New Technology Continues to Shape Industry

Plus:
Syblon Reid Building
Unique Battle Creek Project
Providing our customers with the Highest Quality Products, Superior Technical Service, and Most Importantly ... Integrity since 1891

We invite you to learn more about the CALPORTLAND® network by visiting us at www.calportland.com

CEMENT, CONCRETE, AGGREGATE, ASPHALT, CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS

Cement Sales Office
2025 E. Financial Way
Glendora, CA 91741
626.852.6200

Catalina Pacific
1030 W. Gladstone St.
Azusa, CA 91702
626.334.3226

Central Coast Division
1625 E. Donovan Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454
805.922.3551

Inland and Desert
590 E. Live Oak Ave.
Irwindale, CA 91706
800.700.8371

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded CalPortland Company the National ENERGY STAR® Award for Sustained Excellence in recognition of its continued leadership in protecting our environment through energy efficiency. CalPortland’s accomplishment over six consecutive years is a feat that has never been matched by any other U.S. building materials company.
Improving our Businesses through New Technology

Raise the topic of technology at any gathering of contractors, and you will immediately see that everyone has a different viewpoint. Some focus on advances in site operations, such as GPS guided earthmoving equipment, while others launch into a discussion of innovative project delivery methods such as IPD, BIM and the like. Still others debate the merits of the newest applications to manage data and collaborate with other project stakeholders. With very few exceptions that are mostly along generational lines, most will view new technology as a positive influence.

Although there are varying opinions as to the productivity of today’s construction industry, there is ample evidence that we are lagging behind other industries. There can be no argument that we need to do better. Stagnation is the death knell of any endeavor; every industry and every company needs to increase productivity if it is to prosper. Today’s challenging business environment makes this all the more apparent. We simply can not rely on yesterday’s methods, practices, and equipment and expect to thrive.

Increasingly complex projects, tighter schedules, cost constraints and the need for thorough documentation all demand a more efficient and effective industry that communicates better and utilizes innovative technologies to produce quality projects, faster and more economically. Wider implementation of better technology is one critical solution, and this holds true for small jobs as well as the mega-projects. After all, it was not that long ago that CADD was viewed as appropriate for only the largest, most sophisticated projects, and now it is indispensable for the simplest of jobs.

Open any trade publication and you will see that there is no shortage of new technologies and advancements, but actual implementation has been slow. It seems that the adoption of technologies has not reached critical mass to visibly impact productivity. All of us have heard the endless litany of excuses – implementation costs, cultural obstacles, resistance to change, and the like. However, these are transient and need to be overcome if our industry is to efficiently build the infrastructure and buildings that will move our state and country forward. Every firm should examine its operations and seek out opportunities to improve its efficiency through technology. Start with small steps and move on to enterprise level platforms. Not only will you be rewarded at the bottom line level, but your company will be recognized as a progressive innovator ready for the future.

At a national level, AGC is active on a number of fronts including BIM Forum and the Technology Forum, both of which provide an opportunity for members to become actively engaged in new technologies. AGC of California is pleased to announce the rollout of the McGraw-Hill Market Builder’s Program – a web based portal that allows AGC members to access information on work currently bidding and to plans and specifications for those jobs. Be sure to check this out on the Highlights section of the AGCC website.

On a separate topic, I hope you’ll take a look at the enclosed Fall Conference brochure and make plans to attend this key annual AGC event in the desert in November. Remember, it is only through active member involvement and participation that AGC of California has grown and built its reputation as the leading voice of the construction industry.
Can California be Governed?

By Dave Ackerman

It is hard to believe, but it has been seven years since Governor Gray Davis was recalled and Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected as his replacement. The elections this November will bring yet another Governor to deal with California’s issues.

Arnold Schwarzenegger came to Sacramento, as one campaign event suggested, with a broom to make a “clean sweep” of all the waste, bureaucracy and regulations that were stifling business and inhibiting job creation, as well as shutting down the influence “special interests” have in Sacramento.

The Governor is not quite yet packing his boxes to leave, but he has been reflecting on the last seven years with an honesty that shows his frustration and even an admonition that maybe the bureaucracy and “special interests” might have the upper hand.

Political columnist Dan Walters has said for years that California may be impossible to govern and that California is just dysfunctional — and he may be right. The best any Governor might be able to do is manage the government; however, governing or leading may be another thing. Many times it seems like California is running the Governor, not the other way around.

