



CEAC Newsletter

April
2025

President's Message



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By **David A. Leamon, PE, MPA**
Public Works Director & Road Commissioner
Stanislaus County

Greetings fellow County Engineers, CLODS, and our consulting friends,

I had a wonderful Spring conference that we shared with the Public Works Officers Institute (PWOI) of the League of California Cities at Universal City in Los Angeles County. I would like to thank our friends at Los Angeles County Public Works for being a great host County again, the weather was fantastic, genuine weather. A special thanks goes out to our dedicated hospitality suite crew - Scott Deleon, Blossom Scott-Heim, Martin McIlroy, and Mike Leacox.

As your 2025 CEAC President, I am on the Strategic Highway Safety Program (SHSP) Executive Leadership Committee. The Caltrans SHSP team was at our conference, which was a good session, too. I shared some of our concerns at the Executive Leadership meeting about the troubles with basic maintenance, much less trying to improve our networks to hit the ambitious goal of Zero fatalities by 2050. There was some consensus of an interim goal for the next 4-year cycle of the SHSP.

Pat DeChellis and I were discussing a look back and a look forward for this newsletter. I love history as it adds context to where we have been and where we might go. It has been interesting to see past practice for the President's before. I dutifully filled out the NACE State report, took a couple of hours, not too bad. I like sleeping on things before I give them a second look. It dawned on me the next morning, what am I doing?

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

**Review
Revision
Rejection**

Editor: Pat DeChellis



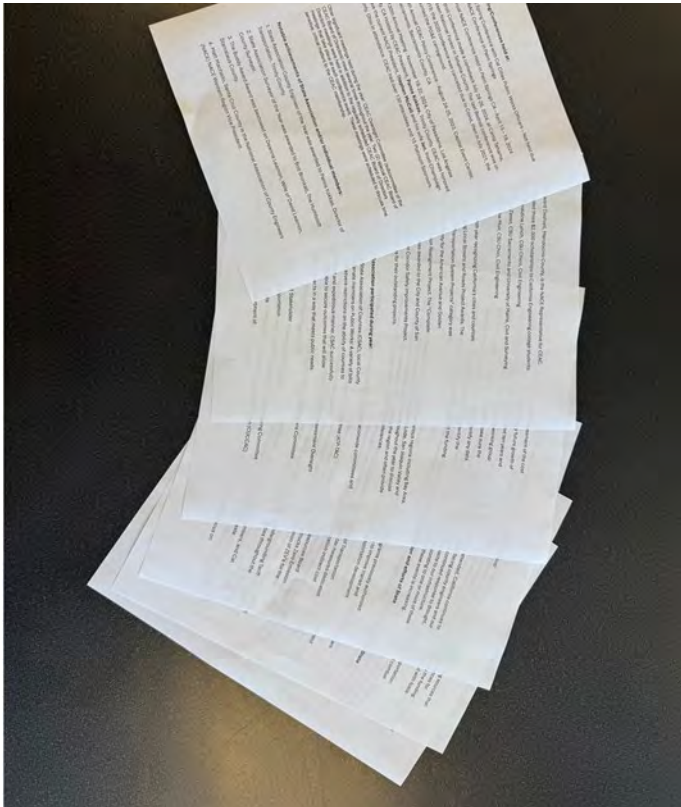
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

This:



Located at: [CEAC Publications - County Engineers Association of California](#)

Or that:



I personally like the full color 12-page version much better than the wall of text on 6 pages. I wrote a cover letter and sent off the color CEAC 2024 annual report to NACE.

I discovered writing the CEAC submissions for NACE Rural and Suburban Engineer of the Year award that if you are not super active in NACE, there are not enough points in the scoring rubric for a CEAC member to win. With that information in hand the Board discussed last Friday and decided to allow the President to make the call to submit or not submit if the CEAC Engineer of the Year award winner is not active in NACE and missed too many points for participation in NACE. This makes sense as it is the NACE EOY award and they want to recognize their own for active participation in NACE.

One of the treasures of yore, is the gavel that does not come out of the Presidential collection box except once a year. I appreciate that old gavel as it is a relic of a different place and time. It comes from the era of 2-martini lunches, think Mad Men era. I looked for the history of the gavel and have not found anything yet.

It is fun to wield a gavel during official events. It seems to me that the CEAC President should have a gavel that is presentable in public. I have gathered some wood that will be donated for a new gavel to be donated to CEAC. I have some Oak wood out of the 100-year-old oak tree in my backyard that will be turned into a new gavel. That tree has a fun story that is short. I was told by my 93-year-old neighbor Paul, who lived there since 1969 (the year I was

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

born) the story of my 100-year-old oak tree. Mr. and Mrs. Tilson, of Modesto Lumber fame, built the house I live in. They and their two little girls dug a small hole in the backyard and planted an acorn, then they all spit on the acorn and voila - there is the monster in my backyard that spans my entire yard and is about 10 feet into either neighbors yard on both sides.



One last thing to share. The Snap-E-Tom reception is no more, for now. I know this sounds like Buffalo Bull Award winning, but again times have changed and are continuing to change. In consultations with the CEAC Leadership team, the CEAC Executive Director and CEAC Treasurer, the cost far outweighed the benefits of this reception. The last one was in Palm Springs in 2024. There were more CEAC people there than there were Snappy Tom drinkers from NACE. The hotels have sucked the fun out of the Snap-E-Tom. We are required to buy their booze and have a hotel bartender make the drinks. The cost is now upwards of \$1500, compared to NACE in Orange Beach Alabama which was the last Snap-E-Tom reception that we were allowed to buy the booze, mix the drinks and serve the Bloody Mary's. As an aside, the Snap-E-Tom brand Tomato and Chile Cocktail juice has been unavailable since the mid-2010's as Campbell Soup discontinued the brand.

