-23, 2024, Capitol Event Center, Sacramento, and Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. The Sheraton hotel contract is booked, and we are waiting on the contract with the Capitol Event Center.
- c) Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment - Report and Committee update (Neuburger/Leamon) – Currently working on the RFP with a new manager from MTC. Planning on going to the regions sometime after the New Year. Leamon estimates about \$5,000 for the website work and about \$40,000 unspent in the contract.

#### 10. New Business

- a) 2024 NACE Annual Conference contract (Machado)- **Attachment Four – Action Item** - Proposed contract with NACE for the Palm Springs event. Machado pointed out a couple of items. The first one is revenue sharing, CEAC would receive 10% profit up to the first \$150,000 in profit, and then 15% over the \$150,000 in profit. Machado shared that in Alabama, 2023, the profits were around \$200,000 with Alabama getting about \$30,000. The other item that we do our protections in his contract for cancellation contingency. This is a similar contract to 2020 for the 2021 conference that was cancelled. Machado conveyed that there is profit sharing with CEAC, and cancellation protection. Machado believes it is a good contract. DeChellis asked about coverage should there be a loss; Machado shared that CEAC is not subject to sharing in the loss.  
**Recommended Motion** – Approve the NACE 2024 Conference Contract and Agreement .  
**1<sup>st</sup> – DeChellis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Khan – Unanimous**
- b) Joshua Pack brought up the idea to form a new Committee for Disaster Recover and Prevention. Options were discussed about the number of committees, perhaps add the topic to the Infrastructure Committee, schedule it during the Policy Conference, or create a sub committee. After a robust discussion it was decided to try a working lunch during the policy conference.

#### 11. Life Membership

- a) George Johnson nominated Brian Balbas and Scott McGolpin who will be retiring prior to the next meeting April 2024. After discussion, it was decided to go ahead with the vote.  
**Recommended Motion** – Grant Life Membership to Brian Balbas . **1<sup>st</sup> – Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sadjadi – Unanimous, Balbas abstained.**  
**Recommended Motion** – Grant Life Membership to Scott McGolpin . **1<sup>st</sup> – Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sadjadi – Unanimous**

#### 12. Announcements

##### Scheduled Conferences

- a) CEAC Spring Conference, not being held in 2024 due to hosting the NACE Conference
- b) NACE Annual Conference, Palm Springs, Riverside County, CA, April 15-18, 2024  
CEAC Policy Conference, Capitol Event Center, Sacramento, August 22-23, 2024 (19<sup>th</sup> Annual CEAC Policy Conference)
- d) CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, Pasadena, Los Angeles County, November 18-22, 2024 (CSAC 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting)
- e) CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, San Jose Convention Center, Santa Clara County, December 1 - December 5, 2025

##### **CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule**

- a) CEAC Policy Conference, Sacramento, August 22-23, 2024

11:45 am

**Adjourn**



# Meeting Roster

## Voting Board Members: Officers & Regional Directors

**P** indicates present at the meeting

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>County/Organization</b>
Panos Kokkas <b>P</b>	President	Trinity
David Leamon <b>P</b>	Vice President	Stanislaus
Johannes Hoevertsz <b>P</b>	Secretary	Sonoma
Howard Dashiell	Immediate Past President	Mendocino
George Johnson <b>P</b>	Treasurer	Riverside (Retired)
Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi <b>P</b>	Treasurer-Emeritus	Marin (Retired)
Mike Penrose <b>P</b>	Parliamentarian	Sacramento (Retired)
Patrick DeChellis <b>P</b>	Newsletter Editor	Los Angeles (Retired)
Matt Machado <b>P</b>	NACE Representative	Santa Cruz
Dave Gravenkamp <b>P</b>	Historian	Siskiyou (Retired)

<b>Regional Directors</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>County</b>
Rosemarie Gaglione	Bay Area	Marin
Walter Rubalcava	Central Coast	Santa Barbara
Bob Bronkall <b>P</b>	Northern California	Humboldt
Kim MacFarlane <b>P</b>	Sacramento Mother Lode	Tuolumne
Fritz Buchman <b>P</b>	San Joaquin Valley	San Joaquin
Nardy Khan <b>P</b>	Southern California	Orange

<b>Committee Chairs</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>County</b>
Josh Pack <b>P</b>	Administrative	Butte
Pattie McNamee <b>P</b>	Fellowship	Contra Costa (Retired)
Glenn Shepard	Flood Control/Water Resources	Ventura
Trisha Tillotson <b>P</b>	Infrastructure & Development	Nevada
Panos Kokkas <b>P</b>	Oversight	Trinity
Jared Carter <b>P</b>	Resource Recovery & Waste	Madera
Alicia Myers	Scholarship	Mendocino
Aleks Jevremovic	Surveyor	Santa Barbara
Najee Zarif	Transportation	San Joaquin

<b>CSAC/CEAC Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency/County</b>
Catherine Freeman	Senior Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Mark Neuburger	Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Ada Waelder	Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Kristina Gallagher	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Amber Garcia	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety <b>P</b>	CEAC Program Manager	CSAC/CEAC

### **Others in Attendance**

Paul Kittredge <b>P</b>		Alameda County
Ian Wilson <b>P</b>		Alameda County
Jason Jurrens <b>P</b>		Consort
Tom Mattson <b>P</b>		Humboldt County
Michael Leacox <b>P</b>		NCE
Tom Koutroulis <b>P</b>		Orange County
Matt Machado <b>P</b>	NACE Western Regional V.P.	Santa Cruz
Blossom Scott-Heim <b>P</b>		Tuolumne County

# Job Opportunities in Local Government

CEAC provides an opportunity for California county and city public works agencies to post job openings on our site. New positions are posted on a regular basis.

[County Job Openings: CSAC Website](#)

Organization	Position	Date Posted	Closing Date/ First Review
Valley Water	<a href="#">Assistant Engineer I – Water Utility Capital</a>	12/11/2023	12/15/2023
City of Palmdale	<a href="#">Senior Civil Engineer</a>	12/11/2023	Continuous Until Filled
City of Lancaster	<a href="#">Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer</a>	12/5/2023	1/8/2024
Valley Water	<a href="#">Assistant Engineer II – Civil</a>	11/29/2023	12/12/2023
Riverside County	<a href="#">Engineering Project Manager – Traffic</a>	11/28/2023	1/9/2024
Madera County	<a href="#">Director of Public Works</a>	11/27/2023	1/8/2024
City of Manteca	<a href="#">Deputy Director Engineering</a>	11/27/2023	12/31/2023
City of Manteca	<a href="#">Senior Engineer</a>	11/27/2023	12/31/2023
San Diego County	<a href="#">LUEG Program Manager – Wastewater Management Program</a>	11/15/2023	Continuous Until Filled
San Diego County	<a href="#">Assistant Utility Manager-Engineering and Administration</a>	11/15/2023	Continuous Until Filled
San Diego County	<a href="#">Assistant Program Manager-Capital Improvement-DPW</a>	11/15/2023	Continuous Until Filled