ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter
2008-2009 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letter to Selection Panel
2. Entry Form
3. Essay
September 28, 2009

Jenny Vernon
ACEC California
1303 J Street, Suite 450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2008-2009 Annual Report

Dear Ms. Vernon:

It is a pleasure to offer this report on the work, progress and accomplishments of the Los Angeles County Chapter over the past year. During the last several years we have consistently increased our activity and successfully promoted the ongoing development of area communities by influencing regulations and project funding resources which enhance business opportunities for Chapter members. As a result, the Los Angeles County Chapter has become one of ACEC California’s most effective chapters in the cause of promoting statewide and local issues.

This success can be directly ascribed to many factors, among them: a highly experienced, diverse and effective Board of Directors; well developed and sharply focused monthly programs that include prominent guest speakers; development of strong and creative fundraising and outreach for scholarships; organized outreach through affiliated programs and the support of political candidates; and ongoing successful liaison committee activity to promote and support member issues with entities that include the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Key objectives during the past year were to continue to expand our profile and influence through positive interaction on state and local political issues that can affect the engineering and design community, expand outreach activities, work to increase our membership, and grow our scholarship and mentoring programs.

We are please to report that, in addition to meeting these objectives, we also enjoyed success in other focus areas. For example, on Legislative Day 19 Chapter members visited with 38 state legislators; the nine Chapter meetings last year averaged 123 attendees (a significant increase over the previous year); and our scholarship program is strong and growing, with four more very impressive new students this year. We also made a donation to Grant High School for its Robotics Competition in Dallas, Texas, in which the students placed 5th nationally.

Of special importance was the great success of the CalSOP ACEC-CA/Caltrans District 7 Professional Liaison Committee’s “Become an Engineer” Campaign. During Engineers Week (February 16-20, 2009) there were 35 participating school, with 50 presenters, and 76 presentations—reaching more than 2,500 students. And following Engineers Week, the week of March 6-April 25, presentations at five participating schools, and five classroom/assembly/career fairs reached another 1,500 people.
We are proud to acknowledge that the Los Angeles Chapter has become recognized as an influential vehicle throughout the industry which succeeds in uniting its members with local legislation, business opportunities, emerging technologies, and industry trends. This is accomplished through the Chapter’s monthly programs, increasing visibility with local policy makers and the yearly increase in our scholarship fund, despite the current economic downturn. It is also due, in no small measure, to the unflagging support and participation of member firms and a vigorously active and vibrant leadership.

The ACEC CA Los Angeles Chapter is committed to staying focused on the basic issues that are intrinsic to the success of our member firms. We are dedicated to maintaining our current, strong profile within the industry and to developing and initiating programs and activities that will help us attain a new level of achievement for the Chapter and its place in the industry.

The submission attached provides a more detailed discussion of the Chapter’s accomplishments and activities. We very much appreciate your consideration of the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter for the Golden Chapter Award.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me by phone at 213.996.2257, or by e-mail at shahram_vahdat@urscorp.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahram Vahdat
President, 2009-2010
ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter
CHAPTER NAME:
ACEC of California, Los Angeles County Chapter

CHAPTER PRESIDENT:
Shahram Vahdat, URS Corp.

DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING APPLICATION TO:
Shahram Vahdat, President
ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter
PO Box 41612
Long Beach, CA 90853
(213) 996-2257
shahram_vahdat@urscorp.com

NUMBER OF CHAPTER MEMBERS:
81 Members

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

1. CHAPTER'S NET MEMBERSHIP GAIN (10 PTS):
   -12.5%

2. PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS SERVING ON ACEC CALIFORNIA COMMITTEES (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE) (10 PTS):
   13%

3. PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE OF CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ON (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE):
   MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5 PTS):
   25%
   GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE (5 PTS):
   100%

ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter member Albert Perdon (Albert Perdon & Associates) is on the Grassroots Committee and he participated in the majority of the Grassroots Committee calls. When he could not participate, Nancy Goettling (Wagner Engineering & Survey) did participate such that there was always ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter representation on the call.

