2019 Engineering Excellence Awards
Active members strengthen the profession
Launching of QBS Champion Award Program
Opportunities & challenges in Sacramento
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ACEC California honors engineering and land surveying firms with Engineering Excellence Honor, Merit and Commendation Awards.

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2018 was a year full of wins for ACEC California and its member firms—and I am very proud of being able to serve as the organization’s 2018–2019 president. As many of you know, I have long been a strong supporter of ACEC California’s mission and goals, and I can tell you that the organization’s successes this year were a testament to our members’ engagement and deep commitment to seeing these achievements through.

We kicked off 2019 with an extraordinary banquet to honor the outstanding projects that earned ACEC California’s prestigious 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards, and to support the next generation of civil engineers and land surveying professionals through the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation. Without exception, the annual Engineering Excellence Awards banquet never fails to astonish me with the innovation and vision that are applied to these phenomenal projects. The 2019 Golden State Award winner—Carollo Engineers, Inc. in Sacramento—was an especially impressive project that helped the City of Woodland change its potable water source from a groundwater system to a higher quality treated surface water supply through the implementation of an innovative Aquifer Storage and Recovery program. It was an extraordinary night, one that will benefit the next generation of design professionals with the proceeds of the event going to the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation, which awards tens of thousands of scholarship funds to students annually.

While the 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards celebrated our individual firm achievements, I would be remiss if we didn’t also recognize the fantastic election successes ACEC California earned in 2018. By working within a broad coalition and really working to raise critically needed funds, ACEC California played a lead role in defeating Proposition 6—the 2018 state ballot initiative that would have revoked billions of dollars of state transportation funding. We could not have done it without our member firms’ commitment and I thank each of them for their efforts.

In October, we held our Strategic Summit in Napa, where members were able to attend comprehensive updates on California infrastructure projects, including: High Speed Rail and the California WaterFix. The well-attended and dynamic Statewide Transportation Forum was especially informative so that our members could hear from officials from some of the largest county transportation authorities. The Forum’s participants provided a status update and insight into how the consulting engineering community could partner with local agencies as they make progress on their respective long-range transportation plans.

As we move forward into Governor Gavin Newsom’s first term, it will be important to have an “all hands on deck” perspective as we learn more about his administration’s legislative and regulatory priorities. I know that engagement in ACEC California is in addition to design professionals’ daily workplace responsibilities, and I want to express my gratitude to the many professionals who continue to help ACEC California become a strong voice for the private engineering and land surveying industry. I’m looking forward to what’s to come in 2019.

…the organization’s successes this year were a testament to our members’ engagement and deep commitment to seeing these achievements through.
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As a long-time member of ACEC California, Towill celebrates our current and past ACEC CA Engineering Excellence Awards. We are grateful for our project’s recognition, and look forward to continuing to contribute to the future of engineering and surveying.
ACEC California’s leadership and advocacy team work hard to represent the engineering and land surveying professions both before the California State Legislature and various state agencies. At times, our efforts are needed to protect our accomplishments in other ways. During the 2018 election cycle, it was critical to focus our work by engaging with state ballot initiatives designed to improve California’s aging transportation and water systems. That is why ACEC California was involved in broad coalitions of businesses, labor organizations, city and county governments, and elected officials to support Propositions 1 and 3 and oppose Proposition 6.

ACEC California actively worked to support and fund the successful passage of Proposition 1, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018, which provides $4 billion in bond funds for low-income and affordable housing projects throughout the state. We also stood in step with a broad coalition to support Proposition 3, the Water Infrastructure and Watershed Conservation Bond Initiative, but unfortunately the initiative did not pass.

Proposition 6 was designed to roll back billions in annual state funding to help repair and revitalize roadways and bridges across California. I am pleased to report that ACEC California members, combined with our ACEC Minuteman Fund, contributed $2.7 million to help defeat Proposition 6 — reassuring the state’s commitment to restoring our transportation infrastructure.

