Due to a power outage in our area, we were unable to publish the Monday Morning Quarterback yesterday.

March 12, 2019

The VOICE of Construction

INDUSTRY NEWS

It was a Dark and Stormy "Sunshine Week"...

Eddie Sprecco, CEO

That's right - this week is "Sunshine Week" - not because we picked up an extra hour of afternoon sunshine due to daylight saving time, but because of open government and transparency... hooray! Sunshine Week was started in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors to educate the public about the dangers of excessive and unnecessary Government secrecy.... booo!

This year's "Sunshine Week" is a little overcast in California, thanks to San Diego's own Senator Ben Hueso. Senator Hueso recently introduced SB 615 which, by most accounts, would completely gut the Public Records Act (PRA) law in California. I would love to request documents to find out WHY, but the Public Records Act, passed by the state legislature, doesn't cover the state legislature... so, this leaves a lot of room to speculate - who does gutting the Public Records Act benefit? Folks in Local Government who don't want transparency! Hmmm, but which ones?

Well, let's start with the author. Senator Hueso represents the 40th Senate District which includes Sweetwater Union High School District - a district run by political allies currently under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission, in
addition to state and local enforcement agencies, for financial fraud and other crimes. Mr. Hueso also previously served as a City of San Diego Councilmember and got busted by a PRA request on his way out the door for trying to give out staff bonuses in the thick of the great recession - and then lying about it! Senator Hueso, perhaps drunk with power from his party's expanded super majorities, is now attempting to take down the very local government transparency law that he got busted by, right while he is gearing up to run locally for County Supervisor in 2020. Hmmm...

Mr. Hueso is not acting alone, however - his local bill sponsor is San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliot who is framing SB 615 as expediting transparency by making the PRA requesters jump through a series of expensive hoops to get them to their final stonewall quicker. Our City Attorney is much too intelligent to be duped into supporting such a flawed bill, so there must be some unseen political force influencing her support. According to yesterday's unanimous City Council vote in opposition to SB 615, it is not the newly empowered 6-3 Democratic majority behind this bill.... Nor is it the Mayor's office, which has a mixed record on disclosure but at least talks a good game on transparency. Someone should really dig into how the City Attorney was convinced to support SB 615 - perhaps through a PRA request?

Of course, the news media in San Diego are shocked - SHOCKED! I TELL YOU! - that Democrats both State and Local are gutting transparency laws just as they are nestling into the comfort of a single-party State.

Excuse me if I do not shed a tear.... While local media outlets like Voice of San Diego (VOSD) has been happy to file PRA requests, and Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) complaints against the agencies and politicians they don't like, they tend to - more often than not - give their ideological allies a free pass. I liken this disparate treatment to a referee on the take trying to throw a game; Yes - many of the fouls called on one team may be legitimate, but if you refuse to call fouls on the other team you cease being a referee - never forget, Sacramento Kings fans! In short, journalists are NOT the enemy of the people, they are just - taken as a whole - terrible at their jobs....

However, despite the bias of the leadership at VOSD - which is proudly proclaimed on their website - their rank and file
reporters do commit random acts of journalism critical to uncovering fraud and abuse in San Diego. I won't say which reporters act as honest referees - the last time I praised a VOSD staff member in Monday Morning Quarterback, they were soon "disappeared." The formally local UT Los Angeles (UTLA) as well as Nakedly Progressive Radio (NPR) also occasionally stumbled on stories worth telling through use of the PRA request process.

Now, through SB 615, it seems all of the referees - corrupt or otherwise - will have their wings severely clipped. After all, who needs refs around when you are the only team on the court?

Happy Sunshine Week!

PLA Fireworks Ignite During Panel Discussion as SANDAG Looks into the Future

Brad Barnum, Executive Vice President

Just when you thought it was safe to wade into the discussions about the future of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the County's transportation system, a rift between labor and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce on the issue of Project Labor Agreements (PLA) appeared to unsettle the waters. This may not bode well as SANDAG and other municipal agencies look to increase revenue to improve their transportation programs. Let me explain...

