



CEAC NEWSLETTER

Sept 2025

Inside this Issue

	Page
<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Save the Dates</i>	3
<i>County Public Works Director Changes Around the State</i>	4
<i>Daniel "Colt" Esenwein, Colusa Kevin Onuma, Orange Marisa Barrie, San Diego</i>	5
<i>CEAC Regional Director Changes David Grim, Central Coast</i>	5
<i>2026 Buffalo Bull Award NOMINATIONS are happening!</i>	5
<i>In Memoriam - Jon Michael "Mike" Walford</i>	6
<i>In Memoriam - Donald Joseph LaBelle</i>	7
<i>40th Annual Bedroll Conference</i>	8
<i>Droppings - The First Bedroll Conf</i>	13
<i>CLODS Annual Dinner & Meeting</i>	15
<i>20th Annual CEAC Policy Conf</i>	16
<i>Northern Cal Regional Report TRINITY, MENDOCINO COUNTIES</i>	20
<i>Engineer of the Year Award NOMINATIONS due 10-08-2025</i>	24
<i>Surveyor of the Year Award NOMINATIONS due 10-08-2025</i>	24
<i>Memorial Scholarship Program APPLICATIONS due 10-08-2025</i>	25
<i>NACE Report - Strategic Plan Vision, Mission, Strategic Priorities</i>	26
<i>CEAC Board of Directors Draft Minutes - 8-22-2025 Mtg</i>	27
<i>Job Opportunities in Local Gov't As of 9-01-2025</i>	32
<i>Materials Submitted are subject to the "3 R's": Review, Revision, Rejection</i>	

Editor: Pat DeChellis

President's Message

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



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

Let it be known that I was instructed and advised to provide one (1) paragraph relating to and/or about the CLODS. Tangentially (which is a great engineering word by the way) it is not easy being a change agent in this very fine organization. It was amusing to see two Senior CLODS duke it out over what I consider a no-brainer, which is to consider making a CEAC member who is an officer in NACE a CEAC Board member.

Most commonly this would be a Californian who holds the office of Western Region Vice President. Every Western Region VP I remember should have been a CEAC Board member: **Julie Bueren, CLOD**; **Matt Machado, CLOD**; and **Scott McGolpin, CLOD**.

Sometimes, this board seat would be open if there was no Californian in a NACE Officer position. A list of NACE Former Leaders (NFL) that were also Californians:

<u>NACE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Date of CEAC Presidency</u>
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1960 -	John A. Lambie	– CEAC President 1966 - 1967
1967 -	William D. McIntosh	– CEAC President 1963 - 1964
1986 -	Donald B. Head	– CEAC President 1973 - 1974
1994 -	C.F. "Budge" Campbell	– CEAC President 1979 - 1980
2010 -	Phillip Demery	– CEAC President 2002 - 2003
2020 -	Scott McGolpin	– CEAC President 2013 – 2014

The list above is a who's who of CEAC, any of those fine fellows would be a valuable addition to the CEAC Board of Directors.

Really good news on the Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment we have found a long-term funding strategy for this very important report! In fact, it is so simple and elegant that the group Friday afternoon was mildly surprised at itself that we did not think of it sooner. Cities and Counties each get \$854M in RMRA (2023 - 2024 FY) and we need \$350K per year to fund the report, including the bridge report. That works out to be 0.0205% of your funding for the year. As an example, Stanislaus County received \$1.195M in the 9-22-23 payment. The proposal would be to take the funding out of the first month of

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

the new FY, so that would be 0.2651% of those months funding or the difference between \$1.195M and \$1.192M or \$3,169.94. For Los Angeles County, the largest county, it would be \$33,367 out of \$12.585M and for the smallest county Alpine County it would be \$105.90 out of \$39,942.

The elegant part of this proposed solution is that everyone is paying and there no swaps with HBP and RSTP / STBG with the Regions. Placer and Los Angeles Counties have swapped the HBP and RSTP / STBG, respectively, in the past, but this is a big effort and for LA County no longer an option. Although the proposal for Cities and Counties is to pay more of the report, it is after all, our roads and our bridges. Cities and Counties, Merrin, CSAC and I probably spend 100 hours per report on figuring out funding. The League of Cities as they have to call and spend more than 1,000 hours on fundraising, crazy!

Thanks all for the great Policy Conference! It was a good time and quite informative. Thanks to all the volunteerism for the committees, the chairs and vice-chairs. Thanks go to Merrin, our Executive Director, the food was great, and the location is always fabulous. Everyone I talked to had a great time at the cornhole tournament, I think we may try to add a couple of more boards and get a few more teams in the fun. The two southpaws, Matt Machado, Santa Cruz County and your Secretary, Josh Pack, Butte County won again, second year in a row.

I appreciated Josh Pack's conversation about the liability insurance increases. I think this is a topic of concern for CEAC going forward and we should keep an eye on this. Bob Bronkall reminded us to register for and start using in a bigger way the CEAC forums, <https://www.ceaccounties.org/forum>.

Deanna and I hope to see many of you in December at the CSAC Conference in San Jose! It just occurred to me that this Board meeting is my last as President, unless we call a special meeting before San Jose.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Leamon, PE, MPA

Director of Public Works

Road Commissioner

Stanislaus County

2024-2025 County Engineers Association of California President

REGISTER NOW!



CEAC Golf Tournament

Coyote Creek Golf Course

1 Coyote Creek Golf Drive
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
First Tee Time - 10:00am
Cost - \$120 per player

CLODS BBQ

Hellyer Park - Buena Vista Site
985 Hellyer Avenue
San Jose, CA 95111
Thursday, December 4, 2025
Starting at noon

CEAC Hospitality Suite

Signia by Hilton San Jose
170 S Market St, San Jose
December 2, 3 & 4, 2025
5-7 pm & 9-11 pm
Suite # TBD
Brought to you by the CEAC
Fellowship Committee

AECOM

DOKKEN
ENGINEERING



Dewberry

NCE



Ghirardelli
ASSOCIATES
CONSTRUCTION & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Kimley»Horn



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WOOD RODGERS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHANGES

Around the State....

