Ribbon Cutting Held for Chatsworth Park North Field Improvements

On July 25, 2023 Councilmember John Lee led the celebration of the completion of the Chatsworth Park North Outdoor Field Improvements, 22300 Chatsworth Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311. Also speaking at the event were Chief Deputy City Engineer Deborah Weintraub, Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Board member Vicki Briskman and a Department of Recreation & Parks representative.

This 24.15 acre facility provides multi-purpose fields, a basketball court, and a children’s play area catering to diverse resident needs and interests.

The Chatsworth Park North - Outdoor Field Improvements is a Proposition K - L.A. Kids for Kids Program Competitive funded project. The project scope as specified in the Proposition K Ballot Measure was: replacing the existing irrigation system with a new irrigation system, renovating the baseball infields to standard dimensions, grading and reseeding of the outfields, replacing fence fabric, replacing the bleachers with a new bleachers, and replacing the existing drinking fountain with a new drinking fountain.

The BOE Architectural Division prepared the plans and specifications. The Proposition K Program required three Local Voluntary Neighborhood Oversight Committee (LVNOC) meetings to be conducted. The community, the LVNOC, and Council District 12 were in full support of the project.

Thirteen new trees were thoughtfully added in the lawn areas on the westside with views of the playing fields, and one in front of field 1 backstop and drinking fountain. These trees will contribute to a canopy that is expected to grow to an impressive 13,000 square feet within five years, providing much-needed shade and contributing to the overall environmental health of the area.

There were some challenges during construction that the Architectural and Construction Management Divisions had to meet. One being that heavy rains in January through March earlier this year damaged the final grade of the fields causing some delays.

The contractor was Evergreen Environment, Inc.

Kudos go to Steven Fierce, Architectural Division Head; Richard Campbell, Project Manager; Jane Adrian, Landscape Architect; Richard Fisher, Landscape Architect; Gregory Moeser, Landscape Architect; Richard Louie, Construction Management Division Head; Meghan Aldrich, Senior Construction Manager; Noelia Gonzalez, Construction Manager; the Bureau of Contract Administration; the Department of Recreation and Parks; and everyone else who played a part in making this dream a reality - the community members, the supportive partners and City departments, and everyone who lent a helping hand.
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New bleachers were installed.

Children took turns eagerly throwing pitches to Council District 12 staffer Josh Yeager.

Councilmember John Lee

Preparing for the ribbon cutting.

Chief Deputy City Engineer Deborah Weintraub

Children took turns eagerly throwing pitches to Council District 12 staffer Josh Yeager.

New bleachers were installed.
On December 9, 2021, the BuildLA Appointment System, under the leadership of the Bureau of Engineering, was successfully launched and it has revolutionized development services in the City of Los Angeles. The Appointment System, the first-to-launch of many proposed BuildLA web applications, is a mobile-responsive system created to provide remote Development Services operations and provided continuity of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The System provides constituents with the ability to make virtual meeting appointments for many of the services offered by the various agencies involved with development services in the City.

The System came about when the Department of Building & Safety requested BOE to create a way to have virtual meetings with customers when public counters were shut down due to the pandemic. From day one, the System was proven a great success by both constituents and City staff by providing ease of use, better access, increased productivity, and scheduled services that enhanced a more successful customer interaction.

Currently, nine agencies are using the BuildLA Appointment System: the Bureau of Engineering, LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), Bureau of Street Services, Department of City Planning (DCP), Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Los Angeles Housing Department, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Department of Recreation and Parks.

In order to coincide with the phased reopening of the Development Services Centers, the BuildLA Appointment System was expanded to include the option for constituents to book in-person appointments in April 2022. On June 13, 2022, the BuildLA Appointment System functionality was expanded again to offer Same Day service via a Virtual Counter, whereby a customer can join an online queue for same day service. The Bureau of Engineering, LASAN, DCP, and LAFD are currently offering services to the public through the Virtual Counter. Additionally, customers can call in using a phone and City staff is able to make an in-person appointment for them in order to overcome any digital divide barriers. Both systems offer assisted accessibility to accommodate all customers within the Los Angeles service area.

From its inception through May 11, 2023, there have been 166,575 appointment requests through the Appointment System. As application development and enhancement is dynamic and responsive to stakeholder needs, there have been 23 update deployments since the initial launch in December 2021. The BuildLA Appointment System is the first application to be developed as part of the BuildLA Project, followed by the Affordable Housing Tracking System which launched in response to Mayor Bass’s Executive Directive No. 1 in March 2023.

The BuildLA Appointment System project was managed by BOE GIS Division with continuous feedback and support from the BOE Executive Team. This is a Citywide application that is used across all agencies to provide the development community with a consistent user experience. Almost all City development services departments provided crucial feedback during the development and deployment process. Staff augmentation through a contract with Psomas accelerated the delivery of this system in such a record time.

The goal of the overall BuildLA Project is to implement a centralized portal that will provide real-time development services information from all departments that is easy to use and navigate. This is an extensive effort which requires the replacement or enhancement of many City web applications to interface with the BuildLA data warehouse and schema which are currently under development.

Many thanks go to the team of people who made the system possible: Essam Amarragy (GIS), Alisa Blake (SYS), Victoria Fragozzo (SYS), Omar Haigal (SYS), Ted Allen (EXE), Bert Moklebust (PCM), Wesley Tanijiri (CEN), Christine Sotelo (PCM), Hui Huang (PCM), Veronica Buenrostro (GIS), Alyssa Hilarrio (GIS), + Psomas Team.
On July 27, 2023, Mayor Karen Bass, Regional EPA Administrator Martha Guzman, Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, City Engineer Ted Allen, LASAN General Manager Barbara Romero and community members celebrated a $2 million EPA Brownfields grant to the Taylor Yard project for remediation purposes.

