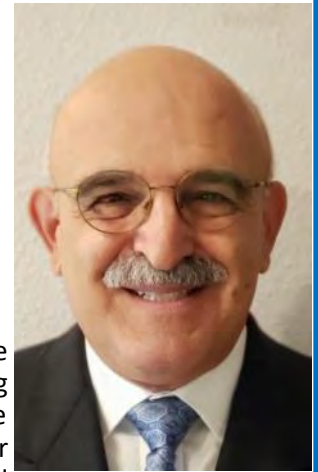




# CEAC NEWSLETTER

March  
2024



## President's Message

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

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It seems like yesterday when we met in Oakland for the Fall Conference. Since then a few events are dominating our attention, one of which is California's overabundance of precipitation throughout the state. Although the water is welcome, the storms have caused severe flooding and mudslides, particularly in the areas that experienced devastating wildfires in the past few years. Mother Nature appears unforgiving to man-made configurations of her domain. Many of us are not only facing the arduous task of having to deal with the aftermath of natural disasters, but also are trying to navigate cumbersome processes as we seek reimbursement from CalOES, FEMA, and FHWA for necessary repairs.

During the Fall Conference, there was a robust discussion regarding expanding the range of topics that we cover. Our core committee work focuses on Transportation, Infrastructure & Development, Flood Control & Water Resources, Resource Recovery & Waste Management, Administrative, and Surveying, but as many members noted, we have additional responsibilities that do not fit well into our current committee structure. For instance, in addition to the functions listed above, we all typically deal with routine operations involving finance, road maintenance, risk management, safety training, human resources, workers compensation issues, and IT. In light of these additional functions, CEAC members suggested the exploration of adding committees that support these responsibilities.

I was fortunate to participate in three regional meetings during the past few months. The Central Coast Regional meeting on January 12 covered a variety of topics from road maintenance to flood control. During the meeting, the members raised concerns regarding the recent systematic push by Caltrans to have local agencies maintain new non-asphalt improvements, (within Caltrans property), by the local agency, by inserting the requirement into the routine "maintenance agreements." In addition to an informative and productive meeting, the excellent culinary skills of the Santa Barbara County crews and the delicious BBQ meats along with the opportunity to see past colleagues and friends made the meeting very enjoyable.

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

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Sacramento Motherlode Region, voiced the same apprehension during their regional meeting as the Central Coast regarding the recent Caltrans practice to push maintenance of state improvements to local agencies. They noted that the new Caltrans push for "maintenance" is an undesirable development for both cities and counties and will require a coordinated effort by local agencies to oppose and eliminate the practice before it becomes normalized, as outlined in the meeting notes: **"Matt Smeltzer was successful in resisting a maintenance agreement during a HWY 49 sidewalk project by quoting from Caltrans own "Complete Streets" manual that the improvements were theirs to "maintain."** Blossom Scott-Heim told the team of her Rawhide Bridge project that

**Editor:** Pat DeChellis

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

*has been delayed due to funding and utility relocations, but early on, Caltrans wanted the County to take on all maintenance of everything back of curb including drainage basins, which Blossom has so far resisted. Panos has successfully pushed back on maintenance agreements with Caltrans but recommended that I send an email to him and Josh Pack about our issues and they will take our unified complaint to the TCC and beyond.*" Concerns with CARB were also topics of discussion, highlighting increased fees and untenable requirements for cities and counties surrounding the electrification of fleet, equipment purchasing and the capacity to complete our work.

Orange County hosted the Southern California Regional meeting on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Regional Director, Nardy Khan, provided an excellent overview of CEAC including the many ways the organization will enhance the participant's horizon to the profession as well as strengthen our profession for future generations to come. The meeting highlighted several construction projects and a helpful presentation on compost applications, followed by an informative question and answer session that provided informative answers as well as helpful solutions for similar projects.

In the past month, we also had that many director retirements:

1. **Brian Balbas**, CEAC President 2022-23, retired after 35 years with Contra Costa County. We will miss his detailed analysis of issues and proactive approach on county matters. We promise not to email him while he is traveling and camping - enjoying his well-earned retirement. It was great to celebrate his many contributions on March 1<sup>st</sup> during his retirement celebration, and welcome his replacement Warren Lai, a long-time county employee and active CEAC member.
2. **Scott McGolpin**, CEAC President 2013-14 and NACE President 2020, retired on March 14<sup>th</sup>, after 36 years with Santa Barbara County. We will miss his active participation and detailed knowledge on many subjects including transportation, flood control, and emergency response. Scott promised to attend all golf events for both CEAC and NACE functions, as he needs more practice. We welcome Chris Sneddon a long-time county employee and active CEAC member who was chosen to replace Scott.
3. Jeff Pratt, CEAC President 2017-18, retired on March 21<sup>st</sup>, after 24 years with Ventura County. As CEAC president, Jeff worked on organizational and structural upgrades to improve the CEAC organization. We will miss his knowledge of flood control and emergency management. Fellowship will not be the same as Jeff provided delightful and lively conversation. At this time, a replacement for Jeff has not been named.

We were unable to hold our annual summer Bedroll Conference for the past several years, as a forest fire destroyed of our favorite camp site at Lake Almanor. A new and improved Bedroll Conference will be held on July 24-27, at Camp Tehama, which is about 50 miles east of Red Bluff, off of State Route 36 and 172. A big thank you to both Jessica Pecha from Tehama County and Bob Bronkall from Humboldt County for their diligent efforts to secure the site for this worthwhile event. For those looking for something a little less rustic, the Village at Highlands Ranch has an Inn as well as RV spaces, and across the street is the plusher Highlands Ranch Resort, both about 10 minutes away. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of our state, while participating in continuing education through CEAC.

As mentioned in my December message, the strength of the CEAC organization is in the diversity of our members and our unity of purpose. We all have the opportunity to demonstrate both the unity and strength by actively participating in the upcoming meetings. CEAC will host the annual NACE conference on April 15-19, in Palm Springs. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in the various professional workshops that are relevant to our everyday activities. You will be able to see old friends and make new acquaintances that will end in friendships, as well as have an overview of county national concerns and related efforts. Since this is an active legislative year, all the CEAC Policy Committees will meet on Wednesday April 17, in preparation for our August Policy Conference, a detailed schedule will be provided as we get closer to the event.

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

**Panos Kokkas**  
**CEAC President 2023/24**  
**Director of Transportation, Trinity County**

# HAPPENINGS Around the State....

## SAVE the DATES

- **2024 CEAC Spring Conference** - CEAC is hosting 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 the traditional Sunday thru Wednesday format)*
- **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

## CEAC would like to thank our 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE/NACE CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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# COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHANGES

## Around the State....

- \* Placer County - **Ken Grehm** has retired. Ken was appointed as the Director of Public Works upon the retirement of Tim Hackworth at the end of 2005. Ken joined Placer County in 2002 as the Assistant Public Works Director. Previously, he work for the City of Sacramento starting in the late 1980s.