CHAPTER OFFICERS CALLS (5 PTS):
0%
4. NUMBER OF CHAPTER DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING AT THE STATE BOARD MEETING (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE) (15 PTS):

100%

5. PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS ATTENDING THE ACEC CALIFORNIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE) (10 PTS):

9%

6. PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS VISITING LEGISLATIVE OFFICES ON LEGISLATIVE VISIT DAY (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE) (5 PTS):

17%

Of the 110 Legislative Visit Day attendees, 19 were from the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter. They included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FIRM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virgil Aoanan</td>
<td>VCA Engineers, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Trafton</td>
<td>Donald Dickerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahnawaz Ahmad</td>
<td>SA Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Perdon</td>
<td>Albert Perdon &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Kao</td>
<td>Koa Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Okitsu</td>
<td>Koa Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Van Beveren</td>
<td>Van Beveren &amp; Butelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Russell</td>
<td>Jacobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Lipa</td>
<td>Psomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Wagner</td>
<td>Wagner Engineering &amp; Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin Sukow</td>
<td>Sukow Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Wagner</td>
<td>Wagner Engineering &amp; Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Goettling</td>
<td>Wagner Engineering &amp; Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Nickerson</td>
<td>Psomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Hadnett</td>
<td>Stantec Consulting, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claudette Moody</td>
<td>Parsons Brinckerhoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efren Abratique</td>
<td>Abratique &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene Bougdanos</td>
<td>HDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Velasquez</td>
<td>Parsons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS ATTENDING THE ACEC CONSULTING CONGRESS DAY (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE) (5 PTS):

25%

ACEC Consulting Congress Day attendees from the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter numbered five out of the 25 total California chapter attendees. Our Chapter attendees included:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FIRM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Close, PE</td>
<td>Parsons Brinckerhoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Corbett</td>
<td>SmartRisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Psomas</td>
<td>Psomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Murillo</td>
<td>Psomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin L. Peterson</td>
<td>P2S Engineering, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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8. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS (15 PTS):

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter held nine chapter meetings which each averaged 123 attendees.

9. DOES THE CHAPTER, AS A CHAPTER, REGULARLY COMMUNICATE WITH LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS (10 PTS):

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter regularly communicates with local officials by coordinating and introducing local state assembly and senators at monthly luncheons. For instance, at the Chapter’s September (2008) lunch, incoming Assembly member Isadore Hall was introduced and spoke about his local past experience and upcoming state expectations. Similarly, at the October (2008) lunch, incoming Senator Rod Wright was introduced and spoke about a variety of local and regional interests. ACEC LA members were also given exposure to local legislators, and the Chapter has held fund-raising events for legislators, as discussed in item 10 below.
One of the Chapter’s strengths in politics is our presence and involvement in the annual Legislative Visit Day. This year, 19 members of the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter met with state senate and assembly representatives.

Preparing months in advance, our Chapter assigns members to contact the 40 Los Angeles County Legislators by e-mail to schedule appointments, follow-up to confirm, and to develop a master schedule of appointments. The Chapter Grassroots Committee develops Los Angeles County-specific talking points which are personalized for each visit and combined with the state talking points. This year the Chapter e-mailed a special letter to each legislator prior to the visit outlining the Chapter’s special talking points. Even with the legislators in turmoil over the budget, ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter members were able to meet with 38 of the legislators or their staff members. To ensure a successful event, the Chapter establishes a “command” center near the capitol to coordinate last-minute changes in delegates and legislature schedules.

10. NUMBER OF LOCAL CHAPTER MATCH FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES (10 PTS):

During the 2008-2009 year, the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter held two chapter-matching legislative fund-raising events. In August, the Chapter held a breakfast for Assemblyman Cameron Smyth. This event was attended by 22 people and raised $2,100 which, with the ACEC CA match, came to a total of $4,200.

ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter breakfast event honoring Assemblyman Cameron Smyth.
In September, the Chapter held a second breakfast for Senator Alex Padilla. This event was attended by 25 people and raised $3,600 which, with the ACEC CA match, came to a total of $7,200.

11. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION PER FIRM TO THE CHAPTER’S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (10 PTS):

$2,000 Gold Sponsors
- AECOM
- Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority
- CH2M Hill
- GeoDesign, Inc.
- HDR
- Jacobs
- KKCS
- Kleinfelder
- Parsons
- PB
- URS

$1,500 Silver Sponsors
- Abratique & Associates
- Bert & Associates
- Caltrop
- Leighton Consulting, Inc.
- Psomas
- Stantec Consulting, Inc.
- Van Beveren & Butelo
- Wagner Engineering & Survey

12. DOES THE CHAPTER SPONSOR A WELL MAINTAINED WEBSITE? (10 PTS)

13. DOES THE CHAPTER SPONSOR (15 PTS):

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS?

Yes, the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter has promoted ACEC through the development of strong monthly programs including high level keynote speakers.

MEETINGS THAT SOMETIMES FEATURE A GUEST SPEAKER?

All ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter programs feature a guest speaker. The Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month to bring together members and non-members to learn from public owners about upcoming consulting opportunities as well as to learn from experts in the industry about hot topics and trends. Approximately 65 percent of event attendees are non-members. ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter meetings and guest speakers for the 2008-2009 year are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>SPEAKER(S)</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUG 2008</td>
<td>Tad Teferi, Deputy District Director, Program/Project Management, Caltrans District 7</td>
<td>Contracting Opportunities with Caltrans District 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 2008</td>
<td>Hector Bordas, Assistant Division Head of Watershed Management Division, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works</td>
<td>Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 2008</td>
<td>Borja Leon, PE, Transportation Policy Analyst, City of Los Angeles, Mayor’s Office</td>
<td>Measure R: Los Angeles County’s Transportation Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 2009</td>
<td>Rick Richmond, Chief Executive Officer, Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority</td>
<td>Alameda Corridor-East: An Update from the Construction Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 2009</td>
<td>Jim Bourgart, Deputy Secretary for Transportation and Infrastructure, California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency</td>
<td>The Economic Stimulus Package: How Would It Affect California Infrastructure?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 2009</td>
<td>Ralph Hicks, Manager - Real Property Development and Management Group, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</td>
<td>The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: Development &amp; Capital Programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Held in the spring of each year, the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter’s Annual Achievement Awards Banquet provides an opportunity for hundreds of chapter members and their guests to come together for an evening of networking and celebration. This year’s banquet emcee and owner award recipients oversee some of the nation’s most significant public works projects right here in Southern California. Awards presented at this event include the Engineering Achievement Award, Client of the Year, Members of the Year and Scholarship Awards. This event is also the pinnacle for chapter leadership, as the installation of officers and directors occurs at the onset of the evening.

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter also sponsored two successful fundraising events this past year for Assembly member Cameron Smyth and Senator Alex Padilla.
Master of Ceremonies Doug Failing (Director of Caltrans District 7) presents ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter’s Client of the Year Award to K.N. Murthy of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Master of Ceremonies Doug Failing (Director of Caltrans District 7) presents ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter’s Engineering Achievement Award to Rick Richmond, Chief Executive Officer of the Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority.

Master of Ceremonies Doug Failing (Director of Caltrans District 7) presents ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter’s Client of the Year Award to K.N. Murthy of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE ABOVE ITEMS (0 PTS):

Despite the economic conditions currently impacting the nation and the engineering industry, the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter has continued to be a strong force in the Los Angeles County engineering community. We consistently develop high-quality programs that focus on Southern California’s major upcoming design and construction programs, and our meetings continue to draw members and non-members—a testament to the quality of the programs.

As a chapter, we believe now is the time to set the stage for the future. Our directors and members understand the importance, particularly in difficult economic times, of maintaining active communication with elected officials and promoting critical legislative issues that affect the industry while also reaching out to the younger generation. Through a powerful student outreach program and active legislative involvement, the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter is working to prepare the engineering community for eventual economic growth and to improve conditions for the industry when we get there.

ESSAY QUESTION: ON A SEPARATE SHEET (MAX. 3 PAGES ONLY), PLEASE PROVIDE AN ESSAY (1000 WORDS OR LESS) THAT DESCRIBES HOW YOUR CHAPTER HAS SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTED THE INDUSTRY LOCALLY AND ENHANCED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY MEMBER FIRMS THROUGH STUDENT OUTREACH, PR, RECRUITMENT EFFORTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. IN ADDITION, PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW YOUR CHAPTER HAS PARTICIPATED IN IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES, I.E. INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS SUCH AS EARTH DAY OR LEED. (55 PTS)
CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter consists of 81 member firms. The makeup of these firms includes civil and structural engineering, surveying, geotechnical engineering, and testing and inspection. The majority of our members focus on transportation, water and wastewater, public infrastructure and private development.

Chapter management is conducted by the Board of Directors consisting of four executive officers, 10 directors, and four state directors. The Chapter also retains an Executive Director to assist with Chapter management and daily operations oversight.

PROMOTING THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY LOCALLY AND ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS

To promote the engineering industry, the Chapter relies on a number of initiatives including an extensive student outreach program, membership recruitment, Legislative Visit Day participation and special events.

Student Outreach

At the forefront of offering opportunities for local students to pursue their education as engineers, the Chapter is committed to educating students, and providing scholarships and internship opportunities that connect the next generation of engineers and surveyors to our current members.