The grant, part of President Joe Biden’s Investing in America Act, will support the City’s efforts to secure funding to clean up the site in phases and allow for park development to occur. Since the City purchased the 42-acre G2 parcel in Cypress Park along the Los Angeles River, The Bureau of Engineering has been leading a multiple-year assessment of the parcel to determine the levels of contaminants in the former rail yard, in preparation for turning the site into park and open space. The former rail yard has been impacted with heavy metals, petroleum and various volatile organic compounds.

The Bureau of Engineering as the project lead is partnering with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and State Parks, to work closely with the Department of Toxic Substances Control to ensure all appropriate risk mitigation measures are taken and it is safe to allow the public on-site. This generous EPA Brownfields Grant will be used to help fund contaminant cleanup at the G2 parcel, as well as help BOE plan and organize additional community engagement activities. The Bureau of Sanitation’s Citywide Brownfields Program will administer the clean up grant.

The event took place at the Taylor Yard Pedestrian Bridge, another LA River project led by the Bureau of Engineering.
After a long hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the BOE Geospatial Applications Training Group conducted and completed the second Autodesk training session since March 2020. Both Autodesk Civil 3D 2020 and Autodesk AutoCAD 2022 Fundamentals training were offered. This second session was conducted in a hybrid mode where 50% of the classes were conducted online and the other 50% were conducted in person in the CTC on the 7th floor of the PWB. The program was able to obtain substantial cost savings for the Bureau by having BOE trainers teach the classes. The savings for the Bureau comes to an average of 65% less than if an Autodesk vendor had conducted the training, as their fees are normally $1,600 to $1,800 per day for onsite group training. The BOE Geospatial Applications Training program has now been in existence for over 23 years!

The Geospatial Applications Training offerings can include AutoCAD, Civil 3D, Autodesk ReCap, Autodesk InfraWorks, Autodesk Navisworks, and Revit Fundamentals as well as workshops in Geology, Land Surveying, Grading, and Street Design depending on the availability of instructors and presenters. These applications and in particular AutoCAD, Civil 3D, and Revit are essential software tools for architects and engineers because they provide advanced capabilities that significantly enhance their design, documentation, and collaboration processes.

Students were very enthusiastic and worked hard to juggle their production responsibilities with the training. Several trainees have reported already having an opportunity to apply a fair amount of their training to current projects in their respective divisions.

The training culminated with the awarding of certificates on June 28, 2023, to acknowledge the student efforts. Deputy City Engineer Crystal Lee presented the certificates of completion. Crystal also presented instructors, Edwin “Lewie” Miller (Survey Division) and Jack Cook (EED), with certificates of appreciation to recognize their ongoing commitment and dedicated service to the training program.

We would also like to thank John Fabic from the Administration Division Training Section for the fantastic job he’s been doing assisting with the coordination of the program. Sincere thanks go out to the Systems Division for their continued support for the program. The ceremony was conducted in the Sub-Basement, Room 6 in the Public Works building.

The next series of training sessions is coming up. Be sure to contact your division Geospatial Applications Training Coordinator or Axel Jauregui, BOE Geospatial Applications Training Coordinator at axel.jauregui@lacity.org, for the latest information on the upcoming training schedule. The BOE Geospatial Training Program is open to all BOE employees.
Board of Public Works Recognizes Gregg Vandergriff on his Retirement

On July 28, 2023 the Board of Public Works held a special recognition of Principal Civil Engineer Gregg Vandergriff on his retirement from the City of Los Angeles.

City Engineer Ted Allen opened by saying, “It is mixed emotions today, I wouldn’t say sadness, knowing Gregg for so many years I am very happy for him but we are going to miss him greatly. So it’s a mixed emotion day whenever we have someone retiring like this, but I don’t think he is looking too sad.

“So Gregg Vandergriff, currently the Principal Civil Engineer in charge of our Project Award and Control Division. I’ve had the honor of knowing him for many years. This is his last day, actually technically he’s already off, but he’s here on his day off to be recognized. 34 years of service with the City of Los Angeles and he did it all with great dedication.

“One of the things I’ll point out later is he’s very detail oriented. He gave me a bio that’s a little too much to read all of it today so I’m going to pick out some highlights, very interesting. Talking about diversity and about how we come from all over. At the age of 8 he lived in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in a stone cabin that his grandfather had bought in 1955. So many interesting backgrounds people in Los Angeles we come from all over. His father was a contractor worked on many things like roads, flood control dams, storm drainage ditches. He did an airfield repair after the Loma Prieta earthquake, where they repaired it in 30 days. Gregg grew up around construction with his dad, so becoming an engineer he had a lot of that foundation, pun intended, to build on. He went to Brigham Young University and graduated as a civil engineer from Brigham Young. He and his wife Diana met in Colorado Springs and Diana is here today with us. They have four daughters, all here with us, Sarah, Christina, Jessica, and Kira.

“In his 34 years with the City - also a good example of how a lot of us move around in the City, which I think is a great thing - He started at the Donald C. Tillman Plant on the Bureau of Engineering side, working on projects there. In 1990 he rotated briefly to Central District, but then he promoted to the Bureau of Sanitation and worked in the Recycling Division, rolling out recycling household hazardous waste, and that was really the early years of those programs. Those are still very important programs, of course, he was on the early years of that. Then he promoted to Sanitary Engineering Associate in what was then called WTED, Wastewater Treatment Engineering Division. Now it’s called the Environmental Engineering Division. He worked there on a number of treatment plant related projects. And then he got a temporary assignment at LAWA at Ontario, some of you may not know up until recently Los Angeles World Airports actually controlled the Ontario Airport. He was there working on change orders and what not. And then he promoted to Civil Engineer in Central District in the Bureau of Engineering and he worked many, many years in our Development Services Program.