- \* Placer County - **Derek Gade** (picture to the right) has replaced Ken as the Director of Public Works. Derek was previously the Director of Public Works for San Diego County. According to Derek's LinkedIn page, *"After 22 years with San Diego DPW, I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as Director of Public Works at [Placer County](#)! I will miss all my amazing SD colleagues and teams! I'm looking forward to this new adventure to continue to be a public servant and help a new team continue to do great things and serve the public well! It all starts with a major storm and expected up to 10 feet of new snow over the weekend in the high country! It should be fun!! I'm so excited to meet all the new team members in Placer County!!"*



- \* San Diego County - **Bill Morgan** (picture to the right) has been appointed as the Interim Director of Public Works. Bill has been with the County for over 19 years and currently serves as the County Engineer and Road Commissioner. Prior to this new role, he was DPW's Engineering Services Deputy Director for almost 6 years and led the Construction Management and Materials for an additional 3 years.

Before coming to the County, Bill spent 16 years working for the California Department of Transportation in the Division of Engineering Services, delivering large public works transportation projects in Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Diego County.



- \* Tuolumne County - **Kim MacFarlane** (picture to the right) gave her resignation to the County Board of Supervisors in February to be effective April 12, 2024. She is quoted as saying, *"I've been here for six years, and a lot has changed in that time, and I thought it was time for a change."*



Kim is hopeful that the Board will appoint **Blossom Scott-Heim** (picture to the left), the current Assistant Director of Public Works, as the next Director.



- \* Nevada County - **Heba El-Guindy** left to become the Director of Public Works for the City of Gilroy. Heba was appointed the Director of Public Works for Nevada County in April 2023.

- \* Nevada County - **George Schureck** (picture to the right) is filling in as the Acting Public Works Director for Nevada County. George joined Nevada County as the Building Director in December 2022.



(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

# COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHANGES

## Around the State....

(CONTINUED - the best for last?)

- \* Santa Barbara County - **Scott McGolpin**, CEAC President 2013-14, has served as the Director of Public for Santa Barbara County since 2007 replacing **Phil Demery**, CEAC President 2002-03. Scott has been with the County since 1988. Scott was also a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1981 to 1991 and was President of the NACE in 2020. The picture to the right was taken in 2020 when Scott was in Washington, D.C. advocating on behalf of NACE and CEAC. With Scott (2nd from the left), are **Ramon Gavarrete**, Director of Public Works Alachua County, FL (Gainesville area); **Salud Carbajal**, Congressman CA-24 (San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara area); and **Rick Tippett**, CEAC President 2020.

Scott retired from Santa Barbara County at the end of March.



- \* Santa Barbara County - **Chris Sneddon** (picture to the right) will be stepping into Scott's shoes as the head of Santa Barbara County's Public Works Department at the end of March, when Scott retires. Chris has been with the County since 2002 and has been the Deputy Director, Transportation since September 2012.



- \* Ventura County—**Jeff Pratt**, CEAC President 2017-2018 (picture to the right), has served as the Director of Public Works since 2008 and has been with the County since January 2000 when he was hired by the then Director, **Art Goulet**, CEAC President 1988-89. Previously, Jeff was in the Navy. After the Navy, Jeff worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Climate Change, at a construction and a geotechnical firm, and for two cities and two counties.

Jeff will retired from Ventura County at the end of March.



- \* Ventura County—**David Fleisch** (picture below) will be the Interim Director of Public Works for Ventura County upon Jeff's departure. David has been with the County since 2010, first as the Director, Roads and Transportation, then as the Assistant Director when he was appointed to that position in April 2021. Prior to Ventura County, David was in the Navy for 20 years starting in 1999. His last position was Captain, U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps.



(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE, one more time)

# COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHANGES

## Around the State....

**(CONTINUED - they continue)**

- \* Contra Costa County - **Brian Balbas**, CEAC President 2022-23, has served as the Director of Public Works for Contra Costa County since 2018 replacing Julie **Bueren**, CEAC President 2010-11. Brian began his career with Contra Costa County in July 1989 as an Entry Level Engineer in the Public Works Department.

In addition to working in all aspects of the full service Public Works Department, Brian had the opportunity to serve one year as the first City Engineer for the City of Oakley when it incorporated in 1999. He promoted within the Contra Costa County Public Works Department to a Deputy Director in 2007 and Chief Deputy in 2016.



Brian retired from Contra Costa County in March.

- \* Contra Costa County—**Warren Lai** (picture to the right below) was appointed as the next Director of Public Works for Contra Costa County by the Board of Supervisors on February 27, 2024, replacing Brian Balbas. Mr. Lai began his career with Public Works in 1998 as an Entry Level Engineer and has spent nearly 26 years serving residents in various capacities.

“Warren’s background in Civil Engineering and his vast knowledge of our Public Works Department will allow a seamless transition to continue our sustainability efforts to construct, maintain and improve infrastructure throughout Contra Costa County,” said District 5 Supervisor and Chair of the Board Federal D. Glover. “We are excited about the work ahead for our Public Works Department under Warren’s leadership and our continued thoughtful approach in serving residents through programs and services that are diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible.”



“It has been a privilege to serve the people of Contra Costa County throughout my career.” Mr. Lai said. “I look forward to leading the department and continuing to seek innovative ways to provide cost effective, safe, reliable and sustainable projects, programs and services to residents.”



# NACE 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**PALM SPRINGS  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
APRIL 15-18**

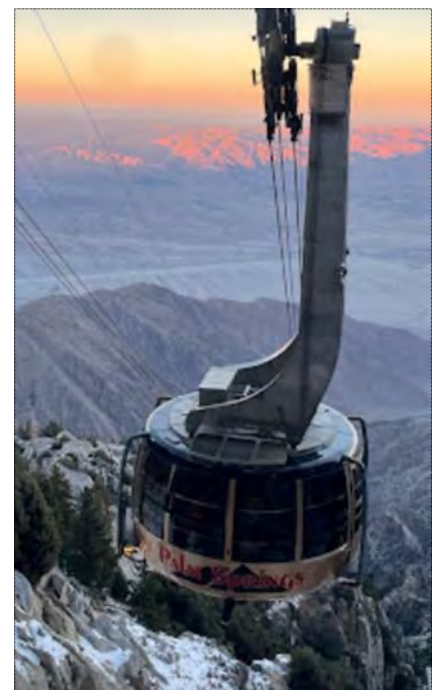
[www.countyengineers.org](http://www.countyengineers.org)

## SEE YOU IN PALM SPRINGS

We look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs in 2024. Please make sure to follow us on social media for updates.

