



JANUARY 2026

January 5, 2026

January 12, 2026

January 19, 2026

January 26, 2026

January 5, 2026



INDUSTRY NEWS

New Year, New Titles and Some New Faces. . .

By Eddie Sprecco, CEO

Happy New Year from all of us at AGC!

As we ring in 2026, it's a good time to highlight some of the big changes at AGC. As our chapter has grown and expanded services, we have updated roles and added staff positions to continue to meet our members' needs.

First, Katie Hammock has been promoted to Vice President of Operations to ensure all of our service offerings and marketing opportunities work seamlessly for our membership. Katie joined AGC as Director of Meetings and Events in 2024 and has quickly grown her portfolio of work to become a valuable asset to our chapter.

To accommodate Katie's promotion and further enhance member services, AGC San Diego will also be hiring both a Meetings and Events Coordinator and an in-house Director of Membership. The additional staff will continue the growth of AGC San Diego, while maintaining top notch services to the industry.

In another big move, **Dustin Steiner has been promoted to Executive Vice President of AGC San Diego.** Dustin has served as Vice President of Government Affairs since joining the Chapter in 2021. In addition to Government Affairs, Dustin will now have a hand in membership recruitment and take on strategic initiatives for the Chapter.

These changes are an element of the Board of Directors' Three-Year Strategic Plan to enhance services and right-size the AGC staff to meet members' needs.

[Congratulations](#) to Katie and Dustin on their new roles!



Welcome 2026

By Dustin Steiner, Executive Vice President

It's officially 2026 and that means we are hurtling toward the oft-debated midterm elections. Are they a referendum on the White House? A rebuke or validation of the party in power? Just another election?

Nationally, the Senate is likely to remain in Republican hands, thanks in large part to a favorable map, in which the one-third of the seats that are up this year generally either favor the incumbent Senator or the incumbent party – meaning there will be few surprises. The House is a different story as Democrats have seen recent victories in Republican strongholds like Miami, Florida, which just elected the first woman, first non-Hispanic (since 1996), and first Democrat in almost 30 years, in **Eileen Higgins**. House Speaker **Mike Johnson** (R-LA) is facing a handful of incumbent retirements including firebrand and (former?) Trump ally, **Majorie Taylor Greene**, who leaves the chamber today. The Republican majority effectively shrinks to 219-213, a 2-vote margin that is most certainly up for grabs in 2026 as all 435 members seek re-election.

Locally, all eyes are on the **48th Congressional District**, where incumbent **Darrell Issa** (who is [not moving to Texas](#)) is facing a surprising threat to his once safe district, thanks to Prop 50. San Diego City Councilmember **Marni von Wilpert**, and previous challenger **Ammar Campa-Najjar** are part of a crowded field of Democrats emboldened by the recent partisan swing in the district.

In California, big names are gearing up to succeed two-term Governor and presumptive 2028 presidential candidate, **Gavin Newsom**. Similarly, races are heating up for other statewide offices where a Republican hasn't held office since 2010.

In the Legislature, where Democrats have supermajorities in both houses, there is likely only one seat (locally) up for grabs as longtime Sacramento pol, State Senator **Brian Jones** (R-SD40), is termed out. Former San Diego City Attorney, Democrat **Mara Elliott**, has thrown her hat in the ring against two Republicans: San Marcos City Councilmember **Ed Musgrove** and former Olivenhain MWD Director **Kristie Bruce-Lane**.

The County Board of Supervisors has two seats up. District 4 should easily be retained by incumbent **Monica Montgomery Steppe** in her first re-election bid since winning a special election in 2024. District 5 sees two-term incumbent, **Jim Desmond**, stepping down due to term limits (and challenging Rep. **Mike Levin**) setting off what may be the biggest race in San Diego County. Levin staffer **Kyle Krahel-Frolander** recently entered the race against Republican San Marcos Mayor **Rebecca Jones** and Vista Mayor **John Franklin**. Countywide, incumbent Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk **Jordan Marks** is facing his first re-election, and recently appointed Treasurer-Tax Collector, **Larry Cohen**, will also be running for his first full term. Longtime TTC [Dan McAllister](#) stepped down last summer and passed just before Christmas after two decades of service. Over at San Diego City Hall, four seats are on the ballot with two of those being open. In District 2, two-term Councilmember **Jennifer Campbell** is termed out as is two-term incumbent **Vivian Moreno** in District 8. There are a handful of candidates in each race already with more expected in the coming months.

How do you keep it all straight? **AGC San Diego has you covered!** Like and subscribe to our recently launched [Voice of Construction podcast](#), stay tuned for to the [Monday Morning Quarterback](#), and join our [Political Action Committee!](#)

Happy New Year! Buckle up!

Changes to the Dig Safe Act on the Way - Sign Up for Tomorrow's Workshop to Help Shape SB 254 Regs!

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

Much of the legislation that is enacted by the California Legislature each year passes through both houses of the legislature with little debate. In some cases, it shows up unannounced in a part of a budget trailer bill. That was not the case with this year's Senate Bill 254 (SB 254), which was actually heard publicly and debated. This was probably because our investor-owned utilities had so much at stake.

According to *CalMatters Digital Democracy*, this bill was discussed in the legislature for almost five hours. Additionally, it was reported that there was a total of 119 speakers. We wish this happened more frequently in our legislature.

This energy bill that creates a new public financing system for electric transmission projects and extends a controversial program that shields utilities from some wildfire liability costs. Critics of the bill warned it could ultimately drive consumer bills higher. It was part of a package of energy and climate measures the legislature passed this year.

Buried deep in this massive bill were some changes to the Dig Safe Act that contractors should keep an eye on.

In San Diego County, the Regional Notification Center (RNC) wherein dialing 811 connects excavators with utilities to mark underground gas, electric, water, and telecom lines for free before an excavation project is DigAlert, or the **Underground Service Alert of Southern California**.

This is done to prevent damage and ensure safety; contractors can call 811 or submit a request online at digalert.org at least two working days before starting any project.

Under SB 254, the Underground Safety Board will be required to implement new regulations related to responsibilities by July 1, 2027. The RNCs will be required to facilitate the exchange of planning and design information for infrastructure projects. All operators except for Caltrans will be required to participate in the information exchange.

Also, July 1, 2027, this board must make regulations to determine whether and under what circumstances an excavator must notify the RNC (if more than two working days) before the legal excavation start date and note the time in the case that the excavator is submitting a volume of notifications in excess of the capacity of the operators in an area to complete their locate and mark responsibilities.

The following workshop will provide more information for excavators, and is hosted by the California Underground Safety Board to address SB 254. The workshop will allow contractors to provide input (data and information exchange included), and stay informed about upcoming changes to, SB 254.

Workshop Details:

DATE: January 6, 2026

TIME: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

In-Person:

California Air Resources Board
4001 Iowa Avenue, Rooms 1-111 and 1-112
Riverside, CA 92507
Virtual: [Register for the Meeting](#)

SB 254 Resources

- [Staff Report](#) - This report from the November 2025 Underground Safety Board Meeting outlines an implementation plan for SB 254.
- [SB 254 Information Bulletin](#) - This Information Bulletin alerts stakeholders of recent changes to excavation law.

TRAINING CAMP

Annualization Basics and AB889: What Contractors Need to Know

By Adrianna Lopez, Director of Labor Relations

Annualization can sound complicated, but it's a key concept for anyone working on California public works projects. With AB889 now in play, understanding this principle is more important than ever. Let's break it down in plain language.

What is Annualization?

Annualization is the method used to calculate the hourly credit for employer-paid fringe benefits. Instead of looking only at public works hours, the total annual contribution paid (like health insurance or pension) is divided by ALL hours worked during the year (public and private).