“And for those that don’t know, I was the Deputy City Engineer over Development Services for 8 years. Before that, I had no Development Services experience whatsoever, so when I came in I really needed to learn a lot and draw from experts in the Program and Gregg was one of the experts in that Program that I could always count on to explain whatever obscure rule or whatever, he not only knew it but knew the history. He was always so knowledgeable. He was in the Development Services Program for many years including the counter, the B-Permits, and Utility Permits and then later he promoted to Senior Civil Engineer in our GIS & Mapping Group and Land Development, so he was overseeing GIS and Land Development at that time. And then many of you have interacted with him recently, in 2020 he promoted to Principal Civil Engineer over the Project Award and Control Division where he’s been our expert in contracts, risk management cases, all the different things that Project Award and Control...
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Division does, and they handle a number of challenging things. Even though he was approaching retirement age and this was a very different assignment for him, true to his nature, he really learned all the details and quickly became an expert in contracting and many other things and has been a great asset there.

“So a few things I noted, those were highlights of things that Gregg provided, but a few things I wanted to say, and the first one I already mentioned, very detail oriented, you could always count on Gregg to do a great job in detail, he would never gloss over it and give you a halfway done product. Very reliable, you could always count on him. Very knowledgeable, as I mentioned, I personally drew upon his knowledge for many years and very much appreciated it, very professional, dedicated. And one kind of funny thing I want to point out, and Gregg will probably laugh about it, he has a way when we would be in meetings if you’re talking about something and he really didn’t agree he has this way of doing this little sigh, like hmmm. ‘Gregg, is there something you want to say?’ He would always do it in a very nice and polite way, but always very much appreciated his input. Last, but definitely not least, it’s really the top of everything else, is family, how much he values his family and you can tell by them all being here, but he was always get very happy and excited whenever talking about his family so I really appreciate that. Gregg, I’m going to miss you greatly, you’ve been a great friend, a great worker so I want to congratulate you.

“I have a certificate for you from the Board signed by the former and current officers of the Board as it turns out. ‘In recognition of 34 years of employment with the City of Los Angeles the Board of Public Works honors Charles Gregory Vandergriff’ - I don’t know if it’s a story you can tell us or not why you went with Gregg over Charles and why you added another ‘g’ under Gregory but I’d be curious to hear it if you want to share it - Congratulations on your many years of distinguished service and achievement and public service. Your professionalism and dedication to the Department of Public Works and the citizens of the City of Los Angeles is to be commended. Best wishes for your future health, prosperity and happiness.”

Then it was Gregg’s turn to speak, “Thank you Ted. Over the years it’s been a pleasure to work with both you and your wife in the Bureau of Engineering, it’s been a pleasure. The first thing I need to say is thank you to the City of Los Angeles for my career, thank you for the opportunity to work with this Board. I remember as a Civil Engineering Assistant, back when we had Assistants, coming to this Board when I was in my first year and making a presentation for a change order that we had on a project. So that was my first exposure to the Board of Public Works. I was very nervous at the time. Since then it’s become much more familiar. And each time I’ve had the opportunity to work with the Commissioners of the Board it’s been a pleasure, particularly those of you that are here on the Board now.

“As Ted mentioned, I came from a small town in Oklahoma. That town was primarily composed of people that were primarily of Polish and Czechoslovakian origins, so it was also not very diverse. In fact my elementary, middle school and high school, the diversity for us was we had some Native Americans from the Kickapoo tribe. Everybody else was Caucasian. There were Protestants and there were Catholics. As kids we were divided up between goat ropers - the ones that were cowboys and stuff, then there were the smokers, and then there were the jocks, and that was basically it. So one of the things that I’ve enjoyed about being with the City of Los Angeles is diversity. One of the things that I’ve truly come for us was we had some Native Americans from the Kickapoo tribe. Everybody else was Caucasian. There were Protestants and there were Catholics. As kids we were divided up between goat ropers - the ones that were cowboys and stuff, then there were the smokers, and then there were the jocks, and that was basically it. So one of the things that I’ve enjoyed about being with the City of Los Angeles is diversity. One of the things that I’ve truly come to appreciate is the fact that everybody has a viewpoint, that if we work together on projects we can create something that’s better than what if we did individually, as a whole.

“The other thing that I’ve appreciated as I reflected on my career, is the fact that many of the things I helped my dad with, as Ted mentioned, I ended up doing professionally for the City. And it’s great to see how those things benefited people’s lives and it was on a much more larger scale than what we had done previously.

“Of course, none of this could I have done without the support of my family. In 1994 we moved out to Rialto near San Bernardino. It was a 55 mile commute into L.A. and it took about two hours to get home. It was my wife that really raised our four daughters, I was just there on weekends it seemed like, and for some special events. All four of my daughters, because of the privileges offered by the City of Los Angeles have been to college. One of them went to BYU, one of them went to Utah Valley University, one went to the University of Utah, but Jessica, my third daughter, went to UC Riverside and graduated with a degree in neuroscience there. They all have degrees. I asked them, ‘You guys do so well in math, why aren’t you engineers?’ and they said ‘Dad, you work too hard.’ And then they went and became nurses and I’m like wait a second.

“But one of the things that I’ve truly appreciated like I said is the diversity. And I’ve also appreciated the fact that we have a City family. We talk often about this being a family. And with the City family I’ve found that almost all City employees want to do a good job. In fact I was talking to somebody the other day who was asking what you would tell a new City employee. First I’d say learn the organization of the City. No matter where you go there’s an analog to the City in that organization. So if you understand how the City of L.A. works you’re going to understand that organization. Second, learn how money flows. Money is the lifeblood of the projects that we do, the services that we give, so you need to understand where that comes from. And then I said the next most important thing is relationships. Everybody wants to do a job, but the kindness and graciousness that you show to the individuals that you encounter, that’s going to help them when you have a special request or meet an obstacle that you need to overcome. And it doesn’t matter whether they’re a janitor or Council member or some other position. We all have something to contribute and we all should be valued for them.

“Thank you for this recognition, thank you for the career that I’ve enjoyed here, thank you for your kindness. Thank you.”

Each of the Commissioners thanked Gregg for his dedication and service.