Student Outreach

As part of Engineering Week (February 16-20) Chapter members, in partnership with Caltrans and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, participated in a campaign to encourage high school students in the City of Los Angeles to “become an engineer.” During the week, Chapter members generously contributed their time to make 76 presentations at 35 high schools and expose 2,500 students to a career in civil engineering or surveying. The presentation explained what civil engineers and surveyors do, and what educational steps need to be taken to pursue a career in these fields. The presentation included a video that depicted a modern view of today’s practicing engineer and sought to remove stereotypes that could potentially disinterest someone from seeking a career in the industry.
Scholarship Program
Established in 2005, the Chapter’s Scholarship Fund was developed for qualified engineering undergraduate and graduate students attending Los Angeles County colleges and universities. Each scholarship recipient must demonstrate a high level of academic achievement from an accredited engineering program; participate in professional associations; outline accomplishments and/or internships directly related to the practice of engineering; and provide commendations and endorsements from faculty.

On June 3, 2009, the Chapter hosted its Annual Achievement Awards Banquet where four scholarships totaling $15,000 were awarded to engineering students attending local universities. These included:

- $3,000 – Shavonne Thompson, University of Southern California
- $3,000 – Otavio Dalaross, University of California, Los Angeles
- $4,000 – Tri Nguyen, California State University, Long Beach
- $5,000 – Lily Aung, University of Southern California

Internships
Chapter members participated in the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Public Works High School Internship Program which placed 94 high school students in internships with public agencies and private firms engaged in the practice of civil engineering. The six-week program exposed the students to the engineering work environment in an effort to provide a more tangible perspective of what a civil engineer does. Twelve chapter member firms participated in the program by providing 15 internship positions.

Recruitment Efforts
Recruiting efforts include non-members attending our monthly luncheons as well as the retention of existing members.

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Recruitment
The Chapter has developed a very successful program of luncheon meetings. Attendance has grown from 20-30 four years ago to 80-200 this past year with a total attendance of 1,108 for the year. The Chapter’s membership committee maintains a list of non-member firms attending the meetings and committee members contact the non-members in an effort to recruit them.

New Chapter Tag Line
With the intent of encouraging member firms to do business with other member firms, the Chapter developed the following new tag line to accompany all Chapter materials:

Support our Industry - Do Business with an ACEC California Member Firm

Legislative Visit Day
Our Chapter prepares months in advance for Legislative Visit Day. We send e-mail contacts to the 40 Los Angeles County Legislators to schedule appointments, and then follow-up to confirm, and develop a master schedule of appointments. The Chapter Grassroots Committee develops Los Angeles County-specific talking points which are personalized for each visit and combined with the state talking points. This year the Chapter e-mailed a special letter to each legislator prior to the visit outlining the Chapter’s special talking points. Even with the legislators in turmoil over the budget, Chapter members were able to meet with 38 of the legislators or their staff members.
Special Events

Annual Achievement Awards Banquet

The Chapter’s Annual Achievement Awards Banquet provides an opportunity for hundreds of members and their guests to come together for an evening of networking and celebration. Awards presented at this event include Engineering Achievement, Client of the Year, Member of the Year and Scholarships.

Monthly Luncheons/Networking Opportunities

The Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month to bring together members and non-members to learn about both upcoming consulting opportunities from public owners, and about hot topics and trends from industry experts.

Members benefit from networking opportunities at the Chapter’s monthly programs, learn about upcoming consulting opportunities, and are able to meet public agency owners.

This year our programs attracted more than 1,100 attendees and featured the following agencies:

- Caltrans District 7
- County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
- City of Los Angeles
- Port of Los Angeles
- Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- California Transportation and Housing Agency
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES

Environmental Enhancements

The Chapter is a strong proponent of environmental and sustainability issues. Many members participate on the State Land Use and Environment Committee which addresses legislative issues and advocacy positions on environmental matters, and interfaces with the appropriate state agencies. Our Chapter members were also instrumental in forming and chairing a sustainability subcommittee that prepared a white paper (which was presentated to the ACEC CA Board last fall) on the role of the engineer and surveyor in sustainability. That presentation was also given at ACEC’s spring convention in San Diego. The activities of the subcommittee and the importance of the subject created the need to rename the state committee as the Land Use, Environmental and Sustainability Committee.

Chapter members have also been involved nationally in establishing the Land Development Coalition which, in focusing on the business needs of firms practicing in the land development area, is concentrating on sustainability as one of the cornerstones of importance to our industry.