#NACE2024

[www.countyengineers.org](http://www.countyengineers.org)



# NACE REPORT



## Howard Dashiell CEAC NACE Representative

### Happy Spring to ALL!

Fifteen County Engineers represented the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) concurrently with the National Association of Counties (NACo) in our nation's capital from February 7-11, 2024. We came together in Washington, D.C. to advocate for what is important to us - our association's legislative and policy priorities which often require federal funding, cooperation, and coordination among various agencies. Being physically present in D.C. allowed us to engage directly with the policymakers who control these critical resources. Our group met with staff from the White House, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Our group consisted of **Kevan Stone**, NACE Executive Director; **Jeff Blue** of Illinois, NACE President; **Steve McCall** of Ohio, Vice President; **Jacob Thorius** of Iowa, Secretary; **Chris Champion** of Alabama, Past President; **Rich Sanders** of Minnesota, NACo Rep.; **Pam Dingman** of Nebraska, South Central Region Rep., **Matt Machado** of California, Western Region Rep.; **Josh Harvill** of Alabama, Southeast Region Rep.; **Jeff Linkous** of Ohio, Northeast Region Rep.; **Bart Walls** - Tennessee State Rep.; **Wayne Sandberg** - Minnesota State Rep.; **Joe Trammel**—Texas State Rep.; **Luke McGinty** - Alabama State Rep.; **Mike Pniewski**, - Ohio State Rep.; and **myself**, the California State Rep.

At each meeting, the group would go around the room and introduce ourselves and county that we represent. At US DoT, yours truly said Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County, only to have one of the USDoT staff say... "Mendocino County – you just got a \$31.4 million loan from the Build America Bureau for your Railroad" ... to which Howard shuddered – not my department... later I discovered that loan was for two small private California Railroads... Sierra Northern (Tuolumne County) and Mendocino's Counties "Skunk Train" which plans to repair the Noyo Canyon Tunnel #1 as well as rehabilitate 27 bridges. The program is called Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF). The only county at this Washington D.C. meeting that got a specific comment/question and Howard biffed it.

Pam Dingman, Jeff Blue, Mike Pniewski, and Matt Machado were our designated speakers at FEMA HQ. Jeff Blue and Rich Sanders were our lead speakers in our meeting with staff at the Eisenhower Executive Building on the White House Campus. (We did not get into the White House.) Later at the NACo Transportation Committee Kevan Stone and Josh Harvill addressed the supervisors and Matt Machado was a panelist.

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*



15 County Engineers at NACE 2024 Legislative Conference



# NACE REPORT (continued)



Pictured above left: *Mike Pniewski* former Army Corps of Engineers employee seeks to “make a connection” when speaking to FEMA EHP Head. Picture above, right: *Jeff Blue* and *Matt Machado* making the County’s case at FEMA.



*Josh Harvill* addressing the NACo Transportation Committee. *Matt Machado* is one of the panelists. Security was very tight at the White House to keep county engineers out of West Wing. Below, right: *Howard Dashiell* passed his FEMA security check which had to be submitted two weeks in advance.





# Louis Tom Mlcoch

## L.T. Mlcoch, Inc.

### Honorary CLOD

### January 21, 2024

As reported by **John Presleigh** (CEAC President 2016-17)

*"A memorial was held on March 16, 2024 for Tom Mlcoch. It was well attended by his family and a large number of close friends including those from his favorite Matson Winery. He died on January 21, 2024. I know that Tom was very proud to be a honorary CLOD. His plaque of being a CLOD was displayed prominently in his house along with a number of other awards.*

*I saw him at the Winery about two weeks before he passed. Tom loved the outdoors and he was a prolific hunter and could shoot a bow and arrow! He had a shooting range in his back yard! I am surprised he didn't kill one of his neighbors with an errant arrow!"*

Tom studied engineering at San-Francisco State University and was also a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley in structural engineering. Tom was a registered engineer both in California (CI0559) and Nevada (010479).

He had more than 45 years' experience in the planning and design of more than 200 bridges of various types (including slab, girder, arch and truss) and materials (including timber, reinforced and prestressed concrete, and structural steel). His responsibilities have included environmental and foundation studies, bridge hydro-logic studies, utilities, preliminary and final design, preparation of contract documents, bid evaluation, contract administration, and resident engineering.

Prior to forming L. T. Mlcoch, Inc., he accumulated a broad base of experience in road and bridge design, administration, structures, and utilities. He retired from CH2M Hill after 27 years. Prior to that, he served as a principal in his own engineering firm, as a county engineer and surveyor in Yuba County, road commissioner in Colusa County, and as a bridge engineer for Caltrans and the Division of Bay Toll Crossings.

Tom is a Life Member in the American Society of Civil Engineers having served as President of the Shasta Branch and also an Affiliate Member of the County Engineers Association of California.

The CEAC January 1963 Newsletter identified Tom as the Alternate Regional Director of CEAC's Sacramento Motherlode Region and as a full-fledged member of the Highway Committee (which is now the Transportation Co-Op Committee). The CEAC April 1964 Newsletter gave notice that Tom would be leaving Yuba County and "stepping out of the public trough in hope of finding more and better vitamins elsewhere". At that time he joined John Hamby and Associates in Paradise, California."

Tom was elected as an Honorary CLOD and installed at the CLODS' BBQ in 2013 for his many years of support and assistance to CEAC, to many of the counties, the engineering profession, and the CLODS.







# Droppings

*from out of the past*

By Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp  
CEAC Historian

## THE PAINTING

Not sure if you remember the January 2022 Issue of the CEAC Newsletter. In that issue, the **Droppings** included the history of "The Painting".

At the Fall conference in 2021 held in Monterey, **Peter Rei**, CEAC President 2008-09, presented **THE PAINTING** to **George Johnson**, CEAC President 2007-08. George passed it to **Jim Porter**, CEAC President 2018-19 and 2020-21, who ultimately passed it to **Rick Tippett**, CEAC President 2019-20. Rick has had "The Painting" ever since.

Peter received The Painting at his retirement in September 2021 from **Mike Penrose**, CEAC President 2014-2015.

Well, as you might have read earlier in this *Issue*, we had not one, not two, but **three** CLODS (CEAC Past Presidents) recently retire—all during the month of March.

As shown on the following page is the up-to-date list of who has received **THE PAINTING** and currently who has possession.

It is now up to Jeff Pratt to hold and cherish **THE PAINTING** till the next CLOD retires.