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Commissioner Vahid Khorsand said, "Now I know what the sigh meant, having been on the receiving end of one and, as Ted said, it was a very polite telling me how I was wrong. I appreciated that in our briefings not as often as everyone else having only been here for 15 months. But 34 years is a long time and if you think about all of the different ways you’ve touched people’s lives and all of the projects you’ve touched, recycling of course is a big one, but I’m sure there are smaller projects that you worked on that had a more immediate impact on that neighborhood or community. And that should be commended too. Sometimes the bigger projects, while they’re nice and glitzy and everyone says wow, but it’s those smaller projects that I’ve heard countless engineers from the Bureau of Engineering talk about that have been the most game changing in their eyes in terms of their careers. When we go to this item and ask you and you’re going to tell me what it was. But thank you for your service to the City for helping build such a great City that we can all appreciate just as much as you appreciate. And to your family, we’ve said it all before that when someone is here and is recognized we’re congratulating them and thanking them for their service but we all take work home with us and I can imagine at least you had at least two hours to decompress before you got home, your wife is shaking her head no, but there is work you took home with you and you still came back everyday and you were so professional, you still helped build a great City. And that is also commendable for your family, not just for you, that they were able to whatever they say or whatever they do, whether it’s your favorite meal or letting you watch your favorite TV show when they wanted to watch something else. So thank you to your family and your support network for sharing you with the City of LA and helping us build a great City you can talk about diversity and all the great things that you helped build that. So thank you."

Commissioner Mike Davis said, “Mr. Vandergriff, I want to say that it’s been a pleasure to be briefed by you over this past decade. On so many engineering projects we often wonder, those of us who didn’t major in engineering, what do engineers do and in many ways they help to improve the quality of life. And they help to solve problems that we often as a society are confronted with and engineers come up with a solution to help resolve that issue to make it better for us and increase our quality of life. And I think you have thoroughly done that, you’re an engineer’s engineer in many ways in terms of your own background and you talked about those of your daughters, and by the way, nurses do make good money too. And I can’t say they work any less than engineers, but definitely for years nursing has been a profession of preference. But in terms of engineering I’ve enjoyed working with you and as I said you are the consummate engineer and you also have spoken to something that is so critically important to the City and that is, as I mentioned earlier, we are a diverse City and so diversity is so critically important. And your story is an American story and I enjoyed hearing it as a student of diversity, having grown up in Oklahoma in a town that was not diverse. As you have reflected back on the various experiences that you have had, ending up in one of the most diverse cities in America. You concluded at the end of all those experiences that diversity is critically important. Having started out in the opposite environment you have concluded, after having encountered diversity that it is critically important. And I will tell you it is also critically important to what America stands for. When we talk about the American dream, we’re talking about making sure it is available for everyone. So as you are an engineer who has solved problems, you have done that not only in your family, not only with the Bureau of Engineering by briefing the Commissioners, but you leave here with a lesson for us, that is, your life - of not experiencing diversity, having experienced diversity and giving us a conclusion that we can live by. Diversity is critically important. Thank you so very much for being part of the service of the City of Los Angeles and thank you so much for the lesson that you have left behind.”

Commissioner Teresa Villegas said, “It has been a true pleasure working with you. I’ve learned a lot from you and I know that the items that were mentioned by our City Engineer Ted Allen, your professionalism and your good nature has always been there for us as we navigate through different issues. You’re a big source of information and you definitely will be sorely missed.

“I know that the workforce has changed in the City of Los Angeles. We have many young staff members that are coming through the ranks and I hope that your knowledge was somehow transferred to them, because knowing how projects are developed, knowing how projects are coupled together with so many funding sources is key. And just being in this work myself for a long time and understanding that but really having a good partnership with fellow engineers who really do that important work and having you all understand that makes the job that much more smooth and efficient. So really appreciative of your history your experience and just everything that you shared with us and the knowledge that you shared with us when you were doing all of your briefings that you did with us.

“I’m glad I had the opportunity to be with you for the last three and a half years on this Board, I’m appreciative of that and again, just thank you to your beautiful family that is here to support you as well. Even if it was a two hour commute, I’m sure that you’re making calls and checking in on them throughout the day. Those are the only calls I accept when I’m on the dais, if it’s my children because that’s important. But I wish you a lot of success in your retirement and I hope that in some capacity you are able to impart any of your knowledge wherever you are at through either lecturing or writing something down, a white paper or something, I always say that because I think there is so much knowledge there and it’s always so good to be able to learn from others who’ve gone through this path. But I wish you tons of success and a happy retirement indeed. Congratulations.”

Board President Aura Garcia gave the closing remarks, “We’re almost done there so hang in there. Mr. Vandergriff, I have true admiration and respect for all engineers. I continued on page 11
Notice No. 11 New BOE Logo Shirt

Notice No. 11 dated July 21, 2023 titled New Bureau of Engineering (BOE) Logo Shirt states that the BOE has added a new polo shirt to the current lineup - carbon gray! The new shirt is made of 100 percent polyester pique fabric. It includes moisture wicking technology that will keep you cool and UV protection performance to block the sun’s harmful rays. It will be available in men’s and women’s sizes.

If you are interested in purchasing the new gray polo shirt, please fill out the Google Form (see link in the Notice). This shirt will be available through pre-order only, at the cost of $20. Once you’ve submitted your form, you will be contacted by John Fabric (john.fabic@lacity.org) from the Training Section. Subsequent orders may be done on a quarterly or as needed basis based on demand.

The BOE Logo Shirt Day will continue in Fiscal Year 2023-24, so let’s keep up the momentum and show our pride by wearing our BOE Logo shirt every Thursday!