Example: If you pay \$4,800 annually for health insurance and an employee works 2,000 hours (1,500 public + 500 private), the credit equals \$2.40/hour ($\$4,800 \div 2,000$).

Why Does It Matter?

California Labor Code §1773.1 requires annualization when fringe benefit contributions differ between public and private work. Historically, there were exceptions, but AB 889 changes that.

AB889 Changes the Game

Effective January 1, 2026, AB889 eliminates DIR exemptions and applies annualization to ALL employer payments not made directly to the worker, including training, health, pension, and other bona-fide plans. Defined contribution pension plans (like 401[k]) with immediate participation and vesting within 500 hours remain exempt.

Impact on Training Contributions

Previously, training contributions to approved apprenticeship programs (like AGC) were exempt from annualization. AB 889 removes that exemption. Contractors must now annualize training contributions or pay them on private projects to avoid underpayment findings and penalties.

Next Steps

- [Check AB889's text](#) and understand the requirements.
 - Update your training contribution procedures to meet the new mandates.
 - Keep detailed records per employee.
 - Consult legal counsel for compliance strategies.
-

WD-40 CEO to Speak at Installation!

Chairman Emeritus of WD-40, **Garry Ridge**, transformed WD-40 operations to create a place centered on people, learning, and belonging.

In his new book, *Any Dumb Ass Can Do It*, he talks corporate culture and leadership skills.

Get a copy and hear from him at our Installation Dinner & Member Awards on January 20.

Already signed up? Beat the drink line! Pre-order your drinks by including them in their registration. Save time by not waiting in bar lines and get ahead!



[REGISTER NOW](#)

GIVING BACK

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR 2026: After-School Kids Program Starting with AGC San Diego and BUILD San Diego

BUILD San Diego Foundation is excited to begin the 2026 after-school initiative, "Building Tomorrow Program," in collaboration with AGC San Diego Workforce Development Committee.



We are currently seeking industry volunteers and sponsors to support this educational and community-building initiative to raise \$10K to facilitate four club blocks during 2026. Your involvement helps inspire future builders while strengthening the construction workforce pipeline.

The first "CLUB" is scheduled to begin in February and to launch we require the following volunteers and sponsors:

- (10) - Teacher volunteers (1-hour time dedication)
- (1) Lumber Sponsor
- (1) Paint Donor
- (1) Fasteners/Screw Sponsor
- (1) Tools Sponsor
- (1) Glue Donor
- (1) Tool Belt Donor
- (1) Tape Measurer Donor
- (1) Hard Hat Donor
- (1) Safety Goggle Donor
- (x) Safety Vest Donor - **FILANC**

(1) Safety Gloves Donor

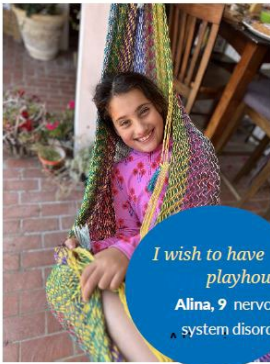
Building Tomorrow is a 10-day, one-hour “club block” designed for students in grades 1-5. Through engaging and age-appropriate activities, students will be introduced to construction industry career pathways, including skilled trades and construction management roles. The program culminates in a collaborative, hands-on group project that encourages teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving.

Reach out to Executive Director Ilka De León for more details or to sign up to volunteer at ideleon@buildsandiego.com. These volunteer options won't be available long, so commit now before it's too late!

Support BUILD San Diego Foundation's 2026 educational outreach with a tax-deductible donation to our 501(c)(3)!

Your timely support helps us shape the future of construction education!

[Make a donation today.](#)



Help Make a Wish Come True: 5 Volunteer Painters Needed for Playhouse Project

The AGC Build & Serve Charitable Alliance needs at least 5 painters to sign up to help [Wish Kid Alina](#) get her playhouse.

Help bring her vision to life by staining the exterior and painting the interior with us! This project will make a meaningful impact and help create a joyful space just for her.

If you are available to assist with this project next weekend on **Sunday, January 18**, in the North County-Coastal area, please email Marcy Knopman at marcy@agcsd.org **this Thursday** to confirm your availability or to request additional details.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to give back and make a difference.





2026

January 20 - [Installation Dinner & Member Awards](#) - Hilton San Diego/Del Mar

February 5-8 - [Winter Conference](#) - Big Sky Montage

February 12 - [Meet Your GC with Dempsey Construction](#) - Dempsey HQ

COMMITTEES/COUNCILS MEETINGS

Your New Year's Resolution....Join a Committee in 2026

Jan. 7 - **Safety Committee** - 7:00 AM - Lakeside

Jan. 14 - **Airport Authority** - 11:15 AM @ Airport Design & Construction office

[Join now!](#)

[Committee Meeting Calendar](#)

[Get Involved - Join a Committee](#)

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

*Classes are held at our **Ferris Square** location in Sorrento Valley, our **AGC Headquarters** in Lakeside, or **online**.*

JANUARY TRAINING SCHEDULE

January 12 - Fall Protection Competent Person Refresher Training

January 13 – Excel Beginner Training

January 14 – QuickBooks Beginner (Online version)

January 14 & 15 – Blueprint Reading for Construction

January 15 – Microsoft Project Professional: Beginning-Intermediate

January 19 - 21 Fall Protection 24-Hour Competent Person for EM385-1-1 & Rescue Training

January 20 – Excel Intermediate Training

January 21 – QuickBooks Intermediate/ Advanced (Online version)

January 21 – Construction Law: New California HR Laws for 2026

January 21 – CPR/First Aid and AED Certification

January 22 – Microsoft Project Professional: Beginning-Intermediate

January 22 – Silica Competent Person Training

January 26 – CHATGPT & COPILOT for Microsoft 365 Introduction

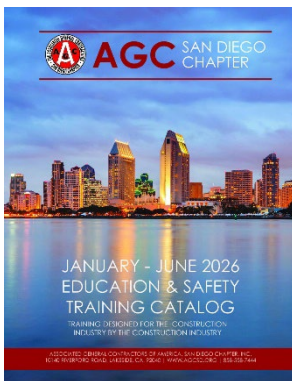
January 26 – Adult Mental Health First Aid Certification

January 26 – 29 – OSHA 30 Hour Construction Outreach
January 26 - How to Write an Effective AHA to Ensure Acceptance
January 27 – Fall Protection Equipment Inspector Competent Person
January 27 – Excel Advanced Training
January 28 – CMMC Compliance & Risk Management: Protecting Contractors in the Federal Supply Chain
January 29 – MS PowerPoint Beginner/Intermediate

ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMS

January 7 – Construction Estimating Principles & Applications
January 7 & 8 – Construction Quality Management for Contractors (CQM-C) Course (Virtual / Zoom)
January 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 - AGC EDGE Fundamentos en Supervisión de la Construcción (CSF Spanish Version)
January 8 & 9 – Reading Construction Documents (Blueprints)
January 8, 15, 22 - AGC EDGE Leadership and Motivation (STP Unit 1) Thursdays
January 9 - Resident Management System (RMS) Training for USACE Contractors (Virtual / Zoom)
January 12 – February 2 - AGC EDGE Lean Construction Education Program
January 13 – Stormwater Virtual Seminar: Ask an Attorney (Virtual / Zoom) January 20 – Organizing Your Workspace Using One Online Tool
January 22 & 23 – Quality Control Plan Workshop: Achieving Federal Compliance with UFGS Standards
January 28 – AI in Construction (Virtual / Zoom)
January 28 – Bluebeam Baseline Basics
January 29 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Basics
January 30 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Advanced
January 30 – February 27 - AGC EDGE Project Manager Development Program

[PDF LIST OF JANUARY CLASSES](#)



 **The 2026 AGC San Diego Education & Safety Training Catalog Is Now Live!**

 [View the 2026 Catalog Online](#)

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10140 Riverford Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
(858) 558-7444
[DIRECTIONS](#)



AGC Government Affairs Office & Fall Protection Training Campus
6212 Ferris Square
San Diego, CA 92121
2nd floor
[DIRECTIONS](#)

About Monday Morning Quarterback

AGC San Diego Chapter's Monday Morning Quarterback is a "hot off the press" and to the point Monday morning briefing on the important issues facing San Diego's construction industry. It is prepared by AGC Chief Executive Officer, Eddie Sprecco, and Vice President Government & Industry Relations, Dustin Steiner.