In a recent presentation to a group in the Central Valley, Governor Schwarzenegger offered his take on that dysfunction, and the comments are illuminating. Here’s some of what he said:

“There is no one in the state that tries to derail the state or state government, but over the years, with the initiative process and with the legislators…laws were created that made it somewhat dysfunctional.…

“You have a governor that is being elected by the people where the people say, ‘Terminator, you go to Sacramento and you clean house.’

“But then they give you … a controller that is a Democrat. Then they give you a treasurer that is a Democrat. Then they give you Jack O’Connell, who is in charge of education, who is a Democrat. Then they give you a secretary of state that is a Democrat. So they surround you with people that have a totally different interest than you have. So how are you going to win?

“And then, as if that’s not enough, then you have the federal judges that, you say we’re going to cut here on this program and the federal judge says, ‘No, you can’t.’

“And you say, ‘We need a little bit more water here for our farmers in the Central Valley.’ The federal judge just says, ‘No, no.’

“So that’s what makes it difficult, you see what I’m saying? You go and you say, OK, the people of California say we believe in capital punishment. For five years now I’ve been fighting for the next execution, from one lawyer to the next and from one judge to the next.”

At this stage in the waning months of an Administration, talk begins as to what the Governor’s legacy will be; how will he be remembered? Circumstances beyond his control, principally the California economy, will overshadow almost everything else.

California has had a budget crisis virtually every year during the Governor’s current term, and the next Governor stands to inherit a carry-over crisis as well.

• Proposition 18, the $11 billion California Water Bond, a significant achievement of the Governor’s, had to be removed from the November ballot because polls were showing less than adequate public support to give a chance at victory.

• Proposition 23 proposes to suspend the hallmark of Governor Schwarzenegger’s administration — AB 32, the measure to curb greenhouse gasses.

• The open primary ballot measure was passed by the electorate, but its “companion” measure, the redistricting commission slated to draw legislative districts following the 2010 census, is subject to repeal by Proposition 27, placed on the ballot by Democrats.

While Governor Schwarzenegger will sign and veto legislation affecting mil-
Technology Assists LEED Gold Certification
AGC Headquarters Renovation Shows Commitment to the Industry and the Environment

By Joe Lish

As you may know, AGC of California recently completed an extensive remodel and renovation of its headquarters office located in West Sacramento. In doing so, the association pronounced its commitment to the green building movement and to environmentally and socially responsible construction. By the end of this year, AGC is slated to receive the coveted LEED Gold certification, made possible in part by advances in technology and the acquisition of new Energy Star rated equipment throughout the facility.

From the outset, AGC leadership was committed to bringing the headquarters office up to current standards. With this in mind, project leadership initially set its sights on a LEED Silver certification. A $700,000 budget was approved that called for modern furnishing upgrades, a new member training facility, and energy efficient alternatives to replace outdated and aging equipment. In light of the current economy, the association also faced the need to take a hard look at operational costs and find ways to reduce those costs while keeping services to its members a top priority. The challenges were many, but advances in technology and Energy Star rated equipment acquisitions were key to meeting those needs and making the renovation a success.

Data Center – Virtualized Server and Data Storage

Over the years the number of servers in production at AGC has grown four-fold. Whereas four servers used to accommodate the vital applications necessary for day-to-day operations, that number soon increased to over 12 as the association began to expand its reach through network, web and telecommunications technologies. By leveraging the emerging trends in “virtual” computing infrastructure, IT staff at AGC were able to convert and consolidate power-hungry legacy servers into software based “virtual servers”. This exciting virtual server platform makes it possible to “virtualize” a physical server and run many “virtual” servers on a single physical server hardware. What that translates to for AGC is significantly reduced energy and cooling costs and increased performance and capacity utilization.

To achieve this capability, AGC selected the PowerEdge R610 server, one of Dell’s flagship Energy Star compliant offerings that is optimized for virtualization technologies such as VMWare, Citrix XenServer and Microsoft’s Hyper-V. An additional server was purchased for the sole purpose of data storage virtualization and consolidation. Together, this solution provides a highly efficient and cost effective base that will enhance technology agility and flexibility.

Training and Conference Rooms

A corner stone of the renovation vision was the addition of a new Education & Training center that would provide a new 35-seat facility dedicated to the professional development and advancement of the AGC member workforce. Included in the project are modern audio/visual capabilities and easily accessible (and free) WiFi for visitors to use to stay in touch with their day-to-day business. Future plans call for video streaming and broad-cast capabilities to extend the reach of AGC’s training programs to a wider and geographically dispersed audience.

