

CELSOC *Update*

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

DECEMBER 2005



**CONSULTING
ENGINEERS and
LAND SURVEYORS
of CALIFORNIA**

Orange County Chapter

Upcoming Meetings & Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2005

CELSOC CHARITY EVENT FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Speakers: Col. Alex Dornstauder
& Lt. Col. Mark Blackburn
Army Corps of Engineers

**"Greatest Disaster,
Greatest Response"**

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Wyndham O.C. Airport Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCH

Program TBA

For further information
about either of these events
call (949) 672-9030

President
BYRON TOBEY

'Greatest Disaster, Greatest Response'

The Army Corps of Engineers Responds to Katrina

(Excerpted from the Army Corps of Engineers publication, Engineer Update)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers met the greatest natural disaster to hit our nation with one of the greatest responses in Corps history.

Hurricane Katrina smashed southeast Louisiana, Mississippi, and southwestern Alabama coastal areas on August 29. Then Hurricane Rita steam rolled across southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas on Sept. 24. Together, these two storms shattered lives, homes, and economies.

New Orleans was hit particularly hard. Hurricane Katrina left the Crescent City with no power, no drinking water, dwindling food supplies and, because of levee breaches, rapidly rising floodwaters in the streets.

During the next several days, the nation watched a crisis unfold as levees and floodwalls breached at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, and the 17th Street and London Avenue canals. By September 1, almost 80 percent of New Orleans was under water,

some places more than 20 feet. Thousands of people sought shelter from the rising waters on rooftops; thousands more gathered in shelters or in groups on high ground.

Against this backdrop of despair, the Corps offered hope.

Engaging more than 3,800 personnel at its peak, the mammoth emergency response effort that was soon titled "Task Force

Hope" received support from 41 district offices, eight division offices, the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), the Engineer Research and Development Center, Humphreys Engineering Center, Huntsville

Engineering Center, the Institute for Water Resources, the USACE Finance Center, Transatlantic Programs Center, and the U.S. Army Engineer School. Volunteers from Germany,

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A CH-47 Chinook from the Oklahoma National Guard prepares to place two 7,000 pound sandbags in one of the New Orleans levee breaches.

(Photo by Lane LeFort, Louisiana Field Recovery Office)



The storm surge from Hurricane Katrina overflows the north levee of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet/Intracoastal Canal.

(Photo by Don McClosky, Entergy)

CELSOC Update

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President's Letter

Time for Bold New Plans & Resolute Action

By BYRON TOBEY

The elections are behind us and it is time to get on with business. Unfortunately, the Governor's propositions all failed, along with the other four propositions on this special election ballot — not too good of a showing.

It is time for the Governor to rethink the planned reform of our state government. Fortunately, it did not take long for that to happen and for our members to hear about his plan, "GoCalifornia."

At our November 16 joint meeting with WTS Orange County, we had the opportunity to be one of the first private groups to see the presentation of this ambitious plan.

Jim Biel, Deputy District Director for Caltrans District 12, gave an excellent presentation. There will be much more said about this plan over the coming months and, as always, the devil is in the details. Stay tuned as we watch this bold plan unfold to rebuild and expand the transportation network in the Golden State.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Other chapter news includes the approval of Don McDougald as the newest member of our Chapter Board of Directors. Of course, you all know Don has been working diligently as our Program Chair for over eight years. He has done an excellent job and we are pleased he is now officially on the Board. Recent changes to our Chapter bylaws enabled us to make this long overdue

inclusion of Don in the Chapter leadership. Please congratulate Don next time you see him.

CELSOC Orange County is also planning a new event for early spring 2006. The Board authorized a group of our members, lead by Mary Erchul, to start the planning for an Award Dinner event. We plan to make this a fun-filled evening and an opportunity to recognize some select individuals who have made



Byron Tobey

significant contributions to the consulting industry in Orange County. Look for more information about this event in the upcoming months.

Our next membership meeting will bring the realities of the

recent natural disaster from Hurricane Katrina to our members. We have arranged for the Army Corps of Engineers to present details of the damage and their efforts to restore the city of New Orleans.

As a special incentive, the proceeds from this luncheon, along with an additional donation from our current operating budget, will be made to the American Red Cross.

