



CEAC Newsletter

March
2026



President's Message

By **Johannes Hoevertsz**
Director, Public Infrastructure
Sonoma County

It was a pleasure to gather recently at our Spring Conference in partnership with the League of California Cities. These conferences are always meaningful, but this year felt particularly special.

We welcomed new committee members who actively participated in sessions and discussions. Seeing emerging leaders step forward, engage in substantive dialogue, and contribute their expertise reflects exactly the kind of succession planning and leadership development that will keep CEAC strong for decades to come. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our new committee chairs and members who stepped up in a short timeframe to help prepare what was an outstanding and highly productive conference.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the CSAC team for their outstanding coordination and partnership in delivering a seamless and productive event. The collaboration with the League of Cities continues to strengthen the connection between counties and cities, reinforcing our shared responsibility to serve California's communities with professionalism and purpose.

In addition, we want to recognize our private industry partners. Our consultants, contractors, and industry professionals are indispensable collaborators in advancing the infrastructure work we deliver every day. Their technical expertise, innovation, and engagement not only enhance our projects but also enrich the quality and depth of our conference discussions. We are grateful for their continued partnership and support of CEAC.

To the CLODS, thank you for your continued presence and support. Your engagement adds a unique and valued dimension to our CEAC gatherings. And to every county representative and guest who attended, thank you for making the time to participate. CEAC is more than an association; it is a professional family. Opportunities like this allow us not only to exchange technical knowledge and policy perspectives, but also to build lifelong professional relationships grounded in trust and shared experience.

A special thank you to those attending their first CEAC conference, we are truly glad you joined us. Your engagement strengthens our association and brings valuable new energy and perspective to our work.

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**Review
Revision
Rejection**

Editor: Pat DeChellis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We now turn our attention to the upcoming Policy Conference, as well as the conference formerly known as "Bedroll, ". Stay tuned for more information on that effort. This event remains one of our most technically focused gatherings, delivering real value on the core public works and engineering issues that define our mission.

Thank you again to everyone who participated and contributed to making this Spring Conference such a success. Together, we are making 2026 a remarkable year to be part of public works and to be part of CEAC. I look forward to continuing our work side by side in service to the communities we represent.

Johannes Hovertsz
2026 CEAC President

SAVE the DATES

- ◆ **2026 NACE Annual Conference** - April 12-15, 2026, Live by Loews! Arlington, Arlington, TX
 - ◆ **41st Annual CEAC Field Summit** - July 29-31, 2026, Camp Tehama (see next page for registration)
 - ◆ **21st Annual CEAC Policy Conference** - August 20-21, 2026, Capitol Event Center, Sacramento
 - ◆ **132nd CSAC Annual Fall Meeting** - December 1-4, 2026, So. San Diego, Chula Vista Gaylord Chula Vista
 - ◆ **2027 CEAC Spring Conference** - March 15-19, 2027, Hyatt Regency Orange County
-



Join us at the heart of Texas for the National Association of County Engineers' premier event of the year, at the Loews in Arlington. This conference is your opportunity to:

- Connect with county engineers, road managers, and industry partners from across the nation
- Learn from expert-led technical sessions, workshops, and focused discussions on the future of county infrastructure
- Explore innovative solutions and technologies showcased in our interactive exhibit area
- Advance your leadership and professional development through diverse networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities

41st Annual CEAC Field Summit (formerly Bedroll)

Save the Date! 41st Annual CEAC Field Summit 7/29/2026 to 7/31/2026 at Camp Tehama

1 message

Bronkall, Bob <BBronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us>
To: "Bronkall, Bob" <BBronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us>

Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 1:04 PM

On behalf of the CEAC Field Summit steering committee, we want you to save the date for the 41st annual CEAC Field Summit at Mt. Lassen in Tehama County. There is a *calendar invitation* (attached) that you can click on to "reserve the date" on your calendar.

The event will again be held at Camp Tehama. Attached is a flyer with general information about the event. Note that registration materials and the program agenda will be sent out as soon as the agenda is finalized.

Hope to see you at CEAC Field Summit at Mt. Lassen!



At Mt. Lassen
Tehama County, CA

--Bob



Robert W. Bronkall, LS, PE-Civil, PE-Traffic
County Surveyor
[Public Works Department – Land Use](#)
[Division](#)

3015 H Street, Suite 124 * Eureka * CA *
95501

707.445.7205

County Surveyor Office [webpage](#)

* Emails part human, part AI - fully dedicated to getting things done.

* Attachments may not be fully ADA accessible. Please contact me if you need an accessible document.



We are on point!

3/16/26, 3:09 PM

Gmail - Save the Date! 41st Annual CEAC Field Summit 7/29/2026 to 7/31/2026 at Camp Tehama

Subject: Save the Date! CEAC Field Summit 7/29/2026 to 7/31/2026

Location:

Camp Tehama

40550 Hwy 172

Mill Creek, CA 96061

Arrival Time / Departure Time:

Check in is 2:00 PM. *No early check-ins are allowed!*

Checkout is 12:00 PM

CEAC FIELD SUMMIT

WHY YOUR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

This don't-miss event is one of the best bargains offered by CEAC; especially in lean fiscal times. The technical program and peer engagement offers learning, collaboration, and networking opportunities for County engineers and public works leaders across California. The summit offers a broad technical program and meaningful peer engagement. This event provides county engineers and public works leaders the opportunity to focus on substantive infrastructure topics, transportation, funding, resilience, emergency response, capital delivery, and operational best practices, while building professional relationships that ultimately benefit the communities we serve. Our program will be presented by seasoned Public Works professionals. The program kicks off on Wednesday night following the BBQ dinner. More details on the event agenda will follow later this spring.



**At Mt. Lassen
Tehama County, CA**



Please join us at beautiful Camp Tehama for the 41st annual CEAC Field Summit scheduled for Wednesday evening, July 27th through Friday July 29, 2026 conveniently located in Tehama County near Mt. Lassen National Park. The weather at Camp Tehama is pleasant, you can expect daytime high temperatures to be around 82 F and nighttime low temperatures to be around 43 F during the event.

CEAC FIELD SUMMIT



LOCATION

Camp Tehama is located at:
40550 Hwy 172, Mill Creek, CA 96061.
Keep reading for approximate mileage and travel times from select counties to Camp Tehama.

COST

The 2026 event is \$60 for county staff \$120 for all others (consultants); and FREE for non-working CLODS. The fee includes a powerful technical program, five homestyle meals, lodging, social activities, and networking with your peers.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the event, contact:

BOB BRONKALL, HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Conference Coordinator
bbronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us
707.445.7205

HOWARD DASHIEL, MENDOCINO COUNTY

Program Coordinator
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2026 PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN PROFESSIONALS SEMINAR