Construction Network Seminars

The Construction Network - Connecting Owners to AEC and CFM Industries. To RSVP: www.construction-network.net

Regional Rail Projects on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the Holiday Inn, 14299 Firestone Blvd., La Mirada, CA 90638, 8:00 am Check-in, 8:30 am Presentation. Moderator: Abdollah Ansari, Vice President – EXP. Speakers: Justin Fornelli, Chief of Program Delivery, Metrolink; Brian Bladerrama, Executive Officer, Project Management/Regional Rail, LA Metro; Jim Bell, Executive Director, Capital Programs, Orange County Transportation Authority; James Campbell, Deputy Managing Director, LOSSAN; Erik Galloway, PE, Project Delivery Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission; Aubrey Smith, Program Manager, Regional Transit Planning, Ventura County Transportation Commission.


Railroad Infrastructure - Staying on Track in Southern California on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815, 8:00 am Check-in, 8:30 am Presentation. Moderator: Rachel Vandenberg, President, Rheia Consulting LLC. Speakers: Michael Cano, Executive Officer, Multimodal Integrated Planning, LA Metro; Kelly Lai, Director of Capital Projects, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

Cost: $96/person until 9/1/23, $129/person until 9/15/23, after that $149/person.

Inland Empire Water Districts CIP Updates and Contracting Opportunities on September 20, 2023, Mountain Meadows Golf Course, 1875 Fairplex Dr., Pomona, 91768. Speakers: Derek Kawai, Western Municipal Water District Director of Engineering; Bruce A. Mitzei, PE, Eastern Municipal Water District Director, Field Engineering; Carrie Oliphant, Director of Engineering, Coachella Valley Water District; Jason Marseilles, Manager of Engineering and Construction Management, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Deb Whitney, Program Manager - Water Conservation Field Services Program, Bureau of Reclamation S. CA Area; Eric Weck, P.E., Engineering Manager, Mission springs Water District; Mai Hattar, Assistant Chief Engineer, MWD of S CA; Vic Nguyen, Region Manager, CA Dept of Water Resources S CA Region; Wen Huang, Chief Engineer/Deputy General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Water District; Courtney Degener, CADIZ; Mark Krause, General Manager, Desert Water Agency; Michael Pacheco, Water Department Manager, Imperial Irrigation District.

Cost: $96 until 9/1/23, $129 until 9/15/23, after that $149.

Sites Reservoir Project - a $3.5 Billion project Coming Soon to the Sacramento Valley on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach 90815, 8:00 am Check-in, 8:30 am Presentation. Sites Reservoir, located in the Sacramento Valley, will increase the resiliency of water supplies since it will not rely on spring snow melt for filling but instead will capture storm-related runoff and portion of storm-related flood water. Operating in conjunction with other California reservoirs, Sites Reservoir will substantially increase water supply flexibility, reliability, and resiliency in drier years. Sites Reservoir is the only proposed storage facility in the State of California that will help with statewide operational effectiveness of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. The Sites Project Authority will build and operate a climate-resilient 21st Century water storage system to responsibly manage and deliver water, improve the environment, provide flood control and recreational benefits. Speakers: JP Foinette, Engineering & Construction Manager, Site Reservoir Project; and Jeff Kivett, Owner Advisor.

Cost: $96 until 9/8/23, $129 until 9/22/23, after that $149.

OCTA Long Range Transportation Plan on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach 90815, 8:00 am. Speakers: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer and Jim Bell, P.E., Executive Director, Capital Programs.

Cost: $96 until 9/15/23, $129 until 9/29/23, after that $149.

Inland Empire K-12 Bond Program Updates on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, Mountain Meadows Golf Course, 1875 Fairplex Dr., Pomona, 91768, 8:00 am Check-in, 8:30 am Presentation. Speakers: Ryan Carter, Director III Facilities, Alvord USD; Greg Stachura, Assistant Superintendent Facilities Planning & Operations, Chino USD; Matthew Strother, Executive Director Facilities, Maintenance & Operations, Fontana USD; Brooke Murray, Director Facilities Planning & Operations, Ontario/Montclair School District; Angie Lopez, Director Facilities Planning, Rialto USD; Tom Pace, Director Facilities Planning & Development, San Bernardino City USD.

Cost: $96 until 9/15/23, $129 until 9/29/23, after that $149.

Owners’ Outlook - Networking & Capital Program Information on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at the Long Beach Yacht Club, 6201 E. Appian Way, Long Beach, CA 90803, 8:00 am Exhibitor Set-Up, 9:00 am Owners’ Outlook.

Construction Management Association of America, So Cal Chapter Seminars

Stop Payment Notice, and Mechanics Liens for Owners, Contractors, and Construction Managers on Thursday, August 31, 2023, 8:00 am, virtual event. Knowing how to effectively use the labyrinthian tools in the mechanics lien statutory scheme: the payment and performance bond, the stop payment notice, and the mechanics lien is a great challenge for public and private owners, prime contractors, and subcontractors alike. The presentation will examine these valuable tools from each perspective with an eye toward simplicity and clarity.

Speaker: Anthony Niccolli, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Cost: $55/members, $85/non-members

Meet the Owners/Primes Event: Exhibition & Speed Networking on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 4:30 pm, Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach. This event provides opportunities for the Owners and Prime Companies to meet small, diverse, minority, and women-owned firms for future projects and teaming opportunities. The event will include an expo room for booths and networking taking place concurrently with a one-on-one matchmaking event between Owners/Primes and small/diverse firms.

Owners attend & exhibit for free. $110/ members. $160/non-members.

Alternative Construction Delivery Methods on Thursday, September 14, 2023, 8:30 am, virtual event. An examination of alternative delivery methods and the optimal method for your project.

Emcee: Anthony Niccolli, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Speaker: Bryce Chastain, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Cost: $55/members, $85/non-member

Brightline West: The Future of Rail Travel to Las Vegas on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 9:30 am, virtual event. Brightline West will build on Florida’s award-winning service by connecting Las Vegas and Southern California with the first true high-speed passenger rail system in the nation. This 218-mile, all-electric high-speed rail service will include a flagship station in Las Vegas, with additional stations in Apple Valley, Hesperia, and Rancho Cucamonga. At speeds of 186+ miles per hour, trains will take passengers from Las Vegas to Rancho Cucamonga in just 2 hours and 10 minutes, twice as fast as the normal drive time. The Rancho Cucamonga Station will connect to Southern California’s regional Metrolink service, allowing for seamless connectivity into downtown Los Angeles and beyond.