The new Executive Conference room showcases a comfortable new space outfitted with large new Panasonic high-definition LCD display and projection systems. A touch-screen remote automation unit allows seamless control over presentations from anywhere in the room. The design team selected a beautiful ergonomically designed conference table, while the installation of integrated data and A/V hookups in the table put the finishing touches on a modern and well equipped space.

Communications Upgrades

Efforts are currently underway to upgrade and enhance AGC’s communications and collaboration systems. Upgrades to the association’s conferencing system will effectively double system capacity and add web, video and collaboration features. These welcome new additions will further reduce the need for travel (and thereby reducing emissions and the organization’s carbon footprint) and minimize related expenses, all the while increasing productivity and participation.

All furnishings added throughout the building had to meet the stringent guidelines set forth by the Energy Star rating system. All parties involved in the project were able to overcome numerous challenges to achieve this goal and create a stunning new environment dedicated to the mission and vision of the AGC of California.

Joe Lish is Manager, IT Services for AGC of California.
HCSS Launching Software Program to Automate, Improve Contractors’ Safety Programs

By Carol Eaton

This fall, HCSS is slated to release a Safety Management product designed to give contractors a new tool to electronically manage and improve their safety programs.

Currently in Beta testing and slated for release on November 1, the new HCSS Safety Application that has been in development for the past two years provides contractors immediate access to their safety data companywide, alerting them to job site hazards before they become critical incidents.

“The number one goal that we followed for this software has always been to prevent one life changing incident in the field,” comments Chris Henry, HCSS Product Manager. “We really just wanted to give our customers the ability to capture safety data and access it very easily so they can create safer workplaces.”

The HCSS Safety App fills a niche in helping fully automate and provide electronic tracking and easy access to a company’s existing safety program data, often one of the last major business functions that many contractors still perform manually with paper forms and binders.

“The application not only will capture the data as it comes in electronically, so everyone who was supposed to have say trench safety training this week actually did have it, but more importantly if you need to access that information for any reason in an incident or for reporting standpoint, it is easily accessible,” says HCSS Chief Operating Officer Steve McGough. “Another goal is to be able to capture and record near misses, so you are able to target your training and education dollars into the areas that will benefit your company most.”

McGough adds that another key benefit of the Safety App is the competitive edge users will gain by being able to showcase their safety program to owners on prospective projects with just the click of a button.

“For companies that really take safety seriously and want to highlight that to owner, what better way than to be able to produce electronic data and tracking that will demonstrate it’s a top priority for your company?” he says.

Some of the key aspects of the HCSS Safety App include the following:

- Safety program Dashboard – Shows a company’s safety programs key indicators across all jobs instantly, while alerting the user to the areas that require immediate attention.
- Training scheduling and skills/certification management – provides a central location for scheduling trainings, inspections, orientations, etc.
- Safety analysis – The program tracks and reports all job level safety information as well as manages a company’s historical safety data for each job in one place.
- Trend Analysis – Trend data is provided across all jobs or individual jobs to enable companies to continually improve their safety programs.
- Incident Management – This feature allows for the capture, classification and documentation of recordable incidents as well as population of an OSHA 300 log.
- Field System – A field entry system will allow field personnel to capture meeting attendance, incident reporting and daily inspections as well as on demand communication from the safety manager.

In a nutshell, the safety application enables construction companies to instantly analyze risk factors and safety compliance at individual job sites and company-wide. It provides a manager component to plan, track and analyze a company’s safety program, and a field component to collect data and feedback. The company can use the product to set training and meeting goals for employees, track training and certifications, collect safety meeting information independently or from HCSS’s HeavyJob Field Management software, perform safety inspections, provide behavioral feedback and run statistical charts and graphs.

HCSS provides public demos on its soon to be released Safety App every Friday morning online, where anyone can log in, view the product and features and ask questions of a live person for immediate feedback. For more information, visit HCSS online at http://www.hcss.com/Products/safety/ or call (800) 683-3196.
AGC’s Website – a Wealth of Information

AGC remodeled its website in 2008, and the AGC IT and Communications Task Force continues to develop new features. The website has easy navigation and a wealth of information and resources for users. New components of the website are:

- Register Online – Under the Meetings & Events section you can find training, local area events and more. You can register online for nearly all AGC events.

- Find a contractor or construction professional. The “Buyers Guide” is designed to find a construction professional quickly and easily. It allows visitors of the AGC site to locate a contractor, subcontractor, supplier, or design professional that fits the specifications for their particular search.