At the federal level, ACEC California made great strides by contributing to the ACEC Federal Political Action Committee (PAC). Every year, ACEC members across the country make personal contributions to the PAC, money which is used to support congressional candidates who understand our professions and stand with us on our issues. Because California has so many congressional representatives, our state member organization has a high threshold to reach in regard to the amount raised, and we are extremely appreciative of our members’ contribution. In 2018, our members individually contributed more than $63,000 — a new record for ACEC California federal PAC contributions!

While 2018 was a whirlwind of a year, most striking to me is the confirmation that as an organization, we are at our best when our members are engaged and speaking with one voice, and when we are working cohesively with allied partners and organizations. Our legislative wins this past year were the result of an intentional effort to partner and co-sponsor legislation with the American Institute of Architects, California Council, with our member firms closely involved. Similarly, our election successes were the result of our members stepping up to contribute and engage in the hard work of campaigning and coalition building. I’m looking forward to furthering these efforts as we move into 2019 with a new legislature and administration. If we keep this going, there isn’t anything we can’t accomplish.
2018 was a year of notable success — a year where we proved that when our membership activates and focuses on a mission, we are a force to be reckoned with.

Coming into 2019, ACEC California is riding a wave of unbelievable momentum, which was built through our recent legislative successes and significant member engagement. In the past two years, ACEC California passed major Duty to Defend reform, secured over $50B in transportation funding, and then protected that funding by successfully defeating Proposition 6 on the November ballot. We extended the authorization for design professionals to organize as an LLP and lobbied for our industry to be included in the 20% pass-through exemption in the 2018 Federal Tax Plan. What’s even better — ACEC California’s membership experienced fantastic growth and surpassed pre-recession levels.

To ensure we build upon our recent successes, it is critical to remain engaged with elected officials and continue to tout the economic success stories of these huge policy wins. We must hammer home the message that private engineering firms play a vital, irreplaceable role in building some of the greatest, most innovative infrastructure projects in the world. From designing projects that help communities grapple with drought by creating more sustainable water delivery systems to helping cities design communities that incorporate more environmentally sound methods of transport, ACEC California members are pushing the envelope to meet the needs of a modern, evolving California.

The tremendous talent and world class vision of our members was again on display at the 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards in February. This event always gets me excited to be able to talk about these outstanding projects during our annual Legislative Visit Day. Legislative Visit Day — where design professionals pay individual visits to the

Our legislative and policy successes, ballot victories and membership growth were born out of active membership working in conjunction with a qualified staff introducing new ideas to take ACEC California to new heights.
Capitol offices of firms’ state elected senators and assemblymembers. In 2018, the record member turnout at Legislative Visit Day demonstrated a strong presence at the State Capitol and effectively ensured our interests were represented.

I have no doubt that our members will seize the opportunity to become more involved this year and create new ways to elevate and strengthen the engineering and land surveying profession. Our legislative and policy successes, ballot victories and membership growth were born out of active membership working in conjunction with a qualified staff introducing new ideas to take ACEC California to new heights.

ACEC California is most successful when our members are active and engaged. ACEC California is unrivaled in our advocacy for your profession, but we only remain successful through the combined strength and effort of our membership. In 2019, let’s keep up the momentum and keep pushing for new heights.

At Legislative Visit Day, ACEC California members have the opportunity to tour the State Capitol, visit with their local elected officials, network with colleagues and learn about emerging policies that will affect their business.

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With SB 1 transportation funding still in place after the failure of Proposition 6, it is important to ensure that QBS is being properly implemented with the many public works projects that lie ahead in California.

As the new Policy Outreach Coordinator for ACEC California, I am eager to contribute to these efforts, especially as they relate to Qualifications-Based Selections (QBS). Prior to working for ACEC California, I was the Deputy District Director for a United States Congressman where I worked closely with a variety of public interest groups, organizations, and agencies at all levels of government on many issues. Having worked often with federal and state agencies to seek issue resolution on behalf of constituents, I am looking forward to utilizing my skills and abilities here.