Daniel “Colt” Esenwein was appointed as the Colusa County Director of Public Works beginning July 1. “Colt has a depth of experience and reputation for collaboration,” said Board Chair Daurice Smith. “He understands the needs of our local communities and has a desire to improve all Public Works operations. We are happy to welcome him to the County Team.”

A registered professional civil engineer, Colt brings nearly 25 years of public works experience to the County. He will work closely with the County Administrative Office and Board of Supervisors and oversee the operations of the Department of Public Works, which in addition to road and bridge responsibilities, includes solid waste, airport management, floodplain administration and recreation management.

Colt has served as the Public Works Director for the City of Williams for the past four years. Prior to that, he served in several other counties in California in many roles including Deputy Director to Director. His career has included being responsible for managing water and wastewater design and operations, solid waste and recycling, flood control, storm water, recreation facilities, construction management and disaster recovery. Additionally, Esenwein served in the United States Navy from 1990 to 1994 and holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from Cal Poly. “I am excited to join the County leadership team. I thrive in challenging environments and enjoy bridging communities through transportation,” said Colt. “I look forward to working with the dedicated staff at Public Works to accomplish those things.”



Colt is presented with a plaque of Recognition by **David Leamon**, CEAC President, at the recent CEAC Policy Conference welcoming Colt “back” to CEAC

Kevin Onuma was appointed as the Orange County Director of Public Works beginning January 24, 2025. Kevin brings decades of experience overseeing large-scale infrastructure programs across Orange County. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing projects that improve mobility, strengthen flood protection systems, and modernize public facilities that serve more than 3 million residents.

Kevin will lead OC Public Works in its mission to plan, design, build, and maintain the County’s critical infrastructure. He will oversee a wide portfolio of responsibilities , including:

- ♦ Infrastructure Investment – Directing the County’s efforts to modernize and maintain roads, bridges, and flood control systems.
- ♦ Sustainability & Innovation – Implementing environmentally responsible practices and integrating new technologies to deliver projects efficiently and cost-effectively.
- ♦ Community Service – Ensuring that public works programs improve quality of life for residents and support businesses across the region.
- ♦ Regional Partnerships – Strengthening collaboration with cities, water districts, and state and federal agencies to maximize resources and deliver regional solutions.

Previously, Kevin was the Interim Director of OCPW. Kevin joined Orange County in 1989 and has served in 14 different roles during his 35-year career with the County. Kevin earned his BS in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College. He is a Registered Civil Engineer in the State of California. 4



Tom Koutroulis, Deputy Director Orange County Public Works, accepts the plaque of Recognition on behalf of **Kevin (picture below)** from **David Leamon** at the recent Policy Conference



COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHANGES

Around the State... (continued)

Marisa Barrie joined the County of San Diego Department of Public Works as its new Director in March 2025 bringing more than 20 years of experience.

Picture to the right: **Marisa** is presented with a plaque of Recognition by **David Leamon** at the recent CEAC Policy Conference

(Editor's Note: See the June 2025 Issue of the CEAC Newsletter for details of Marisa's background and experience.)



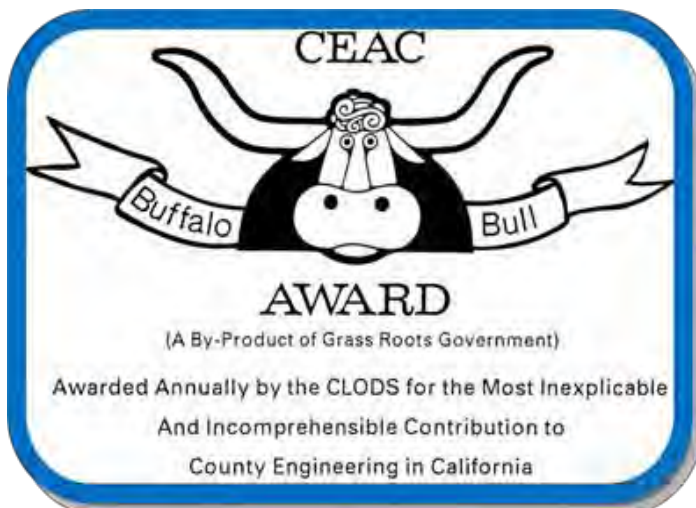
David Grim is the new **CEAC Regional Director for the Central Coast**. He is the Development Services Manager for San Luis Obispo County since November 2018. He manage a 15-person division of Public Works serving the development community, reviewing and setting conditions on subdivision applications and survey documents. His Team also performs engineering review of use permits and building permits, and manage the County road right of way through encroachment and transportation permitting.

David was previously the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Mendocino County from December 2012 to January 2015 when he left for a position in San Luis Obispo County Chief Administrative Office.

David as a Bachelor of Science Degree in City and Regional Planning and a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD

It is that time again - the **CLODS' Tres Pinos Committee** will be meeting soon to determine who the recipient will be for the 2026 Buffalo Bull Award to be presented to a most deserving "sole" (buffoon) at the President's Banquet during the 2026 Spring Conference.



Remember Rule #1: **A good defense is a better offense... Get your nominations in because YOU may have already been nominated by one of your adjacent County Engineers.**

All nominations should be sent directly to the CEAC Newsletter Editor at CEACNewsletterEditor@gmail.com who will forward to an unknown P.O. Box in Tres Pinos, California.



JON MICHAEL “Mike” WALFORD

April 30, 1940 - June 27, 2025

Jon Michael “Mike” Walford passed away unexpectedly on Friday, June 27, 2025, with his family by his side. He was born to Jack and Florine (Tieck) Walford in Bakersfield, California on April 23, 1940. Mike was a graduate of Bakersfield High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from UC Berkeley.

Following graduation, Mike began working for Contra Costa County Public Works Department where he eventually became the Director for 19 years. Mike was President of CEAC 1990-91 and was the 1993 CEAC County Engineer of the Year.

Mike was involved in his local community by being manager of Forest Park Swim Team for 3 years and Scoutmaster of Troop 465 for approximately 15 years. In his spare time, he loved traveling around the world, sailing, camping, backpacking, bicycling and supporting his children and grandchildren in sports, musical events and school functions. He also enjoyed playing games, especially cribbage.

