

## Joint Engineering Division Board of Directors Fall Conference Highlights

Hyatt Grand Champion  
Indian Wells, CA

October 27, 2011

The Joint Engineering Division Meeting was held on October 27, 2011. Division Chair Jim Troup (Monterey Mechanical), called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for self introductions.

**Transportation funding:** Ann Mayer, Executive Director RCTC and Hector Davila, Caltrans Deputy Director District 8 (Riverside/San Bernardino) both spoke about the need for additional funding for transportation projects. Federal stimulus money helped the construction of I-10. However, additional funding is still needed. Jobs replacement and jobs creation is a key priority, in addition to project delivery. Construction projects bids are now coming in 10% - 30% below engineers' estimates with no scope changes or contract changes.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** Vince Mammano, the newly appointed California Administrator for Federal Highway Administration, indicated that highway reauthorization bill is still on extension, and no new Reauthorization Bill has been approved yet. He also indicated that Water Board environmental requirements are added by the state and not the Federal Highways.

**Aftermath of (1B) Bond Projects:** Bert Sandman, Executive Director of Transportation California spoke about shortfall of transportation funding due to improvement in fuel efficiency in newer cars, thus lowering gas tax revenue. California urban areas have one of the worst roads in the nation. Population growth and trade resulting in inadequate capacity and congestion. Proposition 1B Bond funding program will come to an end next year. Federal funding reauthorization is uncertain and maintenance cost consumes all traditional funding sources. Sandman advocated the urgent need for alternate transportation funding source.

**P3 Panel: Presidio Parkway pilot for California Public Private Partnership:** Greg Henk (Flatiron), Bruce Blanning (PECG), Kome Ajise (Caltrans P3 Manager):

Greg Henk: Gas tax revenues are declining. P3 allows for more upfront monies. Usually paid back though tolls. PPP is used successfully around the world. There are several funding sources looking for the right investment and the right return.

Kome Ajise: State needs to apply this tool on the right projects and be realistic on how to get the best return on tax dollars.

Bruce Blanning: P3 doesn't generate new money but does make available more money up front. PECG thinks approach is more expensive. PECG also believe P3 is appropriate when it follows the intent of SB 4; and is for select projects.

**Legislative Update:** Dave Ackerman went over the new legislations that AGC supported and others that helped to veto which impact contractors and the construction industry.

**I-405 Weekend Shutdown:** Dan Kulka, Kiewit presented in details the events related to the well-publicized freeway shutdown. Three critical steps that made project successful: Carefully planned demolition operation, effective public outreach, and interagency cooperation.

Wayne Lindholm, the nominating Committee Chair held 2012 elections for the following positions:

Clint Larison, Chair of the Joint Engineering Division.  
Jaimie Angus, Vice Chair.

Associate Directors:

Mike McGowen and Cathy Skeen - State  
Andre Sims and Ken Williams - Division

Specialty Directors:

Peter Mendoza and Joe Morello - State  
Gary Castro and Dennis Sterndahl – Division

Respectfully submitted by:

Sam Hassoun, P.E.  
Director, Engineering Division