Please join us on December 14 at the Wyndham Orange County Airport Hotel in Costa Mesa for this great program. ☐

Luncheon Meeting Wrap-Ups

September Luncheon Wrap-Up

The September CELSOC Orange County membership luncheon featured **Sam Manfer**, author and sales expert, making a presentation entitled *Take Me to Your Leaders\$ for Engineers and Doer-Sellers*.



Byron Tobey, CELSOC Orange County Chapter President (right), poses for a photo with Sam Manfer (center) and Dick Bardin, Immediate Past President.

October Luncheon Wrap-Up

The October luncheon featured a timely presentation from a panel of guest speakers regarding the issues facing voters in the November special election. Speakers included **Peter Buffa**, columnist and former Costa Mesa mayor, **Keith Dunn**, CELSOC Legislative Director, and **Martin Wisckol**, political reporter for the *Orange County Register*.



Byron Tobey, CELSOC Orange County Chapter President is flanked by Peter Buffa (left), Brian ??? (center), and Martin Wisckol (right).

November Luncheon Wrap-Up

The November luncheon was jointly sponsored with WTS Orange County and featured a presentation by **Jim Biel**, Deputy District Director for Caltrans District 12, about "GoCalifornia," Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's transportation mobility initiative. ☞



Byron Tobey, CELSOC OC Chapter President (right), is in good company with WTS Orange County board members and Jim Biel, Deputy District Director for Caltrans District 12.

CELSOC Website Update

Remember to visit the Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC) website often to find out what's new. A clearinghouse for information, the website is the best place for up-to-the-minute information for all California chapters.

www.celsoc.org

The Corps & Katrina

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Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and several domestic federal agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Reclamation, also joined the task force.

Be sure to join CELSOC Orange County on December 14 as the Army Corps' Colonel Alex Dornstauber and Lt. Colonel Mark Blackburn share details of that agency's efforts in response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. ☞

While this newsletter is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subjects covered, the association is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional or technical services. Accordingly, the association cannot warrant the accuracy of the information contained in the newsletter and disclaims any and all liability which may result from publication or reliance on the information provided herein. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the service of a competent professional person should be sought.

People on the Move...

Compiled by Dina Gartland

Psomas welcomes **Dino D'Emilia**, Senior Project Manager, to its growing construction management practice. Dino has 18 years of experience managing large-scale construction programs for various public entities with significant success managing multi-million dollar projects during the design and construction phases.

Oscar Gonzalez has recently joined **Psomas' Water Resources Group** as a project manager. Oscar has extensive experience in providing resident engineering and design support for wastewater, storm water, and water projects. This experience has included participating in construction oversight, project management, and facility design.

Gregg Miller has joined **Psomas' Natural Resources Group** as a Senior Biologist. He has 28 years of experience as a wildlife biologist and terrestrial ecologist in the Western U.S. Gregg's experience includes conducting wildlife surveys, wildlife habitat evaluations, popu-

lation studies, and impact analyses, and preparing Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) under the Endangered Species Act.

Leading **HDR's** transportation business development and strategic planning program in Southern California is newly hired **Gene Bougdanos**, Transportation Program Development Manager. While he's based in Pasadena, most of his time will be spent traversing the highways throughout the region. Gene is a registered civil engineer, an officer of the Los Angeles Chapter of CELSOC, and a graduate of both Michigan and San Francisco State Universities.

LSA Associates has recently announced the addition of two new Senior Environmental Planners in their Irvine office: **Christine Huard-Spencer** and **Romi Archer**.

Leighton Consulting is continuing its pattern of growth with the addition of an office in downtown Los Angeles. The area, previously

supported by both their Irvine and Santa Clarita offices, has been a growing market for Leighton. This new office will help them to provide even better service to their projects in the Los Angeles area.

Pradeep Gunaratne has joined **HDR** as Highway Section Manager. He is responsible for overseeing operations and business development for the highway department throughout the Southern California region. Pradeep is a registered professional civil engineer with nearly 25 years of experience. He recently pointed out that he is also the best looking civil engineer in the county.



Please send your *People on the Move* announcements to:

Dina Gartland, Manager of Business Development, **Leighton and Associates**
17781 Cowan
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Orange County Chapter

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