He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife, Pamela Walford, of 63 years; his daughter, Marya Lorz (Don) of Benicia, CA; his son, David Walford (Lori) of Morgan Hill, CA; his 6 grandchildren, DJ, Tyler (Jacqueline), Kelsie, Natalie, Colin and Mason; his sister, Mary Stillman, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Jack Walford; his mother, Florine Winn; his stepfather, William Winn; and his sister, Edith Ballew.

Mike’s memory will remain in the hearts of his family, friends and all those who were honored to have had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy will live on for generations to come, inspiring those around him with his leadership, generosity, kindheartedness and unforgettable spirit.

Family, friends, and others are invited to a Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 6, 2025, 2pm at Concord United Methodist Church (1645 West St. Concord, CA.)

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the J Michael Walford Alumni Scholarship Fund at UC Berkeley by calling 1-510-643-9789. Donations can also be made to the J Michael Walford Memorial Fund at St. Jude Hospital.



The pictures above and below were taken at the CLODS BBQ in Pasadena at the Fall Conference in November 2024. Mike, standing to the far right in the above picture, was one of the primary cooks at the BBQs.

Mike is second to the right in the picture below.





DONALD JOSEPH LaBELLE

Sept 8, 1942 - July 9, 2025

Don LaBelle passed away on July 9, 2025. He was born on September 8, 1942, in Kansas City, Missouri, to James and Grace LaBelle.

Don grew up in Kansas City, attended Westport High School and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Kansas, where he met his wife, Sharon. Following his undergraduate degree, he entered the Air Force and was stationed in Japan during the Vietnam war. His son (Todd LaBelle) and daughter (Renee Cacchillo) were both born when he served overseas.

On his return from the military, Don started his career in Public Administration and moved frequently to grow and develop in his career. He retired from Alameda County, California in 2006 and returned to reside in Overland Park, Kansas.



Don was the 2022 CEAC County Engineer of the Year, CEAC President 1999-2000, and then the CEAC Parliamentarian until he retired in 2006.

In retirement, Don and Sharon visited many countries, traveling with friends and family frequently. His true passion came from his three granddaughters, Katie, Rachel, and Chloe all born in the same year. Beyond his love for his family and friends, Don was also an avid KU and Kansas City Chiefs fan. He was a fantastic grill cook and margarita maker, making special get togethers even more special.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Sharon LaBelle; his son Todd and wife Soo; daughter Renee and husband Dave; his grandchildren Katie, Rachel, Chloe and Ray; and his sister Susan LaBelle. Funeral Services were held at the Church of the Resurrection, Wesley Chapel, 13720 Roe Ave, Leawood, Kansas , on July 25th.

40th ANNUAL BEDROLL CONFERENCE



COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



**40TH ANNUAL
CEAC NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BEDROLL CONFERENCE
Wednesday 6/25/2025 - Friday 6/27/2025
CAMP TEHAMA
40550 Hwy 172, Mill Creek, CA 96061**

You are cordially invited to the 40th Annual Northern California Bedroll Conference at Camp Tehama, Mineral CA. This Tri-Regional Northern California, Sacramento Motherlode and Bay Area (now combined) CEAC meeting brings together Public Works Directors, our partner agencies, and senior staff from the three regions in an informal atmosphere to discuss new and challenging aspects we face today.

The meeting is held at Camp Tehama, a Tehama County campground near Mineral California within the Lassen National Forest at [40550 Hwy 172, Mill Creek, CA 96061](#). Lodging consists of rustic cabins with bunk beds, including mattresses. You should be prepared with your own bedroll, pillow, towels, and toiletries. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged. RVs cannot be accommodated.

We have several speakers lined up on current and interesting topics to address the many challenging aspects of public works. Topics include the latest information from the California Pavement Preservation Center. We will also receive briefings from CEAC, CSAC, and Caltrans Local Assistance to find out what the latest is in these fast-changing times.

The \$60 registration for County Representatives and \$120 registration for others covers the cost of the *luxury* cabins, fine meals, and program. Registration forms and payment should be sent directly to CEAC care of Howard N. Dashiell at the address on the registration form. For those interested in golf on Wednesday, please respond directly to John Quincy at john.quincy@consoreng.com.

To allow us to plan accurately for the food and refreshments, as well as to assure a bunk bed if that is your choice, please send your registration form and fee to Howard Dashiell as soon as possible, but no later than June 09, 2025. If you have any questions on the conference, please contact me at 707-463-4363 or via email at dashiellh@mendocinocounty.gov.

Howard N. Dashiell
Program Coordinator

Robert W. Bronkall
2024 Conference Coordinator

Attachments: Meeting Registration Form
Meeting Agenda
Golf Information



**40th ANNUAL
CEAC NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BEDROLL CONFERENCE
CAMP TEHAMA
40550 Hwy 172, Mill Creek, CA 96061**



A G E N D A

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 25, 2025

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7:00 pm | Dinner |
| 7:45 pm | Awards Presentation |
| 8:00 pm | Presentation on the span replacement for the Whiskey Creek bridge over Whiskeytown reservoir and Paradise pavement rehabilitation (by Aziz Gulistani and Brian Stephenson, Dokken Engineering) |

THURSDAY – JUNE 26, 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 7:00 am - 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 8:00 am - 8:30 am | CEAC update (David Léa Mon, AKA <i>The Frenchman</i> , P.E., Public Works Director, Stanislaus County, 2025 CEAC President) |
| 8:30 am - 9:00 am | CSAC legislative update (Mark Neuburger, CSAC, Legislative Representative, Housing, Land Use, and Transportation (HLT)) |
| 9:00 am - 9:30 am | California Pavement Preservation Center Update (DingXin Cheng, Ph.D., P.E., Director, California Pavement Preservation Center, California State University, Chico) |
| 9:30 am - 10:00 am | Break |
| 10:00 am - 10:30 am | Caltrans Local Assistance Update (Jessica Pecha, P.E., Program Manager, Caltrans District 2 Office of Local Assistance, along with Jacky Vang and other program managers and other District DLAEs.) |
| 10:30 am - 12:00 pm | Job Order Contracting and its potential use for smaller and more rural counties (Josh Pack, P.E., Public Works Director, Butte County) |
| 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | ADA compliance - best management practices from design to inspection (by Bob Bronkall, P.E. ² , L.S., County Surveyor, The Humboldt County) |
| 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Regional meetings |
| 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Break |
| 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm | Roundtable discussion |
| 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Social hour |
| 7:00 pm | Dinner |

