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FIRST QUARTER 2014

Insight

APWA SoCal to Visit Santa Monica's Tongva Park for March 20 Luncheon

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Public Works: Serving You and Your Community

SOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you to the SoCal APWA membership for the honor of serving as the 2014 President. A sincere thank you from the Board of Directors goes out to Bonnie Teaford for her conscientious leadership as the 2013 President.

I have wonderful news to share with you! Did you know that the SoCal Chapter represents nearly 1400 members who plan, build, maintain, and improve communities? Working together, APWA and our membership contribute to a higher and more sustainable quality of life. All this comes about when people step outside their comfort zone, participate, get involved, volunteer, and seize the day.

The year ahead is full of many opportunities to participate in APWA activities. There are

educational opportunities, interagency coordination, field trips, golf, the awards program, serving on programs or committees, and of course, being a speaker. There are many more opportunities to give back and help strengthen our professional community. For example, becoming a mentor to a student may produce a future public works director. Did you know that studies have shown that volunteering can boost your happiness, decrease depression and help you live longer? If you have an interest please, call or email me.

Our most recent event was themed "*All Aboard*" as the APWA Southern California Chapter's 16th Annual Dinner Dance at the historic and iconic Los Angeles Union Train Station on Saturday, February 1, 2014. The station was built during the glorious days of great public works construction. For those who attended, this was a fun and festive event. There was delicious food, fine refreshments, music to make you dance, and it was a fantastic networking opportunity.

Tony Antich, P.E.
City Engineering

ON THE COVER: SANTA MONICA'S TONGVA PARK HOSTS MARCH LUNCHEON

MARTIN PASTUCHA | DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS | SANTA MONICA | CHAPTER DIRECTOR

The APWA Southern California Chapter is pleased to have our March meeting at Santa Monica's newest public attraction Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square. This project was recently awarded Southern California 2013 APWA B.E.S.T. Award for Recreation and Athletic Facilities

The Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square project transformed 7.4 acres of industrial land at a cost of \$42.7 million into a fabulous public space for the community.

There are 283 trees, public art, a playground, fountains (with recirculated water) which lead to the iconic overlooks - custom steel structures (weighing a combined 51,000 pounds) that showcase the views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Monica Pier. Swales filter urban runoff. Public restrooms carved in a hillside blend into the greenery. This is the center piece of the city's Civic Center Master Plan and together the two parks form a pedestrian and cultural corridor linking City Hall with surrounding commercial and recreational areas for the users of the park and those traveling to the pier, beach, and downtown from the south.

Through modern design, planning and cooperation between the City and community, this project has

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created an innovative city heart grounded in history. The park names honor a people indigenous to Santa Monica and a beloved former Mayor. Inspired by the historic arroyo landscape of washes and ravines, a series of braided pathways emerge from the footsteps of City Hall, extend west to Ocean Avenue and weave the two new parks into the fabric of the City. Dramatic topography created from a flat site reinforces the fluid pathways and organizes the park into four thematic hilltops.

A single runnel links the water elements flowing downhill to the ocean, alcoves carved into the hillsides offer seating, and the nest-like overlooks perch on the tallest of the hills to frame iconic views. The custom design is enhanced by diverse planting, offering a unique botanical experience

The project was completed using a modified design/build delivery system to achieve the community goals and project timeline of the project. This project is likened to the construction of a vertical building due to the complexities of the systems and the structural requirements for vertical elements of the facility. The City of Santa Monica Public Works staff who oversaw the design and construction of the project will provide a tour and background information on



15th Annual 2014 Complete Streets & Technology Conference

Don't miss the latest developments in public infrastructure design, ops, maintenance & funding. Planned topics include:

- Construction Mgmt & Inspection—Alt Delivery Methods, Source Inspection, Best Practices
- Roundabouts
- Sustainability
- Pavement Mgmt (Life-Cycle Cost Analysis)
- Trenchless Technologies
- Tablet Apps for Operations and Maintenance
- Wireless Communications in the Public ROW
- Hydrology, Hydraulics & BMP Selection
- Social Media in PW
- Complete Streets—multiple topics

