

**JOINT ENGINEERING DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 29, 2009**

The Joint Engineering Division Meeting was held on January 29, 2009. Past Chair Chris Hickey, Agee Construction Corporation, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the approval of the October 2008 meeting minutes. Mr. Hickey provided highlights of 2008 Division accomplishments and introduced this year's Chair, Curt Weltz of Flatiron Corp., who then presided over the Joint Engineering Division Board of Directors Meeting.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Update: Robert Padilla, Caltrans Civil Rights Business Enterprise Program Manager, provided updates on District Small Business Liaisons (DSBL) that meet to address issues and concerns specific to small businesses.

Kris Kuhl, Office Chief for Construction Contract Awards and Services within the Division of Engineering Services-Office Engineer, discussed DBE/DVBE goals not being met and the biggest issue seems to be the underreporting. AGC members are working with Caltrans in a partnering effort to ensure full utilization of certified small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) while maintaining a Race-Neutral program at Caltrans. Caltrans will continue the Race-Neutral program until the end of September to evaluate actual utilization.

Robert Padilla also mentioned that a full-time staff person has been hired to oversee the Mentor Protégé program that AGC launched in the Bay Area with Caltrans District 4.

Insurance Update: Phil George, Stimpel-Wiebelhaus Associates, Inc. and Cathy Skeen, Excel Bonds & Insurance Services, Inc. provided an update on the Caltrans insurance issues. In a survey sent to members, contractors indicated that although they had relatively little problem with availability of insurance coverage to comply with the 2007 Caltrans insurance requirements, there were issues concerning affordability. It was noted that the added cost to comply with the new excess liability requirements was of particular concern.

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Update: Chris Hickey stated that AGC of America and the California Chapters of AGC, along with other AGC Chapters, participate on a steering committee that is guiding the litigation efforts against CARB. It has been requested that CARB reopen regulatory hearings, and address the concerns about the economy and its impact on contractors and the industry to comply with the regulation.

Dan McGrew, Griffith Company, noted that "This engine cannot idle more than five minutes" stickers are now required on all equipment according to the California Title 13 regulations. Each company is required to have a written idling plan by March 1, 2009.

Water Regulations Update: Dan McGrew informed the board that the U.S. EPA has issued a national water quality draft general permit that mandates the use of "effluent limits". This mandate is currently being challenged by AGC of America. The State Water Resources Board is also in the process of reviewing the U.S. EPA Order to incorporate it into the next iteration of the State General Construction Permit, which is expected to be released in late February.

Legislative Update: David Ackerman, AGC Legislative Advocate, reported on activities at the Capital and status of the state budget issues. He reiterated that AGC has been hard at work advocating for a balanced budget, and ensuring that payments are made for construction projects completed. Through meetings with the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB), along with member testimonies, the PMIB voted to allocate \$650 million to pay progress payments through the beginning of February. It was also reported that until the state budget situation is resolved, Caltrans has held back any new projects going out to bid. Mr. Ackerman urged members to contact their Legislators and urge them to pass a balanced budget.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2009, at the Monterey Plaza Hotel in Monterey, CA. Any questions relative to the Joint Engineering Division should be directed to Sam Hassoun.