Hosted by Stanislaus and Merced Counties

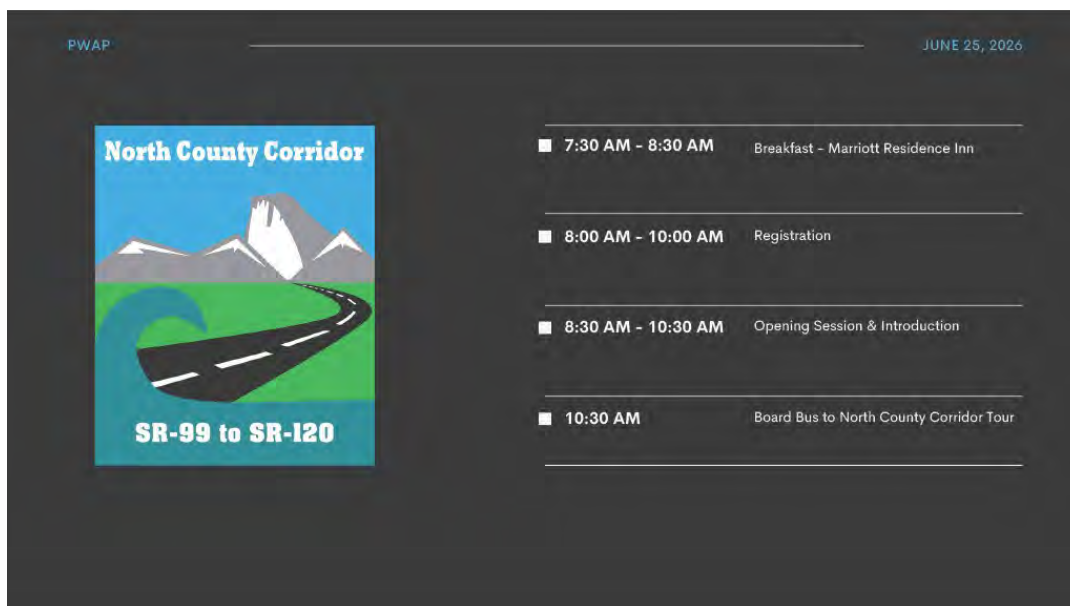
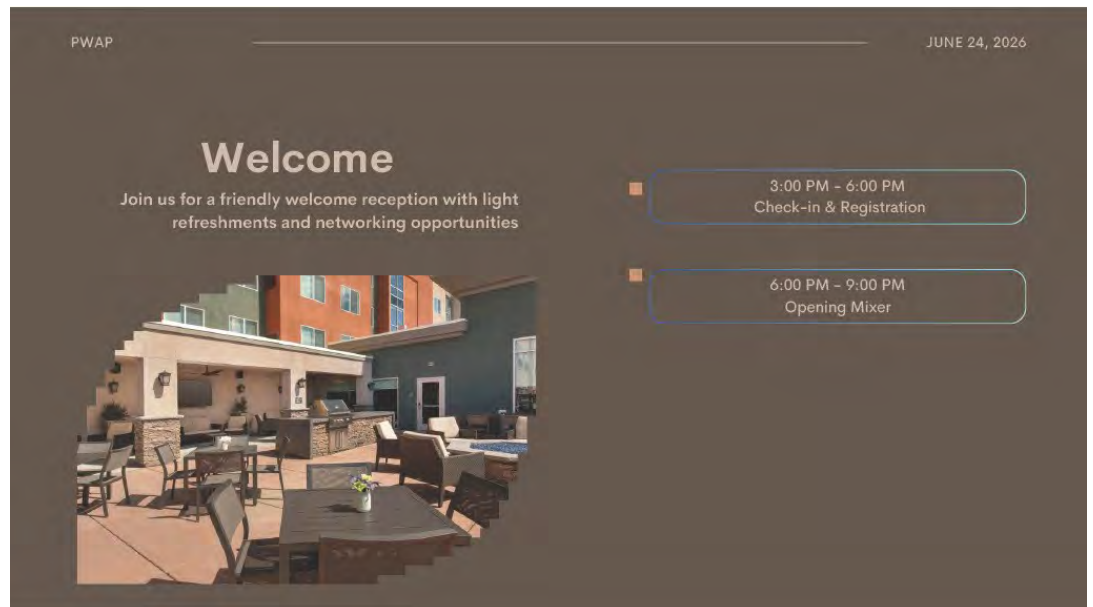


Registration is scheduled to open Monday, April 6th.

Check the CEAC website for more information.

To be held at:

- Residence Inn by Marriott &
 - Courtyard by Marriott
- in Modesto North



Hilmar Cheese Company

- 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Tour & Lunch - Hilmar Cheese Company
- 3:00 PM Return to Marriott Residence Inn



Skewers Kabob House

5:30 PM - Board Bus to Dinner

Let's enjoy dinner together and take the opportunity to network and connect.



- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Closing Sessions
- 11:30 AM (Optional Tour and Lunch) Sciabica's Olive Oil Company
- 1:30 PM Wrap-Up Board Bus to Marriott Residence Inn Dismissal

QUESTIONS?

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENT, CONTACT:

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WHAT'S HAPPENING Around the State!

NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS

SISKIYOU COUNTY - GARRETT RICHARDSON

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors unanimously appointed Garrett Richardson as Director of Public Works, effective December 9, 2025.

Garrett previously served as the County's Deputy Director of Public Works, where he played a key role in managing daily operations, supervising major infrastructure projects, and supporting the department's long-term planning and maintenance efforts.



A Siskiyou County native, Garrett has been a dedicated member of the Public Works team for 13 years. During that time, he has worked in a variety of positions that allowed him to learn the full scope of the department's responsibilities, including road and bridge maintenance, engineering, construction management, and oversight of public facilities and critical infrastructure programs. His knowledge of local communities and extensive field experience provide a strong foundation for leading the department into its next chapter. Garrett also has 10 years of experience in construction.

"I am truly honored to step into this role and to continue serving the county that I have always called home. Over the past 13 years, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible team that keeps Siskiyou County moving every single day. I am excited for the opportunity to lead this department and to continue the essential work of maintaining and improving our roads, infrastructure, and public facilities for our residents, businesses, and visitors."



Congratulations to the 2026 Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Award winners!

[City of San Ramon](#)

[City of Atascadero](#)

[Placer County](#)

[City and County of San Francisco](#)

[County of Nevada, CA](#)

[City of West Sacramento](#)

[County of San Diego](#)

Thank you for your commitment to enhancing safety and connectivity for all residents.

NACE REPORT



Howard Dashiell CEAC Representative to NACE

Greetings CEAC members!

By extension you are also members of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE). At NACE this year, we are going to be busy continuing to advocate for local roads within the 2026 Surface Transportation Reauthorization Policy & Principles. NACE has been actively working with Congress and the Administration to develop a bill that provides funding for local government to take care of our part of our nation's transportation infrastructure. By improving our road system, we will continue to help our national economy to grow as goods and people move throughout the country.

Every trip begins and ends on a local road.

County Engineers came together in Washington DC from Wednesday February 18, concluding the evening of Thursday February 19 before Saturday's National Association of Counties (NACo's) annual Legislative Conference, 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. They met with Congressional Elected officials and staff, Administration Agencies, House Transportation (Majority) Committee, and FHWA. NACE is currently actively working with FEMA and EPA. Being physically present in DC allowed County Engineers to engage directly with the policymakers. See pages XX-YY in this Newsletter for a detailed report of the Fly-In.

All CEAC members are invited to attend the **Arizona Association of County Engineers (AACE)** Conference at Aquarius Casino Resort 1900 S Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV June 10 to 12, 2026. This Conference is the NACE Western Region (Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, and Arizona).

CEAC members can register at: <https://www.azace.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1986556>

Much like CEAC Conferences, there are road product exhibitors, technical sessions and a NACE/Federal Legislative Update.



House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

Participants: Wayne Sandberg MN, Jodi Teich MN, Kevan Stone EO, Pam Dingman NE, Chris Doty OR, Matt Machado CA, Luke McGinty AL, Ramone Gavarrete, Stephen McCall OH, Jeff Linkous OH, Andrew McGuire IA, Joe Trammel TX, Jacob Thorius IA, Bart Walls TN, Patrick Vander Sanden, Mike Piniewski OH

NACE Conferences

[2026 NACE Annual Conference](#), Arlington (Tarrant County) **April 12-15, 2026**

- November 3rd Delegate Registration and ALL Exhibitor Registration Opens
- December 15th Housing Opens (published cut-off date is March 13th)

2027, Cleveland, Ohio dates April 5th to 8th, 2027

2028, Michigan, location & dates TBD

2026 CEAC Spring Conference & PWOI



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



2026 CEAC Spring Conference & PWOI (continued)



2026 CEAC Spring Conference & PWOI (continued)



Steve Mellon (far right) active in CEAC for over 30 years and heavily involved in the Fellowship Committee. Steve was honored at the 2023 Fall Conference held in Alameda County for his outstanding service to CEAC.

With Jason Jurros and Pattie McNamee



Richard Schwartz retired Assistant Director of Public Works for Merced County with Steve Mellon and Pattie McNamee.

Rumor has it that Pattie was responsible for both Steve and Richard attending the Spring Conference.



2026 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) are proud to announce the winners of the 2026 Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards. These awards highlight local government projects that demonstrate innovation and cost efficiency while protecting long-term investments in California's streets, roads, and bridges.

Sponsored by CSAC, Cal Cities, and CEAC, the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards were presented during the Cal Cities Public Works Officers Institute/CEAC Spring Conference on February 25 in Monterey.