Emcee: Jesse Urquidi, Project Development Director, P2S
Moderator: Holly Wilcox, Business Development Manager, Nova Services Inc.
Speaker: Les Snyder, Executive Vice President, California State University Fullerton, 8:00 am Networking, 8:45 am Presentation
Cost: $55/members, $85/non-members

Women of Influence in Sustainability: Los Angeles World Airports on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 1:00 pm, virtual event. Los Angeles World Airports has adopted aggressive sustainability goals including achieving net zero by 2045 and targeting 47% of all capital project spending by 2025. With many advantages for both owners and practitioners, it is not surprising to see such sustained growth. This program will discuss the design-build evolution and why progressive design build is being used more widely now than ever before. This presentation will also take a look at current proposed bills that will provide even more opportunity for public agencies to leverage this form of delivery so that it can be more widely adopted with better, more predictable project outcomes.

4 Learning Objectives:
• Learn about the three variations of design-build delivery and how each one is different.
• Learn about specific Progressive Design-Build (PDB) advantages (1) a simple and inexpensive streamlined procurement process, (2) potential for increased participation, (3) owner flexibility and greater control.
• Discussion on advances in PDB
• Learn about SB706, SB617 and AB400 and how they could affect the use of Design-Build and PDB throughout the State.

Emcee: Farrah Farzaneh Director of Facility, Emergency Management & Construction San Bernardino Community College District
Moderator: Son Nguyen, Office Chief, Caltrans District 12
Speakers: J. Brandon Dekker, M.S., DBIA, Principal, CannonDesign and Mark Kempton, Executive Director, California Infrastructure Delivery Coalition.
Cost: $55/member, $85/non-member, Free for owner & student members

CSU System Capital Update Featuring: CSULB & CSUF on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach, 8:00 am Networking, 8:45 am Presentation. The CSU system is the nation’s largest higher education system. Two of these CSU universities, California State University Long Beach and California University Fullerton, will be featured in a panel discussion on upcoming projects and capital improvements at these two distinguished institutions.

Emcee: Priscilla Chavez, Business Development Manager, PCL Construction
Moderator: Kent Peterson, PE, Vice President and COO P2S Inc.

Confirmed Speakers:
Monica Amalifano, PE, LEED BD+C, and DBIA, Director, Design + Construction Services, Campus Engineer, CSU Long Beach; and Sarab Singh, Associate Vice President, Capital Programs & Facilities Management, CSU Fullerton
Cost: $55/members, $85/non-members

Managing Payment/ Performance Bonds,

The Construction Management Association of America Southern California Chapter is offering the following seminars. For additional information please go to www.cmaasc.org.

For Zoom meetings log in/access information will be sent with the confirmation.

Progressive Design-Build Delivery and Upcoming Legislation Advocacy on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 12:00 pm, virtual event. Progressive Design-Build (PDB) delivery is not an alternative delivery method anymore as legislation is allowing it to be used more widely. Based on a recent FMI report PDB or some form of design-build delivery will make up 47% of all capital project spending by 2025. With many advantages for both owners and practitioners, it is not surprising to see such sustained growth. This program will discuss the design-build evolution and why progressive design build is being used more widely now than ever before. This presentation will also take a look at current proposed bills that will provide even more opportunity for public agencies to leverage this form of delivery so that it can be more widely adopted with better, more predictable project outcomes.

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Women of Influence in Sustainability: Los Angeles World Airports on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 1:00 pm, virtual event. Los Angeles World Airports has adopted aggressive sustainability goals including achieving net zero by 2045 through the use of 100% renewable electricity, with no potable water consumed for industrial uses and carbon neutrality for LAWA’s operations by 2045. These and other commitments have been made as LAWA is completing the first $15 billion of its Capital Improvement Program that includes terminal renovations, new state-of-the-art facilities, and the Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP) which includes an automated people mover train system. The next $15 billion CIP is also underway and includes the Airfield and Terminal Modernization Program, with a new Concourse, Terminal, roadway improvements and airfield improvements.

In this webinar - a continuation of CMAA’s Women of Influence in Sustainability Series - join us as Samantha Bricker, LAWA’s Chief Sustainability and Revenue Management Officer tells us about LAWA’s capital program and upcoming projects. Samantha will also discuss how to balance and manage sustainability goals as part of these projects.

Emcee: Jeff Bowling, MCM, CCM, Assoc. DBIA, ENV SP, Program Manager, AECOM
Moderator: Sahar Abbaszadeh, Sustainability, Climate Services and Resiliency Leader, West Coast, Arup
Speaker: Samantha Bricker, Chief Sustainability and Revenue Management Officer, LAWA
Cost: $55/members, $85/non-members

ACE Summer, 2023 Mentor Mixer on August 17, 2023, 5:00 pm, Gensler, 500 S. Figueroa St., L.A. 90071. Join one of our Mentor Mixers for drinks and appetizers and learn how you can be involved in the ACE Mentor Program. Mingle with program leaders and hear first-hand from students that have benefited from our program. The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. (ACE) helps mentor high school students and inspires them to pursue careers in design and construction. It is now the construction industry’s fastest-growing high school mentoring program reaching over 8,000 students annually, financially supporting each student’s continued success through scholarships and grants. Since inception, ACE Mentor L.A./O.C. has awarded over $1 million in scholarships to promising participants.