- Revamped Events calendar page for each event that includes online registration, add to Outlook for calendaring purposes and a mapping feature.

- Over 300 specialized publications and videos, providing specific industry news and information, as well as educational materials and training resources

- Expanded Member Spotlights section – featuring AGC of California members and projects

- Information on the latest industry trends and challenges

- Expanded Safety Video training library with search and browse features, and now the video you want can be ordered online – just fill out the online form and it will be shipped to you. Now your in-house training is easier!

- And much, much more!

With its ease of use, clean layout and powerful search features, the website reinforces AGC’s position not only as the voice of the construction industry, but as “the visual voice of the construction industry” as well. Visit www.agc-ca.org and take a look around.
Major Environmental Restoration Project Underway in Northern California

Syblon Reid Faces Myriad Challenges Constructing Portion of Long Anticipated Project on Battle Creek

By Carol Eaton

Following years of planning and coordination among multiple agencies and stakeholders, construction is now underway on the largest salmon and steelhead restoration project in the history of California. The project also ranks as one of the largest cold-water anadromous fish restoration efforts ever undertaken in North America.

Folsom-based Syblon Reid holds the largest current active contract on the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration project, which cuts through Shasta and Tehama Counties in Northern California. The overall project is designed to reestablish 42 miles of prime salmon and steelhead habitat on Battle Creek, as well as an additional six miles on its tributaries. A spring- and snowmelt-fed stream that originates on the slopes of Mount Lassen, Battle Creek is a major tributary of the Sacramento River. For decades, dams have blocked fish access to much of Battle Creek’s best spawning habitat. The project is designed to improve fish migration by upgrading fish passage facilities over dams, putting in fish screens on water diversions, and removing diversion dams.

Multiple Stakeholders

The U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), and state and federal resource agencies are collectively undertaking this fishery restoration effort, which has been in the planning stages for more than a decade and involves a multitude of stakeholders. In addition to restoring the fish habitat in Battle Creek and its tributaries, the project will also minimize the loss of clean and renewable energy produced by the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project, which is owned and operated by PG&E and licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Overall funding for the project involves both public and private sources, including at least $28 million in federal CALFED funds, additional funds from Caltrans and the Department of Fish and Game, as well as some private funding from organizations including The Nature Conservancy and from PG&E in the form of forgone energy generation, among other sources.

Syblon Reid Construction’s $10.8 million contract entails modification of existing diversion structures and installation of fish ladders and screens on North Battle Creek Feeder and Eagle Canyon Diversion Dams on the North Fork of Battle Creek. The AGC contractor’s scope of work has also included creating a staging area on the west canyon rim above North Battle Creek Feeder Diversion Dam for truck and helicopter use; building a new access road and pedestrian bridge to provide access to the North Battle Creek Feeder site; and construction of two crane pads for servicing the project, bracketed by the vertical canyon walls, located 200 feet below coupled with improving foot trails to the Eagle Canyon Diversion Dam site, among other features.

Environmental Considerations Paramount

From the outset, environmental considerations on the project have been paramount, and the contractor has needed to carefully plan and schedule their work to avoid any unnecessary environmental impacts or permit violations, according to Syblon Reid Division Manager Spencer Frederiksen. That has required everything from maintaining an environmental biologist on site to inspect trees before they are cut, to performing work within defined environmental windows that adhere to the various permit requirements.

Access to the jobsite has proven to be another key challenge for crews perform-
ing the work. On the North Battlecreek Feeder Diversion site, Syblon Reid crews cut in a 700-ft-long access road through rock to reach the site. A 100-ton all-terrain crane was mobilized at the base of the newly cut road to hoist materials across the stream channel into the work area.

With the absence of any roads down to river level, access to the Eagle Canyon Diversion Dam site is even more limited, according to Syblon Reid Project Manager Lorenzo Abbruzzese. This lack of access has required the use of helicopters to deliver materials and equipment to the otherwise inaccessible site during the initial phases of the project. After a lay down area and crane pads were established, a crawler crane was brought on site.

“We have a 275-ton 999 Manitowoc crane sitting up on top of the bluff of the work area,” Abbruzzese says. “All the remaining work will be completed by lowering equipment and materials off the bluff to the work area below. To successfully achieve this we needed significant lifting capacity over a wide service radius project-ed from two pad locations. This has been achieved through the utilization of a 170 foot luffing jib operating from the 170 foot main boom resulting in a 260 foot reach.”