"Counties and cities across California lead in delivering sustainable and enduring transportation projects," said **Johannes Hoevertsz, President of CEAC and Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Director**. "By applying innovative approaches, local governments are strengthening mobility while protecting the long-term performance of their streets and roads."

This year's overall winner, City of San Ramon, is recognized for its Iron Horse Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing at Bollinger Canyon Road, a transformative project that enhances safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists.

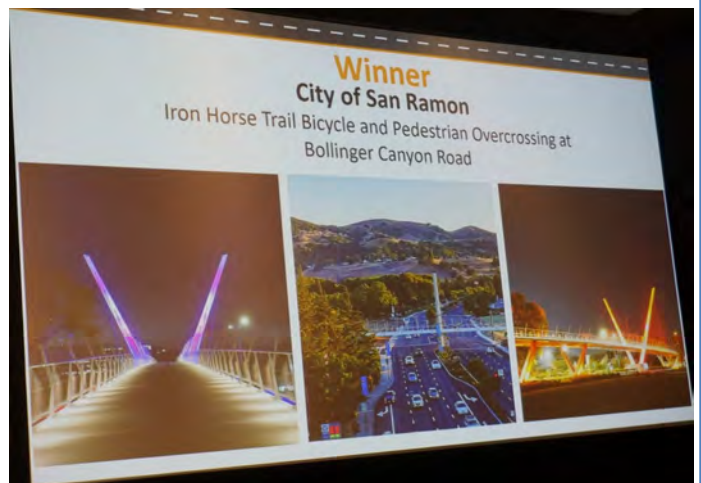
"Throughout California, local governments are leading the way on transportation investments that keep streets safe and communities connected while navigating increased public demands and dwindling financial resources," said **Cal Cities Public Works Department President and Folsom Public Works Director Rebecca Neves**. "These award-winning projects reflect the creativity, commitment, and innovation at the city and county to improve roadway safety, strengthen communities, and help California meet its climate goals under challenging and adverse circumstances. They are an inspiration to us all in the daily pursuit of safe and dependable transportation networks."

Brief descriptions of the winning projects are included below. Full descriptions of winners and finalists are available on the [Save California Streets](#) website.

Overall Winner

Iron Horse Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing at Bollinger Canyon Road, City of San Ramon

The \$29M Iron Horse Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing at Bollinger Canyon Road is a 340-foot, cable-stayed bridge that provides a safe, grade-separated crossing over one of San Ramon's busiest corridors. Anchored by 900 feet of MSE wall approaches, it eliminates a previously signaled crossing and completes a link in the 30-mile regional Iron Horse Trail system. The project integrated context-sensitive landscaping with over 7,000 native and drought-tolerant plants and 80 trees along with community gathering spaces enhanced by architectural lighting.

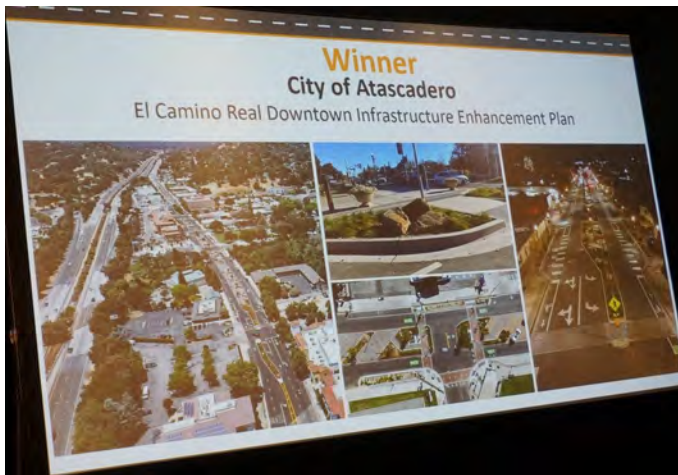


The pictures of the award winners include Rebecca Neves, President of CalCities PWOI, and Johannes Hoevertsz, President CEAC

2026 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards (continued)

Roads: Efficient and Sustainable Road Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects

El Camino Real Downtown Infrastructure Enhancement Plan, City of Atascadero



The City of Atascadero's El Camino Real Downtown Infrastructure Enhancement Plan was an efficient and sustainable reconstruction of a nearly 100-year-old historic highway through downtown. This project reduced the number of vehicle lanes, added parking and a more inviting flexible space for events in the street center, provided enhanced bicycle facilities on the road, and promoted safer pedestrian crossings.

Bridges: Efficient and Sustainable Bridge Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects

Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project, County of Placer

Placer County's Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project includes a new bypass segment of State Route 89 with a new bridge crossing the Truckee River downstream of Fanny Bridge along with roundabouts on the east and west ends of a new bypass that has been key to managing traffic during the Fanny Bridge closure. The bridge features widened sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides as well as activated pedestrian crossing signals on both ends; these improvements will provide ADA access to businesses, a transit hub and recreational areas surrounding the project area.



2026 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards (continued)

Complete Streets Projects – TIE

6th Street Pedestrian Safety Project, City and County of San Francisco

Combie Road Multi-Purpose Trail, County of Nevada



The **6th Street Pedestrian Safety Project** aims to transform 6th Street into a multi-modal corridor that improves safety for pedestrians and other vulnerable users of the street. Between Market and Howard streets the improvements along 6th Street include: a reduction in the number of vehicle travel lanes on 6th Street, widening of the sidewalks on both sides of 6th Street, installation of new curb bulb-outs at all intersections, installation of new traffic signals at Stevenson and Natoma Streets and the striping of new crosswalks at all alleys crossing 6th Street, installation of streetscape, and application of new roadway striping at various locations.

The **Combie Road Multi-Purpose Trail** is a Class 1 concrete trail that stretches $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Higgins Road to West Hacienda Drive. This trail provides safe, non-vehicular and pedestrian-friendly access for students of three neighboring schools, as well as for residents traveling to nearby Marketplace shopping centers and the new community library. The \$1.3M project consists of an ADA-compliant, 8-foot-wide concrete path with 2-foot shoulders, placement of drainage improvements, rock retaining walls, and safety rails.

Safety or Intelligent Transportation System Projects

HSIP Traffic Safety & Signal Improvement Project, City of West Sacramento

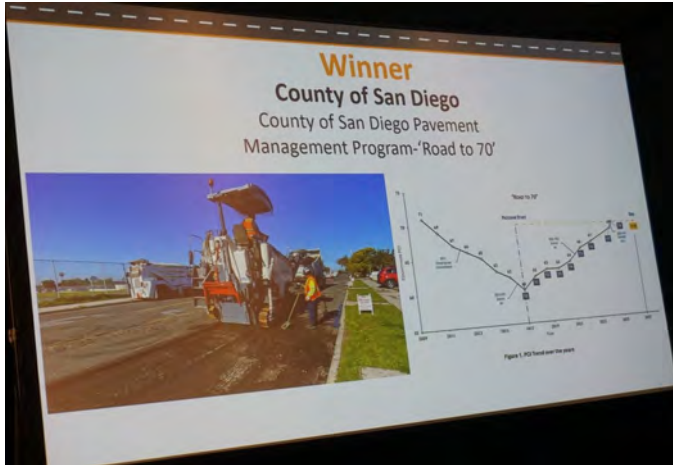


This federally funded effort brings targeted upgrades designed to reduce collisions, improve visibility, and enhance pedestrian access at more than twenty locations throughout the community. Planning was guided by the City's Systemic Safety Analysis Report, which identified high-risk corridors and intersections. This project improved: Geometric Modification of Approaches at Intersections (4 Locations), Signal Hardware and Safety Improvements at Signalized Intersections (6 Locations), and Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements (10 Locations).

2026 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards (continued)

Best Pavement Management Practices

Pavement Management Program – “Road to 70”, County of San Diego



In 2017, San Diego County formalized “Road to 70” an ambitious program to restore their network to Pavement Condition Index (PCI) 70, backed by \$70 million annually based on SB-1(Road Repair & Accountability Act) funding. “Road to 70” placed robust Pavement Management Program (PMP) data at the center of their decision process, combining data analytics with engineering expertise and community feedback. From 2017-2025, they invested \$500 million and increased network PCI from 61 to 69, reaching 70 by summer 2026. They delivered: 900+ miles resurfaced, 366 culvert improvements, 2,260+ ADA curb ramps, 145 intersection upgrades, 57 traffic signals with video detection, 349 bike lane miles. “Very Good” roads: 39% to 54.7%; “Very Poor”: 9% to 0.6%.