FRIDAY – JUNE 27, 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 7:00 am - 10:00 am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 am - 9:00 am | Selection of 2026 Planning Committee Chairperson |
| 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | Camp cleanup - Affiliate Members to Assist |
| 12:00 pm | Check Out |



40th ANNUAL BEDROLL CONFERENCE (continued)



40th ANNUAL BEDROLL CONFERENCE (continued)



The Chefs (below)

(from l-r): **Jason Jurrens** (Consort),
Speero Tannous (Tehama County),
Mike Leacox (NCE),
Jessica Pecha (Caltrans, District 2 Local Assistance), and
Scott DeLeon (NCE)



40th ANNUAL BEDROLL CONFERENCE (continued)





Droppings

from out of the past

The First Bedroll

Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp

CEAC Historian

When Tom Hunter, Plumas County Director of Public Works (retired) asked last year (2016) about the history of the Bedroll Conference, I seemed to recall doing a **Droppings** about the very first Bedroll Conference. The first, however, wasn't at Lake Almanor as have the last 35 years. The first was in San Benito County some 22 years before the first Almanor Bedroll. The following is my report on the first Bedroll Conference which was included in the Spring 1995 Newsletter.

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the October 2017 Issue of the CEAC Newsletter.

The background for this story was provided by Bill McIntosh who salvaged the information from Ed Hanna's old files. Actually, this story is taken from an article which appeared in the December 1960 edition of "Rural Roads" Magazine.

The very first Bedroll happened in Shirttail Gulch on the Howard Harris Ranch near Tres Pinos in San Benito County, June 8-10, 1960. The conference was sponsored by the Good Government League of Tres Pinos with site selection and meal preparation provided by the Wild Ass Mining Company. Top executives from the Tres Pinos Overhead Sewer Company were also present to guarantee the success of the conference. It should be noted that all of these (Good Government League, Mining Company, and Sewer Company) are also known as Ed Hanna. He did it all!

In many ways, the Bedroll Conference of 1960 was a lot like those at Camp Conery. Both were in remote locations far removed from the hustle and bustle, and both featured an abundance of good cuisine and other refreshments at a modest price (\$16 in 1960 and \$60 in 1994). Sixty public officials attend the T.P. affair which closely approximates the attendance at Camp Conery. Both had substantive programs with city/ county cooperation, the main thrust of the Tres Pinos meeting.

There were significant differences, however; the most noteworthy being those in attendance. The T.P. gathering included all of CEAC, or more correctly stated selected members of CEAC representing the entire state. Cities were well represented at the Tres Pinos event and included representatives from the League of California Cities, city managers, city engineers, an assemblyman, a district attorney, a County CAO, General Manager and Counsel of CSAC, the Director of the Institute of Transportation Traffic Engineering University of California, and the Executive Vice President California State Automobile Association. Richard Zettel, economist, Institute of Transportation Traffic Engineering, was the conference chair. There were a lot of "big hitters" in Tres Pinos.

The Tres Pinos gathering also had established ground rules and each participant had to agree in advance:

1. He will let his hair down (if any); air his pet peeves; blow off steam; analyze down-to-earth working arrangements; and listen to the other fellow's problems and ideas.
2. He will contribute as much as possible to the sessions with the objective of finding ways of improving his relations and operations.
3. He will give and take criticism without taking offense or indulging in personalities.
4. He will listen with an open mind and he will not be bellicose, verbose, reluctant, illogical, or just plain stupid.
5. That regardless of what transpires, we will bury our hatchets on the conference grounds and go home as friends.

The program headings were:

- City-County Cooperation – Past Present, and Future
- How we appear to the Taxpayer, How we appear to the Legislature
- Legal Problems and Relationships
- Joint Public Works Planning
- Joint Construction and Maintenance; Joint Agreements and Contracts; Consolidated Functions
- Problems Created by Special Districts; and Annexation Problems.

Editor's Note: the above *Droppings* was originally published in the September 2024 Newsletter after the first Bedroll Conference was held since 2019.

Droppings - from out of the past (continued)

Also included as a wrap-up was the subject – What Do We Want to Do Next? Bill McIntosh indicated that there was in fact a second Bedroll Conference in Dos Palmas, Riverside County, but since Bill was not able to attend, there is nothing to report.

Perhaps it's time to re-examine the purpose of the Bedroll Conference. Maybe we can learn something from the Good Government League of Tres Pinos, the Wild Ass Mining Company, and the Tres Pinos Overhead Sewer Company.

I am sure that Tom's inquiry was regarding the first Bedroll at Lake Almanor which occurred in 1982. I don't recall every writing about that one so I will have to rely on my memory (which isn't all that great) to report on the early Almanor Bedrolls.

The Bedroll was John Redmond's idea. John was a peddler but I don't recall the name of his company. Early Bedrolls were solely for the three most northerly CEAC Regions – Sacramento Mother Lode, North Coast, and Northern California. These three Regions filled the PG&E Camp Conery facility. A different Region assumed program responsibility each year. The Camp Conery facility has been upgraded over the years as in the beginning eating was under a parachute affair with a gravel floor. One could always find money in the gravel the morning after the previous night's poker game.

In the early years, the conference was only attended by "boys" which allowed both restrooms for guy use. Although golf was a popular activity, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments drew considerable interest. Bailey Creek Golf and Country Club hadn't yet been constructed so golf was played on a 9-hole course on the west side of the Lake. Apparently meals haven't changed over the years with dinner consisting of salmon one night and steak the other. One year, when Budge Campbell, Mendocino County, was cooking breakfast, he wrapped several \$5 bills in foil which he added to his biscuit mix.

