



## **ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2009-2010 Annual Report**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. Letter to Selection Panel**
- 2. Entry Form**
- 3. Essay**





---

## **ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2009-2010 Golden Chapter Awards Nomination**

CHAPTER NAME:

**ACEC of California, Los Angeles County Chapter**

CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

**Art Hadnett, Stantec Consulting, Inc.**

DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING APPLICATION TO:

**Art Hadnett, President  
ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter  
PO Box 41612  
Long Beach, CA 90853  
(213) 996-2257  
Arthur.Hadnett@stantec.com**



NUMBER OF CHAPTER MEMBERS:

**80 Members**

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

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

**LA Chapter increased its firm count by 1.23%.**

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

**Of the 153 committee participants, 11 were members of the LA Chapter resulting in a participation rate of 7.2%.**

3. PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE OF CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ON (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE):

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5 PTS):

**58%**

GRASSROOTS COMMITTEE (5 PTS):

**60% (six out of 10 meetings)**

**ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter Legislative Committee Chair member Albert Perdon and Nancy Goettling participated in the majority of the State Grassroots Committee calls.**

CHAPTER OFFICERS CALLS (5 PTS):

**10.72% (three out of 28 calls)**



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

**75% (12 out of 16)**

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

**13% (16 out of 123)**

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

**19.5% (17 out of 87)**

**Of the 87 Legislative Visit Day attendees, 17 were from the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter. They included:**

NAME	FIRM
Michael Mooradian	Ecobility Corporation
Gene Bougdanos	HNTB Corporation
Bruce Russell	Jacobs
Tom Benson	Leighton Consulting, Inc.
Keyvan Fotoohi	MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc.
Kurt Yoshi	Ninyo & Moore
Robert Ball	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Jacob Lipa	Psomas
Blake Murillo	Psomas
Andrew Nickerson	Psomas
Art Hadnett	Stantec Consulting, Inc.
Shahram Vahdat	URS Corporation
Larry Carlson	Wagner Engineering & Survey, Inc.
Nancy Goettling	Wagner Engineering & Survey, Inc.
Diana Knezevic	Wagner Engineering & Survey, Inc.
Paul Wagner	Wagner Engineering & Survey, Inc.
Stephanie Wagner	Wagner Engineering & Survey, Inc.





7. PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS ATTENDING THE ACEC CONSULTING CONGRESS DAY (OUT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOW MANY PARTICIPATE) (5 PTS):

8.11% (three out of 37)

ACEC Consulting Congress Day attendees from the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter numbered three out of the 37 total California chapter attendees. Our Chapter attendees included:

NAME	FIRM
Cora Carmody	Jacobs
Blake Murillo	Psomas
Kevin Peterson	P2S Engineering, Inc.

8. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS (15 PTS):

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter held nine chapter meetings (including the Annual Achievement Awards Banquet) that each averaged 149 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 holding biannual fundraising events for legislators. During this past year, the Chapter held breakfast fundraisers for Assemblywoman Norma Torres and Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes.

The Chapter also uses its strength in numbers to make its presence known in Sacramento for the annual ACEC Legislative Visit Day. The Legislative Visit Day Committee works tirelessly to set appointments, recruit members to participate, research the candidates, compose talking point, and familiarize themselves with the ACEC CA talking points.

This year, the Chapter was able to field a team of 17 members to meet with Los Angeles County legislators, and, of the 38 legislators representing Los Angeles County, 36 legislators or their staff representatives were visited. Preparation began in November to schedule appointments with legislators. Letters were sent via fax or e-mail or both to the legislators through their schedulers to begin this process. Follow-up letters and telephone calls were initiated in December







and final appointments were made just days before Legislative Visit Day in January. Prior to the visits, leaders were assigned to each team that would visit the legislator. Each team leader was e-mailed a packet of information on their legislators for the familiarization process. Each packet included a photograph, district number, district map, biographies and a history of legislation sponsored and passed by each particular legislator. Because of the large numbers of Assembly and Senate members in the Los Angeles County Chapter, the team began visiting legislators at 9:00 a.m. and finished at 4:30 p.m. with only an hour lunch break.

The Chapter Board, the Grassroots Committee and the Legislative Visit Day Committee also worked together to draft Los Angeles Chapter-specific talking points entitled “ACEC-LA Recommends Additional Transportation Funding – It should be a multifaceted approach including gas tax, user fees and P3s.”