## CEAC Past Presidents Celebrating Peter's Retirement

From l-r: **Mike Walford** (CEAC President 1990-91, Contra Costa); **Scott McGolpin** (2013-14, Santa Barbara); **Jim Porter** (2018-19 and 2020-21, San Mateo); **Mike Penrose** (2014-15, Sacramento); **Peter Rei** (2008-09, Tuolumne); **Mike Crump** (2006-07, Butte); **George Johnson** (2007-08, Riverside); **Pat DeChellis** (2009-10, Los Angeles); **Medhi Madjd-Sadjadi** (1998-99, Marin); and **Doug Wilson** (1996-97, Tulare).



# **DROPPINGS** (continued)

**THE PAINTING** has been given to CEAC Past Presidents with two exceptions-Tom Flinn, San Joaquin County, and Mitch Avalon, Contra Costa County-both in 2011. One can only guess that Maurice Shiu got tired of staring at **THE PAINTING** for almost 3 years and decided that he needed to give it to someone. And Tom Flynn's retirement was just the event!!!

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

January 1991	George Protopapas	San Luis Obispo County
November 1991	Verne Davis	Merced County
November 1992	George Protopapas	San Luis Obispo County
November 1994	Henry Hirata	San Joaquin County
March 1996	Doug Wilson	Tulare County
March 1999	Dave Gravenkamp	Siskiyou County
March 2000	Mike Walford	Contra Costa County
March 2000	Art Goulet	Ventura County
March 2000	Mike Walford	Contra Costa County
August 2002	Dave Gravenkamp	Siskiyou County
November 2002	Tom Hunter	Plumas County
March 2003	Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi	Marin County
March 2004	Ken Miller	San Bernardino County
March 2005	Don LaBelle	Alameda County
September 2006	Tom Hunter	Plumas County
March 2008	Gerry Shaul	Lake County
April 2008	Maurice Shiu	Contra Costa County
January 2011	Tom Flinn	San Joaquin County
March 2011	Mitch Avalon	Contra Costa County
September 2012	Phil Demery	Sonoma County
March 2016	Pat DeChellis	Los Angeles County
December 2016	Mike Crump	Butte County
August 2017	Julie Bueren	Contra Costa County
April 2018	John Presleigh	Santa Cruz County
June 2019	Mike Penrose	Sacramento County
August 2021	Peter Rei	Tuolumne County
December 2021	George Johnson	Riverside County
December 2021	Jim Porter	San Mateo County
December 2021	Rick Tippett	Trinity County
<b>March 2024</b>	<b>Brian Balbas</b>	<b>Contra Costa County</b>
<b>March 2024</b>	<b>Scott McGolpin</b>	<b>Santa Barbara County</b>
<b>March 2024</b>	<b>Jeff Pratt</b>	<b>Ventura County</b>

# Brian Balbas Retirement Celebration

## Brian Balbas Retirement Celebration

Heather Farms Community Center  
March 1, 2024

5:00 pm Check In & Mingie

6:00 pm Welcome & Dinner

Warren Lai, Contra Costa County Public Works Director

7:30 pm Honorary Speakers

Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor, Vice Chair

John Gioia, District I Supervisor

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Panos Kokkas, CEAC President  
County Engineers Association of California (CEAC)

Mehdi Sadjadi, retired Marin County Public Works Director  
Julie Bueren, retired Contra Costa County Public Works Director  
California's Loyal Order of Dedicated Servants (CLODS)

Heather Ballenger, City of Walnut Creek Public Works Director  
City-County Engineering Advisory Committee of Contra Costa County

Carolyn Halstenson, KAW Board Member  
KAW (Kids at Work)

Steve Kowalewski, Allison Knapp, Carrie Ricci, Joe Yee  
Contra Costa County Deputy Directors

8:30 pm Closing Remarks

Warren Lai, Contra Costa County Public Works Director



Brian is recognized by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
From l-r: **Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II**; **Brian**; and **Supervisor John Gioia, District I**



From the December 2022 CEAC Newsletter

**Supervisor Gioia** was at Brian's installation (with Brian's wife, Nicole) in Orange County (Anaheim) as the CEAC President for 2022-23

**Brian** is presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation**  
from CEAC

by **Panos Kokkas**  
CEAC President





# Brian Balbas Retirement Celebration (continued)



## CLODS at Brian's Retirement Celebration

From l-r: **Pat DeChellis**, CEAC President 2009-10; **George Johnson**, CEAC President 2007-08; **Mike Walford**, CEAC President 1990-91; **Mehdi Sadjadi**, CEAC President 1998-99; **Howard Dashiell**, CEAC President 2021-22; **Scott McGolpin**, CEAC President 2013-14; **Julie Bueren**, CEAC President 2010-11; **Jim Porter**, CEAC President 2018-19 and 2020-21; **Rick Tippett**, CEAC President 2019-20; and **Matt Machado**, CEAC President 2015-16.

Brian is presented by the CLODS with their shirt "Once a CLOD, Always a CLOD" (picture to the left below) - Brian is presented with the CLODS Clock made by the CEAC Historian, **Dave Gravenkamp**. Editor's Note; the clock is a "cow patty" and runs backwards just as the engraving is backwards.

(picture below) - Brian is presented with **THE PAINTING** by **Rick Tippett** who received **THE PAINTING** from **Jim Porter** at the 2021 Fall Conference. Rick had **THE PAINTING** for over 2 years!!!





# Brian Balbas Retirement Celebration (continued)



## CLODS at Brian's Retirement Celebration

From l-r: **Pat DeChellis**, CEAC President 2009-10; **George Johnson**, CEAC President 2007-08; **Mike Walford**, CEAC President 1990-91; **Mehdi Sadjadi**, CEAC President 1998-99; **Howard Dashiell**, CEAC President 2021-22; **Scott McGolpin**, CEAC President 2013-14; **Julie Bueren**, CEAC President 2010-11; **Jim Porter**, CEAC President 2018-19 and 2020-21; **Rick Tippett**, CEAC President 2019-20; and **Matt Machado**, CEAC President 2015-16.

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# Brian Balbas Retirement Celebration (continued)



Carolyn Halstenson (center), KAW (Kids at Work) Board Member, presents Brian with banner “We Will Toadally Miss You”; Warren Lai, Contra Costa County Public Works Director helping Carolyn with the banner

(picture below) - Steve Kowalewski, Carrie Ricci, Allison Knapp, and Joe Yee (Warren Lai is holding the sign) present Brian will sign recognizing his 35 years of Service to the County



Brian with another recognition of his 35 years of Service presented by the Contra Costa county Public Works Management Team



## Contra Costa County current and former Public Works Directors

From l-r: Warren Lai, Brian Balbas, Julie Bueren, and Mike Walford



# Scott McGolpin Retirement Celebration

## Scott McGolpin's Retirement Celebration

Glen Annie Golf Club – The Frog Bar and Grill  
March 14, 2024

5:30pm Check-In and Mingle

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Program/Roast...