Compare this to the origin of the Snap-E-Tom as told by CEAC Historian, Dave Gravenkamp (June 2016 CEAC Newsletter):

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

*I may have already told this story, but if I can't remember, then there is a good chance that you can't either. Like most of my stories about our history, they in large measure come from **The Old Crow, Bill McIntosh**. Bill, throughout his career as Lassen County Public Works Director, and probably still today, kept a daily diary. No doubt his diaries have enabled him to accurately "recall" our past.*

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

The next year, 1966, the NACE Annual Conference was held in Cleveland. Both Bruce and Bill attended and decided to have another reception. Two cases of Snap-E-Tom mix were shipped in by Greyhound bus. As a hospitality suite

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

wasn't available, the reception was held in their room. Needless to say, it was a bit crowded. NACo met in New Orleans that year, and the Lambie-led clan put on the third California Snap-E-Tom Reception in two years at the Monteleone Hotel.

The following year, 1967, the NACE Annual Conference was held in Seattle. To show a little "class", Bruce and Bill bought three gallon jugs of the cheapest juice you could find, emptied the jugs, filled them with the Snap-E-Tom mixture, set up a table at the entrance to the elevator at the base of the Space Needle, and served Snap-E-Toms to the members as they headed to the top of the Needle. Later the same year, NACo met in Detroit, coincidentally at the same time as the Detroit riots. On the first night of the conference, a 9:00pm curfew was in effect in the City. On the second night, the curfew was extended to 10:00pm. Despite these obstacles, California managed another reception. Two more receptions were held in 1968, the first in April at the Savory Hotel in Des Moines at the NACE Annual Conference and then in July at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., at the NACo Annual Conference. Bill indicated that his suite at the Savory Hotel was so large that it had three room numbers, more than enough room for all of the Snap-E-Tom attendees to fit comfortably.

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

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

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

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

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

(President's Note: *The Snap-E-Tom Reception had a good run and lasted from 1965 through 2024, excepting 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency)*

I'm certainly not pleased that the Snap-E-Tom reception was discontinued during my watch, but it had to be done. I too am sad to see the passing of a long cherished CEAC tradition. This is what leaders do, lead, and do what must be done. I'll take my lashings later!

I think this is enough for one newsletter. Know that I love CEAC, all of you, the CLODS, the members and our affiliates and sponsors. You are all what truly makes this organization great, it's the people!

David A. Leamon

2025 CEAC President

YOU TOO COULD BE A CEAC OFFICER!

**CEAC is currently looking for volunteers for Regional Director for the
Central Coast and Bay Area Regions.**

Please contact any of the current officers for more details.

It's less work than you think!



**CEAC would like to thank all of our
SPONSORS
for making the Spring Conference
another SUCCESS Story!!!**



WHAT'S HAPPENING Around the State!!!

SAVE the DATES

- ♦ **2025 NACE Annual Conference** - April 14-17, 2025, Chicago (Schaumburg), IL
- ♦ **40th Annual Bedroll Conference** - June 25-27, 2025, Camp Tehama (see next page for registration)
- ♦ **20th Annual CEAC Policy Conference** - August 21-22, 2025, Capital Event Center, Sacramento
- ♦ **131st CSAC Annual Fall Meeting** - December 1-5, 2025, San Jose Convention Center, Santa Clara Co.
- ♦ **2026 CEAC Spring Conference** - February 25-27, 2026, Monterey



NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS

CALAVERAS COUNTY—MICAH MARTIN

Micah Martin was appointed the Director of Public Works for Calaveras County January 27, 2025. Micah comes to the County with a bachelor's degree in public works administration and over 25 years of private and public sector experience in municipal water and sewer systems, storm drains, solid waste, environmental services, parks, facility and fleet maintenance:

- Senior Public Works Inspector for the City of Fontana
- Public Works Supervisor for the City of Morgan Hill
- Maintenance and Operations Manager for the City of West Covina
- Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Newport Beach
- Public Works Services Director for the City of Rancho Cucamonga



Micah replaces interim director Craig Pedro who was handling the duties since the previous Director, Robert Pachinger, departed in June 2024.

KERN COUNTY—JOSHUA CHAMPLIN

Joshua Champlin was appointed by the Board of Supervisors for Kern County as the Director of Public Works effective August 5, 2023. Joshua was the Interim Director since March 2023 and has been with Kern County since Dec 2007. He graduated from UC Davis in 2004 with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering.

PLUMAS COUNTY—ROB THORMAN

Rob Thorman was appointed the Director of Public Works for Plumas County in September 2024. Rob graduated from San Jose State with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Structural Engineering in 1993. He has held various structural engineering positions since graduation and began working for Plumas County in April 2015 as an Associate Engineer. He was appointed Assistant Director in October 2021.





40TH ANNUAL
CEAC NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BEDROLL CONFERENCE
CAMP TEHAMA, MINERAL CA



Check in Wed 6-25-25, Check out Fri 6-27-25 noon

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: \$60.00 for county representatives
\$120.00 all others
Free for non-working CLODS

Registration Deadline: 06/17/2025 **LIMITED TO FIRST 90 PARTICIPANTS**

Mail check and registration to: Mendocino County Department of Transportation
Attn: Howard N. Dashiell
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4363

Make checks payable to CEAC
Federal Tax ID # 237060404

Name: _____

Title: _____

Agency Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Accommodations: ☐ camp bunk house; ☐ own tent; ☐ staying off-site

I will eat the following meals:

- 6/25 Dinner (Salmon or chicken by request) ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - 6/26 Breakfast..... ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - 6/27 Lunch..... ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - 6/27 Dinner (BBQ steak)..... ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - 6/28 Breakfast..... ☐ Yes ☐ No
-