Please contact [Eddie Sprecco](#) or [Dustin Steiner](#) with your comments, or with information that should be conveyed to the industry through this service. Well over 3,000 individuals employed by AGC member firms are part of this system.

[Visit agcsd.org](http://www.agcsd.org)

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January 12, 2026



INDUSTRY NEWS

New Year, New (c)Laws

By Dustin Steiner, Executive Vice President, and Felipe Fuentes, Legislative Advocate, Pacific Coast Capitol Advisors

A new year brings with it...new laws! In California we have a full-time legislature that seems to measure success by bills passed. In 2025, 2,250 bills were introduced, 794 were signed into law, and 123 were vetoed by Gov. Newsom. These bills ranged from outlawing declawing (say that three times fast), to making admissions to several Cal State Universities automatic (sorry, SDSU is not on the list), to a bit of COVID-era irony making masking (of law enforcement officials) illegal.

What's new for the construction industry? Our legislative advocate, **Felipe Fuentes**, and his crack team in Sacramento, **Pacific Coast Capitol Advisors**, has you covered with the following list. Please note **AB 889** was covered in [last week's MMQB](#) and we will likely have more to come on that.

Key Legislative Actions in 2025: What Contractors Need to Know

As we close out 2025 and move into 2026, it's important for AGC members to understand the legislative landscape and how recent actions by the Governor will impact our industry. Several bills were sent to the Governor last session, and while some were signed into law, others were vetoed. Below is a summary of the most significant measures affecting construction, labor, and public works.

Artificial Intelligence

SB 7 (Vetoed)

This bill sought to introduce requirements for employers using automated decision systems in employment-related processes. While the Governor vetoed SB 7, its introduction signals growing interest in regulating AI in the workplace. Contractors should anticipate future proposals that could impose compliance obligations around hiring and workforce management technologies.

Highway Safety

AB 289 (Chaptered)

This new law authorizes a five-year pilot program for work zone speed camera enforcement, deploying 35 cameras statewide. The goal is to improve safety in construction zones, reducing accidents and protecting workers. Contractors and workers should benefit from stricter enforcement and will want to ensure crews are aware of speed compliance requirements.

AB 390 (Chaptered)

Expanding California's "move over" law, AB 390 now includes contractor vehicles working on highways. This change enhances safety for roadside crews and underscores the importance of proper signage and traffic control measures on job sites.

Labor and Employment

SB 809 (Chaptered)

This legislation establishes a voluntary construction trucking employer amnesty program. Sponsored by the Teamsters, this program is voluntary and attempts to have GCs consider hiring drivers under a "two-check" system. Contractors with trucking operations are reminded to review their practices to make sure that they are compliant with the Construction Trucking exemption found in AB 5.

Public Works

AB 538 (Chaptered)

Contractors must now provide certified payroll records upon request within 10 days if the awarding body lacks the documents. This change emphasizes transparency and timely compliance, so contractors should ensure recordkeeping systems are robust and responsive.

AB 963 (Vetoed)

This bill would have required developers and owners of public works projects to grant access to specific records to Labor entities. The Governor vetoed it, citing redundancy and potential interference with enforcement priorities. While vetoed, the proposal reflects ongoing scrutiny of public works documentation.

SB 369 (Vetoed)

Aimed at imposing skilled and trained workforce requirements for Salton Sea restoration projects, SB 369 was vetoed due to concerns about delaying shovel-ready projects. Expect similar workforce-related measures to resurface in future sessions.

Payments

SB 440 (Chaptered)

Known as the Private Works Change Order Fair Payment Act, this law strengthens protections for contractors by ensuring fair and timely payment for change orders. Contractors should review contract language and payment timelines to align with the new requirements.

Retention

SB 61 (Chaptered)

Retention on private construction contracts is now capped at 5%, and timely payment to contractors and subcontractors is mandated. Additionally, prevailing parties in enforcement actions may recover attorney's fees. This is a significant win for cash flow management in the private sector.

Unpaid Wages

AB 1002 (Chaptered)

The Attorney General now has authority to bring civil actions against contractors who fail to pay full wages, ignore wage judgments, or violate court orders. This underscores the importance of strict compliance with wage laws to avoid costly litigation and reputational harm.

What This Means for AGC Members

The 2025 legislative session brought meaningful changes that will affect compliance, safety, and payment practices across the industry. While some vetoes prevented additional burdens, the signed bills reflect a clear trend toward greater accountability and worker protections. AGC will continue to monitor developments and provide resources to help members navigate these changes.

Stay tuned for updates on the 2026 legislative session.

The 2026 Construction Hiring and Business Outlook Now Available

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

AGC of America has just released the [2026 Construction Hiring and Business Outlook](#). The outlook is based on responses from AGC contractors around the country. Besides reporting on the national results, the report also breaks down the responses by region. We took a closer look at some of the key survey results in the western United States.

Compared to 2025, do you expect the available dollar value of projects you compete for in 2026 will be higher or lower?

According to the survey, contractors are very bullish about some sectors. For example, 89% believe data center construction work will be the same or higher in dollar value this year as compared to the last year. For some of the major infrastructure work contractors seem to think next year will be like last year. About half of those surveyed believe that highway and transportation projects will stay at the same level. A little more than half believe the water/sewer type projects will be the same or a little higher in dollar volume this year.

What percentage change do you expect in headcount this year at your firm?

- 54% of respondents believed their company headcount will increase this year.
- 19% of respondents say that the company headcount will likely decrease in 2026.

Describe the difficulty in filling open craft or salaried positions.

Over three-fourths of those surveyed said they are having difficulty in filling some or all of the open positions.

What actions has your firm taken in response to actual or proposed tariffs?

About 40 percent said that they have passed along the costs of tariffs to the project owner or raised bid prices.

- 31% have accelerated purchases.
- 21% said they have not been affected.

Has your firm been impacted by immigration enforcement?

This one was a little surprising given the relatively high level of foreign-born workers in our industry.

- 75% said that their company was not impacted at all.
- 24% said that subcontractors lost workers.

What are your biggest concerns for 2026?

- An economic downturn or recession was one top concern at 66%.
- 57% cited rising direct labor costs.
- 49% said that an insufficient supply of workers was a top concern.
- 40% listed project delays due to government funding/permitting etc.as one of their top concerns.

Seems like the [survey results](#) for the most part were like last year's responses, except for the outlook on the availability of new work in most sectors of our industry. In recent years, the respondents anticipated higher dollar levels of work to be available to bid on. This year in most sectors they expect the availability to remain strong but at last year's levels. There doesn't seem to be as much enthusiasm this year as compared to recent years.

The fact that about two-thirds of those surveyed have "an economic downturn or recession" as a top concern, is very telling about the big picture outlook, and that is not just construction.