Congratulations to the Award Winners and Finalist!



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

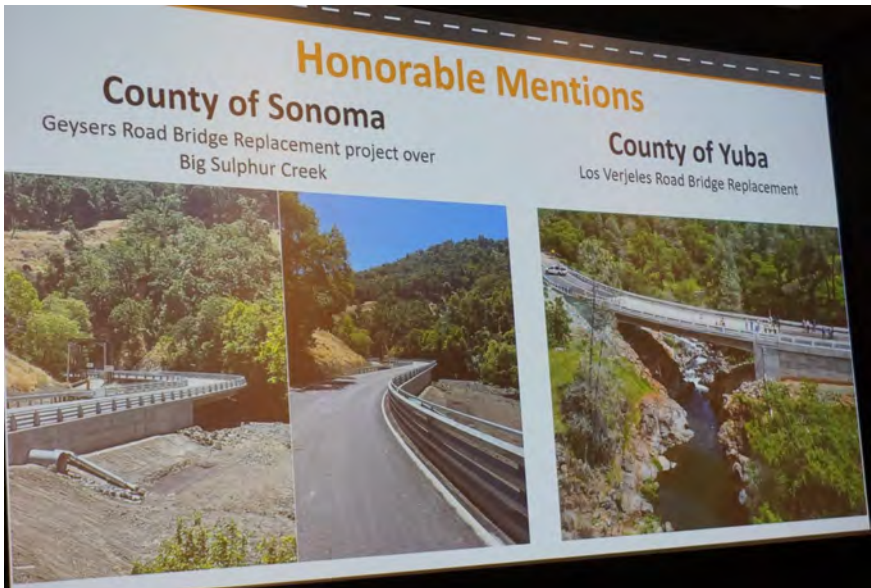


See the following pages for the Honorable Mentions.

2026 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards (continued)



Category:
Efficient and Sustainable Road Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects



Category:
Efficient and Sustainable Bridge Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects



Category:
Safety or Intelligent Transportation System Projects

2026 Local Streets and Roads Project Awards (continued)

Honorable Mention

City of Costa Mesa

Adams Avenue/Pinecreek Drive Intersection Multimodal Improvements Project

Category:
Complete Streets Projects



Honorable Mentions

City of Pittsburg
City of Pittsburg Pavement Management Program

City of Beaumont
Beaumont Citywide Street Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program

Contra Costa County
Contra Costa County Pavement Management



Category:
Best Pavement Management Practices

CEAC PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION and BANQUET

February 26, 2026

CEAC President,

Johannes Hoevertz

Hosted the 2026 CEAC President's Banquet.

Celebrating fellow colleagues and the infamous **Buffalo Bull Award** recipient!



CLODS at THE BANQUET

Picture to the left: **David Leamon** (CEAC President 2024-25); **Ken Miller** (2000-01); **Scott McGolpin** (2013-14); **Sandra Miller**; **Howard Dashiell** (2021-22); **Panos Kokkas** (2023-24); **Mehdi Sadjadi** (1998-99); **Tom Mattson** (2012-13)

Picture to the right: **Doug Wilson** (1996-97); **Luann Johnson**; **George Johnson** ((2007-08)

CEAC PRESIDENT'S BANQUET



2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD



Above (r-l): **David Leamon**, Stanislaus County and the 2025 Award Recipient, with **Tom Mattson**, Humboldt County. Tom was responsible for building the new base for the Award since there was no room remaining after Dave's name was inscribed for 2025. The new plaque that was added with the name of the 2026 Recipient will be "sufficient" thru 2061.

Below left: picture of the back of the Award with the page from the April 2025 Newsletter highlighting Dave as the 2025 Recipient. At the bottom of the Award states: "Constructed by Humboldt County Public Works".

Below right: picture of the Award without the new base



2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD (continued)

BUFFALO BULL AWARD RECIPIENT—2025



What did Mr. Leamon, our Beloved President at the time, 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 2024 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 tonight'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.



Panos 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!

BTW, Dave did several other things 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.

The three nominees were:

Panos Kokkas—for his sarcastic referral of the Buffalo Bull Award as the Excellence Award and his continuing "cavalier" attitude.

David Leamon—for his "bemeaning" the Newsletter, his involvement in the entertainment for the 2024 CLODS BBQ, and not knowing the home address for CEAC.

Tom Mattson—for threatening to kill "Pat" at the 2022 Buffalo bull Award Presentation or the fact that the entire entertainment for the 2024 CLODS BBQ was his idea.

Buffalo Bull Award 2003 - 2015



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

Buffalo Bull Award 2016 - 2025



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

???

2026

2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD (continued)

Some “fun” facts about the Buffalo Bull Award:

The first recipient of the Buffalo Bull Award was Irv Morhar, Los Angeles County Road Commissioner and CEAC President (1976-77), in 1972. Irv planted plastic trees on Slauson Blvd when real trees kept dying due to the vehicle emissions.

From 1972 to 1995, the Award was given out 24 times.

- 16 to CEAC Presidents or future Presidents
- 8 times to individuals who would not become CEAC President
- And, was never given to the same recipient twice during this time.

Since 1995, the Award has been given out 27 times.

- 24 to CEAC Presidents or future Presidents
- 3 times to individuals who would not become CEAC President
 - Neil Cullen, San Mateo County, 1999
 - Carl Bonomini, Trinity County, 2006
 - Mike Carlson, Contra Costa County, 2018
- And, was given to the same recipient 5 times, starting with Tom Hunter in 1997 and 1998. Tom would become the CEAC President in 2001-02.

Some “fun” facts about the Buffalo Bull Award, continued:

There have been 8 retired Presidents since 1989 who did NOT receive the Buffalo Bull Award. They are:

- Harry Orfanos, Imperial County, 1994-95
- Doug Wilson, Tulare County, 1996-97
- Mehdi Sadjadi, Marin County, 1998-99
- Don LaBelle, Alameda County, 1999-2000
- Ken Miller, San Bernardino County, 2000-01
- Mike Crump, Butte County, 2006-07
- George Johnson, Riverside County, 2007-08, and
- Brian Balbas, Contra Costa County, 2022-23

Can you name the 2 active CEAC Presidents who have not yet received the Award?

So, what does this all mean???

- Will one of the active CEAC Presidents who has not yet received the Award finally receive it?
- Will a non-CEAC President receive it?
- Or, will the Tres Pinos Committee continue to follow recent “form” and award the Buffalo Bull to a future CEAC President?

Stay tuned to find out which it is!!!

2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD (continued)

The three nominees for the 2026 Buffalo Bull Award were:

1. Blossom Scott-Heim
2. Bob Bronkall
3. Howard Dashiell

What did they each do to be nominated for this Award?

BLOSSOM

The entire Fellowship Committee was considered; but, due to the great work that the Committee does, only the County Engineer from Tuolumne County was nominated.

Blossom was selected on behalf of all of the members of the Fellowship Committee for their “dress up” at the 2024 CLODS BBQ.

The Fellowship Committee at the 2024 CLODS BBQ



All of the Fellowship Committee was considered for the Buffalo Bull Award
from l-r:

Martin McElroy, Jason Jurros, Pattie McNamee,
Blossom Scott-Heim, Mike Leacox, Scott DeLeon



above: at least four of the Fellowship Committee members were “brave” enough to attend the President’s Banquet!

to the right: Isn’t this a great picture of Blossom and Martin!



2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD (continued)

BOB

Bob was previously nominated for the Buffalo Bull Award in 2022 when the Tres Pinos committee received an anonymous tip that Bob professed, when Tom Mattson received the Buffalo Bull Award in 2021, “Oh, my GOSH! I let my Boss down, **AGAIN!!!** It should have been me who got that Award!!! The Tres Pinos Committee has not forgotten that offer....