I haven't attended the Bedroll since I retired in 2002. I understand the conference is now open statewide. Tom tells me that there were 59 attendees for the 2016 conference (I believe that capacity of the Camp is 50) but only 13 were working county folk. No doubt the CEAC Policy Conference the week following Bedroll had an effect on attendance. For 2017, Tom reports that attendance was similar to 2016 with 11 working county employees.

Editor's Additional Note: 2024 was the first year for the Bedroll Conference since 2019. The Conference was not held in 2020 due to COVID restrictions and the Dixie Fire completely burned down Camp Conery. The Norther California Region has been looking for an alternate site since. Picture below is the main lodge for Camp Conery after the Dixie Fire.



CLODS ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING - Aug 20-21, 2025



Annual Meeting of CEAC Past Presidents and CLODS

From left to back, right back to front - **Tom Mattson**, Humboldt, 2012-13; **Matt Machado**, Santa Cruz, 2015-16; **Jim Porter**, San Mateo, 2018-19, 2020-21; Dave Gravenkamp's daughter; **Dave Gravenkamp**, Siskiyou, 1991-92; **Mehdi Sadjadi**, Marin, 1998-99; **Brian Balbas**, Contra Costa, 2022-23; Luann, George's wife; **George Johnson**, Riverside, 2007-08; **Phil Demery**, Santa Barbara, 2002-03; Marlene, Phil's wife; **Pattie McNamee**, Honorary CLOD; **John Presleigh**, Santa Cruz, 2016-17; **Julie Bueren**, Contra Costa, 2010-11; **Max Bridges**, San Benito, 1997-98; **Mike Crump**, Butte, 2006-07; **Howard Dashiell**, Mendocino, 2021-22; **Peter Rei**, Tuolumne, 2008-09; **Panos Kokkas**, Trinity, 2023-24; and **Mike Penrose**, Sacramento, 2014-15

From right to back, left back to front

George Johnson, 2007-08
Luann, George's wife
Phil Demery, 2002-03
Brian Balbas, 2022-23
Mehdi Sadjadi, 1998-99
Dave Gravenkamp, 1991-92
Dave Gravenkamp's daughter
Jim Porter, 2018-19 and 2020-21
Matt Machado, 2015-16
Tom Mattson, 2012-13
Mike Penrose, 2014-15
Panos Kokkas, 2023-24
Peter Rei, 2008-09
Howard Dashiell, 2021-22
Mike Crump, 2006-07
Max Bridges, 1997-98
Julie Bueren, 2010-11
John Presleigh, 2016-17
Pattie McNamee, Honorary CLOD
Marlene, Phil's wife





20TH ANNUAL CEAC POLICY CONFERENCE

AUGUST 21-22, 2025

**CAPITOL EVENT CENTER
1020 11TH STREET, 2ND
FLOOR, SACRAMENTO, CA**



SAVE THE DATES!

- 131st CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference - San Jose Convention Center, Santa Clara County, December 1-5, 2025
- 2026 CEAC Spring Conference (with the League of California Cities' Public Works Officers Institute) - Hyatt Regency Monterey, Monterey County, February 25-27, 2026.
- 2026 NACE Annual Conference - Live by Loews! Arlington, Arlington, TX, April 12-15, 2026.

20th ANNUAL CEAC POLICY CONFERENCE (continued)

2nd ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



Cheerleaders (top left): Marisa Barrie , San Diego, Steve Hennessee, Los Angeles.

The Winners (top right): Tom Mattson & Bob Bronkall (3rd place), Josh Pack & Matt Machado (1st place), Andrew Maliz & Sam Chrun (2nd place).

The Organizers (bottom left): NCE. **Howard Dashiell** (bottom right)



Preliminary Program and is subject to change.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

**** NOTE: ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITOL EVENT CENTER
1020 11TH STREET, 2ND FLOOR, SACRAMENTO UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ****

9:30 am - 4:00 pm: Registration

8:30 am - 10:30 am

CLODS Meeting and Breakfast *(Invitation Only)*

CSAC Wall/Peterson Conference Room, 1st Floor, 1100 K Street, Sacramento

10:30 am - 11:45 am

Resource Recovery and Waste Management Policy Committee Meeting

Tom Koutroulis, Orange County - Chair

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Surveyor Policy Committee Meeting

CSAC Wall/Peterson Conference Room, 1st Floor, 1100 K Street
Steve Hennessee, Los Angeles County - Chair

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

CEAC Luncheon

Chastity Benson, CSAC Chief Operating Officer
What is CSAC, and what can it do for your county

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

CEAC Administrative Committee Meeting

Joan Araujo, Ventura County - Chair

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

Najee Zarif, San Joaquin County - Chair

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

CEAC County Hospitality Night - Capitol Event Center. Please join your CEAC county colleagues and affiliates for a fun evening including a corn hole challenge, buffet dinner and drinks!



2025 CEAC POLICY CONFERENCE (continued)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025

8:00 am - 9:15 am

CEAC Breakfast, Networking and Presentation

Joshua Pack, Public Works Director, Butte County

Title: An Analysis of Liability Insurance Costs on County Road Budgets

Description: In this presentation, we will explore the growing pressure on county road budgets due to rising liability insurance costs. By analyzing data from various counties across the state over the past decade, we aim to quantify which counties are most affected by these rising costs and discuss potential options to mitigate costs that have more than tripled over the same period. Join us to understand how these costs affect our collective efforts and to contribute to a broader advocacy initiative.

9:15 am - 10:45 am

Infrastructure and Development Policy Committee Meeting

Matt Randall, Placer County - Chair

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Flood Control & Water Resources Policy Committee Meeting

Jason Uhley, Riverside County - Chair

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting (working lunch)

David Leamon, Stanislaus County - President

2:00 pm - Adjourn

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference**
San Jose Convention Center, Santa Clara County, December 1-5, 2025
- **2026 CEAC Spring Conference** (in conjunction with the League of California Cities' Public Works Officers Institute) - Hyatt Place Monterey, Monterey County, February 25-27, 2026
- **2026 NACE Annual Conference**
Live by Loews! Arlington, 1600 E Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76011, April 12-15, 2026



Northern California Regional Report

By Bob Bronkall, Regional Director,
County Surveyor, Humboldt County

Hi Bob, Trinity County storm damage repair project on Ruth Zenia Road at Post Mile 18.75. This was a roadway retreat for 2024 storm damage. At least one photo tells the story of fire followed by slides and then large repairs. Seems to be the new Trinity County norm, and probably the California norm.

