

S.F. LIAISON COMMITTEE

FRANK DISCUSSION AT CITY HALL: Top officials of San Francisco City government attended the Aug. 21 AGC-San Francisco Liaison Committee to further bolster the contracting reform effort spearheaded there three years ago by AGC members. **Steve Kawa**, Mayor **Gavin Newsom's** chief of staff, told the group he understands the frustration businesses have when trying to navigate the city's bureaucracy, and that there are many opportunities for improvement. City Administrator **Ed Lee** echoed the sentiment, telling the committee that more emphasis needs to be put on prevention of problems "on the front end" so that projects are completed with a minimum of disruptions. The committee meeting also featured a presentation by Deputy City Attorney **George Wong** on how his office handles construction-related legal matters. "I truly believe that if a contractor makes money on a project it's a good thing," said Wong, a 31-year employee of the city who has personally crafted much of the city's contract language. The AGC-San Francisco Liaison Committee meets quarterly. For more information, contact **Russell Snyder** at (925) 827-2422.



San Francisco Deputy City Attorney George Wong (right) talks to the AGC-S.F. Liaison Committee as Co-Chairman John de Ruiter of Turner Construction looks on.

EAST BAY BBQ

DELICIOUS FOOD, AIR QUALITY ON MENU: The San Francisco Bay Area District will hold a BBQ/General Membership Meeting and mixer on Wednesday, **Sept. 10** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Oakland. The event, generously hosted by new AGC member [TEC Equipment](#) of Oakland, will feature BBQ chicken and tri-tip, and feature air quality experts to discuss how the latest diesel-engine emissions regulations will impact the industry. Scheduled speakers include **Beth White** from the California Air Resources Board, **Matt Schapp** from the California Trucking Association and **Mike Lewis** from the Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition. For more information, view the [event flier](#) or contact **Rachel Morris** of AGC at (925) 827-2422.

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Rowe

WELCOME ABOARD

ROWE JOINS AGC STAFF: **Kevin Rowe** recently joined the AGC Concord office staff as a District Manager for the San Francisco Bay Area and North Bay districts, replacing **Russell Snyder**, who will eventually transition into new duties heading AGC's Joint Engineering Division. Rowe previously was employed in the manufacturing side of construction, working with plumbing products. He has worked on many commercial construction projects in Northern California doing specification work. Rowe can be reached at (925) 827-2422.

NORTH BAY PUBLIC WORKS

TOP OFFICIALS SPEAK: AGC members received a preview of upcoming work in the North Bay at a "Public Works Briefing" breakfast event held Aug. 5 in Rohnert Park. Representatives from the Bay Area district of Caltrans, the City of Santa Rosa, the County of Sonoma and the Sonoma County Water District spoke on infrastructure and funding issues. The event was sponsored by AGC members C.V. Larson Co., Granite Construction, Lockton Insurance, Shamrock Materials and Underground Construction. **Dennis Turchon** of Caltrans provided some levity to the proceedings when he reported the very latest status of contractor payments that may be impacted by the state budget impasse. Holding up his BlackBerry smart phone, he said he received an e-mail message minutes before he stepped to the lectern from Caltrans Director **Will Kempton** informing him that August construction progress payments would be made on schedule. The report received a warm response from contractors on edge over the status of state payments for ongoing construction work.



Among those who attended the North Bay Public Works Briefing event in Rohnert Park included, from left to right: Santa Rosa Interim Director-Engineering Colleen Ferguson; George Bradshaw of Underground Construction; John Boies from Granite Construction; Bruce Okrepkie of ABD Insurance and Financial Services; Jeff Prevost with Lockton Insurance; Dennis Turchon of Caltrans; Matt Vail of the Sonoma County Water Agency; Bill Currie of Shamrock Materials; and Sonoma State University student and AGC scholarship recipient Morton Davis. Not pictured: County of Sonoma General Services Director Jose Obregon.

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PUBLIC WORKS NIGHT

CTC COMMISSIONER TO SPEAK: California Transportation Commission member **Jim Earp** will be the featured speaker at AGC’s fall Public Works Night, to be held Wednesday, **Sept. 17** at 5 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1800 Powell Street in Emeryville. Representatives from various public agencies will be on hand to preview upcoming work. Earp, who is also the executive director of the California Alliance for Jobs, will discuss the state of highway funding and what that means for contractors. This event is being held in partnership with the Construction Management Association of America, Northern California chapter. For more information, view the event [flier](#) or contact **Rachel Morris** at (925) 827-2422.



Earp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE: Don’t miss out on the year’s most festive gathering of construction leaders in the Bay Area – the annual AGC Bay Region Holiday Dinner Dance. This year’s formal affair will be held **Dec. 6** at the opulent Palace Hotel in the heart of the downtown San Francisco shopping and entertainment district. New this year is a “Monte Carlo” gaming theme. Back by popular demand is singer **Allison Sharino** and her all-star band. Table reservations and exclusive sponsorships are now being accepted. For more information, contact **Kristen Fracisco** at (925) 827-2422.



Turner Project Manager Meade Hopkins (foreground) gives an Aug. 15 jobsite tour of the Fox Theater renovation project in Oakland attended by, among others, AGC Associate Member Nikki Affinito of Union Bank (to his immediate left).

LOCAL LANDMARK

FOX THEATER IN OAKLAND: The historic Fox Theater renovation project in downtown Oakland is getting plenty of attention these days, and with good reason. The elegant 1928 moviehouse is being restored to its former glory by several AGC member companies. Turner Construction is the construction manager on the \$82 million project, and prominent subcontractors include AGC members Turner Group Construction (no relation to the CM) and Corbin Building. Several AGC members were on hand for a recent tour of the construction site and were awed by the attention to detail on some of the historic treatments. The theater, which has been closed for more than two decades, is scheduled to reopen later this year to great fanfare.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

GALARZA HONORED BY U.S. COMMERCE

DEPT. : It was a proud day for AGC member of Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction as he was honored Aug. 15 as “Minority Construction Firm of the Year” at the 26th annual Minority Enterprise Development Awards Dinner at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. The theme of the event was “The Power of Strategic Alliances in a Global Economy.” Yerba Buena has already been recognized as one of the fastest growing companies of any type in the Bay Area, and noted for its commitment to helping other small companies grow and prosper. Galarza benefited early in his career from a mentor-protégé relationship with another AGC member, Gordon N. Ball Inc.



Miguel Galarza is joined at the awards ceremony by his wife, Gena, and daughter, Bianca.

CALTRANS UPDATE

DIRECTOR KEMPTON SPEAKS AT OAKLAND BBQ: Caltrans Director **Will Kempton** attended a barbecue put on by an Oakland business group and took the opportunity to highlight the many strides the highway department is making to assist small businesses to get a piece of the transportation pie. Many AGC members showed their support by sponsoring the Aug. 8 event that was also attended by Oakland City Council member **Delsey Brooks**. AGC was also a co-sponsor of the event that was organized by the Oakland Black Board of Trade and Commerce.



AGC Past President Mark Lindquist of 1701 Associates speaks with Caltrans Director Will Kempton (right) and District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi (left).



Caltrans Director Will Kempton (left) thanks event co-sponsor Shawn Fried of AGC Member Enterprise Fleet Services.