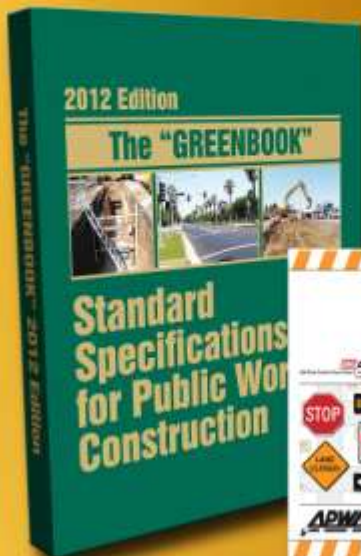
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GET INVOLVED!

The Southern California Chapters Greenbook Committee is looking for new members. This Committee is responsible for revisions to the Greenbook and shapes how we build our Public Works Project.

To join the committee, please contact Erik Updyke at:
eupdyke@dwp.lacounty.gov

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16th Annual Dinner Dance—At Historic Union Station



16th Annual Dinner Dance Sponsors

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CREATING A WALK(WAY) TO REMEMBER

BENJAMIN A. LUCHA | SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST | PALMDALE

Providing a form of public art in public works projects is not a foreign concept. Throughout history, minor changes or additions have been incorporated into projects to make them more aesthetically

pleasing or to help create a sense of community. Recently, the City of Palmdale embarked on a new method to incorporate public art into what some may consider standard infrastructure practices.

Thanks to the help of some local artists, the City learned that a few cities in Minnesota (such as St. Paul and Northfield) came up with the simple concept of having local poetry contests and then memorializing the winning poems in concrete on sidewalks through the use of a special stamp. Then, through conversations with a printing vendor, the City found a means of having the stamp created, giving birth to the City's "Walk on Words" program.

The City decided to focus the program at Poncitlan Square, a park adjacent to several Palmdale city buildings and the site of several City programs, such as the popular "Thursday Night on the Square." With its pleasing design and proximity to popular rental venues, Poncitlan Square also serves as a backdrop for pictures for weddings, quinceañeras, and other community and private events.

The first poetry contest was held in summer of 2013. Although the competition received little local media attention and the City had limited funds to promote the program, the City still received almost 60 entries from City and non-City



residents of all ages. The first winning submission was announced at the August 22nd "Thursday Night on the Square" event. To the delight of the community, "What Beauty Holds Us Captive Here," submitted by 82 year old Mary Denning was to be immortalized in Poncitlan Square.

Technical challenges accompanied the first installation as maintenance crews encountered problems with the mold. Due to its size and complexity; it did not create



the indentation desired by the City. Partnering with the Digital Design and Engineering Academy of Palmdale's Knight High School, the instructors and students were tasked with finding a way to make this public art program work. The instructors and students worked painstakingly through several trial and error methods, and they finally hit upon a solution. For "Walk on Words", they were able to engrave the poem on black marble tiles. Mrs. Denning's poem, being of fairly short length, would fit on four tiles which would be a modest \$120 (\$30 per tile). This is a lower cost than having the mold prepared for the City, while also serving as an instructional project for local students. The engraving of the tiles is done by the students in their design lab at the school.

This alternative method was a great solution for the City, especially since the City is now not limited to just words, even black and white designs, such as the City's logo and/or a design to accompany the poem, can be incorporated on the tiles. The City will replace its initial attempt of stamped concrete in Poncitlan Square with the engraved marble tiles.

The City has additional plans for the "Walk on Words" program. The City Manager was so happy with the project, he managed to find funding to have additional poems that were submitted for the first contest prepared for the Walk on Words program. Although, Poncitlan Square will receive the selected poems from the contest, some poems were identified as ideal for other locations such as the Senior Center or the City's Airpark. The City has received some interest in private funding for more poems. Additionally, some of the Digital Design Academy's suggested methods that did not work for "Walk on Words," but had a lot of potential, will be pursued further with the instructors and students to see how they may work for other similar projects.