NACE REPORT



Howard Dashiell CEAC Representative to NACE

From February 26th to 27th 2025, the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) concurrently with the National Association of Counties (NACo) were in our nation's capital. 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 policy-makers who control these critical resources. Our group met with staff from the White House, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and the US Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Matt Machado, Santa Cruz County Deputy County Administrative Officer-Director of Community Development & Infrastructure and currently the NACE Western Region Vice President, prepared the following remarks to be used when addressing County Supervisors at the NACo meeting:

The NACo FEMA Task Force was formed to assist in needed reform. The task force's mission is to foster a strong intergovernmental partnership with our state and federal counterparts, provide tangible federal policy recommendations and emphasize the vital role counties play in the disaster space before Congress and the new administration. We know that without strong collaboration across all levels of government, our communities lack the critical resources and support necessary to protect residents while maintaining essential services. Achieving this requires innovative local approaches and targeted reforms to ensure resources reach impacted communities more equitably and efficiently. Additionally, the task force purpose is: To modernize federal assistance policies and practices, strengthen intergovernmental partnerships, and develop local capacities that improve our nation's disaster mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities.

Our NACo ask:

Streamline FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program

FEMA PA represents one of the most critical resources to aid in recovery efforts following a disaster. However, the program is cumbersome, unintuitive and bureaucratically difficult to navigate.

Support any legislation that reduces paperwork and expedites funding for local communities through FEMA PA to ensure recovery efforts happen in an efficient and effective manner.

Create Universal Disaster Application for Disaster Survivors.

Following a disaster, residents face countless applications with duplicative information that leads to poor outcomes for individuals in the most difficult times of their lives.

Support passage of the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act (S.1528 in the 118th Congress) which would create a universal disaster application for disaster survivors.



Photo from February 2025 NACE/FEMA meeting in Washington DC

Left - **Noel Castillo**, San Bernardino County Public Works Director

Center - **Matt Machado**, Santa Cruz County Deputy CAO and NACE Western Region VP, speak to FEMA leadership on left.

NACE REPORT (continued)

Ensure Reimbursement for Loan Interest Under FEMA Public Assistance

Following a disaster, many local communities have to take out large loans to assist in the immediate recovery efforts. However, under current law, any interest incurred on these loans is not reimbursable through FEMA Public Assistance.

Support the FEMA Loan Interest Payment Relief Act (S.1180/H.R.2672 in 118th Congress) which would allow for interest on disaster loans to be reimbursed by FEMA.

Lastly, we are focused on getting a seat at the Presidents newly forming committee on FEMA reform. The goal is for this new committee to be set up in 90 days and to have a report in an additional 180 days. We are hopeful that one of our task force members gets a seat at this table. We are drafting a white paper on this now, to convince the white house to include Counties. See attached NACo letter.

This year, one of CEAC's newer members - **Noel Castillo**, San Bernardino County Public Works Director – attended the meetings and said the following: *I wanted to express my gratitude for your leadership and guidance during the trip. I was truly impressed by how concise and effective our messaging was—it was purposeful and impactful. As I continue to get to know the team, I'd love to explore how I can assist in the future. For now, I will continue to champion the eloquent speaking points you all developed. The bullet points were very effective and made a noticeable impact with the administrations staff.*

CEAC is excited to have Noel's involvement – CEAC & NACE need participation to show state and federal leaders we are need reforms in order to accomplish our mission.

Future NACE Conferences (all in the Spring, usually mid-April):

2025, Illinois, Schaumburg (Cook County), April 14-17, 2025

2026, Texas, Arlington (Tarrant County), April 12-15, 2026

2027, Ohio



The Largest Event for County Infrastructure Professionals



See you in Schaumburg!!!

CEAC PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION and BANQUET

March 20, 2025

View from the Starview Room atop the Sheraton Universal Hotel

CEAC President,

David Leamon

invites you to the 2025 CEAC President's Banquet.

Please join us for dinner with your colleagues and the presentation of the infamous
Buffalo Bull Award!



PRESIDENT'S BANQUET (continued)



THE CLODS at THE BANQUET

Picture to the left: **Mehdi Sadjadi** (CEAC President 1998-99; Sandra Miller; **Ken Miller** (2000-01); **Scott McGolpin** (2013-14); **Panos Kokkas** (2023-24); Luann Johnson; **George Johnson** ((2007-08)

Picture to the right: **Jim Porter** (2018-19 and 2020-21); **Tom Mattson** (2012-13); **Doug Wilson** (1996-97); Nicole Balbas; **Brian Balbas** (2022-23); **Mike Penrose** (2014-15); **Howard Dashiell** (2021-22)



PRESIDENT'S BANQUET (continued)



PRESIDENT'S BANQUET (continued)



BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2025



1st Nominee - Panos Kokkas

This was Panos' 4th consecutive nomination, a record that no one will even match!!!

♦ **Panos** was nominated for his sarcastic referral of the Buffalo Bull Award as the "Excellence Award" and his continuing "cavalier" attitude especially towards the CLODS and the Tres Pinos Committee.



2nd Nominee - David Leamon

♦ **Dave** was nominated for his "bemeaning" the Newsletter, his involvement in the entertainment for the 2024 CLODS BBQ, and not knowing the home address for CEAC.

3rd Nominee—Tom Mattson

♦ **Tom** was nominated for threatening to kill "Pat" at the 2022 Buffalo Bull Award Presentation and the fact that the entire entertainment for the 2024 CLODS BBQ was of his making.



BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2025

(continued)

So, which one of these distinguished and very deserving County Engineer received the 2025 Buffalo Bull Award???