Thanks, **Andrew Pence**, P.E., Senior Engineer, **Trinity County DOT**



Northern California Regional Report (continued)

TRINITY COUNTY



Photos from the **Trinity Dam Blvd. storm damage repair project.**

The storm damage is an ER project from 2017 storms. Excavation 5' deep, installing drainage, and reconstructing with a geogrid reinforced fill. The road was closed during construction.

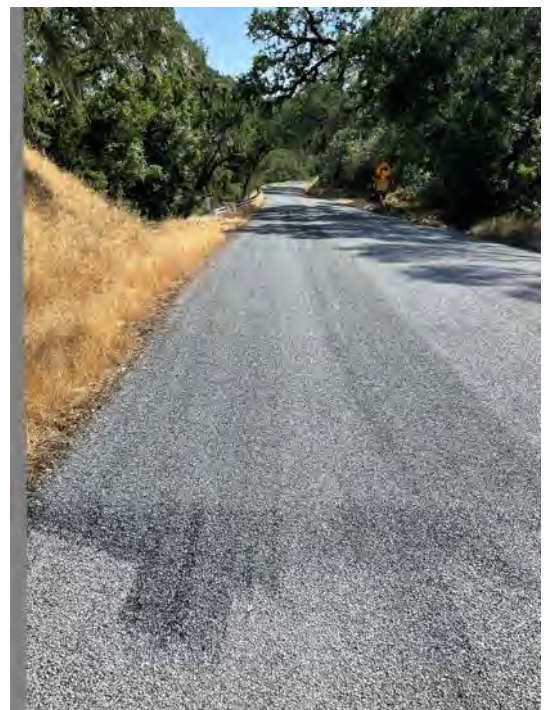


Northern California Regional Report (continued)

Mendocino County 2025 Projects Update

Corrective Maintenance:

1. Failed surface to be in-place recycled to 4-inch depth with blended cement treatment
2. All materials mixed with cement
3. Compact and shape
4. Surface with double chip seal



Northern California Regional Report (continued)



MENDOCINO COUNTY

Ackerman Creek Bridge rock weir fish passage project

Clear span with rock weir roughened channel to let fish swim up. Need caused by dropping of the Russian River over past sixty years

Race is on to complete before rain falls and fish swimming up the creek



Lambert Lane Bridge falling down pictures below:
Cracks started 2016 – seven years later, the 1960s foundation on wood piles is collapsing

Construction underway with a new bridge hopefully this year



ENGINEER of THE YEAR (Ed Hanna Award)

How to Nominate and Submit:

Active members that have made outstanding contributions to the County engineering profession and to CEAC are eligible for this award. Award recipients are recognized annually at CEAC's Fall Conference/CSAC Annual Meeting.

If you wish to nominate a person for the Engineer of the Year award, please complete the Nomination and Narrative forms listed below and return to:

Alicia Winokur, Chair

CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee
Mendocino County
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482-9432

[Engineer of the Year Guidelines 2025](#)

[Engineer of the Year Nomination Form 2025](#)

[Engineer of the Year Narrative Form](#)

Email: Submit via email to Alicia Winokur at meiera@mendocinocounty.gov

Phone: (707) 463-4363

Deadline: October 8, 2025

Questions?

Email: meiera@mendocinocounty.gov or call (707) 463-4363

SURVEYOR of THE YEAR

How to Nominate and Submit:

Active members that have made outstanding contributions to the County Surveying profession and to CEAC are eligible for this award. Award recipients are recognized annually at CEAC's Fall Conference/CSAC Annual Meeting.

If you wish to nominate a person for the Surveyor of the Year award, please complete the Nomination form which includes a Supplemental form and return to:

Mike Lee

Director, CDSA Director and County Surveyor
CEAC Surveyor Committee
Yuba County, Community Development & Services Agency

Email: mlee@co.yuba.ca.us

Phone: (530) 749-5420

Deadline: October 8, 2025

[Guidelines for selecting surveyor of the year 2025](#)

[Nomination Form Surveyor of the Year 2025](#)

Questions?

Email: mlee@co.yuba.ca.us or call (530) 749-5420

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Memorial Scholarship Program

The County Engineers Association of California will grant TWO (2) \$3,000 cash scholarships to qualified engineering or land surveying students for study leading to a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or land surveying. Each student must be enrolled in upper division course work leading to a civil engineering or land surveying Degree, with a high grade point average, have demonstrated a need for the scholarship, and have participated in related outside activities such as a Student Chapter ASCE, Student Member CLSA or American Public Works Association. These various factors, including outside activities, will be considered in awarding the scholarship.

2025 CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee:

Chair	Alicia Winokur	Mendocino County
Vice Chair	Steve Hennessee	Los Angeles County
Vice Chair	Kristi Rhea	San Joaquin County

Application due date extended to October 8, 2025

In addition, in order to be eligible for the above scholarship, an applicant must complete an application form and write a professional and educational goals letter. This letter will have considerable weight in grading the merits of the applicant, as well as the student's grade point average and the need of the applicant.

You may submit your applications electronically or in hard copy.

Electronic applications: must be emailed no later than October 8, 2025 to:

Alicia Winokur at meiera@mendocinocounty.gov.

Please include "CEAC Scholarship Application 2025" in the email subject line.

Hard copy applications: must be postmarked and submitted no later than October 8, 2025:

Alicia Winokur, Chair
CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee
Mendocino County
Public Works Department
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482

Questions?

Email: meiera@mendocinocounty.gov

Phone: (707) 234-2804

[2025 CEAC Scholarship Announcement v2](#)

[2025 CEAC Scholarship Application Form fillable v2](#)



NACE REPORT

By
Howard Dashiell
CEAC Representative to NACE

NACE Strategic Plan **Vision, Mission & Strategic Priorities**

VISION: A robust, reliable, and safe transportation network for all.