[View the western United States fact sheet.](#)

[View the California fact sheet.](#)

PLA PLAYBOOK

The Hidden Cost of Ignoring Grievance Procedures

By Adrianna Lopez, Director of Labor Relations

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and Master Labor Agreements (MLAs) are designed to ensure labor stability, predictability, and jobsite continuity. Central to that purpose is the grievance and dispute resolution procedure. Yet one of the most common and costly mistakes contractors make on PLA covered projects is ignoring, bypassing, or mishandling the grievance process required by the agreement.

When a contractor is bound to a PLA or MLA, grievance procedures are not optional. They are mandatory contractual obligations. Failure to comply can expose contractors to financial liability, loss of legal defenses, and serious project disruption.

WHAT IS A GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE?

Every PLA and MLA includes a grievance and dispute resolution article. While specific language may differ, most follow a structured, step-by-step framework: jobsite discussion, written grievance, labor-management committee review, and binding arbitration. These procedures are paired with strict timelines and no-strike/no-lockout clauses. In effect, grievance procedures are the pressure-release valve that keeps projects moving forward.

WHY GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE

Courts routinely enforce grievance and arbitration provisions in collective bargaining agreements and PLAs. Contractors who bypass these procedures often forfeit contractual rights and defenses. Even well-intended shortcuts can be treated as a material breach of the agreement.

COMMON PITFALLS

One frequent error is assuming an issue is not a grievance simply because it begins informally. Disputes over termination, jurisdiction, drug and alcohol concerns, or dispatch mistakes are often grievable matters. Another mistake is attempting to resolve disputes informally without following contractual notice or timeline requirements. Informal discussions do not suspend grievance deadlines.

Some contractors also attempt to skip steps to save time, which often backfires. Failure to exhaust required steps can result in procedural violations that override the underlying merits of a dispute.

REAL-WORLD CONSEQUENCES

In one real-world pattern frequently seen on PLA projects, a contractor assigned disputed work without participating in the grievance process. Even though the contractor believed the assignment was contractually justified, the arbitrator ruled against them due to procedural non-compliance. The result included back pay, staffing corrections, arbitration costs, and reputational damage with the project owner.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL LIABILITY

Failure to comply with grievance procedures may result in restitution payments, liquidated damages, arbitration costs, legal fees, project delays, strained labor relationships, and negative owner scrutiny. Procedural violations often carry greater weight than the original dispute.

BEST PRACTICES

Treat all disputes as potentially grievable. Follow procedures exactly as written. Calendar deadlines. Maintain documentation. Preserve the status quo during disputes. Engage labor relations professionals (like yours truly from AGC!) early.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The grievance procedure is not merely a formality, it's an enforceable obligation which contractors are bound to when they sign up to work on a PLA, or as a signatory contractor.

GIVING BACK



ANNOUNCEMENT



2026 Activities Underway

Educational Outreach

Our BUILDING TOMORROW project is launching and we couldn't be more excited!

Hiring Fair

If your company is actively recruiting for new employees to fill apprenticeship or skilled and ready positions contact us to learn more about how we can help.

Fundraising

Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 to support 4 - 10 day club sessions.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our BUILDING TOMORROW educational outreach needs your help! We need the following support to achieve our goal of creating a school bench with the 1st -5th graders in the Leaders of Tomorrow program at their Jonas Salk Elementary School site:

- Individuals savvy in the areas of Paint, Lumber, HR, Cement Masonry, and Construction Management to lead a 1hr club section week 1 or assist with the "build" of parts Week 2.

- Sponsors who would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the procurement of items to support the project build some id which will be branded:

- * Safety Glasses * Toolbelts * Paint * Wood Glue * Gloves * Tools
- Tape Measures * Fasteners and bolts and more!

We want to thank the AGC SD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE for their support to bring this concept to fruition.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR 2026: After-School Kids Program Starting with AGC San Diego and BUILD San Diego

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February 12 - [Meet Your GC with Dempsey Construction](#) - Dempsey HQ

COMMITTEES/COUNCILS MEETINGS

Your New Year's Resolution....Join a Committee in 2026

Jan. 14 - **Airport Authority** - 11:15 AM @ Airport Design & Construction office
Jan. 22 - **Specialty Contractors' Council** - 11:30 AM - AGC HQ - Lakeside
Jan. 29 - **Meetings & Events** - NOON - AGC HQ - Lakeside

[Join now!](#)

Committee Meeting
Calendar

Get Involved - Join a
Committee

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

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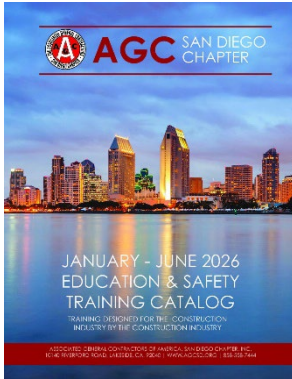
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January 27 – Excel Advanced Training
January 28 – CMMC Compliance & Risk Management: Protecting Contractors in the Federal Supply Chain
January 29 – MS PowerPoint Beginner/Intermediate

ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMS

January 13 – Stormwater Virtual Seminar: Ask an Attorney (Virtual / Zoom)
January 20 – Organizing Your Workspace Using One Online Tool
January 22 & 23 – Quality Control Plan Workshop: Achieving Federal Compliance with UFGS Standards
January 28 – AI in Construction (Virtual / Zoom)
January 28 – Bluebeam Baseline Basics
January 29 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Basics
January 30 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Advanced
January 30 – February 27 - AGC EDGE Project Manager Development Program

[PDF LIST OF JANUARY CLASSES](#)



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About Monday Morning Quarterback

AGC San Diego Chapter's Monday Morning Quarterback is a "hot off the press" and to the point Monday morning briefing on the important issues facing San Diego's construction industry. It is

[Visit agcsd.org](http://www.agcsd.org)

prepared by AGC Chief Executive Officer, Eddie Sprecco, and Vice President Government & Industry Relations, Dustin Steiner.

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Please contact [Eddie Sprecco](#) or [Dustin Steiner](#) with your comments, or with information that should be conveyed to the industry through this service. Well over 3,000 individuals employed by AGC member firms are part of this system.

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January 19, 2026



INDUSTRY NEWS

Beavers Awards Continues to Benefit San Diego State Construction Education Programs

By Eddie Sprecco, CEO

This year, AGC San Diego had the distinct pleasure of attending the **70th Annual Golden Beavers Awards**, an event that brings together 2,000 of our closest friends in the industry, mostly sporting tuxedos, leading to plenty of jokes about the “march of the penguins...”

[The Beavers](#) is a “social, honorary organization formed, organized and managed by the construction companies and individuals who are or have engaged in heavy engineering construction.” Each year they recognize leaders in the industry at their annual award program.

The 2026 Awardees were:

Leadership: Ronald Tutor – Tutor Perini Corp.

Management: C. John Meagher – Traylor Bros., Inc.

Supervision: Joseph Tuttle – Griffith Company

Service & Supply/Engineering: Eric Lindquist – Brierley Associates Corp.

This year’s keynote was none other than Henry Winkler, AKA “The Fonz,” and he did not disappoint!

The Beavers Charitable Trust also grants scholarships and funding support to construction education programs across the country. We were happy to join San Diego State University’s very own, *Nensi Lakrori*, in attendance with her husband *Mark Weber*, Vice President for HNTB.



Pictured above left to right: AGC CEO Eddie Spreco, Nensi Lakrori – SDSU, Mark Weber – HNTB, Dustin Steiner - AGC

While AGC has directed SDSU students to the Beavers Charitable Trust for scholarships over the years, more recently the Beavers have given directly to SDSU's construction programs. Beginning with *Randy Finch*, from **Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP**, and continued effort's by *Jim Ryan* from **AGC**, *Mark Filanc* from **FILANC**, and *Mike Crawford* of **Sukut**, the Beavers Charitable Trust has increasingly invested in San Diego State University.