BUFFALO BULL AWARD—2025

(continued)

So, what did Mr. Leamon, our Beloved President, do or didn't do? In this case, it was what he did as follows:

1. When Dave was CEAC Secretary, the Minutes for the Board meeting in March 2023 referred to the Newsletter Editor as the City Engineer for the City of La Canada Flintridge when he knew (or, at least should have known) that he was the Director of Public Works for La Canada Flintridge.
2. For his performance as Carnac at the recent CLODS BBQ.
3. For his involvement in the emergency response on stage at the BBQ.
4. But, the most serious of his dastardly deeds is that he included the CSAC address for CEAC on a letter he sent to the Senior CLOD regarding to-night's presentation. Yes, he included an above average amount of a... kissing in the letter but he should have known that Article 1, Section 2 of the CEAC Bylaws state – The headquarters of the association shall be located at the office of the Treasurer.

BTW, Dave did several other things at the President's Banquet totaling at least another 4 or 5 miscues that aren't even included above; they really weren't needed by the Tres Pinos Committee to "justify" their selection of Dave as the recipient of the 2025 Buffalo Bull Award.



Panos is congratulating **Dave** on a "job well done"! I am sure that Panos thought that he was going to receive the Award for the 3rd time!



David Leamon
with
Stanislaus County Supervisor
Buck Condit,
Chair of the Board
and the
2025 Buffalo Bull Award



Picture taken 4-01-2025

BUFFALO BULL AWARD - RECIPIENTS 2003 to 2025



Gerry Shaul
2003 & 2005



Phil Demery
2004 & 2009



Carl Bonomini
2006



Maurice Shiu
2007



Pat DeChellis
2008 & 2011



Scott McGolpin
2010



Julie Bueren
2012



Rick Tippet
2013



Mike Penrose
2014

Matt Machado
2015



Jeff Pratt
2016



John Presleigh
2017



Mike Carlson
2018



Jim Porter
2019

No Award Given
2020



Tom Mattson
2021



Panos Kokkas
2022 & 2023

No Award Given
2024



David Leamon
2025

BUFFALO BULL AWARD - FUN FACTS

Some “fun” facts about the Buffalo Bull Award:

This is only the second time the Buffalo Bull Award Recipient was from Stanislaus County. The only other time was in 2015, when Matt Machado, Mr. Leamon’s predecessor, received the Award.

4 counties have received the Award 4 times:

1. Trinity
 - ♦ Panos Kokkas - 2022 and 2023
 - ♦ Rick Tippet – 2013
 - ♦ Carl Bonomini – 2006
2. San Mateo
 - ♦ Jim Porter – 2019
 - ♦ Neil Cullen – 1999
 - ♦ Bob Sans – 1993
 - ♦ Sid Cantrell – 1976
3. Contra Costa
 - ♦ Mike Carlson – 2018
 - ♦ Julie Bueren – 2012
 - ♦ Maurice Shiu – 2007
 - ♦ Mike Walford – 1988
4. Los Angeles
 - ♦ Pat DeChellis – 2008 and 2011
 - ♦ Tom Tidemanson – 1983
 - ♦ Irv Morhar – 1972; **Irv was the initial recipient – he planted plastic trees on Slauson Blvd when real trees kept dying due to vehicle emissions.**

Some additional fun facts:

1. Anyone else besides Panos and the Newsletter Editor received the Award more than once?
 - ♦ **Phil Demery** received the Award twice but with 2 separate counties (2004 - Santa Barbara and 2009 - Sonoma).
 - ♦ **Tom Hunter** (Plumas County) received the Award in consecutive years 1997 and 1998.
 - ♦ **Jerry Shaul** (Lake County) received the Award in 2003 and 2005.
2. Anyone besides these recipients hold the Award for more than one year?
 - ♦ **Peter Rei** (2001 Recipient) held the Award for 2 years because it was not given in 2002 since CEAC hosted the 2002 NACE Annual Conference and there was no Spring Conference.
 - ♦ **Jim Porter** (2019 Recipient) also held the Award for 2 years because CEAC did not have an in-person Conference in 2020.
2. But, **Panos** held the Award for 3 years because it was not given in 2024 since CEAC once again hosted the Annual NACE Conference. Three years is a record that appears to be **UNBREAKABLE!!!**
3. Another record that **Panos** holds that will never be matched is that he was nominated 4 consecutive years for the Award, receiving the Award in 2022 and 2023.
4. Who held the Award for the shortest time?
 - ♦ **Tom Mattson**—he received the award at the Fall Conference in 2021 because the Spring Conference in 2021 was virtual; Panos received the 2022 Award at the 2022 Spring Conference meaning that Tom held the award for approx. 4 months. Another record that will probably never be matched let alone broken.

DAVID FLEISCH'S RETIREMENT

February 12, 2025



Whereas, Mr. David Fleisch was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and after graduation from continuation high school in San Jose, CA, having left Missouri one step in front of the law and receiving a denial of admittance to the US Naval Academy, he settled for the only school that would take him, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He somehow graduated in 1982, being gifted a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering. During a time of desperately low recruiting numbers, to everyone's astonishment, Mr. Fleisch was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy CEC; and

Whereas, Mr. Fleisch needed to buttress his technical skills due to his poor undergraduate performance at a lackluster school, he was sent to UC Berkeley under a special program for mediocre military officers and surprised everyone by earning a Master of Science in Civil Engineering in 1987. He further shocked everyone by graduating from the Naval War College in 1996 with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies where the motto is "it's only a lot of work if you do it" — he lived that motto to a "T"; and

Whereas, during his so-so naval career, Mr. Fleisch served in various roles, including Chief Staff Officer, Naval Base Ventura County, Commanding Officer Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE, Chief, Engineering Division, U.S. Pacific Command, and Production Officer for the Navy Public Works Center, San Diego where his success can be mostly attributed to dumb luck and some truly amazing subordinates; and

Whereas, Mr. Fleisch was finally flushed out of the Navy as a Captain in 2009 after 28 years of dedicated, but second rate service. Following his disastrous military career, he was desperate for work so began his tenure with one of the few places that hadn't heard about his inferior technical skills, Ventura County, as the Director of Roads & Transportation, later hoodwinking Jeff Pratt to promote him to Assistant Public Works Agency Director in 2021, a job he created, so that he could finally stop pretending to be busy after delegating virtually all his work to the leaders of his three operational departments; and