All started well for the panel of labor and business stakeholders during SANDAG's Board retreat last Wednesday at the Barona Events Center, with representatives of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, Laborers Local 89, IBEW 569, Qualcomm, and the Chamber of Commerce talking about the importance of an efficient transportation system to get employees to work in a timely fashion. However, verbal jabs were abundant as soon as it was mentioned by the labor representatives that PLA's are the cure all for agencies contemplating transportation construction projects. Even the new SANDAG Executive Director, Hasan Ikhrata, got into the fray by encouraging the fracas to continue well beyond the panel's allotted time.

We know labor is pushing for PLA's only to increase union membership, it's coffers, and its political power, however PLA's don't lower the cost of construction projects, and they don't increase local hire opportunities. As the Chamber representative said, they are "opposed to government-mandated PLA's because they increase costs and limit competition."
AGC couldn't agree more, and at the end of the panel, during public comments, Pete Saucedo, Executive Director of AGC's Apprenticeship Program, and I expressed what should be the overriding concern for all the SANDAG representatives and stakeholders...the shortage of skilled workers. We shouldn't be battling about PLA's. We should be emphasizing workforce development, utilization of union and non-union apprenticeship programs, more education and training opportunities, and the importance of community outreach and working together so future ballot measures can be approved by voters and construction projects can be built.

Let's put all this in perspective with the November 2020 elections around the corner. Voters will have a say in a number of infrastructure funding measures, and with a two-thirds vote threshold to pass these tax measures (except for school districts, which have a 55% threshold) everyone has to be on board. A proposed expansion of the Convention Center has already qualified, and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System District is looking at a $10 billion measure that would include a new Trolley line from Chula Vista to the Kearney Mesa area. Any opposition likely would kill these measures.

We must not forget about SANDAG, which failed to pass a multi-billion dollar sales tax measure in 2016. Although it does have a new Executive Director with bold plans, it is dealing with a two-year delay of its 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (hasn't met state-mandated greenhouse gas reduction requirement), and a shortfall of needed revenue to complete projects promised to voters. That said, SANDAG has decided to wait until 2022 to possibly put a tax measure on the ballot. Probably a good idea with this unsettled PLA discussion in the way.

It is clear that SANDAG, its regional partners, and stakeholders need to work together in order to pass these important infrastructure measures. Instead of debating PLA's, they should be discussing workforce development, because without a sufficient skilled workforce many of their projects won't be built.

We applaud the Regional Chamber of Commerce for stepping up to the plate on the PLA issue, and we look forward to discussing the issue further when SANDAG's Hasan Ikhrata attends AGC's Government Relations Committee on April 17. He is going to find out rather quickly that the San Diego construction industry is quite different from the union-dominated Los Angeles market!
AGC San Diego Spring Conference La Quinta Resort - 10 Rooms Left - Early Bird Discount Expires Friday, March 15

The AGC San Diego Chapter's Meetings and Events Committee invites members to our 50th Annual Spring Conference, May 9-11, 2019. The Spring Conference has traditionally followed the AGC Board of Directors Spring Retreat. Members are given the opportunity to spend time together in a relaxed setting at some of the most outstanding resorts in the Western United States.

This year, we are headed back to the La Quinta Resort & Spa, in La Quinta, CA, site of the 2012 AGC Spring Conference. Check out their website at: [https://www.laquintaresort.com](https://www.laquintaresort.com)

Attendees can register by clicking on the Spring Conference Event Brochure here.

The "Spring Conference Package" includes hotel accommodations for 2 nights, all receptions, banquets, meals, hospitality suite, etc.

See also the "optional activities" listed in the same brochure. On Friday, we've arranged for a golf outing at the Desert Willow Golf Course, and we're going to have our first ever Pickleball Tournament (a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong). It's sure to be a lot of fun!

The schedule includes:

- **Thursday: AGC Opening Night Dinner Reception & Cocktail Party**
MEMBERSHIP LISTINGS
Online Form

Please notify AGC if your company has relocated, or if there are any updates to your company's listing (i.e. contacts, phone/fax, job titles, CSI codes, & certified business listings).

Email Marcy Knopman

DIRECTIONS
6212 Ferris Square
San Diego, CA 92121
(858) 558-7444

Thursday: Hospitality Suite
Friday: Breakfast Business Meeting
Friday: Golf at the Desert Willow Golf Club
Friday: Pickleball Tournament
Friday: Dinner Banquet
Friday: Hospitality Suite

The deadline to register is March 29, and the early-bird discount expires THIS FRIDAY!