First, along with AGC contractors, the Beavers provided the final push to reach the \$2.5 million goal to endow the [Jim Ryan Chair in Construction Management in the JR Filanc Construction Engineering and Management Program](#).

When SDSU needed additional support for the growing program, the Beavers quickly opened their checkbook again, to establish the Beavers Lectureship in Heavy Construction – which enabled us to retain the highly sought after Nensi Lakrori in that role. These investments in construction education are already paying dividends in San Diego and beyond.

Thank you to the [Beavers Charitable Trust](#) for your continued support of SDSU, and congratulations on another successful Golden Beavers Award dinner!

Jobs Holding Steady in Construction

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering
Construction & Industry Relations

The construction industry in California has tended to be cyclical with definite boom and bust time periods. The industry has bottomed out twice in the last 30 years. It has also peaked twice in the last 30 years. This is according to the [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis \(FRED\)](#).



In mid-1993, employment in construction here in California bottomed out at about 456,000 employees. It peaked 13 years later in 2006 at 946,000 workers. Then, we abruptly bottomed out during the Great Recession in 2011 down again to 558,000 construction workers here in California.

Two years ago, the industry here in this state again hit a peak of 929,000 employees after expanding for 13 straight years, despite the difficulty of finding qualified workers. In recent months, the worker count has fallen a bit and stands at 886,000 construction workers in this state. Have we passed another peak and are heading for another bottoming out?

According to the *AGC of America's recently released Industry Outlook*, that we reported on last week, contractors have somewhat tempered their expectations about the future. Some of the concerns brought up in the survey have to do with recession risks, high interest rates impacting project financing, and a stubborn shortage of qualified workers. This has been a good problem to have for the last 15 years or so. It seems, for many reasons, we have peaked but seem to be holding steady as the public works sectors maintain strong funding streams. Certainly the country's infrastructure has widespread backlogs of needed maintenance and reconstruction.

Nationally, [according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#), we seem to have peaked in construction employment around the country. Unemployment was generally in the three-percentage point range. That seems to be changing according to the most recently released information. In October, unemployment was at 3.8%. Today it stands at 5.0%. One telling statistic is that the job openings this last November were at 259,000 nationally while the separations were at 303,000.

One interesting and surprising statistic has to do with union membership and union representation, which has been slowly falling around the country. In 2021, the percentage of wage and salaried employees in construction (which were union members or represented by unions) stood at 26.2%. In 2024, it fell to 21.5%. Here in this region, I believe that trend is going in opposite direction, slowly because of the prevalence of project labor agreements in public works.

Still the construction industry is a good industry to work in. The average hourly earnings stand at over \$40 per hour with average hours just under 40 hours per week. While 72% of workers have access to retirement benefit plans, mostly defined contribution plans, 75% have access to employer sponsored healthcare and over 70 percent have paid

vacation and sick leave benefits. For those looking for additional fringe benefit options, the AGC has you covered [here](#).

TRAINING CAMP

Understanding Fringe Benefits & Fringe Credit on Public Works

By Adrianna Lopez, Director of Labor Relations

Fringe benefits are a major part of prevailing wage compliance. They determine how much a contractor must pay workers **per hour** on public works projects and how much of that requirement can be satisfied with **bona fide benefit plans** instead of paid as wages.

What Is a Fringe Benefit?

In prevailing wage, a [fringe benefit](#) is a non-wage benefit paid by an employer, which, when annualized, can reduce the amount required to be paid as wages to workers on a public works project. Fringes, in combination with the required basic hourly rate, make up the prevailing wage rate of pay.

Examples:

- Health, dental, vision insurance
- Pension/retirement contributions
- Vacation/holiday plans
- Supplemental unemployment plans
- State-approved apprenticeship [training contributions](#)

These must be **bona fide**, **irrevocable**, and **paid to a third party** not less than quarterly.

What Does **Not** Count as a Fringe Benefit?

The following **cannot** be used for fringe credit:

- Mandated payments (Social Security, UI, Workers' Compensation)
- State mandated sick leave (required by law, not a bona fide plan)
- Reimbursements (mileage, per diem, tools, equipment)
- Administrative costs that benefit the employer, not the worker

On public works projects, fringes must be paid for **all hours worked**, including overtime.

Annualization (Quick Refresher)

As discussed in our last [Training Camp article](#):

Annualization means converting annual or monthly benefit costs into an **hourly rate** based on **all hours worked** annually, not just public works hours, as codified in both the federal and state prevailing wage regulations.

Fringe Benefit Checklist

1. Determine Eligibility

- Are benefit contributions **irrevocable** and paid to a **third-party trustee**?
- Do they meet DOL definitions of "bona fide" (health, pension, vacation, etc.)?

2. Remove Non-Creditable Items

- Exclude any **statutory** payments (SS, UI, WC)
- Exclude **mandated sick leave**
- Exclude **reimbursements** and **non-qualifying admin costs**

3. Annualize Correctly

- Total benefit cost ÷ **all hours worked** (public + private) = hourly fringe credit
- Must be calculated by worker reflecting their specific hours
- Benefit amounts must be re-calculated should benefit eligibility or employer contribution amounts change

4. Documentation

Keep:

- Plan documents
- Contribution receipts
- Annualization worksheets
- Hourly fringe credit calculations
- Private + public hours

Final Whistle

Understanding how fringe benefits can be provided, tracked, and credited is essential for staying compliant on prevailing wage projects. By understanding the rules and applying them consistently, contractors can approach every public works project with confidence.

ONLY 15 Spots Available for Construction Project Management Certificate Program

As the global construction boom continues, the demand for skilled, forward-thinking construction managers is stronger than ever. Position yourself for success by enrolling in the **2026 AGC San Diego Construction Project Management Certificate Program**, a proven pathway for advancing careers in the construction industry.

Designed for early-career project managers and professionals eager to step into leadership roles, this 26-week program spans an entire calendar year and delivers a comprehensive foundation in project management principles. Under the guidance of *Paul Stout of Power Summit*, one of the industry's most respected trainers, you'll gain practical expertise in critical areas such as:

- Project Planning
- Project Scheduling
- Construction Management Best Practices



Now in its 21st year, the program has a strong track record of helping graduates earn promotions, raises, and new opportunities. By the end of the program, you'll leave equipped with the strategies, confidence, and credentials to manage construction projects from groundbreaking to completion.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

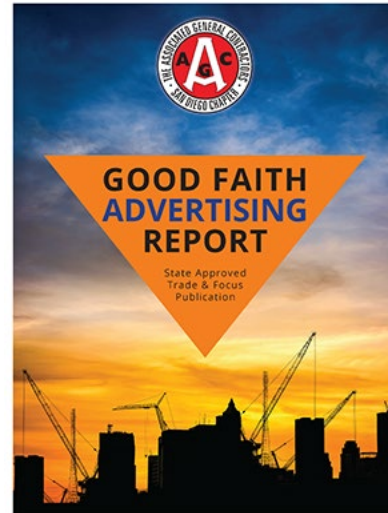
New Advertising Options Coming to Good Faith Report

By Lisa Lovelace, Director of Plan Room Services

The AGC Online Plan Room is pleased to announce that starting February 1, 2026, the **Good Faith Report** will be updated with expanded advertising options as we introduce new ways to showcase your projects, including a half-page vertical ad and a two-page spread for any advertised project.

The Plan Room continues to offer exclusive benefits to our AGC San Diego members, namely that they receive a 25% discount off all listed rates and the ability to run ads indefinitely. For non-AGC members, ads are published for eight consecutive weeks for a single flat rate; if additional time is needed, a \$25 publishing fee will apply per ad.