The City looks forward to continuing installations of these low cost, highly effective public art in the community, as well as developing their partnership with the instructors and students of the Digital Design and Engineering Academy of Palmdale's Knight High School. For additional information, please contact Palmdale's Benjamin Lucha, Senior



2014 APWA

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**Chapter President
Tony Antich, P.E.
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Tony Antich is not superman, rather he is just another form of Clark Kent. He is the civil engineer formerly known as City Engineer for the award winning City of Santa Monica. After nearly twenty years of fun and excitement there, he went on to pursue international humanitarian work in Africa and Latin America.

Tony is a graduate of California State University, Long Beach and licensed as a civil engineer in California. His professional employment included Director of Public Works for Hermosa Beach, staff at the counties of Orange and Los Angeles, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, consulting firm Roy Jorgensen Associates (Maryland) and the unusual employment with Mobil Oil as a merchant seaman. He has held offices with a number of professional organizations such as past presidents of the League of California Cities Public Works Institute and the Los Angeles City and County Engineers Association. Currently, he is president of the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

He is involved in charitable endeavors, school scholarships, and student mentoring. The American Society of Civil Engineers recognized him as the Outstanding Civil Engineer in Government, and he continues to author numerous publications and



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MEET OUR UC IRVINE STUDENT CHAPTER PRESIDENT



My name is Jesseca Martinez and I am in my third year of Civil Engineering undergraduate studies at the University of California, Irvine. I am originally from Los Angeles, the oldest daughter of first generation of immigrant parents, and first in my family to attend a university. Although my parents were not familiar with the steps to attend a university,

they always supported me unconditionally and trusted me blindly, believing that every decision I made was for my own good. My path to UC Irvine was also aided by several teachers who guided me and empowered me when I needed the extra push.

My life at UC Irvine is fairly ordinary for a college student. I prioritize my studies and sometimes I struggle, but I understand that there will be rough patches to overcome. I am involved in several student organizations like ASCE, SACNAS and Global Brigades. I am also a member of the Civil Design Team in the Transportation and Distribution Services Department, which allows me to plan and design campus projects using AutoCAD.

Civil engineering was not my first option as a career. Originally, I was interested in becoming a detective, most of it influenced by the TV show "CSI: NY." But in high school, I found my talent for math. One summer, I had the chance to attend a local community college in Downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles Trade Tech, focusing on STEM classes. I was exposed to welding, robotics, math, mechanics, chemistry, and architecture. I decided to focus on architecture and my view of the future was changed. I was profoundly influenced by Professor Marcela Oliva, an engineer and architect. She was driven by her passion for effective, eco-friendly, and sustainable buildings, merging both the architectural and engineering worlds.

Before graduating, I hope to obtain an internship to relate the concepts of my education to the real application of engineering problem-solving. After graduating in 2015, I

want to start my professional career in a firm where I can interact with customers and fellow engineers. I hope to learn to communicate the technical and creative concepts that will satisfy the customer, but also meet the vision of the firm. I also want to be involved in professional organizations such as APWA which will help me advance in my career.

I first heard about APWA a year ago, when past co-workers were interested in creating a student chapter at UC Irvine. Although our student chapter got off to a slow start, we are now holding regular meetings on campus assisted by our campus advisor, Dina Ochoa. I began to learn more about APWA and how its vision bridged into the student chapter to support students and develop their connections with the people, agencies, and organizations that plan, build, maintain, and improve our communities. After planning our 2014 winter quarter, I was appointed president. The goal of this quarter is to keep active members engaged so they will return to future events, while also recruiting new members.

Earlier this month I was invited to the APWA Southern California Chapter 16th Annual Dinner Dance by Mark Vukojevic, City Engineer of Anaheim. The event was an exciting experience in a sophisticated environment. I had the opportunity to meet several people including the APWA President Edward Gottko, who was amazed by the engagement of the younger culture in APWA. He offered to work with the student chapter and provide resources for student leadership. I also met several individuals who work


Inland Empire Branch News

- ◇ *Join us on May 1, 11:30 am at Canyon Crest Country Club in Riverside for our May Membership Meeting*


Coming Soon:

- ◇ *Construction Management Seminar to be held this summer — Details coming soon!*