Steve Lavagnino, Santa Barbara County Fifth District  
Supervisor, Emcee

**Honorary Speakers**

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Mona Miyasato, Santa Barbara County Executive Officer

Kevan Stone, NACE CEO  
National Association of County Engineers

Panos Kokkas, CEAC President  
County Engineers Association of California

Mehdi Sadjadi, retired Marin County Public Works  
Director

Brian Balbas, retired Contra Costa County Public Works  
Director

California's Loyal Order of Dedicated Servants (CLODS)

Wendy Motta, Congressman Carbajal Representative

Julie Sainz, Stantec  
American Public Works Association Award: Professional  
of the Year

Santa Barbara County Public Works Deputy Directors

Retirement Video – Lael Wageneck

Open Mic

**Closing Remarks**

Chris Sneddon, Director of Public Works Selectee

Retirement Cake Time



## CLODS at Scott's Retirement

From l-r: **Peter Rei**, CEAC President 2008-09; **Brian Balbas**, CEAC President 2022-23; **Scott McGolpin**, CEAC President 2013-14; **Pat DeChellis**, CEAC President 2009-10; and **Matt Machado**, CEAC President 2015-15

(picture to the left) - Scott is presented with a

## Certificate of Appreciation

from CEAC

by **Panos Kokkas**, CEAC President





# Scott McGolpin Retirement Celebration (continued)



(picture above, from l-r) - Pat DeChellis; Matt Machado; Tom Fayram, former Public Works Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County; Mike Leacox, NCE Engineering; Martin McIlroy, MG Engineering; Scott McGolpin; Merrin Gerety, CEAC Program Manager; Peter Rei, Panos Kokkas, Brian Balbas, and Mehdi Sadjadi, CEAC President 1998-99.

(picture to the left) - Mehdi representing the CLODS presents Scott with their shirt "Once a CLOD, Always a CLOD".

(picture below) - Scott is presented with the CLODS Clock made by the CEAC Historian, Dave Gravenkamp. Editor's Note; the clock is a "cow patty" and runs backwards just as the engraving is backwards.





# Scott McGolpin Retirement Celebration (continued)



(picture above to the left) - Brian Balbas with **THE PAINTING** after he stumbled bringing it to present to Scott as part of the tradition.

(picture above) - **Wendy Motta**, Congressman Carbajal Representative, presenting Scott with Certificate of **Special Congressional Recognition** signed by the Congressman.

(picture to the left) - **Julie Sainz**, Stantec, presenting Scott with the APWA Award: Professional of the Year.

(picture below) - l-r: **Kim Clark** and **Chris Sneddon** representing the Leadership Team at Santa Barbara County Public Works presenting Scott with plaque expressing their appreciation for Scott's 36 years of service to the people of Santa Barbara County.





# Scott McGolpin Retirement Celebration (continued)



## Scott with his family

from l-r:

- Wife, Ruth
- Daughter, Sarah
- Son, Samuel
- Mom, Hazel
- Sister, Kellee



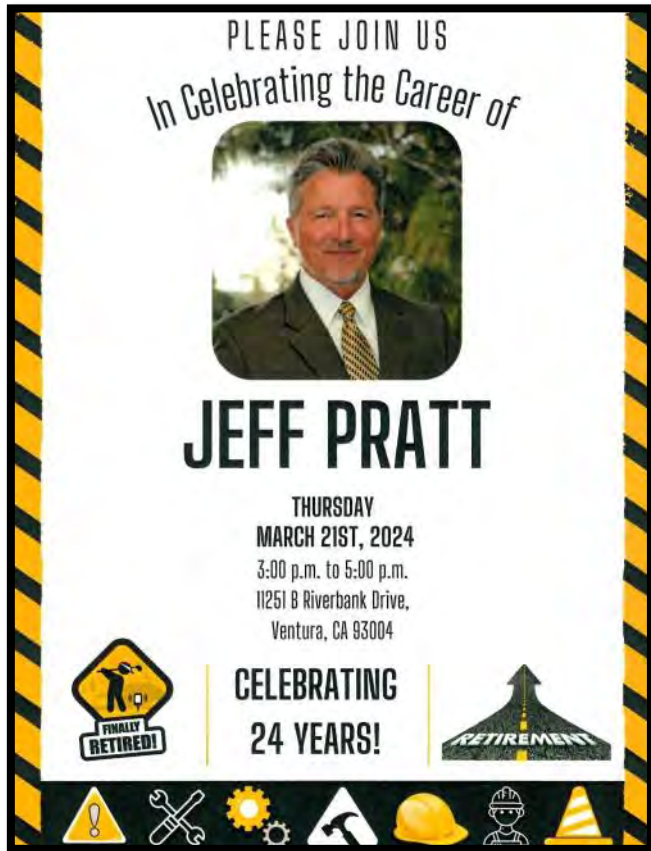
(picture to the left) - Brian didn't actually smash **THE PAINTING** as can be seen in this picture; Brian with the fake **PAINTING** and Scott with the real **PAINTING**. That is a **VERY good thing for Brian!!!**

(picture to the left, below) - **Kevan Stone**, NACE CEO, presenting Scott with his own "**McGolfin**". Kevan reporting said at the celebration that for years he thought Scott's last name was "**McGolfin**".





# Jeff Pratt Retirement Celebration



PLEASE JOIN US  
In Celebrating the Career of



**JEFF PRATT**

THURSDAY  
MARCH 21ST, 2024  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
11251 B Riverbank Drive,  
Ventura, CA 93004

**CELEBRATING  
24 YEARS!**

FINALY RETIRED!

RETIREMENT

! ✂ ⚙ ⚒ ⚙ ⚒ ⚙



(picture above) - Jeff is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from CEAC by **Brian Balbas** representing **Panos Kokkas**, CEAC President.

(picture below) - **Pat DeChellis** representing the CLODS presents Jeff with their shirt "Once a CLOD, Always a CLOD".





# Jeff Pratt Retirement Celebration (continued)



## CLODS at Jeff's Retirement

From l-r: **Brian Balbas**, CEAC President 2022-23; **Jeff Pratt**, CEAC President 2017-18; **Art Goulet**, CEAC President 1988-89; **Pat DeChellis**, CEAC President 2009-10; and **Scott McGolpin**, CEAC President 2013-14.

For those who might not be aware, **Art Goulet** was the Director of Public Works for Ventura County and hired Jeff in 2000. Art retired 3 months later, March 2000.