For more information, please contact Lisa Lovelace, Director of Plan Room Services at llovelace@agcsd.org or call 619-592-4537.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The AGC Board of Directors and the AGC staff would like to welcome the following new members to the AGC San Diego Chapter:

[Safewaze](#)

[Merchants Bonding Company](#)

[All Source Company Building Group](#)

AGC's Motto: *It's Good Business to do Business with AGC Members.*

GIVING BACK

Last Chance to Help After-School Program Starting in February!

Build San Diego Foundation is continuing to raise funds for the 2026 after-school **Building Tomorrow Program**, in collaboration with AGC San Diego Workforce Development Committee.

All interested industry volunteers and sponsors can support this educational and community-building initiative this month as we raise \$10K to facilitate four club blocks during 2026. Your involvement helps inspire future builders while strengthening the construction workforce pipeline.

Building Tomorrow is a 10-day, one-hour “club block” designed for students in grades 1-5. Through engaging and age-appropriate activities, students will be introduced to construction industry career pathways, including skilled trades and construction management roles. The program culminates in a collaborative, hands-on group project that encourages teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving.

Reach out to Executive Director Ilka De León for more details or to sign up to volunteer at ideleon@buildsandiego.com. We've got about one week before we're teaching kiddos construction so get involved by January 30 to make it count!

There are still opportunities to pay for lumber, paint, fasteners/screws, tools, glue, tool belts, hard hats, safety gloves, or tape measurers! Let your name be what grades 1-5 associate with construction!

Support Build San Diego Foundation's 2026 educational outreach with a tax-deductible donation to our 501(c)(3)!

[Get involved today by making a donation to support the after-school program!](#)

BUILD San Diego FOUNDATION **ANNOUNCEMENT**

2026 Activities Underway

Educational Outreach
Our BUILDING TOMORROW project is launching and we couldn't be more excited!

Hiring Fair
If your company is actively recruiting for new employees to fill apprenticeship or skilled and ready positions contact us to learn more about how we can help.

Fundraising
Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 to support 4 - 10 day club sessions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Our BUILDING TOMORROW educational outreach needs your help! We need the following support to achieve our goal or creating a school bench with the 1st -5th graders in the Leaders of Tomorrow program at their Jonas Salk Elementary School site:

- Individuals savvy in the areas of Paint, Lumber, HR, Cement Masonry, and Construction Management to lead a 1hr club section week 1 or assist with the "build" of parts Week 2.
- Sponsors who would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the procurement of items to support the project build some of which will be branded:

- * Safety Glasses * Toolbelts * Paint * Wood Glue * Gloves * Tools
- * Tape Measures * Fasteners and bolts and more!

We want to thank the AGC SD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE for their support to bring this concept to fruition.



2026

- January 20 - [Installation Dinner & Member Awards](#) - Hilton San Diego/Del Mar - **SOLD OUT**
- February 5-8 - [Winter Conference](#) - Big Sky Montage - **SOLD OUT**
- February 12 - [Meet Your GC with Dempsey Construction](#) - Dempsey HQ

COMMITTEES/COUNCILS MEETINGS

Your New Year's Resolution.....Join a Committee in 2026

- Jan. 22 - **Specialty Contractors' Council** - 11:30 AM - AGC HQ - Lakeside
- Jan. 29 - **Meetings & Events** - NOON - AGC HQ - Lakeside
- Feb. 4 - **Safety Committee** - 7:00 AM - AGC HQ - Lakeside

[Join now!](#)

Committee Meeting Calendar

Get Involved - Join a Committee

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

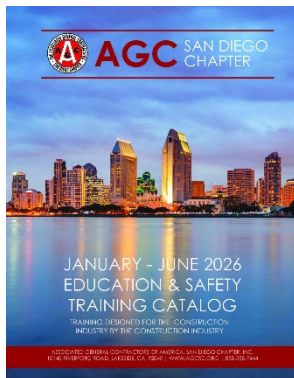
FREE CMMC Training for AGC San Diego Members January 28!

Cybersecurity compliance is quickly becoming a gatekeeper for federal construction work, and many contractors are still unclear on what CMMC and DFARS actually require. On **January 28**, the **AGC Technology Committee** will host **CMMC Compliance & Risk Management: Protecting Contractors in the Federal Supply Chain**, a practical, contractor-focused session presented by *Hoop5 Networks* and *Cavnac*.



This session will break down CMMC and DFARS requirements in plain language, explain how flow-down obligations impact subcontractors, and share what prime contractors are increasingly expecting from their partners. Attendees will gain insight into documentation requirements, SPRS scoring, common readiness gaps, and how cyber insurance intersects with compliance and shared risk. Designed for owners, executives, project managers, compliance leaders, and anyone supporting federal work, this presentation focuses on clarity, real-world expectations, and practical next steps. No scare tactics, no unnecessary technical jargon.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



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[!\[\]\(3649eaa0d5fc3e4c9695ed86476856da_img.jpg\) View the 2026 Catalog Online](#)

JANUARY TRAINING SCHEDULE

- January 20 – Excel Intermediate Training
- January 21 – QuickBooks Intermediate/ Advanced (Online version)
- January 21 – CPR/First Aid and AED Certification
- January 22 – Construction Law: New California HR Laws for 2026
- January 22 – Microsoft Project Professional: Beginning-Intermediate
- January 26 – CHATGPT & COPILOT for Microsoft 365 Introduction
- January 26 – 29 – OSHA 30 Hour Construction Outreach
- January 26 – How to Write an Effective AHA to Ensure Acceptance
- January 27 – Excel Advanced Training

January 28 – CMMC Compliance & Risk Management: Protecting Contractors in Federal Supply Chain
January 29 – MS PowerPoint Beginner/Intermediate
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January 29 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Basics
January 30 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Advanced
January 30 – February 27 - AGC EDGE Project Manager Development Program

UPCOMING - FEBRUARY TRAINING SCHEDULE

February 2 - 4 – Fall Protection 24-Hour Competent Person for EM385-1-1 & Rescue Training
February 2 - 5 - EM 385-1-1 40-Hour Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Requirements
February 2 – QuickBooks Beginner (Desktop version)
February 2 – EM 385-1-1 8-Hour Awareness & Refresher (Virtual / Zoom)
February 3 – SWPPP Seminar: Rainy Season Check-in (Virtual / Zoom)
February 3 – Excel for Beginners
February 3 & 4 – Blueprint Reading for Construction 2-Day Training
February 3 – Bluebeam for Administrative Professionals (Virtual / Zoom)
February 4 & 5 – Construction Quality Management for Contractors (CQM-C) Course (Virtual / Zoom)
February 6 – Confined Space for Entrant, Attendant, Entry Supervisor, Competent Person and Non-Entry Rescuer

[VIEW PDF LIST OF FEBRUARY CLASSES](#)

Classes are held at our **Ferris Square** location in Sorrento Valley, our **AGC Headquarters** in Lakeside, or **online**.

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January 26, 2026



INDUSTRY NEWS

Jason Mordhorst Installed as 81st President of AGC San Diego

The AGC San Diego Installation Dinner, sponsored by *Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company* and *CMR Risk & Insurance Services*, drew over 360 guests.

Jason Mordhorst, President of *Hazard Construction Engr LLC*, became the 81st President of AGC San Diego Tuesday night, its fourth Hazard president in 99 years. Previous company presidents include Roscoe E. Hazard ("Pappy") (1931), and Bruce Hazard (1947, 1961). Mordhorst succeeds Norbert Schulz of *FILANC*.