MISSION: To improve the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of local infrastructure through advocacy, collaboration, and education of road officials.

TAG LINE: Voice of local road officials

PRIORITY 1 – ADVOCACY

1. Develop and strengthen relationships with federal agencies, elected officials, and stakeholders to foster information exchange.
2. Influence federal issues important to local transportation networks.
3. Create issue-specific resources and talking points that enable state directors to champion NACE priorities with members and their local, state and federal officials.
4. Create agency-specific best practices and solutions that support funding and process improvements for county road officials and local transportation networks.

PRIORITY 2 – EDUCATION

1. Create educational offerings outside of traditional engineering technical sessions (technology/AI, logistics, outside of infrastructure speakers outside of NACE).
2. Develop leadership and management education offerings to grow future county road officials and NACE leaders.
3. Develop virtual educational offerings that support NACE members and nonmembers (e.g., webinars, YouTube, live/prerecorded).
4. Provide federal agency-specific education to support road officials in their work.
5. Explore new opportunities with NACO to assist in educational opportunities.
6. Provide education opportunities that expand corporate member visibility.
Assess and enhance education at the NACE Annual Conference

PRIORITY 3 – MEMBER GROWTH & ENGAGEMENT

1. Develop strategies to create a diverse and inclusive membership.
2. Enhance corporate membership value proposition to attract more support through membership, exhibits, and sponsorships.
3. Create member benefits specific to future road officials and operations support staff to grow and engage future leaders.
4. Work with state directors to promote NACE membership benefits within their state associations.



CEAC Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT Page 1

20th Annual CEAC Policy Conference

Capitol Event Center

1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA

Friday, August 22, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order (Leamon) at 12:31 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes (Pack 1st, Penrose 2nd) Unanimously approved

2. Correspondence (Leamon) - None

3. CLODS Report (Madjd-Sadjadi)

The organization recently lost two CLODS. Mike Walford (Contra Costa) and Don LaBelle (Alameda). Celebration of life for Mike on Saturday, September 6th, in Concord. A moment of silence was held for their loss. CEAC members are encouraged to attend the memorial. CLODS expects to hear from Leamon regarding nominations for Secretary, including letters and requests for additional information and qualifications. Twenty years ago, CLODS conducted research to identify nominees, offering two choices. Leamon gave three options to the CLODS for their consideration. The recent meeting resulted in an excellent turnout of CLODS. There are 35 active members of CLODS, with 20 attending the meeting and 25 responding.

4. NACE Report (Dashiell)

The Annual NACE Conference in Schaumburg, Illinois, was well attended by CEAC. Dashiell to participate in the next Director's meeting, which should include the financial results of the annual conference. There are no current discussions about dues adjustments. The next NACE conference will be in Arlington, Texas, in April, with an additional report to the CEAC Board at the San Jose. Johnson asked if the 3% in 2027, with Dashiell suggesting that the current CEAC dues may cover this increase.

5. CSAC Report (CSAC Staff)

6. Regional Directors' Reports

Bay Area (Hoevertsz)

The Bay Area hasn't met in 18 months. He is putting a group together and hoping to meet soon.

Central Coast (Grim)

Renewed focus on increased participation and getting broader representation. They plan a mix of in-person and online meetings in the future.

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Friday, August 22, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Northern California (Bronkall)

The 2nd annual reboot of the Bedroll Conference occurred in June. Strides have been made in creating a desk manual for the conference, with planned collaboration between Bronkall and Mike Leacox. Bronkall calculated travel times to Camp Tehama for each agency. Pack suggested highlighting directions since mobile phone directions were inaccurate.

Sacramento Mother Lode (Randall)

The group met in person in July, with various speakers on bridge projects as a warm-up for bridge advocacy. The meeting was held at TopGolf, where sponsors covered the cost of beverages, exploring potential options to attend UC Davis for the track. Zoom meetings are suitable for sharing ideas. Koutroulis asked how they coordinate attendance. Randall stated that about half of the member counties attended, along with CEAC sponsors. Key speakers included El Dorado and the City of Sacramento to discuss bridges.

San Joaquin Valley (Chrun)

Their last several road commission meetings were held in Madera and Merced Counties. Continue to advocate for agencies and staff to attend CEAC conferences. The group combines presentations, golf, food, and networking. Kings, Kern, and Mariposa do not regularly participate. Chrun discussed various projects in the region moving forward.

Southern California (Koutroulis)

Recent discussions have involved solid waste and SB 1383, with a meeting in April and another scheduled for late September or early October. Meetings focused on solid waste but also included other topics. New directors in Orange and San Diego Counties. Looking forward to exploring opportunities to engage new Directors and involve them in CEAC, and hoping to see more involvement of San Diego County.

After the Regional Director's reports, DeChellis reminded attendees that the regional report is due in mid-November. DeChellis will continue to send emails to Regional Directors, providing pictures of agency work with brief captions.

7. Treasurer's Report (Johnson)

Treasurer's and budget reports are included in attachments. Two highlights – 57 of 58 counties have paid their fees to prepare the Local Streets and Roads Report. Gerety has done an excellent job in contacting counties lagging in their payments. Only Alpine has not paid its fees. The current CEAC website is outdated and requires an update. Gerety to contact BlackDog (site administrator) to obtain a quote for the update. Bronkall cites the need for the site to comply with ADA. Johnson to look into how this work will

Friday, August 22, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

impact the CEAC budget. Action taken to approve reports (DeChellis 1st, Bronkall 2nd) was unanimously approved.

8. Committee Reports:

Administrative (skipped)

Flood Control and Water Resources (skipped)

Infrastructure and Development (skipped)

Resource Recovery and Waste Management (skipped)

Surveyor (Hennessee)

Two documents (Monument Preservation Toolkit and Guide to the Preparations or Surveys and Corner Records) are in the process of being updated. Outreach to the survey community will occur before the December meeting. The documents will be shared with all Board members. The plan is to have the survey committee review and recommend approval to the Board for adoption in December.