For more information about Inland Empire Branch events contact Sherri Gomez at sherrigomez4@gmail.com



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PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT MANAGEMENT #13—A Continuing Series

TONY ANTICH P.E., P.M.P. | PRINCIPAL | CITY ENGINEERING



THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM – Part 1

The ability of the Project Management Team to advance and make effective decisions is often directly proportional to the knowledge and skill set of their weakest member. For greater success, always select team members with strong

skills. Planning for staff is defined by the Project Management Book of Knowledge Guide as the process of identifying and documenting project staff roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships, as well as creating the Staff Management Plan document that incorporates all this information. The purpose of a Staff Management Plan is to make certain the project has sufficient staff possessing the correct skills and experience to ensure a successful project outcome. This document is reviewed regularly (the frequency is determined by the length of the project) and updated if needed, as a result of continuous process improvement efforts by the Project Management Team. Lessons learned as a result of continuous process improvement efforts should be captured at the end of each project phase and used to improve future project delivery.

The Staff Management Plan should identify all agency staff involved in the project delivery; including all support staff or support departments and all consultant support. All roles and responsibilities on the project must be clearly assigned and closely linked to the project scope statement.

The Project Management Team is the assembly of people who will complete work on the project. It is important to identify as a team member anyone who has any part in the project work. This includes, but is not limited to, the project manager; the designer of record (engineer and or architect; including their backups); the client; support staff (those who manage needed resources, such as IT, attorney, finance, public relations, or marketing); the agency liaison to the community; contractor (and appropriate subcontractors); inspectors; construction manager; grant sponsor; and don't forget the key maintenance supervisor whose staff who will be ultimately responsible for maintaining the constructed facility.

It is important that the Project Manager be able to identify what skills the team members are required to have. The Project Manager needs to do the necessary due diligence to make sure that the team collectively has the competencies required to bring the project to a successful conclusion. Where possible, people who can potentially fill several roles on the team should be identified.

The Project Manager must discuss with each team member the specific role (including expectations and specific task assignments) that the member performs in making the project a success. All individuals who are part of the team must understand clearly the overall project objectives; the policies and procedures to be followed in accomplishing the project tasks; the deadlines for their tasks, and their role in decision making and follow thru. This includes the ways they participate in "in-progress" comment, review, concurrence, and "sign off" decisions.

The limits of each member's authority should also be discussed (e.g., the Engineer's or Architect's authority for particular items or issues). Although it may be understood, it is important to let everyone know they are expected to demonstrate commitment in completing their project tasks so that the objectives are achieved.

Furthermore, team members need to understand what they will be asked to do (or help with) such as identifying and involving stakeholders; executing the Project Management Plan to accomplish work defined in the project scope statement; attending project team meetings; identifying and participating in process improvement; complying with quality and communications goals and enforcing ground rules. I will talk more about stakeholders and maintenance staff involvement next time.

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CORA JACKSON FOSSETT RETIRES FROM CITY OF L.A.

Elected officials, community leaders and city employees honored Cora Jackson Fossett on her retirement held at City Hall on January 29. Thirty-six years of civil service highlight Cora Jackson Fossett's career as she makes plans to pursue her passion for books and reading through the audio publishing industry as well as community service. In retirement, her desire is to begin narrating audio books and to support literacy and reading at public libraries.

Cora earned a bachelor's degree at Indiana University and completed graduate courses at Columbia College in Chicago. She also holds certificates in marketing management and standardized emergency management.

In 1990, she was hired by Los Angeles World Airports as a public relations specialist for the Los Angeles International Airport. Her most memorable moments at LAX include meeting Nelson Mandela as an awardee of the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to dismantle apartheid in South Africa before he was elected its first black president. She also had the opportunity to meet former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In 1999, Jackson Fossett promoted to the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to serve as the director of the department's Public Affairs Office where she managed the Board of Public Works' community and media

relations programs. Under her leadership, the Public Affairs Office received nine industry awards for its outstanding, creative and highly effective communications programs. In addition, she received five Emmy nominations for producing programs about public works activities and operations.