Whereas, Mr. Fleisch's weak leadership and blurry vision have resulted in significant contributions to the County's engineering and construction firms profits through the mismanagement of countless infrastructure and Public Works initiatives over the years including Calleguas Creek Sediment Removal Project, Dolon Road Realignment, Santa Rosa Valley Road Repaving Slurry Seal and many others; and development of a leading edge bridge management program during which no bridges have actually collapsed under his inferior leadership but somehow during his last board meeting he was the subject of intense fact driven public comment about the intolerable condition of the entire county road network; and

Whereas, Mr. Fleisch and his wife are residents of the City of Ventura and active in their church and other organizations and we're hopeful that these activities will keep him from doing further damage to the reputation of the County and The Public Works Agency; and

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the all members of the Public Works Agency expresses their deepest sense of relief and appreciation that Mr. David Fleisch is finally being escorted out of the building after his 43 years of slipshod public service, including his uninspiring contributions to the County of Ventura. The Agency wishes Mr. Fleisch the best in his retirement from the role of Ventura County Assistant Public Works Director and hope that he's able to finally enjoy his afternoon nap without fear of being disturbed by his subordinates coming to ask him technical questions.



DAVID FLEISCH'S RETIREMENT (continued)



Dave and Joan Araujo, Director, Central Services Department, Ventura County Public Works

Hello – I'm Joan Araujo, one of the Department Directors here at Public Works.

In life there are people you meet whom you become instant friends and collaborators, and it seems this occurs without any effort. Instantly you know you can trust someone and that you have equal principals, faith, and ethics. For me that happened six years ago, nearly to this day.

I joined Public Works after about 5 rounds of interviews. Oddly, Dave Fleisch was not a part of the selection process. Instead, I met him right after I transferred here. I already knew the majority of Public Works' leadership team through construction projects, LEAP, and recovery teams from Fires. Every two weeks we have All-Directors meetings where we share information, collaborate, report out, make Agency wide decisions, ***take instruction well from Dave, even on little things like how to use a mouse.*** Immediately after our first meeting Dave popped into my cubicle and gave me a resounding approval. *What a surprise this was.* Working with Dave is working with a force, one not to be questioned, he is a leader through and through.

But actually, there is a secret softer side of Dave. One that welcomes questions. That purposefully reflects on hard messages he has to deliver. He puts great effort into mentoring and guiding staff. He has the unique skill of always seeing the bigger picture and connecting the dots. He is one to apologize if he feels he has said or done something wrong. He is sincere. And just like in his years in the Dirt Navy, he steps up at a moments notice when he is called.

It was January 2021, we were all in the thick of COVID, the vaccine had just been released, the public was angry and did not want to wait. The CEO's office notified our then boss that I was being called up as a Disaster Service Worker to open the County's first vaccine center. Jeff, our Director at the time, Dave and I met. Dave quickly stated this was not a job for one person. The two of us would serve together. We saw the empty building at the fairgrounds on that Friday, met the other DSW's for a brief period. We got the keys to the building at 0800 on Monday, set up, orientated staff on the work flow we created and saw our first patient at 10:00. In fact, that day we saw about 400 patients. Over time we gave almost 2,000 vaccines a day, we dealt with power outages, rotating staff, unexpected contract nurses, the rearranging of furniture, the adding of tents, high winds that sailed through the building, news crews, guards that carried a cane and guard that carried guns, we lost our wi-fi, we worked to appease the irate public, and more. We opened the building before the sun rose and we closed it long after the sun set. This was our routine for 6-days a week from January until early June. Dave and I each walked 8-10 miles a day inside of one big Quonset hut. There is no one on earth I would rather have been paired with to tackle the challenge. We often didn't speak for hours, each tackling different issues to keep the vaccine flow moving, but we synchronized like we had long rehearsed the dance. Soon we trained up the other vaccine clinic managers and taught them the methods we used to master the madness. I think it was in this era where he became my work husband, my *'other Dave'*, and he corrects me just like the one at home does. *Crazy huh?!*

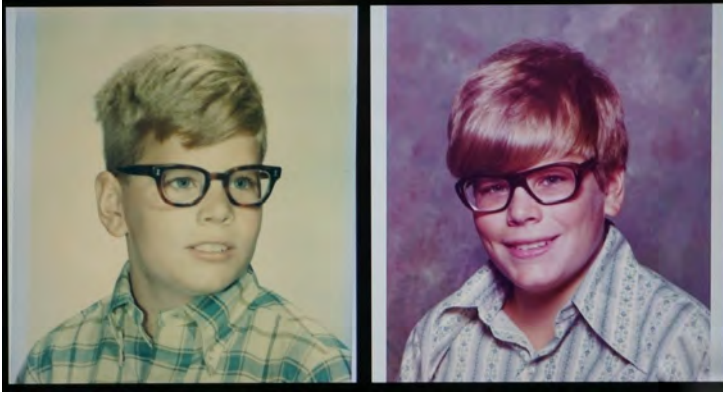
Together we've welcomed new leaders, shown them the way, and said goodbye to others over the years. Projects have been completed. Dave's leadership has expanded PWA's circle of influence at the regional and state level. There is so very much to be proud of and a huge amount of this is due to Dave's insights, dedication, and ambition.

He has been my friend through the toughest of personal times. I've watched him give to others without hesitation. During this 6-years of working together I saw Dave tirelessly care for his late wife and find his new bride Heidi while he blushed like a young guy telling me all about her.