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

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter regularly communicates with local officials by holding biannual fundraising events for legislators. During the 2009-2010 year, the Chapter held two chapter-matching legislative fundraising events – one for Assemblywoman Norma Torres and the other for Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes.

Seventeen people gathered Friday August 7, 2009, for a breakfast at Psomas to support Assemblywoman Torres who serves State Assembly District 61 which includes the cities of Pomona, Ontario, Montclair and Chino. Assemblywoman Torres spoke on land development improvements to the City of Pomona during her tenure as City Council person and Mayor for the City of Pomona. She spoke about current events in Sacramento and in particular the experience of trying to achieve a balanced budget. Her presentation inspired many ACEC concerns to surface during the questions and answers period that followed. The attendees raised \$2,249. With the ACEC CA match, a total contribution of \$4,500 was raised for the Assemblywoman.

<p><i>Please join ACEC California Los Angeles Chapter for a continental breakfast in honoring</i></p> <p><b>Assemblymember Norma Torres</b></p> <p><b>Assemblymember Torres currently serves on the following committees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing and Community Development</b> Primary jurisdictions are building standards, common interest developments, eminent domain, housing finance, natural disaster assistance and preparedness, and land use planning.</li> <li>• <b>Banking and Finance</b></li> <li>• <b>Governmental Organization</b> Primary jurisdictions are public records, open meetings laws, and natural disasters.</li> </ul>	<p>Friday, August 7, 2009 7:30 - 9:00 am</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Psomas 555 South Flower Street, Suite 4300 Los Angeles, CA 90071</p> <p><b>Directions call:</b> 213-223-1400</p> <p><b>Parking:</b> Pay to park within the building.</p> <p><b>Suggested Contribution:</b> Members: \$100 per person Non-Members: \$150 per person</p> <p><b>RSVP by Monday, July 13th:</b> Andrew Nickerson 213-223-1512 anickerson@psomas.com</p> <p><b>Contribution Form Attached</b></p>
<p><b>Please join us to meet and talk with Norma one-on-one about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing finance</li> <li>• Natural disaster preparedness</li> <li>• Land use planning and eminent domain</li> </ul>	
 <p>Assemblymember Norma Torres proudly serves District 61: Pomona Ontario Montclair Chino</p>	
 <p><a href="http://www.acec-la.org">www.acec-la.org</a></p>	





Fourteen people gathered on Tuesday September 29, 2009, for a breakfast at Wagner Engineering & Survey to support local Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes who serves District 39 which includes Arleta, Sylmar, San Fernando Valley, Panorama City and Sun Valley. Assemblyman Fuentes gave an introduction on his background in obtaining his MBA from Pepperdine and public service within Los Angeles, including his service under then City Councilman Alex Padilla as a field deputy. He spoke about an inspiring DWP project to develop a solar farm on DWP property at Owens Lake near Lone Pine, California. In addition to green benefits to the environment, this project would create jobs in engineering and construction. Assemblyman Fuentes also spoke about his role in governance reform including the prospect of state constitutional reform and he gave examples of special interest legislation buried within the current state constitution. The event raised \$1,900 which, with the ACEC CA match, came to a total of \$3,800.



Together, these events help ACEC inform and build alliances with legislators who are especially supportive of a strong business climate for private engineering and surveying firms. This is also an opportunity for members to learn of expected new state policies and how they may affect the destiny of our industry, businesses and careers.

*Please join  
ACEC California  
Los Angeles Chapter  
for a continental breakfast  
in honoring*

**Assemblymember  
Felipe Fuentes**

**Assemblymember Fuentes currently serves on the following committees:**

- Chairman, Committee on Utilities and Commerce
- Primary jurisdictions are public utilities; the California Public Utilities Commission; the California Energy Commission; the California Independent System Operator; Electricity Oversight Board; energy companies; common carriers; electricity; alternative energy development and conservation; natural gas; wireless, wireline and cable communications; international trade; Women and Minority Business Enterprises; and tourism.
- Chairman, Select Committee on the Census
- Member, Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review
- Primary jurisdictions are identifying savings and efficiencies in the management of state government, reviewing and studying the implementation, operation, and effectiveness of state programs and agencies.
- Member, Committee on Appropriations
- Primary jurisdiction is fiscal bills, including bonds and alternative public financing.
- Member, Committee on Banking and Finance
- Primary jurisdictions are financial institutions, real property finance, and corporate securities law.
- Member, Select Committee on Safety and Protection of At-Risk Communities in California