In August several small excavators were lowered to the work site by crane. They are being used to excavate material into large skip boxes, which are then hoisted via the crane back up the bluff and hauled away.

**Water Control Key**

Yet another major challenge on the project involves controlling the bountiful onsite water. Numerous fresh water springs pepper the deeply carved canyon walls and feed into Battle Creek.

“Besides the normal river flows, there is a large influx of spring water coming out of the bluff in the immediate work area that needed to be collected and controlled to keep the work areas as dry as possible. For work of this nature, water control is the foundation for a successful project,” Frederiksen says. “Basically we must collect all water from the stream and springs and route it around the work area. Of this controlled water we must deliver a specific volume to hydro facility conveyance systems while maintaining the required downstream flow releases to support the fish. These minimum stream flows have to be met on a 24/7 basis.

“At no time can we not provide the minimum stream flows required below each facility, so everything has to be planned in such a way that those minimum flows are never violated,” adds Frederiksen. In order to accomplish that task, Syblon Reid installed temporary diversion dams above the work areas to support gravity fed bypass systems. Both North Battle Creek Feeder Diversion and Eagle Canyon Diversion have three 30-inch pipes to move the river flows past the work areas. While one pipe returns water back into the hydro conveyance system – which allows PG&E to continue to generate power at its facilities within the summer and fall months – the balance deliver the water below the work areas for in-stream releases to protect the fish population and other aquatic species. An additional 18-inch pipe was added to the Eagle Canyon Diversion bypass system to ensure minimal flows back into PG&E’s conveyance system.

**Intricate Concrete Work**

Following the dewatering process, Syblon Reid’s work process on each of the two job-sites entails demolition of half of the existing dams and associated boulder removal and excavation work. The next step involves intricate concrete work designed for both a fish ladder and a fish screen structure. The fish ladders feature a ramp structure and a series of baffle walls. The fish screen structures adjacent to the fish ladders are designed to prohibit fish from entering the conveyance systems that lead to several of PG&E’s power generation facilities.

“Our goal for this year is to get in and do all the concrete work and install the new diversion gates this year. This will allow PG&E to regulate flows over the winter and operate the power generation facilities,” Abbruzzese says. To be in compliance with the environmental permit conditions, the contractor must be out of the river channel no later than November 30. Following a winter shutdown period, Syblon Reid will resume work on site around May 1, 2011. The North Battle Creek Feeder Diversion site is expected to be fully operational by September 2011, while the Eagle Canyon Diversion site is expected to be fully operational by October 2011.

Another AGC member contractor, Ford Construction Company, Inc., has been involved as a subcontractor on the first contract that was awarded on the project, involving removal of the Wildcat Diversion Dam, Pipeline and Canal on the north Fork of Battle Creek.

This past July, The Bureau of Reclamation awarded a $6.84 million contract for Phase I B of the project to another contractor, who will construct a tailrace connector and penstock bypass at the Inskip Powerhouse. Additional phases of the overall project are also slated, with overall completion of this unique project scheduled for 2014.
Marina Landscape Donates Landscape for Western High School

Due to the age of the school and the budget cuts within California, Western High School in Anaheim was in desperate need of some beautification improvements. Marina Landscape donated a new student garden and large trees for the school back in 2008, and wanted to donate another landscaped area to give the school a fresh look. Marina Design Group designed a landscape and irrigation plan for the front entrance that would integrate with the school's existing layout and give Western an updated appearance.

Marina Design Group Landscape Architects developed landscape plans that utilized the Anaheim School District's new plant palette, and the Marina Design Group Irrigation Specialist designed a new, efficient irrigation system to keep the plants and trees green and healthy.

On June 19, 2010, Marina's field and office crew arrived at the school with a team of over 20 landscape professionals to start demolition. Trees, shrubs, ivy and concrete were removed from the site to make way for the new landscape. Marina poured new concrete mow strips to minimize turf areas, which will cut back on maintenance and water costs for the school. New high-efficiency nozzles and new sprinkler heads were donated by Hunter Industries and installed by Marina. Boulders were relocated to make the front entrance aesthetically pleasing, and planting areas were prepared.