Yes, it's a short window, but we know members will benefit from the opportunity to get to know our board of directors and leaders of the AGC San Diego.

Sponsorships are needed to help host the Welcome Reception, Saturday Dinner Banquet, and the AGC Hospitality Suite.

EVENT BROCHURE & SPONSOR INFO

Click on the brochure link above and send to raek@agcsd.org.

Please contact Rae Krushensky with any questions.

Final Notice...AGC Affiliate Mixer - Thursday, March 14, 2019

Last chance to register for the first AGC Member Mixer of the year by clicking here!

The AGC's Affiliate Council is pleased to welcome all members to the first mixer of 2019. Join us this Thursday, March 14, at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island! Everyone has always enjoyed this great location with fantastic views of the downtown San Diego skyline, and plenty of free parking! The event time is from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

We encourage our member firms to stay connected, and invite their PM's, PE's, estimating staff, scheduling staff, etc., and anyone else in their firm that would benefit from socializing with others in the industry. This is a member only function!

Join the growing list of generous sponsors listed below (New sponsors are noted in red):

Platinum Sponsors:
Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP
Hawthorne Cat

Gold Sponsors:
To ensure we have enough food for everyone, pre-registration is required. Please click here to Register!

There is still room for more sponsors!! Please click here for a sponsor form.

The Mixer event will have an EXPO type atmosphere with sponsors receiving a table to display promotional materials, etc...

- You can display product samples, promotional materials, etc.
- Your company name will be prominently displayed on a banner in the room.
- **Platinum level sponsors will be given choice placement by the entrance and bar areas.**
- All sponsors will have the opportunity to incorporate their company logos into a running visual presentation slideshow on all the TV screens in the room.
Gold sponsors receive additional "screen time" for their logos and Platinum sponsors receive "FULL SCREEN" ads.

Contact Rae Krushensky with any questions.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the AGC office (6212 Ferris Square, San Diego, CA 92121) unless otherwise noted in red.

March Meetings
Mar. 13 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Build & Serve
Mar. 13 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Airport @ Airport
Mar. 21 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. HR Practices
Mar. 22 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Caltrans @ Caltrans Office
Mar. 27 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Public Building

April Meetings
Apr. 3 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Safety Meeting
Apr. 8 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. San Diego Port @ Port Offices
Apr. 16 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Water Authority Meeting
Apr. 16 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Meetings & Events
Apr. 17 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Government Relations
Apr. 18 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Specialty Contractors' Council
Apr. 26 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Technology Committee
Apr. 30 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. City of San Diego

Get involved in the AGC by serving on one or more AGC committees.
"You get out what you put in."
AGC BIM Education Program March 25 - 28, 2019 Units 1-4: March 25 -28, 2019

REGISTER ONLINE

The AGC's Building Information Modeling Education Program (BIM) is the most comprehensive course in the industry. This course is broken down into four 8-hour courses that build upon each other and lead the students through the necessary knowledge required to pass the CM-BIM Exam.

BIM provides the potential for a virtual information model to be handed from Design Team (architects, surveyors, consulting engineers, and others) to Contractor and Subcontractors and then to the Owner, each adding their own additional discipline-specific knowledge and tracking of changes to the single model.

As computers and software become more capable of handling more building information, this will become even more pronounced than it is in current design and construction projects

Any questions, contact Becca Schaffer at (858) 731-8155
March Classes

Mar. 13-14  CQM
Mar. 13  Foreman & Superintendent Boot Camp
Mar. 14  Forklift 4-Hour
Mar. 18-20  Fall Protection 24-Hour
Mar. 19  Advanced Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 (Offsite Class)
Mar. 20  Intermediate Microsoft Excel 2016 (Offsite Class)
Mar. 20  Respiratory Protection Training
Mar. 20  Traffic Control Technician
Mar. 25-28  BIM
Mar. 25  Fall Protection 8-Hour Refresher Course
Mar. 26  Advanced Microsoft Excel 2016 (Offsite Class)
Mar. 26  Primavera Workshop
Mar. 27  CPR, First Aid & AED Training
Mar. 27  Project Management Boot Camp
Mar. 27  Silica Standard for Construction CPT
Mar. 29  BIM EXAM

For more information on classes, contact: Becca Schaffer at (858) 731-8155.

January - June 2019  Register Online