The picture of a license plate presented at the 2025 CLOUDS BBQ - After the BBQ, Bob was asked what this plate meant. He stated:

“Your first assumption may not be what the plate really means. In this case if the contestant answered, “I love upper corner, lower Alabama”. They would score a point. This license plate is a college football reference. It relates to fans of University of Alabama who enjoy mocking the location of their rival, Auburn University.”

And, for the **MISUSE** of the word **“THE”**!



HOWARD

Howard was previously nominated in 2023 for the condition of Heeser Drive in Mendocino County. A one-mile stretch of the road was in such poor condition that drivers have to drive on the wrong side of the road to feel safe.

And, in 2022, Howard was nominated for an article that appeared in the Municipal Magazine which reports that a village in Mendocino County has no access to government services.

Now, the Mendocino Voice reports that potholes and ruts along Mendocino County roads have long plagued rivers, but residents insist one road has reached a crisis point. Little River Airport Road (County Road 404).

A resident group drafted a petition and delivered it to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. They also sent 63 postcards to Howard complaining about the road.



2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD (continued)

Remember the Fun Facts:

Since 1995, the Buffalo Bull Award has been given out 27 times:

- 24 times to CEAC Presidents or future Presidents, and
- **ONLY** 3 times to individuals who would not become CEAC President.
- And, there are 2 active CEAC Presidents who have not **YET** received the Award

So, which will it be this year?

- A CEAC President or future President? (**Blossom or Howard**)
- A nominee that may not become a future President? (**Bob**)
- Or, one of the active Presidents who has not yet received the Award (but has been nominated twice previously and did NOT receive the Award only because Panos was his competition?) (**Howard**)



picture to the right:

Howard just realizing he is the recipient of the 2026 Buffalo Bull Award as he reads the plate with his name inscribed for 2026.



2026 BUFFALO BULL AWARD (continued)



Howard posing with the Award while the two “runners-up” look on with smiles on their faces.

The Tress Pinos Committee advises the “runners-up” to remove the smiles. Howard had been nominated twice previously only to lose out to Panos Kokkas who “won” in both 2022 and 2023.

Howard with the Award in his Office along with the 63 postcards sent by residents regarding the condition of Little River Airport Road.



BUFFALO BULL AWARD - RECIPIENTS 2003 to 2026



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
25



David Leamon
2025



Howard Dashiell
2026

2026 CEAC Spring Conference - Friday Breakfast



picture to the l: **Doug Wilson** (CEAC President 1996-97; Sandra Miller; **Ken Miller** (2000-01); **Mehdi Sadjadi** (1998-99); **Howard Dashiell** (2021-22); **Tom Mattson** (2012-13); and **Daniel Woldeesenbet** (2011-12)

picture to the r: **Scott McGolpin** (2013-14); **Panos Kokkas** (you can only see the top of his head) (2023-24); **David Leamon** (2024-25); **George Johnson** (2007-08); Luann Johnson; Nicole Balbas; **Brian Balbas** (2022-23), and **Matt Machado** (who has his back to the picture) (2015-16)



Friday Breakfast (continued)



Friday Breakfast (continued)

CEAC/CalCities Spring 2026 Conference GOLF TOURNAMENT – SCRAMBLE Pacific Grove Golf Course



Mike Leacox and Scott DeLeon presenting the winners of the Golf Scramble with their prizes at the Friday Breakfast



And, the raffle winners (or, maybe not in the case of **THE County Surveyor from Humboldt County**), from the drawing held by the Fellowship Committee for those donating to the CEAC Memorial Fund at the Conference.



from out of the past

By **Scott McGolpin** CEAC Historian

I am grateful to be chosen as the next CEAC Historian. Thank you to the CLODS for the honor of the nomination and to our great membership for voting me into this position. I look forward to many years of service to each of you as I fulfill this role for our organization.

I would like to recognize the outstanding service provided to CEAC by **Dave Gravenkamp**, Siskiyou County, as our Historian over the last 32 years. Dave was our CEAC President in 1992 and after that term expired, he was elected our first CEAC Historian in 1993. Dave's long history with CEAC also included work at the national level. He served as the Western Region Vice-President for NACE in the 1990's and was named the NACE Rural County Engineer of the Year in 1998. His Droppings articles over these decades were always on point and provided all of us with a living history of this great organization we all love. Dave was the gentleman who would build backwards running clocks for all retiring CLODS. I was honored with the last one he made when I retired in 2024, and it is one of my most prized reminders of my public service. Dave, thank you for your outstanding public service to the people of California and to CEAC! You done good!

I recently took a trip up to visit my son, Samuel, in Sacramento, and had the opportunity to spend time with our fantastic CEAC Executive Director, **Merrin Gerety**, to catch up over lunch and visit the CSAC storage vault. Dave had passed on the CEAC Historian files to CSAC where this valuable information was stored pending the selection of a new Historian.

Well, the timing of this visit couldn't have been planned better as CSAC was vacating their building for a dramatic remodel of the facility, which meant everything must go!

Merrin and I finished lunch just in time to intercept the CEAC History cart on the way to oblivion...

Today these files reside in my already cluttered garage (one of many retirement projects I haven't gotten around to yet...).



I started my CEAC journey in 1999 when Phil Demery selected me to be his Deputy Director of Transportation. Phil was not only my director but a mentor to me in so many ways. He brought me to my first CEAC conference shortly after appointment. One of my memories from that first conference was attending my first Buffalo Bull presentation at the President's Banquet. No one alerted me at all to what I was about to experience. For the better part of two hours, Public Works Directors from around the state were being called on stage and told to sit quietly as endless stories were told in detail about their projects that didn't go so well that year. I remember laughing so hard my stomach hurt, while at the same time recognizing that these are the most powerful people in Public Works across California. As a brand-new Deputy Director, I learned a powerful lesson that evening; *no matter who you are or what position you hold, never take yourself too seriously*. It is ok to laugh at your mistakes, learn from them, don't repeat them and move on. I also learned to never let the CLODS know about my mistakes in the future...however they did find out about one of them...

CEAC has so many rich traditions and customs - like the Buffalo Bull I described above - that I want to explore as the historian for the benefit of all our members. The goal is to ensure that the message from these historical traditions is clear to all, and they continue in the future to benefit our current and future members. As I think about topics that are relevant to the history of CEAC for future articles, a few of the projects I hope to explore are listed below:

- Continue Dave Gravenkamp's work on two-year reviews of CEAC history. These stories detailed CEAC leadership and major issues faced by that leadership in that timeframe. Interesting in my review of Dave's history files, it was not a surprise, but lack of adequate funding was a common theme just as it is today.
- The history of CEAC; when it all started, why and who were the key players, and who made it happen?
- CLODS history. How, when, and why did the CLODS start? What do the CLODS mean to CEAC and to the membership of our organization?
- What is the meaning of the Buffalo Bull Award? When received, what are some of the ways honorees have displayed their awards for the year back at their departments? How in the world did they explain this award to their board, staff and visitors?
- What are the CHIC and Buddy Awards? How did they get started and what do they represent? Who has been honored with these awards over the years?
- Bird Names? Why were these created, and what do they mean?
- Exposes on Living Individual "Birds," aka CLODS. We have many revered CLODS that are strong CEAC leaders who have been honored with individual bird names. Let's learn who they are, how they got to where they are today and what CEAC means to each of them.
- CEAC History with NACE. My time spent with NACE showed me that CEAC is highly respected at the national level. California has had many past presidents of this great sister organization. Let's explore California's past contributions on the national stage through our strong leadership and relationship with NACE.

DROPPINGS (continued)

- We all love the CLODS BBQ. A place to spend time together as a team, enjoy some great BBQ and chili, and experience entertainment you won't see anywhere else! Who was involved in getting this tradition started, why was it started and how do we keep this tradition so strong today?

It was interesting as I went through Dave's historical records, in one of the boxes was a letter to Dave from a Public Works Director in California. Apparently, CEAC has solicited historical information from various active directors as well as retirees across the State from time to time. The director made a statement that CEAC has never been good about documenting our past - however we learn from each other as we tell stories. He compared it to a parent-child relationship like when your parents tell you about their grandparents etc. So, let's continue telling stories, documenting those stories, and learning from each other; *that is what has made CEAC so strong, and will keep us growing stronger in the future.*

If you have any ideas or questions about our CEAC customs, history, and traditions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Those ideas and questions will be very helpful in our pursuit of documenting our rich CEAC history. I am always available at conferences to talk, except if I am out for a quick walk on the links, but also please don't hesitate to call me (805) 896-5574 or email me: scottmcgolpin@protonmail.com anytime with your thoughts.