The following Saturday, Marina supplied another field crew and more office staff volunteers to give the front of the school a $40,000 makeover. Two new benches were installed in an area of decomposed granite for the students to sit in the shade and enjoy the view of some of the school's large oak and pine trees. Marina also planted a variety of trees and flowers. Over 60 Western High School students and teachers, including Western High School's Environmental Club, ASB, Principal Paul Sevillano and Assistant Principal Bob Jauregui, were present to assist with the project. Marina's Foreman Guadalupe Florido spent extra time with the students, teaching them about plant care and proper planting techniques in order to make the project educational. Everyone involved was so enthusiastic and dedicated that the project was completed several hours ahead of schedule. The landscape installation turned out to be fun, successful and beneficial for all.
AGC Announces Staff Addition, Promotion

AGC of California recently announced two new staff appointments: Erin Volk has been appointed to the position of Director of the Education and Research Foundation, and Dave Jenkins was promoted to Director of Business Development for AGCC.

Volk comes to the Education Foundation from the UC Davis Police Department, where she served as the project director of a UC system-wide grant project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, a project on which all 10 UC campuses partnered. For the past eight years at UCD Volk was responsible for securing and working on federal grant programs specific to the higher education community and engaged directly with UC administration, faculty, staff, and students at more than 300 colleges and universities nationwide. She has provided project management and oversight on a multitude of projects and has traveled extensively throughout California and the nation to facilitate meetings and trainings at universities, non-profits and private sector agencies.

In her previous work, Volk also developed and delivered several trainings and educational sessions for college students. She has a B.A. in political science from CSU, Chico. Volk can be reached at (916) 371-2422 or volke@agc-ca.org.

Dave Jenkins was promoted to Director of Business Development effective June 1, 2010.

While keeping his responsibilities as District Manager for the Los Angeles District, Jenkins will also focus on developing the association’s value added services. He will be working with Pam Gray to promote conferences and other statewide events. He can be reached at jenkinsd@agc-ca.org or by calling (626) 608-5800.

In Your Corner: Industrial Relations on the Web

By Trude Ellingsen, Industrial Relations - Southern California

In keeping with the AGCC mission of providing resources to its members, it should come as no surprise that part of the 21st century interpretation of that mission is to provide as much content and information as possible on our website, www.agc-ca.org. All of our members know they can call on the Industrial Relations department at any time for the latest wage rates, fringe contributions or meal period requirements. But what do you do when you’re in the office on a Sunday, working on a bid package that needs to go out ASAP, and you need to confirm those crucial numbers – but you can’t find your copy of the AGCC Wage Scale Book?

You go to the website, of course.

Located under the Member Services tab on the left-hand side of the homepage, within the Industrial Relations corner of the website, you’ll find a treasure trove of information. All you have to do is create a Member Log-in (provided you don’t have one already), which only takes a few moments. From there you have access to Master Labor Agreements, Labor Relations bulletins, Power of Attorney forms, directories and much more, for both Northern and Southern California.

Wondering what the current fringe benefits are for the Southern California Cement Masons? Just go under the Labor Relations Bulletins section and you’ll find the bulletin for the Cement Masons increase. Need to know the current Carpenters policy for overtime? Download a copy of the current Agreement from the Master Labor Agreements section, and the Table of Contents will tell you exactly what page to reference. Not sure about Apprenticeship standards? Check out our Frequently Asked Questions page.

There’s also an entire section devoted to keeping you updated on the ever-evolving status of On/Off Site Trucking requirements as set forth by the California Department of Industrial Relations. These resources are all available as part of our commitment to improving the profitability of our members, so if at any time there is something you would like to see made available on our website, please don’t hesitate to get in touch! The Northern California Industrial Relations department can be reached at (925) 827-2422 and Southern California at (626) 608-5800.
Statewide, ‘local hire’ proposals are increasingly being introduced and embraced by local public agencies as a response to the downturn in the economy. Often the construction industry is made aware of these proposals too late to effectively curtail the legislation, which simply impose more onerous requirements on contractors, stifle competition and drive up the cost of projects in the long run.

Such was the case in the City of Stockton, which quietly passed a local hire ordinance in September 2009 with very little opportunity for industry response. The AGC District Manager was only informed that a meeting and public comment period was scheduled on a proposed local hire ordinance on the very day that it was up for discussion, when an AGC member noticed that the topic was on the meeting agenda and passed along the information. Scrambling to the City of Stockton’s City Hall Meeting Room for the evening agenda item, the AGC District Manager noted it was a typical scene for this type of legislation, with some 300 union members and other interested parties on hand but very few contractors present. After everyone got their prerequisite three minutes at the microphone, the ordinance passed with no real objections from the city council. This scenario is more typical than not because the industry generally is not given enough time to be able to respond properly to the subject. The City of Stockton ordinance that is currently in effect requires that at least 50 percent of the work force on any city job over $100,000 must live within certain zip codes in and around Stockton.