Managing Payment/ Performance Bonds,
CMAA Seminars continued from page 10

President of Development and Infrastructure Construction, Brightline West
Cost: $55/member, $85/non-member

The Latest on Prevailing Wage, Apprenticeship, Skilled and Trained Workforce Requirements, and New Laws on Thursday, October 12, 2023, 8:00 am, virtual event.
Program summary:
- The Expansion of Prevailing Wage Beyond Public Works
- Apprenticeship - New Proposed Regulations
- Record Keeping, Enforcement, and Debarment
- Skilled and Trained Workforce Update
- Legal Update - Recent DIR and Court Decisions
- AB 1851, AB 1023, SB 954 Update
- Developer legislation --AB 2011 and SB 6 Update
- Davis Bacon Proposed Regulations Update
- Safe Harbor - Why all contractors should be aware of its benefits
- Don't Shoot the Messenger!

Emcee: Anthony Niccoli, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Speakers: Thomas Kovacich, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; and Joshua Lange, Associate, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Cost: $55/member, $85/non-member

CCM Application and Recertification Webinar on Thursday, October 12, 2023, 3:00 pm, virtual event. Topics Covered:
- CCM Eligibility
- CCM Application Process
- CCM Exam Preparation
- CCM Recertification Process

Presenters: Brian Culligan, CCM, PMP, Program/Construction Manager, Psomas; and Reuben Tolentino, CCM, DBIA, ENV SP, Principal/Vice President/Orange County Regional Manager, Psomas

Helping Owners with Their Sustainability Plan on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 12:00 pm, virtual event. Planning for the impacts of the climate crisis is no longer optional. Owners have already felt these impacts and their costs over the last several years, and those impacts are only bound to become bigger and more frequent. A long term sustainability plan will help owners get ahead of many of the risks posed by a changing climate, by deploying preventative measures that can reduce and mitigate the effects of climate related incidents.

Emcee: Farrah Farzaneh, CCM, Assoc. DBIA, LEED AP BD+C, ENV SP, Director of Facility, Emergency Management & Construction, San Bernardino Community College District
Moderator: Lindsey Rowell, Chief of Energy, Sustainability & Transportation, CSU Office of the Chancellor
Speaker: Aris Hovasapian, Senior Director/Vice President Energy & Education, Anser Advisory
Cost: $55/member, $85/non-member, Free for owner & student members

Rising CM Conference - Rising to the Challenge: Navigating the Evolving Landscape of Construction as a Young Leader on Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9:00 am, The Grand Long Beach, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach, CA 90815. Who’s invited: Students enrolled in an A/E/C Program ($25/each); Emerging Professionals, Recent Grad, and CMITs ($25/each). There will be Networking Sessions, Resume/Interview Workshop, Professional Development Sessions, Meet CCMs, CMAA Board Members, CMITs, and more.
Master of Ceremonies: Brad Owen, Sr. Executive Officer, Program Management, LA Metro.

Vandergriff continued from page 8

I saw your name I said oh no, here we go. As the world turns right now and as society is becoming different we are losing those characteristics and we want to make sure as managers, as leaders in the City, as leaders in our professional world, we’re trying to figure out how to keep that, how do we transfer that, how do we teach the next generation that dedication is important, that professionalism is still very important and that perseverance is important, you know, to follow through on projects and fulfill them and you did a lot of that throughout the years.

“I don’t think we have a list of all the projects you did, but maybe if you do it would be great if you take your family and your grandkids on a tour, ‘I built that, I did that.’ Because you did, I’m sure you have tentacles in a lot of what the City looks like now. And you just take that with you, just be proud of that because you contribute to the dynamic of the second largest city in the nation. And we keep on saying that because it’s not an easy task to work in this City. I imagine other cities it’s probably like a smaller task, I mean we see when we go out places. Definitely for the city you have to incorporate not only your engineering but you have to incorporate the community, you have to incorporate what the Councilmembers want, you have to incorporate what the Board wants. I mean building a project for the City is not just one person - it is a lot that goes into one project and you in your 34 years did tons of them.

“And so with that please leave with just the utmost pride and the utmost feeling of accomplishment. And as you recline in your nice couch or you are at the beach or wherever you’re at now that you’re free, I just want to say reflect on all the great work you did here because you are truly valuable to our system. We are going to sorely miss you, your characteristics and there may be a big void in Engineering, I know Ted’s already feeling it, we’ll figure out how to fill it but it’s never going to be the same.

“And with that I say have a happy retirement. Thank your family, enjoy every single day, do whatever you want to do, you want to wake up late or what. Do whatever you want to do because 34 years of coming into the City on a two hour commute is not easy at all. I think Covid gave us a break to work from home but prior to then you had almost 30 years of commuting and that is not an easy thing to do, to get up every single day and do so. And with that Mr. Vandergriff I wish you nothing but the best we look forward to hearing all the great things you’re doing out there. You leave us with a big sad void today and I just want to say it’s been an honor and a pleasure and I really humble myself because definitely you are a true professional and a true engineer. And with that have a happy retirement!”
Arivals
Adam Shephard, Emergency Management Coordinator I, ADM; Alyssa Narcisco, Structural Engineering Associate II, SED; Carissa Herrera, Office Trainee Admin Clerk, PAC; Dennis Phung, Civil Engineering Associate I, PCM; Gracey Hiebert, Civil Engineering Associate I, WCC; Hamed Vahdat, Programmer/Analyst III, SYS; Mina Ibrahim, Civil Engineering Associate I, WCC; Rachel McPherson, Environmental Supervisor I, EMG; Rayan Malik, Civil Engineering Associate I, WCC; Transon Pho, Civil Engineering Associate I, CEN.

Departures
Gregg Vandergriff, Principal Civil Engineer, PAC, retired; Lawrence Hsu, Principal Civil Engineer, MTD, retired; Joyce Mieres, Senior Administrative Clerk, VAL, retired; Julius Garcia, Management Assistant, PAC, promoted to City Clerk.

Promotions
Amanda Jimenez, Environmental Supervisor I, EMG; Fabiola De Santiago, Systems Programmer II, SYS; Gregory Moeser, Landscape Architect I 7929-1, ARC; Mariano Pagaling, Land Surveying Assistant, SUR.