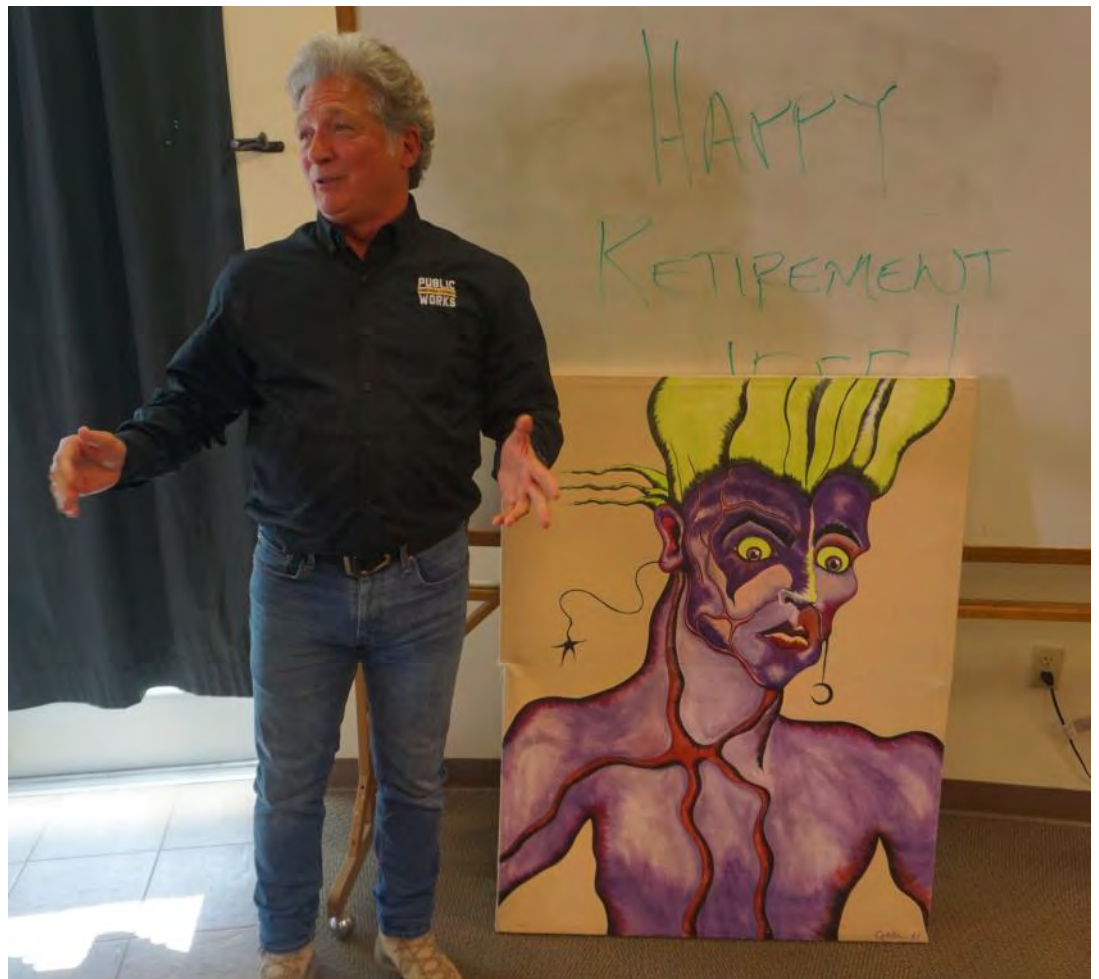


## Jeff Pratt Retirement Celebration (continued)



Scott McGolpin presenting *THE PAINTING* to Jeff.

Wonder just how long it will be that Jeff gets to “cherish” *THE PAINTING* before having to present it himself to the next CLOD that retires???





# CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL MEETING



CEAC Central Coast consists of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz Counties

## Regional Meeting January 2024 in Santa Maria

**Scott McGolpin**, Santa Barbara Co. Director of Public Works, with **Panos Kokkas**, CEAC President, Trinity Co.

in the forefront of the picture

Editor's Note: I could not get the names for everyone in the picture; those who are known to the Editor:

- Third from left—**Mike Leacox**, NCE Engineering
- Fourth from left—**John Diodati**, San Luis Obispo County Director of Public Works
- Fifth from left—**Walter Rublacava**, Central Coast Regional Director, Santa Barbara County
- Between Scott and Panos—**Chris Sneddon**, soon-to-be Santa Barbara County Director of Public Works
- Second from right—**Tom Fayram**, former Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Public Works



# Southern California Regional Report

By Nardy Khan, Regional Director,  
Deputy Director, Orange County Public Works

## ORANGE COUNTY

POST CONSTRUCTION LIVING SHORELINE:



PRE-CONSTRUCTION ERODED SLOPE AND ROAD WASH OUT:



**Living Shoreline in Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve-**  
Implementation of green alternatives, such as a living shoreline, can not only protect the integrity of flood facilities, but can also provide valuable habitat for our native species.

**Foothill Basins Maintenance:** A rotational sediment removal plan allows for maintenance of critical flood control facilities in canyons within fire hazard zones.



### **Newport Mesa Flyover:**

Aerial view of the Santa Ana Delhi Channel project, which will restore eroding slopes, improve recreational components and replace a pedestrian bridge.



# Southern California Regional Report (continued)

## ORANGE COUNTY

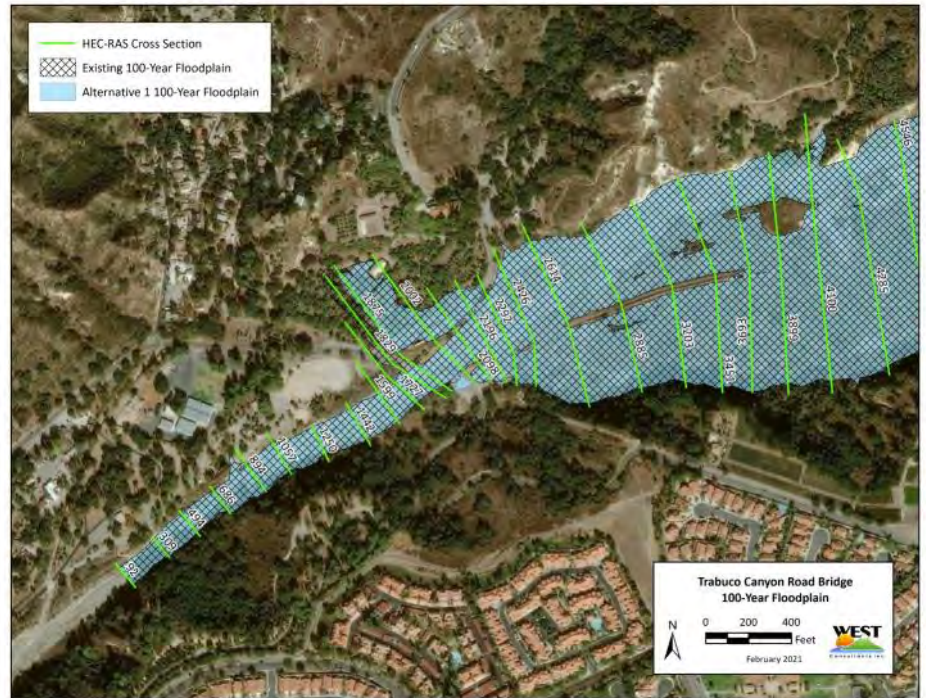


### Laguna Canyon Channel:

During heavy storms in February 2019, approximately 265 feet of the left side channel wall collapsed, and emergency bracing had to be installed. This project replaces the temporary fix and provides new aesthetic enhancements for the community.