**Tuesday, September 29, 2009  
8:30 - 10:00 am**

**Location:**  
Wagner Engineering & Survey, Inc.  
16933 Parthenia St., Ste. 100  
Northridge, CA 91343

**Directions call:**  
818-892-6565

**Parking:**  
Parking in parking area at building


**Suggested Minimum Contribution:**  
Members: \$100 per person  
Non-Members: \$200 per person

**RSVP by Tuesday, September 4:**  
Nancy Goettling  
818-892-6565  
mail. @wesinc.org


**Contribution Form Attached**

**Please join us to meet and talk with Felipe one-on-one about:**

- Utilities & Commerce
- Accountability & Administration Review



**Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes proudly serves District 39:**  
Arleta, Sylmar, San Fernando Valley,  
Panorama City, Sun Valley



Los Angeles County Chapter  
[www.acec-la.org](http://www.acec-la.org)



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

**\$4,000 Platinum Sponsor**

- **AECOM**

**\$2,000 Gold Sponsors**

- CDM
- CH2M Hill
- HDR
- HNTB
- Jacobs
- Kleinfelder
- Parsons Transportation
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Stantec Consulting, Inc.
- URS Corporation

**\$1,500 Silver Sponsors**

- Abratique & Associates
- Arcadis
- Harris & Associates
- InfraConsult LLC
- Kal Krishnan Consulting Services
- Lenax Construction Services
- MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc.
- Marrs Services
- Psomas
- Shannon & Wilson
- Wagner Engineering & Survey

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

**YES: [www.acec-la.org](http://www.acec-la.org).**



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 typically 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 2009-2010 year are listed below.

MONTH	SPEAKER(S)	TOPIC
AUG 2009	Art Leahy, CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority	LACMTA/Metro Capital Program Update
OCT 2009	Tom Paradise, Vice President - Development Services, Thomas Properties Group	Wilshire Grand Redevelopment Project: New Buildings on the LA Skyline
NOV 2009	Bruce Armistead, Regional Manager, Anaheim - Los Angeles Segment	California High-Speed Rail Project
JAN 2010	Borja Leon, Transportation Policy Analyst, City of Los Angeles - Mayor's Office; Art Leahy, Chief Executive Officer, Metro; Raja Mitwasi, Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans - District 7	Measure R Update
FEB 2010	Colonel Thomas H. Magness, District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District	US Army Corps of Engineers: Sustainable Engineering and the Journey from Good to Great!
MAR 2010	Chris Burner, Chief Project Officer, Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority	Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Update
APR 2010	Michael Miles, Director, Caltrans District 7	Caltrans District 7: Meet the New Director
MAY 2010	Larry Eisenberg, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Development, LACCD	Los Angeles Community College District: Capital Program Update
JUNE 2010	ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter Annual Achievement Awards Banquet	Presentation of scholarships, and legislative, engineering achievement, client, and member firm of the year awards







**OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS?**

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. The highlight of this year's event was an appearance by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa as the recipient of the Chapter's Legislative Achievement Award. Awards also presented at this event include the Engineering Achievement, Client of the Year, Member of the Year and Scholarships. Highlighting an emcee and owner award recipient who oversee some of the nation's most significant public works projects, 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 Assemblymember Norma Torres and Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes.



*The highlight of the Annual Achievement Awards Banquet was an appearance by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.*



*Metro Executive Director of the Highway Program and Interim Chief Planning Officer Doug Failing served as master of ceremonies for the Chapter's 2010 Achievement Awards Banquet.*



Los Angeles County Chapter

**2010 Achievement Awards Banquet**  
*Leaders of Today...Leaders of Tomorrow*  
Thursday, June 10  
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles Marriott Downtown

Legislative Achievement Award  
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
City of Los Angeles

Master of Ceremonies  
Doug Failing, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Engineering Achievement Award  
Thomas L. Jenkins, P.E.  
Client of the Year  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
*Accepting the Award will be Carrie Pourvahidi, Chief Deputy Director*

Members of the Year  
URS and MARRS Services

Scholarship Recipients  
\$2,500: Kartik Atyam, UCLA and Paloma Paredes, USC  
\$4,000: Shalia Khovananth, Cal Poly Pomona and Trevor McGuckin, Cal Poly Pomona  
\$6,000: Tri Nguyen, USC and Courtney Wong, UCLA