Transportation (skipped)

Fellowship (Leacox)

Fellowship saw \$196 contribution. Cornhole tourney had 12 teams, but it can be expanded to 16 teams next year. Pack mentioned that the county wine tasting competition was missed, but otherwise, the program was fantastic.

Oversight (skipped)

Scholarship (Dashiell)

Minimal involvement in the recent scholarship process. It will be readvertised and extended to October. There was also a discussion on similarly extending nominations for Engineer and Surveyor of the Year.

9. Unfinished Business (Leamon)

Leamon discussed interest in changing the official address to 1100 K Street. Madjd-Sadjadi is opposed to it. There are concerns with the temporary relocation of CSAC beginning this fall. Johnson asked what the core issue was. Leamon mentioned concerns with having a private address. Johnson thanked Leamon but didn't share the same concerns. Counties submit checks to Johnson for dues. Penrose mentions that the Headquarters shall be located in the office of the Treasurer, the location where the commander performs their functions. Overall, CEAC duties are a bit dispersed. DeChellis motioned that this issue be tabled until one of the following occurs: a) CSAC returns to their remodeled HQ and returns to their location at 1100 K Street, or b) the treasurer brings up their concern. Bronkall (2nd). Unanimously approved. Penrose stated that bylaws don't require the Board to adopt an address formally.

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Friday, August 22, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

10. New Business

Discussion on the Secretaries' conference. Pack and Leamon discussed prior unsuccessful efforts through the Administrative Committee when Pack was Chair. The title of the committee is to be renamed to the Professional Administrative Professionals Seminar to address concerns with the use of the Secretary's title. Discussion on requiring the Past President to organize the seminar, which would begin when Leamon becomes Past President. Merced and others are willing to participate. The Officers' Manual would need to be amended to reflect the new duties of the Past President. Hoevertsz agrees to continue the program when he becomes the Past President. Motion by Pack to add duties of the Seminar to the Past President, 2nd by Hoevertsz. Unanimously approved.

DeChellis expressed interest in having a member of the NACE Executive Committee become a CEAC Board member. NACE Regional Representative already has a vote. DeChellis sees value in having Machado's input and voice on the CEAC Board. Most of the time, it would be unfilled. Leamon likes the idea. A person who makes it through NACE ranks would provide valuable contributions to CEAC. Johnson's previous NACE experience always made him feel he had a voice while on the Board. Hoevertsz is concerned that the position is often vacant. Pack discussed options to make it count as a quorum only when the position is filled. DeChellis made a motion to begin the process of adding the position as an officer, with a 2nd by Pack. Motion approved by most members, opposed by Madjd-Sadjadi. Leamon is to work on the language for the position. Johnson requests that Machado attend the next meeting to gauge interest. All agreed.

11. Life Membership (Leamon) - none**12. Announcements (Leamon)**

CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference - San Jose Convention Center, Santa Clara County, December 1-5, 2025.

2026 CEAC Spring Conference (in conjunction with the League of Cal Cities' Public Works Officers Institute) - Hyatt Place Monterey, Monterey County, February 25-27, 2026.

2026 NACE Annual Conference - Live by Loews! Arlington, 1600 E Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76011, April 12-15, 2026.

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, Santa Clara Co, Dec 5, 2025.

2026 CEAC Spring Conference, Monterey County, February 27, 2026.

Motion to adjourn made by Pack, 2nd by Penrose, and was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Dutifully submitted by Joshua Pack – August 25, 2025.

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Friday, August 22, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Officer	Office	County/Organization
David Leamon Johannes Hoevertsz	President	Stanislaus
Joshua Pack	Vice President	Sonoma
Panos Kokkas	Secretary	Butte
George Johnson	Immediate Past President	Trinity
Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi	Treasurer	Riverside (Retired)
Mike Penrose	Treasurer-Emeritus	Marin (Retired)
Patrick DeChellis	Parliamentarian	Sacramento (Retired)
Howard Dashiell	Newsletter Editor	Los Angeles (Retired)
Dave Gravenkamp (absent)	NACE Representative	Mendocino
	Historian	Siskiyou (Retired)
Regional-Directors	Region	County
Johannes Hoevertsz	Bay Area	Sonoma
David Grim	Central Coast	San Luis Obispo
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 (absent)	Administrative	Ventura
Scott DeLeon (absent)	Fellowship	Lake (Retired)
Jason Uhley (absent)	Flood Control/Water Resources	Riverside
Matt Randall	Infrastructure and Development	Placer
David Leamon	Oversight	Stanislaus
Tom Koutroulis	Resource Recovery & Waste Mgmt.	Orange
Alicia Winokur (absent)	Scholarship	Mendocino
Steve Hennessee	Surveyor	Los Angeles
Najee Zarif (absent)	Transportation	San Joaquin
CSAC/CEAC Staff	Title	Agency/County
Mark Neuburger (absent)	Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Jordan Wells (absent)	Legislative Advocate	CSAC
Caitlin Loventhal (absent)	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety	CEAC Executive Director	CSAC/CEAC

Non-Voting Members: Other Attendees

Michael Leacox – NCE
 Colt Esenwein – Colusa County
 Martin McIlroy – MGE Engineering
 Rylie Bellinger – NCE
 Denise Zitnik – Tuolumne County
 Tom Mattson – Humboldt County
 Nathan Bray – Merced County

Job Opportunities in Local Government

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

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.***

JOB LISTING as of September 1, 2025

Organization	Position	Date Posted	Closing Date/First Review
Sonoma County	Director of Permit Sonoma	8/29/2025	9/25/2025
Santa Cruz County	Resident Engineer	8/29/2025	9/26/2025
Sonoma County	Assistant Engineer & Engineer	8/26/2025	9/4/2025
Alameda County	Associate Civil Engineer	8/22/2025	9/22/2025
City of San Luis Obispo	Public Works Director	8/12/2025	9/5/2025
Napa County	Public Works Superintendent (Roads Division)	8/4/2025	9/2/2025
Fresno County	Civil Engineer II/III	8/4/2025	Continuous Until Filled
Ventura County	Engineering Manager/Senior Engineering Manager	8/4/2025	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.