### Trabuco Flood Map:

Existing floodplain for Trabuco Canyon; planned improvements will remove the existing box culvert bridge and replace it with a larger bridge to reduce overtopping and increase accessibility for emergency service vehicles and other users.



### Santa Ana Gardens Channel Bike Extension:

Project utilizes existing maintenance road to provide 0.75 miles of bikeway connection in economically disadvantaged community.

The improvement also include an upgrade to Friendship Park.



# Southern California Regional Report (continued)

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY



*(picture above)* Beaumont Line 16 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Beaumont Line 16 is a flood control storm drain project featuring water conservation elements, and it is a joint project between Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District.

The primary objective of this project is to provide flood protection to residents near Grand Avenue in Cherry Valley and increase groundwater recharge within the project vicinity



Paul Revere Division Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Training Ship Independence Naval Sea Cadet Corps presenting the colors at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Prado Dam Bicentennial Mural Restoration.

The original mural was completed on June 17, 1976 by 30 students from Corona High School as part of the Nation's bicentennial celebration. Over the years, the original mural had been damaged and defaced by weather and graffiti. Through the collaborative efforts of the original Corona High students, community members, businesses, sponsors, nonprofits, and local and federal governments, the Prado Dam Bicentennial Mural was restored in 2023.



# Southern California Regional Report (continued)

## IMPERIAL COUNTY

### **Project: Dogwood Road Bridge Replacement over Central Main Canal, Bridge No. 58C-0226**

**Scope:** Replacement of the existing bridge with a new prefabricated steel press-brake formed tub girder bridge with reinforced concrete footing and abutments set on Cast-in-steel-shell piles. It also included installation of sheet piles, AC pavement, class 2 aggregate shoulders, crash cushions, concrete barriers, signage, and striping. Additional work included relocation of existing utilities (i.e. Overhead IID Transmission Line, SoCal Gas underground pipeline, AT&T underground fiber optic line, AT&T overhead communication line, and IID Dogwood Canal facility).

**Construction Duration: May 2022 - February 2023. Total Cost of Project: \$6,951,542.34; Funding Source: Measure D-LTA Road Funds (Local Funds)**



### **Project: Clark Road Bridge Emergency Replacement over Central Main Canal, Bridge No. 58C-0227**

**Status: Construction Complete; Bridge and road open; Final Documents being completed.**

**Scope:** Replacement of the existing bridge with a new prefabricated steel press-brake formed tub girder bridge with reinforced concrete footing and abutments set on Cast-in-steel-shell piles. It also included installation of sheet piles, AC pavement, class 2 aggregate shoulders, crash cushions, concrete barriers, signage, and striping. Additional work included relocation of existing utilities (i.e. IID Dogwood Canal and Beech Drain).

**Construction Duration: May 2023 – January 2024. Total Cost of Project: \$ 5,967,118.41. Funding Source: State Aid Funds SB1-RMRA**



# Southern California Regional Report (continued)

## IMPERIAL COUNTY

### **Project: Replacement of the Picacho Road Bridge over Yuma Main Canal; County Project No. 6811**

**Status:** 80% Design Plans; Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant Application being prepared and to be submitted Mid-March 2024. If awarded, BIP grant will provide 80% funding for the total construction cost (ICDPW to provide 20% Match from SB1-RMRA funds). Bridge currently open with reduced weight restriction of 3 tons (detour route in place through First St. and Arnold Road)

**Scope:** Replacement of the existing bridge with a new prefabricated pre stressed concrete girder bridge with reinforced concrete footing and abutments set on Cast-in-steel-shell piles. It also includes AC pavement, class 2 aggregate shoulders, crash cushions, concrete barriers, signage, and striping. Additional work may include relocation of existing utilities (i.e. IID Pow powerline and Bard Water District headwall structure).

**Total Cost of Project:** Design Phase: \$ 622,869.00; Estimated Construction Cost: \$8,186,490.00

**Funding Source:** State Aid Funds SB1-RMRA (for Design Phase and Construction Match)





# Southern California Regional Report (continued)

## IMPERIAL COUNTY

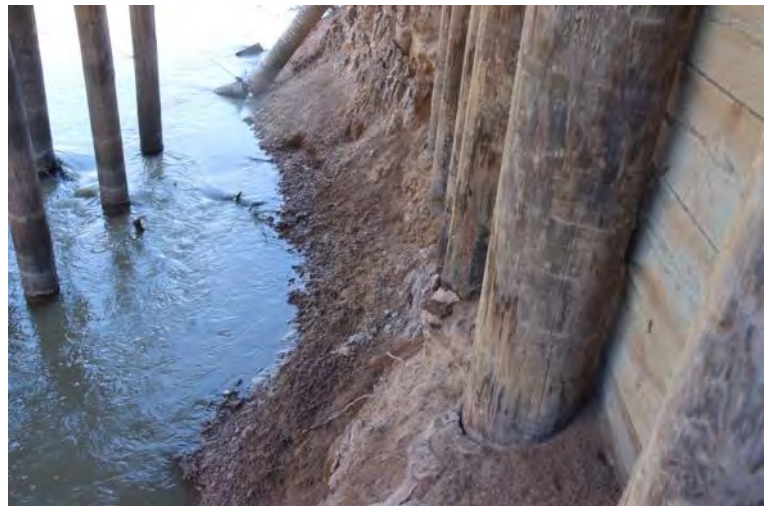
### **Project: Kalin Road Bridge over New River, Emergency Bridge Repair, County Project No, 7122EBR**

**Status:** Declared State of Emergency. Project Plans to be completed the week of March 11, 2024. Anticipate NTP to be submitted the week of March 11, 2024. Construction anticipated to begin early April 2024.