2009 / 2010 ACEC Los Angeles County Chapter Board of Directors  
President - Shahram Vahdat - URS  
Vice President - Art Hadnett - Stantec  
Past President - Chris Zadoorian - GeoDesign  
Secretary - Rolly Rothman - Rothman Engineering  
Treasurer - Ray Fares - AECOM

Directors  
Ehren Abratique, Abratique & Associates  
Joseph Aldern, Kleinfelder  
Rob Ball, PB  
Gene Bougdanos, HNTB  
Farshad Farhang, CH2MHill  
Keyvan Fotoohi, MACTEC  
Tom Kim, HDR  
Michael Mooradian, Ecobility Corp.  
Andrew Nickerson, Psomas  
Al Perdon, Albert Perdon & Associates  
Bruce Russell, Jacobs  
Tony Velasquez, Parsons

State Directors  
Shahn Ahmad, SA Associates  
Stephanie Wagner, Wagner Engineering & Survey  
Mel Sukow, Sukow Engineering  
Jim VanBeveren, Shannon & Wilson

Thank You to Our Sponsors

**Platinum**



<p><u>GOLD SPONSORS</u> CDM CH2MHill HDR HNTB JACOBS Kleinfelder Parsons PB Stantec URS</p>	<p><u>SILVER SPONSORS</u> Abratique &amp; Associates ARCADIS Harris &amp; Assoc Infraconsult LLC KKCS LENAX Construction Services MACTEC MARRS Services MBI Media PSOMAS Shannon &amp; Wilson Wagner Engineering &amp; Survey</p>
---	---



*Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was the recipient of the Legislative Achievement award.*



*Carrie Pourvahidi accepted the Client of the Year award (presented by Ray Fares) on behalf of the California High Speed Rail Authority.*



*Paul Ryan accepted the Member of the Year award on behalf of URS Corporation.*



*The 2009-2010 Board of Directors was recognized for a year of outstanding service.*



*Rubina Chaudhary accepted the Member of the Year award on behalf of Marris Services.*



*The 2009-2010 Chapter President Shahram Vahdat (right) was thanked for a year of exceptional leadership.*



*Tom Jenkins was the recipient of the Engineering Achievement award.*



*The gavel was passed to 2010-2011 Chapter President Art Hadnett.*



**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE ABOVE ITEMS (0 PTS):**

The 2009-2010 has been a year filled with challenges and opportunities for the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter. Membership retention has been one of our greatest challenges in this last year with pure economic factors at play. We believe we have held our own in this respect due to the excellent monthly programs, improved benefits of membership through public liaison committees, enhanced networking opportunities and the overall community visibility of the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter.

The success and enthusiasm within the Chapter is demonstrated by achievements including doubling our high school outreach program to 7,000 students during National Engineer's Week; awarding \$25,000 in scholarships to highly-deserving engineering and land surveying students; and mounting a strong and growing grass roots, relationship-building effort with our state and local officials. Our June 10, 2010, Annual Achievement Awards Banquet — attended by more than 250 people including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa — was a fitting culmination to a successful year of hard work!

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)



## **ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2009-2010 Golden Chapter Awards Nomination**

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter consists of 80 civil and structural engineering, surveying, geotechnical engineering, and testing and inspection member firms. The majority of the members focus on transportation, water and wastewater, public infrastructure and private development.

The board of directors, comprised of five executive officers, 13 directors and four state directors, manage the Chapter. The Chapter retains an executive director who assists with Chapter management and daily operations.



*ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2009-2010 Board of Directors.*

### **PROMOTING THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY**

Legislative Visit Day participation, an extensive student outreach program, membership recruitment, and special events are examples of the many ways the Chapter promotes the engineering industry.

#### **Student Outreach**

Committed to offering opportunities for the next generation of engineers and surveyors, Chapter engagement includes student education, scholarships and internships.

#### **National Engineering Week**

As part of National Engineering Week 2010 (February 14-20), ACEC-CalSOP, in partnership with Caltrans, the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles World Airports, conducted a “Become an Engineer” (BAE) campaign. The BAE campaign encouraged Los Angeles area high school students to pursue careers in engineering and related fields. Chapter members generously contributed their time to develop the presentation and leave behind materials; contact schools and schedule presentations; and conduct/attend two presenter training workshops. Using video, presenters depicted the routine of today’s practicing engineer. The presentations also discussed the education required to pursue a career in these fields.