Mordhorst stated in his president's comments that his vision for 2026 would be recruiting 100 new members for 100 years, expanding AGC services (including our [sponsored trusts](#)), re-committing to workforce development through our 501(c)(3) [Build San Diego Foundation](#), updating the three-year strategic plan to ask members what AGC can do for them, and increasing industry partnerships.

Mordhorst has served on the AGC Board of Directors for seven years. During that time, he chaired the AGC Government Relations Committee, Political Action Committee (PAC), and Membership Committee. He was an original trustee of the Vacation/Sick Pay Trust and has served on the Apprenticeship Trust since 2020.

He's the current chair of the *Build San Diego Foundation* and has served as the chairman of this board for 15 years (when it was then known as the EGCA Foundation). He chaired the Caltrans/SANDAG Liaison Committee in 2015-2016 and served as the County Liaison in 2017-2018. He also chaired the City of San Diego Liaison Committee and the Airport Authority Liaison Committee.

Bill Rogers, Executive Vice President of *Hazard Construction Engr LLC*, swore him in as the new president.

[Check out our event photos on our Flickr account!](#)

Thanks also go out to our other sponsors: wine sponsor *Milwaukee Tool* and Glambot sponsor *American Business Bank*.

Over 360 Attendees at AGC San Diego Installation, Awards Program

AGC San Diego was proud to host over 360 members at our annual Installation Dinner and Member Awards at the Hilton San Diego Del Mar.



AGC's first keynote for this event, **Garry Ridge** (left), Chairman Emeritus and former CEO of *WD-40*, was hosted by our speaker sponsors, *Griffith Company* and *Hazard Construction Engr LLC*.

AGC also premiered its [annual report video](#) at this awards, announced by CEO Eddie Sprecco to close the quorum of the virtual annual meeting event and to provide a highlight reel

of the chapter's accomplishments in 2025.

As is typical of this most esteemed event, AGC San Diego installed its 2026 officers and board members as part of the Installation program.

AGC Officers installed:

Mark Dowsing, *Orion Construction Corporation*, as **Secretary/Treasurer**

Wes Wise, *Cass Arrieta*, as **Senior Vice President**

Mark Weiland, *Cox Construction Co.*, as **Vice President**

Other AGC Board Members installed:

Seth Belitsky, **Vice President of Operations**, *McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.*

Brad Kirsch, **Project Director**, *Sundt Construction, Inc.*

Mark Dowsing, **President**, *Orion Construction Corp.*

Paul Mignone, **Area Operations Manager**, *Flatiron Dragados West LLC*

Scott Massner, **Operations Manager**, *Helix Electric*

Natalie Lautner, **CFO/VP**, *Richardson Steel*

Shawn LePine, **Vice President**, *Bergelectric Corporation*

Mandy Irvine McClure, **CEO**, *Hoop5 Networks*

Rick Collette, **Project Executive**, *Swinerton Builders*

Austin Cameron, **President**, *TC Construction Company*

In addition, the following AGC members were appointed to the 2025 Executive Committee and will serve as Ex officio Members of the Board of Directors: **Mike Furby**, *Marathon Construction Corp.*, and **Jeff Turner**, *Vulcan Materials Company*.



AGC member awards were also presented to individuals and companies that were actively involved in the AGC in 2025. These awards were presented by the Specialty Contractors' Council and the Affiliate Members' Council:

- Construction Industry Excellence Award: **TC Construction Company**
- Construction Industry Professional Award: **Chris Conte** (*Alliant Insurance Services*)
- Construction Industry Leadership Award: **Jason Mordhorst** (*Hazard Construction Engr LLC*)
- Excellence in Marketing Award: **Acme Safety & Supply Corp.**
- Good Business Award: **TC Construction Company**
- Rookie of the Year: **Mellisa Andrade** (*Hoop5 Networks*)
- Affiliate of the Year (Company): **Scholefield Construction Law**
- Don McKillop Affiliate of the Year (Individual): **Michael Ales** (*Sunbelt Rentals*)
- President's Award: **Bill Haithcock** (*Casper Company*)

Right: Bill Haithcock of AGC San Diego Chapter accepts the President's Award with newly appointed AGC San Diego President **Jason Mordhorst** and our title sponsors, **Greg Wells** of *Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company* and **Kyle King** of *CMR Risk & Insurance Services*.



[Check out more photos here!](#)

Special acknowledgements were also given to our retiring boards members and committee chairs:

Retiring Board Members

Kari Kyne – *Kyne Construction*
Dr. Gita Murthy – *RORE, Inc.*
Bill Haithcock – *Casper Company*
Aaron Magdaleno – *McCarthy Building Companies*
Jeff Turner – *Vulcan Materials Company*
Mark Filanc – *FILANC (Ex-Officio in 2025)*

Retiring Committee Chairs

The retiring committee chairs were recognized for their dedication and service to the AGC:

Jason Mordhorst – *Hazard Construction Engr LLC*: Government Relations & PAC
Wes Wise – *Cass Arrieta*: Membership
Linda Quindt – *Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP*: Meetings & Events
Aaron Magdaleno – *McCarthy Building Companies*: CLC
Brad Olson – *Griffith Company*: Water Authority Liaison
Joe Buckley – *Granite Construction Company*: Caltrans/ SANDAG
Marie Helkenn Cole – *Erickson-Hall Construction*: Safety
Ben Morris – *Foley & Lardner LLP*: Build & Serve

Construction Safety Excellence Award (CSEA) Winners

Marie Helkenn Cole, *Erickson-Hall Construction*, AGC's 2025 Safety Committee Chair and Vice Chair **Justin Dempsey**, *Stacy Witbeck*, recognized the following firms for winning the AGC San Diego CSEAs in their respective categories (based upon hours worked):

Building Division

BNBuilders: 2,500,001-5,000,000 work hours

Construction Management Division

Barnhart-Reese Construction: 0-200,000 work hours
Harper Construction Company, Inc: 200,001-500,000 work hours

Specialty Division

Kyne Construction, Inc.: 0-250,000 work hours
Johnson, Finch & McClure Construction, Inc.: 250,001-500,000 work hours
Dynalectric Company: 500,001-1,000,000 work hours
Pacific Rim Mechanical: 1,000,001-2,500,000 work hours
Helix Electric, Inc.: 2,500,001-5,000,000 work hours

Vendor & Supplier Division

Brewer Crane & Rigging: 0-250,000 work hours
Hudson Safe-T-Lite Rentals: 250,001-500,000 work hours

Heavy Division

M Bar C Construction: 250,001-500,000 work hours
Condon-Johnson & Associates: 500,001-1,000,000 work hours
Sundt Construction, Inc.: 1,000,001-5,000,000 work hours

Utility Division

Orion Construction Corp.: 0-250,000 work hours

Spending More But Falling Further Behind

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

In November 2021, then-President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Since then, there has certainly been an increase in spending by all levels of government. However, it feels like, due to the high level of inflation for materials and large wage increases, we are still falling behind in maintaining the state of our infrastructure.

[According to the Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#), the increase in spending caused by the IIJA in transportation and water infrastructure is concentrated on highway projects. For example, in 2023, the overall annual public spending on water and transportation infrastructure was as follows:

- Highways - \$259 billion
- Transit - \$95 billion
- Aviation - \$50 billion
- Water Utilities - \$173 billion
- Water Res. - \$41 billion

Interestingly, the annual spending on water and transportation peaked in 2002 (if one adjusts the spending to inflation). The inflation-adjusted spending in 2002 was about \$630 billion. It dropped to about \$550 billion in 2013 and then rebounded to \$626 billion in 2023. Those figures include spending both on construction, operations, and maintenance. In the mid 1960s, the public spending on this part of the infrastructure was dominated by construction. Construction spending was twice as much as spending on operations and maintenance. That began to change in the early 2000s. It now stands at

\$355 billion in annual spending for operations/maintenance and \$271 billion on capital improvements.