In contrast, before a local hire agreement was introduced to the Fresno City Council the San Joaquin District of AGC was made aware of the proposal. A contractor called the AGC District Manager to discuss the ‘local hire’ proposal, noting that several suggestions had been incorporated from the industry and asking whether AGC could support this proposed city ordinance. This was brought before the local AGC Board of Directors, and a committee was formed to address the issue.

Bruno Dietl, Vulcan Construction & Maintenance, Inc., took the leadership role to oppose the proposed ordinance. Other local construction associations were included in the committee to broaden the industry representation. Dietl and the committee members made presentations locally to the members of city council, the mayor and members of the Chamber of Commerce, noting that the proposed ordinance had all the typical requirements that would exclude some union contractors as well as open shop companies and specific apprenticeship programs from being competitive on city projects.

Dietl and the committee decided this issue needed to be addressed by the AGC State Board of Directors as similar ordinances were being introduced throughout California. A plan of attack was formulated, and the State Board approved the Legal Advisory Committee and Timothy Truax of The Law Offices of Timothy M. Truax to develop a ‘white paper’ about local hire ordinances, to be adaptable to most public agencies in the state.

The white paper (which pertains only to the AGC San Joaquin District – city of Fresno) can be found at http://www.agc-ca.org/newslisting.aspx?id=9380&district=110.

Truax has reviewed the white paper with an appreciative Fresno City Attorney. This has all occurred prior to the ordinance being introduced to the Fresno City Council. Industry involvement, communication and quick action with a clear plan is essential to keeping bad legislation at bay.

The district has followed up by delivering the white paper to every city council member and the mayor. To date the proposed local hire ordinance has not surfaced on the city council’s agenda. AGC members should report any local hire activity to the AGC staff as soon as possible.

Early Action Can Nullify Faulty Ordinances
## Calendar of Events

**September 14**  
Aerial Lift/Fall Protection Awareness in Sacramento

**September 14-17**  
HAZWOPER 24-Hour Technician Spill Response in Anaheim

**September 15**  
AGC Monterey Bay District & APWA Monterey Bay Chapter BBQ Mixer at Rancho Cielo

**September 16**  
Fall Protection Competent Person Level I in San Bernardino

**September 16-17**  
BIM Technology at the AGCC headquarters in West Sacramento

**September 17**  
Tri-Counties District 35th Annual Golf Classic at River Course at the Alisal, Solvang

AGC North Bay District Sporting Clay Event at Black Point Sports Club

**September 18**  
Trench, Shoring and Excavation - Competent Person training at Trench Shoring

**September 20**  
Trench, Shoring and Excavation - Competent Person training in Santa Ana

HAZWOPER Annual Refresher Training in Santa Ana

**September 20-24**  
Hazadous Waste Operations and Emergency Response: 40-Hour (HAZWOPER) training in Oakland

**September 21-24**  
HAZWOPER 24-Hour Technician Spill Response training

**September 21**  
OSHA 10 - Hour Construction Safety Course in Sacramento

CPR/First Aid/AED Certification Training in Anaheim

---

**TrenchPlate Rental Co.**

**First In Service Since 1979**

**SHORING AND SAFETY SPECIALISTS**

- **Los Angeles, CA** 800/821-4478  
- **N. LA/Ventura, CA** 877/246-4087  
- **Orange County, CA** 800/772-8004  
- **San Brndno/Rvrsd, CA** 877/246-4085  
- **Escondido, CA** 800/350-7528  
- **San Diego, CA** 866/829-6906  
- **North S.F. Bay Area, CA** 800/321-5550  
- **South S.F. Bay Area, CA** 877/246-4086  
- **Sacramento, CA** 800/548-0688  
- **Reno, NV** 877/809-6492  
- **Las Vegas, NV** 877/809-6493  
- **Houston, TX** 866/247-9449

**SHORING EQUIPMENT**  
**TRAFFIC CONTROL**  
**CONFINED SPACE**  
**FALL PROTECTION**

**website:** www.tprco.com  **email:** sales@tprco.com

---

**THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

---

**Associated General Contractors of California**
What’s up with job-site safety? Plenty, and there are lots of lessons to be shared at a national level as it was clear from a recent meeting of the AGC National Safety and Health Council in Cincinnati, Ohio last month.