This year, to accommodate an increase in presentation requests from schools, e-week outreach expanded to two weeks (February 8-20). Through 81 presentations in 42 high schools and three career fairs, volunteers reached approximately 7,000 students — an increase of nearly 50 percent from last year.





### **Scholarship Program**

Established in 2005, the Scholarship Fund honors qualified engineering undergraduate and graduate students attending Los Angeles County colleges and universities. Each recipient demonstrates high level academic achievement from an accredited engineering program; participates in professional associations; outlines accomplishments and/or internships directly related to the practice of engineering; and provides commendations and endorsements from faculty.

Six scholarships totaling \$25,000 were awarded. Recipients included:

- \$6,000 – Courtney Wong, UCLA
- \$6,000 – Tri Nguyen, USC
- \$2,500 – Kartik Atyam, UCLA
- \$2,500 – Paloma Paredes, USC
- \$4,000 – Trevor McGuckin, Cal Poly Pomona
- \$4,000 – Shalia Khovananth, Cal Poly Pomona

### **High School Internships**

ACEC-CalSOP participated in the City of Los Angeles Public Works High School Internship Program (PWHiP). Chapter members conducted interviews, and employed, hosted and mentored interns. ACEC-CalSOP public sector partners included the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles World Airports and Caltrans.

PWHiP received 507 applications from 11th and 12th grade students. After going through satellite job skills workshops and interviews at the University of Southern California campus, 64 were selected for six-week paid internships offered by 24 industry partners, 11 of which were ACEC member firms employing 16 interns.

Chapter members also mentor students as they leave PWHiP and pursue their education.

### **Recruitment Efforts**

Recruiting efforts include welcoming non-members attendance at monthly luncheons and retention of existing members. Achieving successful luncheon programming, the Chapter's luncheon attendance has grown from 20-30 in 2005 to 50-190 this year with a total year attendance of 940.

The membership committee maintains a non-member firm attendee list. Prospective members are contacted and offered a Chapter-paid lunch.

### **Legislative Visit Day**

The Chapter was a recognized presence at the annual ACEC Legislative Visit Day in Sacramento. Beginning in November, the Legislative Visit Day Committee worked tirelessly to set appointments, recruit member participation, research candidates, develop legislator packets, review ACEC CA talking points, and compose LA Chapter talking points. The packets were legislator specific and included a photograph, district number, district map, biography and history of legislation.

This year, 17 Chapter members visited 36 of the 38 legislators/staff representatives representing Los Angeles County.





## Special Events

The Chapter's Annual Achievement Awards Banquet provides hundreds of members and guests the opportunity to enjoy an evening of networking and celebration. Awards presented include Engineering Achievement, Client of the Year, Member of the Year and Scholarships. This year, a special Legislative Achievement Award was presented to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Members benefit from networking opportunities at the monthly programs, learn about upcoming consulting opportunities, keep current on trends from industry experts, and interface with clients/owners. Nearly 940 attendees enjoyed the luncheons. Featured organizations included:

- California High-Speed Rail Authority
- Caltrans District 7
- City of Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Community College District
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority
- Thomas Properties Group
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES

### Liaison Committees

The Liaison Committees provide a forum for dialogue between members and owners including the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans District 7, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These owners discuss contracting opportunities, procurement requirements, industry trends, and allow for private sector feedback on making contracting a win-win experience.

This past year, the ACEC-LA/City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (LABOE) liaison committee met quarterly to encourage communication and cooperation. Issues addressed included streamlining permit and bonding close-outs; improving understanding of LABOE's available RFQ/RFP opportunities; explaining issues surrounding storm water management and mitigation; and discussing effects of the economic downturn.

At the biweekly Caltrans District 7 Liaison meetings, member firms provided comments on the new audit requirements. This critical input resulted in modifications sensitive to firm size—eliminating the need for a professional accountant that, in some cases, would be cost prohibitive.

### Environmental Enhancements

Proponents of a healthful earth and sustainable projects, many members participate on the State Land Use and Environment Committee, which addresses environmental legislative issues and advocacy positions, and interfaces with appropriate state agencies.

Chapter members have been involved nationally in establishing ACEC's Land Development Coalition (LDC) which is concentrating on sustainability as a cornerstone of industry importance. LDC has grown to over 35 members from around the country, with more firms from California than any other state!

Chapter members also organized a session on LEED for Neighborhood Development presented at last Fall's ACEC national conference.