Thank you,

Scott McGolpin

(Note from the Editor: following is information that Dave provided about himself)

Born in Onawa, Iowa in 1937. Graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School, Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1955. Graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1959. Served 4 years in the Army National Guard.

Started his civil engineering career working for the Los Angeles County Road Department, Maintenance Division, in 1959.

(Editor's note: that is the 2nd thing that Dave and I have in common—we both started our engineering careers working for Los Angeles County and our College school colors.)

Continued his civil engineering career working for Siskiyou County Road Department in 1964 as the only registered civil engineer in the Department. Promoted to Road Commissioner in 1966. With the creation of the Siskiyou County Department of Public Works, became the First Director of Public Works in 1973.

Graduated from Chico State University in 1989 with a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

CEAC President 1991-92

CEAC Engineer of the Year 1992 and 1998

Selected to be the first CEAC Historian in 1993 and served for 32 years.

*Prepared the **Droppings** for the CEAC Newsletter for 30+ years*

NACE Western Region Vice President

NACE Rural County Engineer of the Year in 1998

Named one of APWAs Top 10 Engineers in 2002

McIntosh Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005

Retired from Siskiyou County in 2002 after 38 years of service, 29 as the Director of Public Works

Made the Cowpie Clock for retiring CLODS, the first for Bruce McClain (CEAC President 1965-66; retired in 1989) and the last for Scott McGolpin (CEAC President 2013-14; retired in 2024)

(Editor's last note: I guess it was only fitting that Scott followed Dave as the CEAC Historian since Scott received the last Cowpie Clock which, for those of you who aren't aware, runs backwards. Maybe the Cowpie Clock should be an article for a future **Droppings**???)

2025 CEAC Scholarship Awards

CEAC granted two \$3,000 cash scholarships for study leading to a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or land surveying in 2025. 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, demonstrates 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 Award Recipients

Isaac Yang, University of the Pacific (seeking a BS in Civil Engineering)
Peter Otoshi, Cal Poly Pomona (seeking BS in Civil Engineering)

See the following pages for their applications and pictures receiving their scholarships.

2026 CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee

Chair - Alicia Winokur, Mendocino County
Vice Chair - Kristi Rhea, San Joaquin County
Vice Chair - Vacant

Due to our success last year of receiving so many scholarship applicants with a modified deadline, we will be posting the scholarship announcement in August, prior to the Policy Conference, with a deadline in early to mid-October to catch students at the beginning of the school year.

Anyone that knows a Civil Engineering or Land Surveying undergraduate student that will be enrolled in upper-division coursework this fall should encourage them to apply for the scholarship!

Thanks,

Alicia Winokur

Deputy Director, Engineering
Mendocino County Department of Transportation

Thanks to the Fellowship Committee and the great work that they do, they collected almost \$1,400 for the Scholarships at the Spring Conference. No wonder while the Tres Pinos Committee considered the entire Committee for the 2026 Buffalo Bull Award, only one of them was nominated; and she did not receive the Award. I believe that the vote was not even close - Howard "won" it "hands down"!!!

2025 CEAC Scholarship Awards

Alicia Winokur, Chair CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee

I am strongly interested in applying for the CEAC Memorial Scholarship and happy to share my background, goals, and activities. I am currently a 5th year transfer student at the University of the Pacific in my Cooperative Education Program, working for the San Joaquin County Public Works in the Transportation Engineering Division. I will be working with them for a total of 7 months until the end of this year.

My career goals have shifted throughout my college experience, varying from being a computer scientist to a structural engineer. But after working with San Joaquin County, I have fully entertained the idea of working in the transportation field with federal agencies or private firms.

As an engineering aide intern, I've worked on a variety of projects. I've prepared traffic control plans, detour plans, and vicinity maps for many of the county's traffic-related work orders. I assisted with the Countywide Traffic Signal Equipment Upgrade project by performing QA/QC on the 90% , 100% design submittals/ cost estimates. On the planning side, I reviewed traffic impact studies and technical memoranda, learning about trip generation analysis and VMT forecasting.

One of my most fulfilling tasks is updating the county's speed ordinance. I get to go out in the field to conduct manual traffic surveys and compile the certification, strip maps, and data registration in the office. This by far gives me the biggest job satisfaction, because the county's engineering and traffic surveys are outdated. As a result, there has been minimal speed enforcement, leading to a historic increase in speeds in our principal, minor, and major arterials/collectors. At the time of writing this, the first set of updated certificates is already under review by our licensed senior traffic engineer. I take enjoyment that I can potentially make our roads safer during my limited time here. I am also blessed to be working with awesome, like-minded colleagues such as our deputy director of engineering, Najee.

I want to take this conviction and apply it to my post-graduation goals. Being born and raised in Stockton, I want to give back to the community by working on local projects that directly impact families like mines. I wish to be a transportation engineer to serve the Northern Central Valley including the Modesto, Stockton, and Sacramento areas. Working in the county, I have seen firsthand the quickly expanding cities and increasing county projects to upkeep infrastructures in our growing communities. I resonate with the idea that us civil engineers must work humbly behind the scenes to serve the public's best interests.

Outside of school, I am involved in our student chapter ASCE and will be serving as the historian officer next semester. Last spring semester, 6 other students and I revived UOP's steel bridge competition team for the first time in over a decade to compete at ASCE MidPacific. We all had to read 60+ pages of rulings and specifications, design a 20 ft bridge from scratch, figure out cost estimates of steel, use heavy machinery, learn welding, and, more importantly, coordinate as a professional team despite having no prior fabrication experience. Through some blood, toil, tears, sweat, and intense practicing the night before competition, we managed to create a functioning bridge—placing 5th out of 6 schools. Even though it failed during the final loading test, we were ecstatic to pass all initial checks and make history for UOP.

Ultimately, this scholarship will relieve my school expenses. By participating in that once-in-a-lifetime bridge team, I had forgone the opportunity to continue working as a part time YMCA Afterschool Group Leader. As an independent, I am responsible for 100% of my student loans. I also took out private loans because I am not eligible for federal parent loans to cover my remaining immediate tuition. During my paid Co-Op, I prioritized paying off most of my private loan because it has the highest fixed interest rate. This scholarship will relieve me of that financial burden, and I can start saving for my final semester loans. More importantly, it can enable me to continue working with our steel bridge team next year, with full commitment and hopes to go to regionals this time.

Lastly, I want to thank the CEAC scholarship committee for helping the next generation of engineers. You all serve as role models for young engineers and remind us that we must also give back. I also want to give appreciation to everyone working in the county who are responsible for overseeing bigger jurisdictions with smaller teams with lesser budgets.

Thank you,



Issac Yang receiving one of the 2025 Scholarships from **Najee Zarif**, Deputy Director Engineering, San Joaquin Co.

Isaac Yang

UOP Class of '26. [SJC PW] Engineering Aide

2025 CEAC Scholarship Awards

Dear CEAC Memorial Fund and Scholarship Committee:

I am grateful to be considered for the 2025 County Engineers Association of California Memorial Scholarship. My pursuit of Civil Engineering grew out of a passion for making a tangible difference in the lives of others. It was as an enthusiastic but uncertain college freshman that I was invited to join a faculty's literature review on global methods of drinking water defluorination. I soon found myself constructing a solar distiller prototype and gathering research on natural resources in the Middle East with a drive to help prevent rampant cases of skeletal and dental fluorosis. I never imagined how that experience would lead me to help with multi-million-dollar capital improvement projects as a water engineering intern and plan and construct water solutions on the other side of the world! These incredible experiences have led me to my current pursuit of a career in water engineering.