Internal Transfers
Anagh Mandapurkar, Civil Engineer, CMD to MTD; Llanet Gomez, Engineer Geologist I, CMD to GED.

Professional Certificates
ICC Certificate/Bonus
Alyssa Narcisco, Structural Engineering Associate II, SED; Anh Hoang, Civil Engineer, MTD.

SHRM-HR
Crystal Lee, Deputy City Engineer I, EXE.

California Building Plans Examiner
Eduardo Pineda, Building Electrical Engineer II, CMD.

Professional Registration
CA Civil Engineering
Dagoverto Guerrero, Structural Engineering Associate II, VAL; Vanessa Chavez, Civil Engineering Associate II, SED.

Passing of McLaurin
We are very sorry to report that retired Reprographics Operator Doris McLaurin passed away on July 12, 2023. She retired from the Project & Award Control Division’s Reprographics and Indexing Section in April 2021. Services were held on July 26, 2023 at Church of Christ, 9415 Compton Ave., L.A. 90002. Our deepest condolences go to her family.

Notice No. 10 Employee Performance Appraisals
Notice No. 10 dated July 5, 2023 titled Employee Performance Appraisals states that it’s time again for the annual Employee Performance Appraisals. All evaluations must be completed using the online Employee Performance Appraisal System (EPAS) by August 25, 2023, for the rating period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. To access the EPAS, please go to the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) intranet site, click on Forms Library, then click on Personnel, and then click on Employee Performance Appraisal. The form is also available at the following link:

https://eng.insideola.org/epas/

Once you have accessed the EPAS intranet site, you will need to log in using your PAYSR ID and your current LAGEECS password. A number of menu options are available. However, it is highly recommended that all managers and supervisors review the User Guide (click on User Guide for the PDF) prior to entering any information into the EPAS.

Managing an employee’s overall performance is critical to reinforcing competence, teamwork, and project delivery in our customer-driven organization. This responsibility is one of the most important aspects of every manager’s and supervisor’s job. As a result, we must use every opportunity to ensure that job expectations are made clear and that employees are provided feedback on their performance. Please remember to use the employee’s legal name in the EPAS. Our goal is to reach an even higher level of consistency than what we have achieved in systematically appraising our employees. The BOE will continue to evaluate performances annually within a specific “window” for completing all annual evaluations.

Managers and supervisors are expected to provide an opportunity for open dialogue between the supervisor and the employee, where both provide input on the employee’s performance and engage in an interactive dialogue to reach a consensus, where possible. This dialogue begins with supervisors meeting with their employees to discuss the performance appraisal process, including reviewing the attached Goals Development Process Matrix (Attachment) with their employees to prepare them for completing their self-appraisal.

A complete appraisal for trainee and probationary employees is not required in EPAS since they are evaluated in a separate evaluation process. Instead, they will only need to submit their goals for the new fiscal year (2023-24). Employees on a leave of absence should be evaluated upon their return. A formal evaluation is not conducted for non-full-time employees.

If you have general questions, please refer to the User Guide for more details and contact information.

Notice No. 12 Standard Division/Group Titles
Notice No. 12 dated July 25, 2023 titled Standard Division/Group Titles and Abbreviations states that the following is a list of the standard titles and abbreviations of the Bureau of Engineering divisions or group titles. For consistency, please use these titles in all correspondence, reports, charts, etc.

Abbreviation | Title | Division
--- | --- | ---
Div | Administrative Division ADM 73 | Administration Division ADM 73
Div | Architectural Division ARC 55/42 | Architectural Division ARC 55/42
Div | Construction Management Div CMD 48 | Construction Management Div CMD 48
Div | Project Award & Control Div PAC 41 | Project Award & Control Div PAC 41
Div | Development Services & Permits Program (DSP) | Development Services & Permits Program (DSP)
Div | Central District CEN 50 | Central District CEN 50
Div | GIS and Mapping Division GIS 80 | GIS and Mapping Division GIS 80
Div | Harbor District HAR 86 | Harbor District HAR 86
Div | Laboratory Division LMP 75 | Laboratory Division LMP 75
Div | Permit Case Management Div PCM 49 | Permit Case Management Div PCM 49
Div | Systems Division SYS 35 | Systems Division SYS 35
Div | Valley District VAL 81 | Valley District VAL 81
Div | West Los Angeles District WLA 85 | West Los Angeles District WLA 85
Div | Clean Water Infrastructure Program (CWI) | Clean Water Infrastructure Program (CWI)
Div | Clean Water Division CWD 40/66 | Clean Water Division CWD 40/66
Div | Environmental Engineering Div EED 45 | Environmental Engineering Div EED 45
Div | Wastewater Conveyance Construction Div WCC 44 | Wastewater Conveyance Construction Div WCC 44
Div | Wastewater Conveyance Engineering Div WCE 43 | Wastewater Conveyance Engineering Div WCE 43
Div | Mobility Program (MOB) | Mobility Program (MOB)
Div | Bridge Improvement Division BID 37/36 | Bridge Improvement Division BID 37/36
Div | Sidewalk Division SWD 67 | Sidewalk Division SWD 67
Div | Street Improvement Division SID 51 | Street Improvement Division SID 51
Div | Engineering Services Program (ESP) | Engineering Services Program (ESP)
Div | Environmental Management Group EMG 56 | Environmental Management Group EMG 56
Div | Geotechnical Engineering Div GED 46 | Geotechnical Engineering Div GED 46
Div | Metro Transit Division MTD 59 | Metro Transit Division MTD 59
Div | Real Estate Division RED 77 | Real Estate Division RED 77
Div | Structural Engineering Division SED 54 | Structural Engineering Division SED 54
Div | Survey Division SUR 63 | Survey Division SUR 63
Div | Finance & Administration Program (FAP) | Finance & Administration Program (FAP)
Div | Administration Division ADM 73 | Administration Division ADM 73

We’d Like to Hear from You
If you have any articles for the Newsletter, please e-mail them to BOENewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, August 31, 2023.