With SB 1 transportation funding still in place after the failure of Proposition 6, it is important to ensure that QBS is being properly implemented with the many public works projects that lie ahead in California. Because QBS promotes the safety and sustainability of California’s infrastructure, ACEC California has spearheaded a campaign to equip members with an understanding of QBS law, and act as a resource to public agencies who may need assistance with the QBS procurement process. ACEC California has created informational primers on the process and benefits of QBS, and can provide materials on how to best procure professional services, evaluate the qualifications of design professionals, and prepare procurements in a way that best reflects the agencies’ goals for a successful project. Please reach out to ACEC California if you have questions regarding the QBS process, or if you would like to request the resources listed above.
Because QBS promotes the safety and sustainability of California’s infrastructure, ACEC California has spearheaded a campaign to equip members with an understanding of QBS law, and act as a resource to public agencies who may need assistance with the QBS procurement process.

I am also excited to announce that in January, ACEC California launched its QBS Champion Award Program! This award program seeks to recognize public agencies that make exemplary use of the QBS process and acknowledge the importance of selecting the most qualified design professionals. The QBS Champion Award winner will be announced at ACEC California’s Annual Engineering Excellence Awards event in February of 2020. For more information, please visit our website.
Each year ACEC California honors engineering and land surveying firms throughout California with Engineering Excellence Honor, Merit and Commendation Awards. Of those recipients, ACEC California selects one firm to receive the Golden State Award. Honor Award winners are eligible to enter the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Entries are accepted into one of 12 project categories: studies, research and consulting engineering services; building/technology systems; structural systems; surveying and mapping technology; environmental; waste and storm water; water resources; transportation; special projects; small projects; energy; and industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities.

Fourteen projects earned the prestigious Honor Award distinction, fifteen were recognized with Merit Awards, and eight Commendation Awards were granted. An awards dinner, which was a fundraiser for the ACEC California Scholarship Foundation 501(c)3, was held in San Francisco on February 7, 2019.

For more information and details about each project, visit www.engineeringca.com.
“This year’s Golden State Award winner is a unique example of how innovation and modernization can produce a water supply system that fully utilizes a city’s water rights while maintaining an economical price,” said Brad Diede, Executive Director of ACEC California. “We congratulate Carollo Engineers, Inc. and commend the City of Woodland for its comprehensive approach to addressing its supply needs during periods of high demand and drought.”

For additional details about this project, visit www.engineeringca.com.
BKF ENGINEERS in Redwood City
San Pablo Avenue Bike and Pedestrian Improvements in Albany

CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC. in Fresno
City of Fresno Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility in Fresno
WOODARD & CURRAN in Walnut Creek
North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program in Modesto and Turlock

SYSKA HENNESSY GROUP in Culver City
Palomar Community College, Maintenance & Operations Complex in San Marcos

GHD, INC. in Santa Rosa
Redwood Business Park Transportation Improvements and Talmage Road Interchange Project in Ukiah
TOWILL, INC. in Concord
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Andreas Pipeline No. 2 Replacement Study in San Bruno

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San Diego County Regional Airport Terminal 2 Parking Plaza in San Diego
KOA CORPORATION in Orange
Daisy-Myrtle Bike Boulevard in Long Beach

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Sycamore to Peñasquitos 230kV Transmission Line in San Diego
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Georgia Street Bridge Over University Avenue
Rehabilitation and Seismic Retrofit in San Diego

KJELDSEN, SINNOCK & NEUDECK, INC. in West Sacramento
Wallace Weir Fish Rescue Facility in Woodland
CORNERSTONE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., in San Francisco
Seismic Retrofit and Modernization of 990 Pacific Avenue Apartments in San Francisco

MNS ENGINEERS, INC.; PGH WONG ENGINEERING, INC.; GHIRARDELLI; AECOM; STACY AND WITBECK/AMAROSO/MRS in Santa Barbara
eBART to Antioch: East Contra Costa Extension in Antioch and Pittsburg
AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC. in Sacramento
Critical Levee Repair Sites Rehabilitation Effort in California’s Central Valley