As an undergraduate student currently enrolled in 18 units, I deeply value both learning and contributing my passion and experiences to my university. I am excited to be the Vice President Internal for Cal Poly Pomona's CWEA-AWWA student chapter, leading tours of our hydraulics lab and sharing about the water industry to new underclassmen and even middle school students. I am also working with a professor to model and test culvert models for future students to use in hydraulics labs. These water-related service opportunities have been greatly rewarding! In fact, my passion for making a difference in others' lives led me to spend nine weeks last summer volunteering in Nigeria through borehole drilling, waste management, and community development. My career goal is to serve others around the world by securing reliable access to clean, affordable drinking water.

Beyond my schooling and internship experience in the public and private sectors, I am an active member of multiple professional organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Works Association, California Water Environment Agency, National Society of Leadership and Success, and Asian American Architects/Engineers Association. Within these organizations, I have been recognized for serving in roles like event planning and outreach committee. Upon graduating, I desire to volunteer in my local community through the professional organizations I am part of and transition to becoming a leader amongst fellow young professionals who share a similar passion and commitment to excellence.

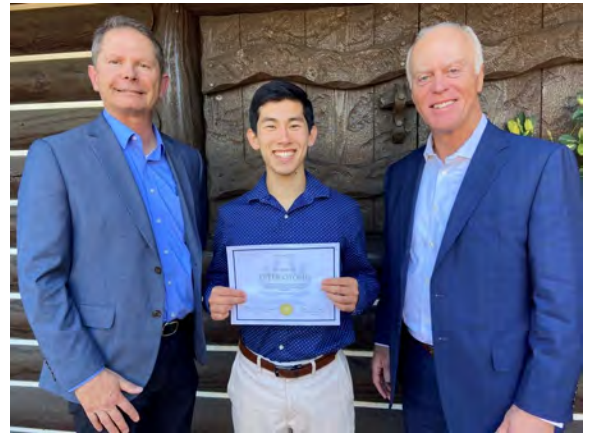
However, my financial situation requires outside support for me to complete my degree. I pay for the entirety of my tuition, food and housing costs and have had to spend a significant amount of time this current school year to make ends meet. I have endeavored to take full course loads each semester in order to graduate as quickly as possible and save money. Receiving the CEAC Memorial Scholarship would greatly help me overcome these challenges by providing financial stability so I can continue to grow and contribute professionally and personally at Cal Poly Pomona and graduate with a strong academic foundation.

As I look toward the next year, my goal is to graduate in December 2026 with a double major in Civil Engineering and Engineering Physics and take the PE exam (I have just obtained my EIT and ENV SP certifications!), preparing to become a professionally licensed Civil Engineer working within the water industry. These certifications and degrees will equip me to be a well rounded, effective contributor to the global water community by having a strong foundation of knowledge. Ultimately, I continue to be fueled by the same desire I had as a freshman for making a lasting difference in the lives of others through the field of water.

Thank you very much for considering me for the CEAC Memorial Scholarship to support the completion of my education in pursuit of a water engineering career.

Sincerely,

Peter T. Otoshi



Peter Otoshi (center) receiving one of the 2025 Scholarships from **Steve Hennessee**, on the left, (Los Angeles County) Scholarship Committee Vice-Chair and **George Johnson**, on the right (Riverside County, retired) CEAC Treasurer



NACE Federal Legislative Fly-in

Meeting Summary

February 19, 2026



1. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

Committee Staff & Members Engaged

Jimmy Ballard (Coalitions/Member Services – jimmy.ballard@mail.house.gov)

KEY THEMES

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- Committee has been working on the bill since summer 2025 with bipartisan engagement ongoing.
- Expectation of a markup in Q1 2026.

Goal remains completing a full bill this year but extension always possible.

Direct County Funding & Flexibility

- Participants emphasized importance of direct federal funding to counties, especially for maintenance. Counties highlighted the value of SS4A planning grants and noted that planning investments directly support project delivery.

SS4A Program Feedback

- Counties reported that the SS4A application process for planning grants is simple and accessible, often not requiring consultants unlike the implementation grants portion.

Earmarks and small planning dollars have proven effective for local safety work.

Local Role & Cost Realities

Counties reiterated that local agencies are closest to the work and face significant cost pressures in delivering projects.

Streamlining & Environmental Review

- Participants shared experiences with state-level environmental processes and emphasized the need for exemptions for work within existing rights-of-way.

Committee staff expressed strong interest in hearing more about streamlining needs.

How NACE Can Help

- Committee staff encouraged NACE to:
 - Reinforce the importance of completing the reauthorization bill this year.
 - Advocate against extensions and for a full reauthorization.
 - Note that fuel tax increases are likely “DOA,” though indexing has conceptual interest.
 - Send a letter to all new House T&I members, many of whom have never been through a reauthorization cycle.
 - Send a letter to all new House T&I members, many of whom have never been through a reauthorization cycle.

NACE Federal Legislative Fly-in (continued)

2. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Participants (as captured)

Jamie Pizali (Municipal Ombudsman – Pizali.jamie@epa.gov)

John Eunis (Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs – Eunice.john@epa.gov)

Claire Mullican (Senior Advisor – mullican.claire@epa.gov)

Prasad Chumble (Acting Director and Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer – chumble.prasad@epa.gov)

Key Themes

Regulatory Streamlining & Clarity

- EPA acknowledged the complexity of the regulatory environment and expressed willingness to collaborate.

Counties emphasized that federal exemptions often do not filter down to state or resource agency implementation, especially for maintenance activities.

Local Burden & Practical Realities

- Counties noted that EPA rules often serve as the baseline for stricter state interpretations, particularly affecting maintenance work.
- Even locally funded projects can trigger significant regulatory requirements (historic bridges, signals, ADA improvements).

Counties emphasized that local agencies are strong risk managers and need less prescription and more flexibility.

NEPA & Permitting Distinctions

- EPA clarified differences between NEPA (procedural) and permitting (substantive).
- 404 permitting remains a major challenge; 402 programs delegated to states can be stricter than federal requirements.

Encouraged discussions with USACE

Upcoming NEPA Changes EPA highlighted several updates coming from CEQ:

- 150-page limit for NEPA documents
- One lead agency
- Consolidated CATEX portal
- Use of AI tools to identify CATEX opportunities
- “One Federal Decision” now codified into law as part of IJA

Local Examples Raised

- Channel vegetation management
- Flooding and maintenance permitting

Need for early collaboration with regulators and the Corps of Engineers

How NACE can Help - EPA Openness

- EPA staff expressed willingness to continue conversations and potentially attend NACE or NACo conferences.
- The PERMIT Act was noted as an opportunity for NACE input.

Counties discussed mapping EPA roles and state oversight to identify where NACE can add value.

NACE Federal Legislative Fly-in (continued)

3. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

FHWA Participants (as captured)

Sean McMaster (Administrator - sean.mcmaster@dot.gov)

Tony Frye (Associate Administrator, Policy & External Affairs - tony.frye@dot.gov)

Key Themes

Funding Predictability & Program Stability

- Counties stressed the need for predictable federal funding to plan effectively.

FHWA emphasized returning to “basics”—roads and bridges remain the backbone of the national system, carrying 91% of all transportation trips.

2026 Will Be a Sprint

- FHWA expects rapid project movement as the authorization window closes.

Anything that can be obligated this year will be prioritized to eliminate backlog.

Streamlining & Delivery Speed

- Counties highlighted disparities between local and state project delivery timelines.
- Participants shared examples of concurrent processes that improve delivery and encouraged FHWA to include locals in decision-making.

Counties reiterated that they work closest to the public and are expected to deliver results despite limited resources.

SS4A Program Discussion

- Counties shared that planning grants are helpful but the overall process needs simplification.

FHWA acknowledged the challenge of navigating numerous programs and committed to making processes simpler.

Inflation & Cost Pressures

- Counties raised concerns about inflation and implementation timelines.

FHWA recognized the issue and encouraged continued dialogue.

Where NACE can help – a partnership with NACE

- *Kevan Stone* emphasized NACE’s role as a key stakeholder.
- FHWA leadership agreed, noting the strength of the transportation system and the importance of continued engagement.

Additional note: FHWA staff referenced frequent coordination with federal resource agencies—an opportunity for NACE to align talking points and concerns.