In 2010, Jackson-Fossett was elected to the board of directors of the American Public Works Association as director of Public Works Management and Leadership. She



At her retirement reception, Cora is joined by friends from the So-Cal Chapter Robert Newman, Bonnie Teaford, National President



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Palmdale’s Mike Behen Recognized by State Senator Knight

City of Palmdale employee Mike Behen, Transportation/GIS Manager, was recognized by the Office of State Senator Steve Knight as the first North Los Angeles County employee to complete the American Public Works Institute at their City Council meeting held on February 5, 2014. Behen and Pamela Manning were also quoted in a recent Antelope Valley Times article:

“The Institute was a great learning experience,” Behen said. “Talented and knowledgeable practitioners from all over Southern California provided sound instruction and most importantly, real-life examples. The knowledge that I have gained will help me be a better employee. I highly recommend the program to all Public Works employees.”

“The Public Works Institute was created in 2007 in the same spirit as the other institutes in other American Public Works Association Chapters,” said Pamela Manning, Los Angeles County Public Works Business Representative and Co-Chair of the APWA Education Committee. “It was developed in response to the big leadership vacuum at the top level in Public Works organizations with retirements and a failing to pass on critical institutional knowledge. The intent is to engage those that have significant experience and history, and to share that with up and coming talent in order to prepare rising leadership for the challenges of today and tomorrow,” Manning said.



Education Co-Chair Pam Manning and Chapter President Tony Antich present Public Works Institute Certificate to Palmdale’s

Briefly.....

South Gate’s Mohammad Mostakhami has taken the Public Works Director position in the City of Downey.....

Bellflower’s Deborah Chankin has decided to retire and enjoy the good life in early April.....

Past Chapter President Jeff Cooper has joined PENCO

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES:

**PUBLIC WORKS INSTITUTE
MODULE 1
JUNE 3-5, 2014**

- ◇ Role of the supervisor
- ◇ Training & motivating employees
- ◇ Problem employees
- ◇ Conflict management
- ◇ Effective communication & meetings
- ◇ Team development
- ◇ Customer service
- ◇ Legal and legislative understanding
- ◇ Workplace safety
- ◇ Ethics
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UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

JAMES A. BIERY | DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS | BUENA PARK



Public Works professionals will be following a full list of bills and issues this year, including several that are in the implementation phase:

SB 7 prohibits a charter city from receiving or using state funding or financial assistance for a construction project if the city has a voter-approved charter provision or ordinance that

authorizes a contractor to not comply with state prevailing wage requirements on local construction projects funded by (non-state) city funds. In essence, it compels charter cities to require prevailing wages on projects they construct with local funds on local projects by withholding all state contracting funds from non-compliant cities. This bill was signed by the Governor. The implementation of this bill will be of major interest to charter cities that do not pay prevailing wage. There may be a court challenge to this legislation by charter cities.

SCA 4 and SCA 8 (Special tax for transportation), SCA 9 (Special tax for local community and economic development), and ACA 8 (Infrastructure Bonds): These bills would lower the voter threshold for the stated purposes and could create more Public Works funds. ACA 8 was the only of the four to pass out the house of origin, and is therefore the furthest in the process. It is important to note that because these are proposed constitutional amendments, they are not constrained by the same deadlines as regular session bills.

Cap and Trade Auction Revenues: The Governor's Budget Proposal has a number of potential uses for these funds and the debate will continue. One large controversial use proposed is for High Speed Rail. There is a possibility that some of these funds will be used for roadway improvements and/or rehabilitation that decrease green house gas production.

AB 612: Requires that change intervals for yellow lights be lengthened by one second whenever an automated enforcement system is in use. This bill was held and the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) was asked to discuss whether the change was warranted. The CTCDC formed a subcommittee that has been meeting, and will discuss the subcommittee's potential recommendations at their meetings in 2014.

AB 719: Upon request by a local government, this bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to order electrical corporations to submit a tariff to be used, at the discretion of

the local government, to fund energy efficient street light poles. This bill was signed by the Governor. We will see how many cities opt to push their local electrical utility to switch to energy efficient street lights, such as LEG or induction lighting, using the new tariff.