The national meeting agenda was packed with compelling speakers and break-out sessions, and each day’s activity consistently reinforced the fact that a strong workplace safety culture is an absolutely essential element of good business practices. This semi annual event was attended by 140 safety professionals from our member companies and leaders in the industry from across the U.S., each eagerly learning, participating, and sharing technical skills and best practices. The knowledge and the lessons shared at the national level clearly benefit our 125-member strong Safety and Health Council of AGC of California, as well.

In Cincinnati, remarks from OSHA representatives Jordan Barab, the Deputy Assistant Secretary, and Bill Parsons, Director, Office of Construction Standards and Guidance, reinforced the message and the tone so consistently delivered from Washington D.C. – that well known clarion call from Secretary Solis that “there’s a new sheriff in town.” It is clear the OSHA strategy is to return to the original intent of the OSH Act, and the central focus is now on setting and enforcing workplace standards.

To be sure, we all need to have this in context: it is a shocking statistic that 14 Americans die every day on the job. About one in five is in construction. Everyone agrees that nobody should die while trying to earn a living.

It is clear the Agency is currently taking vigorous, broad based steps aimed at leveraging resources towards enforcement. What does this mean in everyday terms to the California business community? Federal audits and active involvement in state agency plans. Ensuring the state agency plan in California is at least as effective as the federal program. National emphasis programs will be mandated at state levels. Pilot programs will utilize city building inspectors to report unsafe conditions on construction sites, and there will be special emphasis on “hard to reach” workers, workers rights and training in a language the employees can understand.

In short, the federal message is on strong enforcement, stiffer penalties, and less emphasis on cooperative programs. These administrative changes are designed to provide a disincentive to employers who accept worker injuries ‘as unavoidable and as part of the cost of doing business,’ and they affect the regulatory climate in California.

OSHA has asked for our voice, and we actively and regularly participate. The AGC National Safety and Health Council is a great example of where and how. We take a holistic approach – participating in stakeholder and rulemaking meetings at both the federal and state levels, promoting prevention through process.
safety management programs, having robust education and training programs and continuing recognition and support of the cooperative programs such as SHARP and VPP. We speak up when there is legislation that needs comment. Both the national and the California Safety and Health Councils have a heavy focus on the collective work of the standards updates and initiatives.

Rules and regulations are ever changing, and the culture in which enforcement and appeals takes place is contentious. AGC’s Safety & Health Council is mandated to provide technical information and share best practices with the membership. We have also developed a “Culture of Safety beyond Compliance” program that is supplemented with symposiums and alternate education opportunities.

We have several concepts under development for the coming months and for 2011. The regulatory and legal climate dictates that we simply must have a point/counter point discussion, representing both enforcement and defense. Next, we are working on a crane safety symposium. Knowing that many people rely on the crane operator to know how to operate safely, and the rules that apply, it’s time to take the conversation further. The update to the 40-year-old Cranes and Derricks Standards is finally out, and for some, there is confusion on how this will affect the California crane regulation. We’ll get a conversation going around that topic besides going beyond the basics of crane safety. We’ll include representatives from crane manufacturers, insurance companies and industry experts. And finally, AGC of California’s Safety & Health Council will continue to concentrate on health in 2011 – silica, hearing, and yes, ergonomics. The plans are to make 2011 a year of education, with great guest speakers and increasing strong agency partnerships.

Please feel free to contact my office regarding any of the new OSHA regulations, or with any suggestions or questions on any other matters pertaining to safety. I can be reached at smileyk@agc-ca.org, or at (916) 371-2422.

Kate Smiley is Manager, Safety & Regulatory Services
GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

NO FOR SALE SIGNS. NO UNSOLD EQUIPMENT.
JUST THE BEST MARKETING, THE MOST POTENTIAL BUYERS AND BETTER RESULTS THAN YOU CAN GET ANYWHERE ELSE.

NEXT Western US Auctions

Olympia, WA – SEP 21
Denver, CO – AUG 31
Salt Lake City, UT – AUG 17
Las Vegas, NV – NOV 5
Sacramento, CA – SEP 28-29
Tipton, CA – SEP 14
Los Angeles, CA – SEP 16
Phoenix, AZ – SEP 2
Albuquerque, NM – SEP 10

”Find out more rbauction.com/sold | 1.877.789.6146

ITCHIE BROS.
Auctioneers
AUCTIONS DONE RIGHT.