CEAC Board of Directors Meeting
2026 CEAC Spring Conference
Hyatt Regency Monterey
1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940
Big Sur 1-3
February 27, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

9:38 a.m. Call to Order (Hoevertsz)

1. **Approval of Minutes** (Leamon)
 - a) December 5, 2025 - **Attachment One - Action Item**
 - **Motion to approve: Johnson, 2nd Randall. Approved unanimously.**
2. **Correspondence** (Hoevertsz) none
3. **CLODS Report** (CLODS) newsletter good
4. **NACE Report** (Dashiell)
 - a) April 12-15 Texas- NACE.
 - b) Arizona brought back Laughlin:
 - o AZ Assoc. of County Engineers puts on- open to all western regional states
 - o June 9-12th
 - o Very affordable (~<\$600 total, ~\$225/person, ~\$70 rooms)
 - o Good technical sections (pavement preservation, etc)
5. **CSAC Report** (CSAC Staff) n/a
6. **Regional Directors Reports**
 - a) Bay Area
 - (Hoevertsz) Met with Marin and Napa to increase participation. **Vanessa Garrett was named new Regional President.**
 - b) Central Coast: No report
 - c) Northern California
 - (Esenwein) got together to brainstorm Bedroll- to increase participation. May rebrand, talk about new events, etc.
 - Bedroll: July 29-31, at Camp Tehama
 - d) Sacramento Mother Lode
 - In general keeping up with quarterly meetings, some field trips, talk issues.
 - e) San Joaquin Valley
 - Met last week-Tulare. Talked CEQA, March 20 next meeting-Kern.
 - June 24-26 PW Admin Conf.
 - f) Southern California: No mtgs held
7. **Treasurer's Report** (Johnson) - **Attachment Three - Action Item**
 - a) Accept the Treasurer's Report
 - b) Accept the proposed 2026 budget

- c) Balanced structurally. Accounts for website update- schedule TBD.
 - d) Motion to approve: D. Leamon, 2nd: Dashiell. Approved Unanimously
8. **Committee Reports:**
- a) Administrative no meeting; will have one this summer. Need 4th member
 - b) Flood Control and Water Resources Working to build advocacy coalitions- CAFW issues is one focus area- permit reform
 - c) Infrastructure and Development
 - e) No mtg. Santa Clara Valley Exec. Dir will talk HCP at future meeting.
 - d) Resource Recovery and Waste Management: No report. Joan Araujo is new president.
 - e) Surveyor: Hennessee retiring. Guides approved for monument preservation and Records of Survey. Lots of discussion of ADA for websites. Need a person for Surveyor of the Year committee.
Mission Statement approved:
CEAC Surveyor Policy committee fosters a unified community of county surveyors dedicated to excellence in public service through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and mutual support. We strive to enhance the accuracy, integrity, and efficiency of land surveying practices by working together to address challenges, promote innovation, and uphold public trust.
 - f) Transportation: New Vice Chairs announced. FHWA was a no-show, but said they were working on being more present in the future.
 - g) Fellowship: Raised over \$1k for scholarship fund.
 - h) Oversight :n/a
 - i) Scholarship: David Grim coming onto committee. Need one more person.
9. **Unfinished Business**
- a) CEAC Affiliate sponsorships (Johnson/Gerety): nothing new. There was an offer from CSAC to explore concept of managing affiliates. It was generally agreed they would need to provide more details.
10. **New Business**
- a) Proposal to add NACE officer temporarily to the CEAC board while they are a NACE officer. Bylaws change ARTICLE XVII and ARTICLE XVIII (Dashiell) - **Attachment Three - Action Item**
Leamon: Motion to approve as written; 2nd DeChellis. Motion approved 10 ayes/2 nos
11. **Life Membership**
12. **Announcements**
- Scheduled Conferences**
- a) 2026 NACE Annual Conference - Live by Loews! Arlington, 1600 E Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX 76011, April 12-15, 2026
 - b) 21st CEAC Policy Conference
Sacramento County, August 20-21, 2026
 - c) 132nd CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, South San Diego Chula Vista Gaylord Chula Vista, December 1 - December 4, 2026
 - d) 2027 CEAC Spring Conference (in conjunction with the League of California Cities' Public Works Officers Institute) - Hyatt Regency Orange County, March 15-19, 2027

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

- a) 2026 CEAC Policy Conference, Sacramento County, August 21, 2026
- b) 132nd CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, South San Diego, December 4, 2026

Adjourn

Hoevertsz - 10:35 a.m.

Dutifully submitted by Chris Sneddon March 13, 2026.

Meeting Roster 2/27/2026

Voting Members: Officers and Regional Directors					
Officer	Office	County/Organization	present	absent	
Johannes Hoevertsz	President	Sonoma	X		johannes.hoevertsz@sonomacounty.gov
Blossom Scott-Heim	Vice President	Tuolumne	X		BScott-Heim@co.tuolumne.ca.us
Chris Sneddon	Secretary	Santa Barbara	X		csneddo@countyoofsb.org
David Leamon	Immediate Past President	Stanislaus	X		leamond@stancounty.com
George Johnson	Treasurer	Riverside-retired	X		geoajohnson61@gmail.com
Mehdi Madj-Sadjadi	Treasurer-Emeritus	Marin (retired)	X		cesde@yahoo.com
Michael Penrose	Parliamentarian	Sacramento-retired		X	cyotema@gmail.com
Patrick DeChellis	Newsletter Editor	Los Angeles- retired	X		ceacnewslettereditor@gmail.com
Howard Dashiell	NACE Representative	Mendocino	X		dashiell@mendocinocounty.gov
Scott McGolpin	Historian	Santa Barbara-retired	X		scottmcgolpin@protonmail.com

Regional Directors					
Officer	Office	County/Organization	present	absent	
Johannes Hoevertsz	Bay Area	Sonoma	X		johannes.hoevertsz@sonomacounty.gov
David Grim	Central Coast	San Luis Obispo		X	dgrim@co.slo.ca.us
Colt Esenwein	Northern California	Colusa	X		cesenwein@countyofcolusaca.gov
Matt Randall	Sacramento Mother Lode	Placer	X		mrandall@placer.ca.gov
Erin M. Haagenson	San Joaquin Valley	Fresno		X	ehaagenson@fresnocountyca.gov
Tom Koutroulis	Southern California	Orange		X	tom.koutroulis@ocwr.ocgov.com

Non Voting Members: Committee Chairs and CSAC Staff					
Officer	Office	County/Organization	present	absent	
Matt Machado	NACE Western Region VP	Santa Cruz	X		Matt_Machado@santacruzcountycal.gov
Joan Araujo	Administrative	Ventura	X		Joan_Araujo@venturacounty.gov
Scott DeLeon	Fellowship	Lake-retired, NCE	X		sdeleon@ncenet.com
Jason Uhley	Flood Control/Water Resources	Riverside	X		
Matt Randall	Infrastructure and Development	Placer	X		
Johannes Hoevertsz	Oversight	Sonoma	X		
Joan Araujo	Administrative	Ventura	X		Joan_Araujo@venturacounty.gov
Alicia Winokur	Scholarship	Mendocino	X		
Robert J. Pachinger	Surveyor	Calaveras	X		rpachinger@calaverascounty.gov
Najee Zarif	Transportation	San Joaquin	X		
Mark Neuburger	Legislative Advocate	CSAC	X		
Merrig Gerety	CEAC Executive Director	CEAC		X	

Others attending		
Brian Balbas		Contra Costa-retired, Unico
Michah Martin		Calaveras
Rosanna Bower		Del Norte

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment One Meeting Minutes, December 5, 2025
- Attachment Two Treasurer’s Report
- Attachment Three Bylaws change ARTICLE XVII and XVIII

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 24, 2026

Organization	Position	Date Posted	Closing Date/ First Review
Napa County	Deputy Director – Flood Control and Water Resources (Public Works)	3/24/2026	4/24/2026
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency	Senior Systems Engineer	3/16/2026	3/30/2026
City of Grover Beach	Public Works Director/City Engineer	3/16/2026	4/10/2026
Ventura County	Assistant Director, Public Works	3/4/2026	Continuous Until Filled
City of Elk Grove	Traffic Engineering Manager	3/2/2026	3/31/2026
City of St. Helena	Assistant Public Works Director	3/2/2026	3/31/2026

....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.