You've had many chapters to your life, Dave. Childhood, your years at Cal Poly – **Go Mustangs!**, your distinguished career in the Navy and now Public Works for these past 15 years. Next, and not surprisingly you are going into a leadership role of service. They are so fortunate to have you. *You aren't done with me yet though.* I know where you live and how to find you! Besides our spouses serve on a non-profit board together, so I'll be the short one next to you at the next fundraiser.

We will all miss you, Dave. I know I positively will. Thank you for being you. Enjoy Cabo! And when you exit on Friday, Valentine's Day – Kiss – to You!

DAVID FLEISCH'S RETIREMENT (continued)



YOUNG DAVE



DAVE in the SERVICE



Dave is presented with a 15-year Service Award by Gregg Strakaluse, Director, Ventura County Public Works Agency



Picture above: Dave and Anitha Balan, Director, Ventura County PWA Roads and Transportation

Picture to the left: DAVE and DAVE at Dave Fleisch's retirement celebration



DAVID FLEISCH'S RETIREMENT (continued)



Picture above: **Dave is presented with a "1:700 Battleship" by Gerald Kapuscik, Staff Specialist Manager, Ventura County Watershed Protection District**



Picture below: **Dave and his family - wife, Heidi daughter, Laura, and stepson**



Central Coast Report

submitted by **Chris Sneddon**, Public Works Director, Santa Barbara County
Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz Counties



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Picture above: *Isla Vista Trash Capture project construction- completed April 2025.*

Picture TO THE RIGHT:

San Ysidro and Cold Springs Debris Modifications: reducing sediment capture and improving maintenance and operations efficiency- completed spring 2025



Picture to the left:

Completed post-fire mitigation measures for LAKE fire prior to storms

Central Coast Report (continued)

submitted by Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director, Santa Barbara County
Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz Counties

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



Picture above and to the right: *New Probation Department Building: In May 2024, San Luis Obispo County broke ground on a new probation building. The new 34,000-square-foot facility will meet operational needs, accommodate future growth, and provide state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure. The project is on track for completion in late 2025!*



Pictures below *In 2024, San Luis Obispo County replaced the El Camino Bridge between Santa Margarita and Atascadero. The original 1937 bridge was 80 feet long, and the new bridge is 140 feet long and carries around 4,200 vehicles per day.*



Central Coast Report (continued)

submitted by Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director, Santa Barbara County
Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz Counties



MONTEREY COUNTY



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Picture to the left:

Soquel Drive Project - demolition



Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program

The Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program was developed to recognize and raise awareness of the exceptional achievements made by California's cities and counties to preserve and protect the public's investment in the local street and road system. Nearly every trip – whether by car, bus, bike, or foot – begins and ends on a local street or road. The local system is critical for the safety and mobility of the traveling public, emergency responders, law enforcement, the economy, and multimodal needs such as bicycles and buses. Further, as counties and cities, regional agencies, and the State strive to meet statewide climate change goals, the local system will serve as a critical component to achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Forward-thinking cities and counties have made extraordinary efforts to preserve and improve the existing local transportation system through a variety of types of projects and programs. Through these exemplary efforts, cities and counties are reducing drive times and congestion; improving driver, bicycle, and pedestrian safety; and ultimately reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Green technologies are less resource intensive, emit fewer harmful air pollutants, and produce less water pollution. A safe, well-maintained, and environmentally friendly local transportation system significantly saves cities and counties, and taxpayers, money in the long-term.

Sponsored by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC), the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Awards Program highlights cities and counties that are employing projects, programs, practices, and innovative technologies and materials to achieve preservation, safety and sustainability goals for the statewide local street and road system. Their exceptional work is worth recognizing and replicating across the state!

Award Categories

Efficient and Sustainable Road Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects. This category includes, but is not limited to, projects that use resources efficiently, projects that employ emerging technologies and materials, progressive preservation programs that improve pavement conditions, projects that are cost-effective and/or creative in the planning, design, funding and/or implementation compared to traditional methods, that are sustainable from a financial and resource perspective, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are environmentally friendly.

Complete Streets Projects. Includes projects that accommodate all users of the local street and road system and provide access to safe multi-modal transportation options such as walking and biking.

Safety or Intelligent Transportation System Projects. Includes critical safety projects that help reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the local network and other projects that make local streets and roads safer, more coordinated and efficient.

Efficient and Sustainable Bridge Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects. Includes bridge and grade separation projects that use resources efficiently. These projects should employ emerging technologies and materials, progressive preservation programs that improve bridge conditions that are cost-effective and/or creative in the planning, design, funding and/or implementation compared to traditional methods, that are sustainable from a financial and resource perspective, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are environmentally friendly.

DETAILS of the 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS PRESENTED AT

The 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

2024 CEAC Scholarship Awards

In the December 2024 Newsletter, the 2024 CEAC Scholarship Awardees were presented as follows:

- ♦ **Geraldine Lynch of Rohnert Park, CA** - Pursuing an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Chico
- ♦ **Alex Zasso of Antelope, CA** - Pursuing an undergraduate degree in Surveying Engineering Technology from the University of Maine; prior to that, he received a bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Systems from California State University, Sacramento; **see a copy of the letter (below) that Alex sent thanking CEAC for the scholarship and how much it means to him.**
- ♦ **Matthew Muir of Shasta, CA** - Pursuing an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Chico **(picture of Mathew with the CEAC Scholarship check)**



Alexander Zasso, LSIT
Roseville, CA
February 18, 2025

CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee
County Engineers Association of California
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the County Engineers Association of California Memorial Scholarship. I am honored to have been chosen for this prestigious award.

As I embark on my journey to become a professional land surveyor, this scholarship will significantly help me in covering the costs of my education. Your belief in my potential motivates me to continue working hard and to strive for excellence in my studies and future career.

Land surveying is an area of study I am truly passionate about, and with this scholarship, I am now able to further my education and develop the skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to the field. I look forward to using the knowledge and experiences I gain to help shape the future of land surveying.