SB 99: This bill created the Active Transportation Program by using funding from the federal Transportation Alternative Program, Bicycle Transportation Account, Safe Routes to Schools Program, and the Recreational Trails Program. Program funding is being divided between the state and regions subject to guidelines adopted by the California Transportation Commission. At this point, the program is a \$360 million proposal which is actually three years of funding. The Call-for-Projects will begin on March 21, 2014. Some of eligible funding categories are as follows (tentative list):

- Development of, or improvement to, bikeways and walkways, for mobility, access, or safety for non motorized users;
- Secure bicycle parking at employment centers, park and ride lots, rail and transit stations, and ferry docks and landings;
- Bicycle-carrying facilities on public transit, including rail and ferries;
- Installation of traffic control devices to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists;
- Elimination of hazardous conditions on existing bikeways and walkways;
- Maintenance of bikeways and walkways;
- Recreational trails and trailheads, park projects that facilitate trail linkages or connectivity to non motorized corridors, and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails;
- Safe Routes to School projects;
- Safe routes to transit projects that improve bicycling and walking routes to transit facilities and school bus stops;
- Education programs to increase bicycling and walking, and other non-infrastructure investments that increase active transportation.

AB 1706: This bill was approved in 2012 and it provided a temporary weight limit exemption for public transit buses. The newer and heavier buses are impacting our roadways and that has already been documented. The weight exemption ends on January 1, 2015. At that point, the weight limit goes back to the prior limits. There is a study of bus options underway which was originally due out this year. Some options include: raising the weight limits, using lighter composite buses, using multiple axle buses (3 axle) to better distribute the weight, using smaller buses, and beefing up the impacted roadways. It is likely the study may

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2014	Submission Deadline	Delivery Date
Quarter 2	May 8	June 13
Quarter 3	August 4	September 15
Quarter 4	November 14	December 29

2014 Calendar

- Mar 20 **Chapter Luncheon** — Tour of BEST Award Winning Project — *Tongva Park, Santa Monica, CA*
- April 23 **Complete Streets and Technology Conference** — *Carson Community Center, Carson, CA*
- April 23 **Chapter Luncheon** — Anaheim's ARTIC Transportation Center, *Community Center, Carson, CA*
- May 13 **Chapter Luncheon** — Joint Meeting with ASCE— *Costa Mesa, CA*
- June 3-5 **Public Works Institute Module 1** — *Los Angeles County Public Works, Alhambra, CA*
- June 26 **Chapter Luncheon** — Port of Long Beach — Gerald Desmond Bridge & Middle Harbor Updates — *Location TBA, CA*
- July 24 **Chapter Luncheon** — Annual Scholarship Luncheon/New Sewer Lift Station — *Santa Ana, CA*
- Aug 17-20 Luncheon Dark— Join us for APWA International Congress and Expo — *Toronto, Canada*
- Sept 25 **Chapter Luncheon** — Tour of Newport Beach Civic Center — *Newport Beach, CA*
- Oct 23 **Chapter Luncheon** — Sidewalk Upheavals Got You Down? — *Location TBA, CA*
- Nov Luncheon Dark — Happy Thanksgiving!

Programs & Events



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March 20 - Chapter Luncheon
A Walk In Tongva Park—BEST
Award Winner — Santa Monica, CA

April 23 - Chapter Luncheon —
At Complete Streets & Tech
Conference — **Anaheim's ARTIC**
Trans. Center — Carson, CA

June 26 — Chapter Luncheon —
Port of Long Beach—Gerald Des-
mond Bridge and Middle Harbor
Updates — Location TBA, CA

**Check our website and email com-
munications for the latest updates!**

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Monthly Luncheon Program:

Time: 4th Thursday of the month (Unless otherwise noted)
11:30 am - 12:00 pm Registration
12:00 pm - 1:30 Lunch & Program

Location: To Be Announced for Each Program

Cost: \$40 members • \$45 non-members • \$55 all walk-ins
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

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Complete Streets and Technology
Conference

Chapter News and Events