ANDERSONPENNA PARTNERS, INC. in Newport Beach
Harrison Greenberg Foundation Roundhouse Aquarium Beautification in Manhattan Beach

BERG & ASSOCIATES, INC. in San Pedro
North Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project in Beverly Hills

DRAKE HAGLAN & ASSOCIATES, INC. in Rancho Cordova
11th Street East Tracy Overhead Bridge Replacement in Tracy

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KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. in Sacramento
Johnny Cash Trail Phase 2 in Folsom

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BART Downtown Access Ramp & Lighting, Project No. 4096 in Orinda

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North Bay Pump Station Project in Lake Arrowhead

KENNEDY/JENKS CONSULTANTS
Land Outfall Replacement Project in Cardiff

KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
Hotel Nia @Menlo Gateway in Menlo Park

SA ASSOCIATES
New Nitrate Removal Treatment Facility and Reactivation of Well No. 2 in Glendale

SANDIS CIVIL ENGINEERS SURVEYORS PLANNERS
Ronald McDonald House at Stanford in Palo Alto

TY. LIN INTERNATIONAL
State Route 178 Widening Project in Bakersfield
An image of a document page is provided. The content on the page is a government affairs update discussing opportunities and challenges in Sacramento. The text mentions key victories for ACEC California in 2018, including the defeat of Proposition 6 in the November general election. It also highlights new funding streams for transportation, housing, and water resources systems, and notes the current political landscape with a new Governor and the yet-to-be-identified subtleties of the 2019 State Legislature.

Specific legislative accomplishments are mentioned, including:
- Senate Bill 920, sponsored by ACEC California and the American Institute of Architects, California Council, extending the sunset until 2026 for engineers, land surveyors, and architects to form limited liability partnerships.
- Senate Bill 1262, authorizing Caltrans to use the Construction Manager/General Contractor project delivery method without limit.
- Assembly Bill 2654, expanding the use of design-build in Orange County.
- Senate Bill 961, permitting Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts to issue bonds to finance affordable housing developments near transit stations.

For 2019, there are both opportunities and challenges, with ACEC California’s priority proposal being to clarify Government Code 1090.

The author, Tyler Munzing, is the Director of Government Affairs for ACEC California.
It will definitely be a big policy year, as ACEC California continues to strengthen political relationships and navigates through several hot-button policy issues.

- A proposed effort to extend the sales and use tax on goods to services, which would increase the cost of design professional services to our clients and, by nature, hit the poorest Californians the hardest; and,
- Increased opportunities for public agencies to contract-out work to design firms as ample funding for infrastructure has finally materialized.

Also hot on our radar this year:
- Assembly Bill 5, which seeks to codify the California Supreme Court’s Dynamex decision that obfuscates the relationship between California employers and millions of independent contractors, increasing the cost of doing business in the state and limiting workers’ choice;
- Having worked in the State Capitol for the previous nine years before joining ACEC California, I can tell you how important it is to know your legislators and have them know you and the critical work that you do. I have witnessed first-hand the success of ACEC California’s advocacy efforts in the past, and I am excited to continue your legacy.
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2018–2019 | SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, eleven students received scholarship funds — five graduate students and six undergraduate students. In all, the scholarship foundation awarded a total of $52,000 in scholarship funds. Here’s what a few of them have to say:

The ACEC California scholarship has indubitably helped me further my education — I am able to attend graduate school as a result. This will in turn help me reach my goal of becoming a licensed professional engineer.

— Tahrima Alam | ACEC California
CA State University, Fresno

ACEC California has truly made it possible for me to further my education with a large portion of the financial burden taken off my shoulders. I think, as a student, feeling financially secure is very important to my ability to focus on my education, and ACEC California has made that possible.

— Samantha Whetten | ACEC California
CA State University, Fresno

Dear ACEC California, Thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients of the ACEC California Scholarship. I am humbled to have been chosen for this award knowing that there were many qualified applicants.

— Muhammad Khan | ACEC California
University of the Pacific
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