Once again, thank you for your generosity. I am committed to honoring your investment in my education and will make every effort to succeed in my academic and professional endeavors.

Sincerely,
Alexander Zasso, LSIT
University of Maine

CEAC Board of Directors **MEETING MINUTES**

March 21, 2025|10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



MEETING MINUTES

CEAC Board of Directors

CEAC Spring Conference

Sheraton Universal Hotel

333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City, CA 91608

Studio I

March 21, 2025|10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Leamon called the meeting to order at 10:26 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes The previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved (Motion by Bronkall, 2nd by DeChelis)

2. Correspondence (Leamon) – None.

3. CLODS Report (Sadjadi): Dave Gravenkamp had back surgery and should recover in the coming weeks. Mehdi will schedule the CLODS meeting to align with the Sacramento meeting. CLODS expects to hear from Dave Leamon about the proposed nominees for Secretary. Pat DeChelis suggests the president's message focuses on where we are and what we are doing.

4. NACE Report (Dashiell): Seeing Noel Castillo (San Bernardino) involved in CEAC and NACE is good.

5. CSAC Report (Gerrity)

- Jordan Wells is a new CSAC Legislative Advocate. She is only three weeks in but doing excellent. She comes from a similar field, which has allowed her to jump right in.
- Catherine Freeman is still part of Flood but may be reassigned.
- The CSAC building in Sacramento is being significantly renovated. The additions will add a conference room and renovate the building. Staff expect to move out in October. We are unsure where the temporary location will be.
- Legislative conference in August. Positive response to evening entertainment, especially the cornhole tournament. CSAC Finance Corporation to come in and discuss their role during lunch.
- Counties are encouraged to bring their staff to the August conference.

6. Regional Directors Reports

- **Bay Area** (none) – Hoevertsz volunteered to serve as Regional Director if needed.
- **Central Cost** (Rubalcava) – This is his last meeting as Regional Director. Discussed the formation of a coalition to lobby and advocate state and federal agencies regarding flood infrastructure maintenance and operations. Discussions on Freeway Maintenance Agreement challenges with Caltrans. Efforts headed up by Chris Sneddon.
- **Northern California** (Bronkall)—Contract with bedroll conference. Jim Simon unexpectedly resigned from his position at Tehama, which created difficulties. Discussions on the need to draft a document highlighting bedroll efforts to make future conference preparation easier.

CEAC Board of Directors **MEETING MINUTES**

March 21, 2025|10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Sacramento Mother Lode** (Randall)—There will be an Online meeting in February. Josh Pack (Butte) will discuss insurance challenges. There will also be a discussion of a regional pavement meeting with CCPIC.
- **San Joaquin Valley** (Chrun)—Learning roles and responsibilities. Six of the nine counties have committed to next month's meeting. Good information was shared during these meetings, and golf was involved. I promise to plug the CEAC forum at future meetings.
- **Southern California** (Koutroulis)—There have been several changes with Public Works Directors in his region. We are coordinating a meeting for next month. Leamon would like to attend this meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report (Johnson)- discussed final budget. Analysis suggests a 10% shortfall. Recommended a 10% increase for 2025 and 15% in 2026, followed by a 5% increase based on CSAC dues increases. Sadjadi asked about the conference making money. The League of California Cities runs the spring conference, where we make a little money. League sends the itemized list of expenses. Johnson discussed his approach to budgeting conservatively. CSAC controls budgeting during the fall conference. Treasurer's Report and 2025 Final Budget approved unanimously (Motion by Pack, 2nd by DeChelis). The table in the bylaws needs to be amended to reflect 2026 information. This doesn't need to be ratified by the Board – it can be done automatically.

8. Committee Reports

- **Administrative** (Chrun) – no report.
- **Flood Control and Water Resources** (Rubalcava); Uhley (Riverside) took over as committee chair. There are new additions to the committee.
- **Infrastructure and Development** (Randall): The room switch caused some initial confusion, but overall attendance was good. There was a lot of interest in the discussion of alternative project delivery.
- **Resource Recovery and Waste Management** (Koutroulis): Good discussions on SB1383 and a rep from CalRecycle. Update on USEPA on emissions. Therapy discussion and future discussions on PFAS, recycling, and SB1383 enforcement.
- **Surveyor** (Hennessee) - Good turnout – roughly 20 people attended. Update on LA fires. Surveyors reviewing monuments and preservation. In Altadena, monuments seemed largely intact. No ROS or corner records yet – going to take time. Discussions regarding the challenges of waiving fees. Discussion on updating ROS and Corner Record guide. It was last updated in 2020 and is usually updated every 5 years. Discussion on GPS usage. Will review the draft in August before ratification. Discussion on monument preservation toolkit. Additional action in August. Presentation on AI. Some software on AI for building plan reviews. Allowed remote attendance during meetings and had 25 additional attendees. Hybrid availability is critical to expand participation in Surveyor meetings.
- **Transportation** (Zarif) - New vice-chair. Several state agency representatives were signed up but canceled at the last minute. Discussion on legislation. Discussions about the use of big data to assist. Look to go to the forum to explore new topics. Dee Lam from Caltrans did not attend again. Leamon requests that Caltrans send local District DLAE if Lam cannot participate. Caltrans needs to attend and hear from the counties. Leamon will reach out to Lam to express concerns. Randall offered Caltrans to attend his Regional Meeting but with no success.
- **Fellowship** (DeLeon) - Good attendance at the suite. The opening evening ran a bit late but improved as the week went on. Thanks to members of the fellowship for their participation. Raised \$728 for the scholarship fund.
- **Oversight** (Leamon) - No report.
- **Scholarship** (Winokur)—Scholarship applications are out and available. This is a reminder for engineer and surveyor of the year. A surveyor received a thank-you letter for their scholarship.