**Scope:** According to Caltrans structure maintenance & investigation record of critical findings report, stream born debris build-up in front of the center bent has led to a large "island" that appears to be pushing storm flows to the south bridge abutment embankment causing the extensive erosion. Due to the extensive erosion, slope stability of the abutment has become critical, that is, further storm flows could lead to slope failure. In the critical finding report, Caltrans recommends two immediate actions:

1) Place scour countermeasures such that further erosion is prevented and some measure of stability is restored to the abutment slope.

2) Remove stream flow debris buildup at center bent. Our Department plans on driving steel pipe piles and sheet piles behind the existing timber retaining wall to provide slope stability, scour protection, and mitigate slope failure. Additionally, the stream debris buildup that has formed will be removed.



**Total Cost of Project:** Exploratory boring work and Geotechnical Report: \$ 50,767.95;  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$731,424.00

**Funding Source:** TBD

# Southern California Regional Report (continued)

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### Proactive Infrastructure Implementation



- High-visibility Crosswalks
- Leading Pedestrian Intervals
- Deter Street Takeovers and Speeding
  - Centerline Hardening
  - Traffic Circles
  - Speed Reduction Markings



### Quick-Build Projects

- Florence-Firestone
  - Firestone Blvd – #1 ranked CCC
- View Park/Windsor Hills
  - Treatments to Curb Street Takeovers and Speeding



### Roadway Reconfiguration Projects



- East Los Angeles – City Terrace Drive
- Rosewood – San Pedro St, et al.
- Walnut Park – Pacific Blvd, et al.



### Slow Streets Program

- Created in response to COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Promotes traffic calming
  - Helps communities comply with physical distancing
  - Encourages physical activity
- Currently developing a permanent program



## 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.

For public sector job seekers, the CEAC Website can be an invaluable job-hunting resource. This page allows direct access to job listings posted by public-sector employers. We urge you to check this site often, since new jobs are posted regularly.

There is a submittal fee for each job opportunity listing. For CEAC members (county public works and CEAC affiliate members), the cost is \$130 per listing; for non-members, \$208 per listing. Each opening runs for six weeks or until the posted application deadline.

Click on the following link for current job openings: <https://www.ceaccounties.org/resources/job-opportunities/>

To recruit candidates, you may email a position announcement/description or direct link to the position to Merrin Gerety at [mgerety@counties.org](mailto:mgerety@counties.org)





## CEAC Board of Directors

Heather Farms Park  
301 N. San Carlos Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
Friday, March 1, 2024 | 4:00pm- 5:00pm

# DRAFT MINUTES

4:04 pm

Call to Order (Kokkas) - Quorum

1. **Approval of Minutes** (Leamon-Penrose)

November 17, 2023 - Approved

2. **Correspondence** (Kokkas)

Jeff Blue reported that he enjoyed the Fall Conference and CLODS BBQ.

3. **CLODS Report** (CLODS)

George Johnson thanked the Board for the CLODS invitation to NACE 2024/Fall Conference in Palm Springs.

4. **NACE Report** (Dashiell)

Howard Dashiell and Matt Machado attended the 'Concurrent Washington Legislative Swing' Conference. Sixteen County Engineers attended. Among the highlights included a very good meeting with FEMA representatives.

5. **CSAC Report** (Gerety)

CSAC staff will not be attending the NACE 2024 due to a conflict with the CSAC Legislative Conference. They will provide updates to CEAC.

6. **Regional Directors Reports**

a. Bay Area (NP)

b. Central Coast (NP)

c. Northern California (Bronkall)

Bedroll Conference is scheduled for July 24-27, 2024

D. Sacramento Mother Lode (McFarlane)

Discussed maintenance agreements with Caltrans, EVs on fleets, airport managers, Rule 20A, raised pavement markers, and coaching and mentoring.

E. San Joaquin Valley (Leamon)

Charles (?) with Stanislaus County was awarded the Employee of the Years Award at the San Joaquin Road Commissioners Meeting.

f. Southern California (Khan)

At their February 29 meeting, discussed topics related to traffic management, composting, green waste. Photos for the regional update sent to Pat DeChellis.

7. **Treasurer's Report** (Johnson)

Update on finances, 53 out of 58 counties have paid their dues. Discussion about reaching out to counties that are still outstanding for payment.

8. **Committee Reports:** (No reports)

**9. Unfinished Business**

Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment - Report and Committee update (Leamon)

RFP was released and selection expected within a few weeks. Fresno County won an award for the safety and intelligent transportation project. San Francisco won in the complete streets category. Honorable mentions to Los Angeles and Tehama counties.

**10. New Business**

Caltrans freeway maintenance agreement (Kokkas) – *Discussion Item*

Caltrans is asking locals to assume maintenance of facilities within their right of way. CSAC is working on this issue and local agencies are as well.

**11. Life Membership**

Jeff Pratt, Ventura County - retiring March 21, 2024. Jeff has been a past president and CLOD. Motion to approve by Johnson, second by DeChellis.

**12. Announcements**

**Scheduled Conferences**

- a) 2024 CEAC Spring Conference, is being held in 2024 with the NACE Conference
- b) NACE Annual Conference, Palm Springs, Riverside County, CA April 15-18, 2024
- c) CEAC Bedroll Conference, Camp Tehama, July 24-26, 2024
- d) CEAC Policy Conference, Capitol Event Center, Sacramento, August 22-23, 2024 (19th Annual CEAC Policy Conference)
- e) CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, Pasadena, Los Angeles County, November 18-22, 2024 (CSAC 130th Annual Meeting)
- f) CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, San Jose Convention Center, Santa Clara County, December 1-5, 2025

**13. CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule**

- a) NACE Annual Conference, Palm Springs, April 17, 2024
- b) CEAC Policy Conference, Sacramento, August 22-23, 2024
- c) CSAC 130th Annual Meeting, Pasadena, November 22, 2024

5:00 pm **Adjourn** (Balbas-DeChellis)



Meeting Roster  
**Voting Board Members: Officers & Regional Directors**

P indicates present at the meeting

## DRAFT MINUTES

<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	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	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
Nathan Bray	San Joaquin Valley	Merced
Nardy Khan	Southern California	Orange
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>County</b>
Josh Pack	Administrative	Butte
Pattie McNamee <b>P</b>	Fellowship	Contra Costa (Retired)
Nardy Khan <b>P</b>	Flood Control/Water Resources	Orange
Matt Randall	Infrastructure & Development	Placer
Panos Kokkas <b>P</b>	Oversight	Trinity
Tom Koutroulis	Resource Recovery & Waste	Orange
Alicia Myers	Scholarship	Mendocino
Ian Wilson	Surveyor	Alameda
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 Rossow	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety <b>P</b>	CEAC Program Manager	CSAC/CEAC
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>	
Mike Leacox		NCE