- **Fellowship** (DeLeon) - Good attendance at the suite. The opening evening ran a bit late but improved as the week went on. Thanks to members of the fellowship for their participation. Raised \$728 for the scholarship fund.
- **Oversight** (Leamon) - No report.
- **Scholarship** (Winokur)—Scholarship applications are out and available. This is a reminder for engineer and surveyor of the year. A surveyor received a thank-you letter for their scholarship.

9. Unfinished Business (Leamon) – Bronkall discussed the CEAC forum. Thirteen counties contracting out county surveyors. Should they have access to the forum? DeChelis asked how it would be managed. Pack mentioned that supervisors or directors can provide documentation approving the use of the forum. This approach was unanimously approved (Motion by DeChelis, 2nd by Johnson)

10. New Business (Leamon) - Engineering of the year discussion with NACE. If uninvolved in NACE, there is no chance for the California nominee to win engineer of the year based on NACE scoring. Phil Demery was the last nominee from California to win. Machado is ineligible due to being an officer. The manual states engineers and surveyors of the year should be nominated for NACE. Nominations for urban and rural. Other categories are also available for nomination. The motion was made to allow the flexibility of the president to begin the application and discontinue efforts if it is evident that the nominee would not qualify for consideration (Motion by Pack, 2nd by Hoevertsz)—additional discussion on changing the official address to CSAC from the Treasurer’s Office. No motion was made. A motion was unanimously approved to allow the Executive Director (Gerety) to make deposits on behalf of CEAC (Motion by Hoevertsz, 2nd by Dashiell)—a recommendation to bring official address discussion back up under unfinished business at the August Policy Conference.

11. Life Membership (Leamon) - No life memberships were discussed.

12. Announcements (Leamon)

- 2025 NACE Annual Conference: April 15-17, 2025, Schaumburg, Illinois
- Northern California Bedroll Conference, Camp Tehama, Tehama County, June 25-27, 2025
- 20th CEAC Policy Conference: August 21-22, 2025, Sacramento
- CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference: December 1-5, 2025, San Jose
- 2026 SEAC Spring Conference: February 25-27, 2026, Monterey

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Dutifully submitted – Joshua Pack (3/22/2025)

Non-Voting Members: Other Attendees

Michael Leacox – NCE
Steve Lederer (Napa County)
Rylie Bellinger (NCE)
Denise Zitnik – Tuolumne County

Scott DeLeon – Lake County (Retired) / NCE
Brad Allender (Consort)
Blossom Scott-Heim – Tuolumne County
Jason Jurrens – Consort

CEAC Board of Directors MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2025|10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Roster**Voting Board Members: Officers & Regional Directors
(NP – Not Present)**

Officer	Office	County/Organization
David Leamon	President	Stanislaus
Johannes Hoevertsz	Vice President	Sonoma
Joshua Pack	Secretary	Butte
Panos Kokkas	Immediate Past President	Trinity
George Johnson	Treasurer	Riverside (Retired),
Mehdi Sadjadi	Treasurer-Emeritus	Marin (Retired)
Mike Penrose	Parliamentarian	Sacramento (Retired)
Patrick DeChellis	Newsletter Editor	Los Angeles (Retired)
Howard Dashiell	NACE Representative	Mendocino
Dave Gravenkamp(NP)	Historian	Siskiyou (Retired)

Regional-Directors	Region	County
Vacant	Bay Area	
Walter Rubalcava	Central Coast	Santa Barbara
Bob Bronkall	Northern California	Humboldt
Matt Randall	Sacramento Mother Lode	Placer
Sam Chrun	San Joaquin Valley	Stanislaus
Tom Koutroulis	Southern California	Orange

Non-Voting Members: Committee Chairs and CSAC Staff

Committee Chairs	Committee	County
Joan Araujo (NP)	Administrative	Butte
Scott DeLeon	Fellowship	Lake (Retired)
Jason Uhley (NP)	Flood Control/Water Resources	Riverside
Matt Randall	Infrastructure and Development	Placer
David Leamon	Oversight	Stanislaus
Tom Koutroulis	Resource Recovery & Waste Mgmt.	Orange
Alicia Winokur	Scholarship	Mendocino
Steve Hennessee	Surveyor	Los Angeles
Najee Zarif	Transportation	San Joaquin

CSAC/CEAC Staff	Title	Agency/County
Catherine Freeman (NP)	Senior Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Mark Neuburger (NP)	Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Jordan Wells (NP)	Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Amber Garcia Rossow (NP)	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety	CEAC Executive Director	CSAC/CEAC

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](#) as of March 31, 2025

Organization	Position	Date Posted	Closing Date/ First Review
City Sacramento	Public Works Manager	3/25/2025	4/8/2025
City of Rolling Hills Estates	Public Works Manager	3/25/2025	4/8/2025
Valley Water (San Jose)	Associate Engineer – Water Planning	3/17/2025	3/25/2025
City of Rancho Mirage	City Engineer	3/13/2025	4/10/2025
City of Rocklin	City Engineer/Director of Community Development	3/13/2025	Continuous Until Filled
El Dorado Irrigation District	Senior Civil Engineer	3/12/2025	Continuous Until Filled
Riverside County	Associate Civil Engineer (Waste Resources)	3/3/2025	4/30/2025
City of Patterson	Deputy Director of Engineering	2/28/2025	Continuous Until Filled
Sacramento Area Sewer District	Associate Civil Engineer	2/28/2025	4/2/2025
City of Ventura	Senior Civil Engineer (Water Design)	2/24/2025	Continuous Until Filled
Napa County	Engineering Technician I	2/14/2025	Continuous Until Filled

....if you're seeking a job.

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.

...if you're a Public Sector Employer. To recruit candidates, you may email a position announcement/description or direct link to the position to Merrin Gerety at mgerety@counties.org

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.

Merrin Gerety at mgerety@counties.org