The CBO also looked at the transportation and water infrastructure construction spending as a percentage of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Surprisingly the percentage was 3.0 percent in the late 1950s. It is, as of 2023, down to 2.3 percent. It is no wonder we seem to be falling behind.

Not only are we spending less on transportation and water infrastructure by inflation-adjusted dollars and as a percentage of our GDP. Inflation has had a huge impact on what a dollar of construction spending gets done today versus five years ago. According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#), materials costs have risen by 40 percent since 2020. The average hourly earnings for workers in construction have also risen by a whopping 25 percent.

At all levels of government, we seem to be still living in the year 2020. Heavy-handed regulations, particularly in this state, have been responsible, in some cases, for driving business across the state line. Meanwhile, all levels of local and state government have continued to implement laws with more fees and taxes, or in the case of the federal government, they are just printing money, making money worth less every day.

Priorities need to be revisited if we are to maintain our economy and standard of living. Infrastructure like transportation and water are basic to having a healthy and vibrant economy. We need to prioritize our spending at all levels of government, so we truly can show that we understand the role that infrastructure plays in our economy.

PLA PLAYBOOK

The Letter of Assent: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Fits into a Project Labor Agreement

By Adrianna Lopez, Director of Labor Relations

If you work on a public works project that is covered by a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), chances are you'll be asked to sign a Letter of Assent. For many contractors, this document can feel intimidating, and a bit confusing, especially if they haven't previously worked under union agreements or PLAs.

Understanding the Letter of Assent is critical. It is not just another piece of paperwork; it is the legal mechanism that binds a contractor to the terms of a PLA.

WHAT IS A LETTER OF ASSENT?

A Letter of Assent (LOA) is a short, formal agreement signed by a contractor that confirms the contractor's acceptance of the PLA applicable to a specific construction project.

The purpose of the Letter of Assent is to:

- Acknowledge the existence of the PLA
- Agree to comply with its terms and conditions
- Authorize labor unions to represent workers on the covered project
- Commit to using union hiring hall procedures (as outlined in the PLA)

WHY IS THE LETTER OF ASSENT NECESSARY?

It creates a binding agreement, standardizes wages and hiring practices, and streamlines union relations for a single project.

WHAT DOES A CONTRACTOR AGREE TO?

By signing a Letter of Assent, contractors agree to follow the wage rates, benefit contribution requirements, hiring hall procedures, and work rules outlined in the PLA.

LETTER OF ASSENT VS. CBA

Unlike a collective bargaining agreement, a Letter of Assent is project-specific, temporary, and automatically expires at project completion. Generally required to be on a company's letterhead and signed by an executive, owner or legally responsible party, this form must be submitted prior to commencing work on site.

BEST PRACTICES

Contractors should review the full PLA, understand hiring and termination language, carefully prepare payroll and on-site staff for compliance, and seek labor relations guidance (like from me!) when needed.

FINAL WHISTLE

Keep in mind that it's important to get your union and PLA obligations in order as soon as your contract is issued. By taking these steps and following the PLA terms to a tee, contractors can ensure compliance and avoid grievances and penalties. Like it or not, PLAs are here to stay, so it's my job to make sure you have the information and tools needed to make your PLA project a success.

Project Management Certificate Program Starting Soon! Sign Up Your Incoming Project Managers!

The demand for skilled, forward-thinking construction managers is at an all-time high. Position yourself for success by enrolling in the **2026 AGC San Diego Construction Project Management Certificate Program**, a proven pathway for advancing careers in the construction industry.

Time is of the essence! This class starts in two weeks!

Designed for early-career project managers and professionals, this 26-week program delivers a comprehensive foundation in project management principles.

Gain critical know-how in project planning, scheduling, and construction management best practices.



Now in its 21st year, this program gets all your folks speaking the same language on the job site in short order. Don't believe us? Here's [what our recent grads have to say](#):

"I'm walking away with more confidence, stronger tools, and genuine excitement to take on the responsibilities of a Project Manager role." - *Anna Pop, T.B. Penick & Sons, 2025 Grad*

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

2026 'Best In Education' Finalist - Vote and Support the AGC Apprenticeship Program

The AGC Apprenticeship Program has been named a finalist for the "Best in Education" award by the *East County Chamber of Commerce*. This recognition reflects the dedication, collaboration, and commitment of our entire community.

By casting your [vote](#) for AGC Apprenticeship, you are helping shine a spotlight on the collective work we do to prepare the next generation of skilled professionals and leaders.

Your vote is more than a show of support—it's a vote for workforce development, educational excellence, and the future success of our apprentices. Let's come together to demonstrate the power and impact of our community.

Please be sure to [vote](#) by **next Sunday, February 8, 2026**.



GIVING BACK

**Support After-School Kids
Construction Program
Starting in February!**

The 2026 after-school **Building Tomorrow Program**, in collaboration with AGC San Diego Workforce Development Committee, is about to kick off this coming month, February.

All interested industry volunteers and sponsors can support this educational and community-building initiative this month as we raise \$10K to facilitate four club blocks during 2026.

Building Tomorrow is a 10-day, one-hour “club block” designed for students in grades 1-5. Through engaging and age-appropriate activities, students will be introduced to construction industry career pathways, including skilled trades and construction management roles. The program culminates in a collaborative, hands-on group project that encourages teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving.

Reach out to Executive Director Ilka De León for more details or to sign up to volunteer at ideleon@buildsandiego.com. We've got about one week before we're teaching kiddos construction so **get involved by January 30** to make it count!

There are still opportunities to pay for lumber, paint, fasteners/screws, tools, glue, tool belts, hard hats, safety gloves, or tape measurers! Let your name be what grades 1-5 associate with construction! [Donate here!](#)

Or, support 501(c)(3) Build San Diego Foundation's 2026 educational outreach with a [general tax-deductible donation!](#)

BUILD San Diego FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENT



2026 Activities Underway

Educational Outreach
Our BUILDING TOMORROW project is launching and we couldn't be more excited!

Hiring Fair
If your company is actively recruiting for new employees to fill apprenticeship or skilled and ready positions contact us to learn more about how we can help.

Fundraising
Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 to support 4 - 10 day club sessions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our BUILDING TOMORROW educational outreach needs your help! We need the following support to achieve our goal or creating a school bench with the 1st - 5th graders in the Leaders of Tomorrow program at their Jonas Salk Elementary School site:

- Individuals savvy in the areas of Paint, Lumber, HR, Cement Masonry, and Construction Management to lead a 1hr club section week 1 or assist with the "build" of parts Week 2.

- Sponsors who would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the procurement of items to support the project build some of which will be branded:

- * Safety Glasses * Toolbelts * Paint * Wood Glue * Gloves * Tools
- * Tape Measures * Fasteners and bolts and more!

We want to thank the AGC SD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE for their support to bring this concept to fruition.



UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



2026

February 5-8 - [Winter Conference](#) - Big Sky Montage - **SOLD OUT**

February 12 - [Meet Your GC with Dempsey Construction](#) - Dempsey HQ

COMMITTEES/COUNCILS MEETINGS

Your New Year's Resolution....Join a Committee in 2026

Jan. 29 - **Meetings & Events** - NOON - AGC HQ - *Lakeside*

Feb. 4 - **Safety Committee** - 7:00 AM - AGC HQ - *Lakeside*

Feb. 11 - **Build & Serve Committee** - 8:00 AM - *Virtual*

Feb. 17 - **Water Authority Liaison** - 1:00 PM - AGC HQ - *Lakeside*

Feb. 19 - **H.R. Practices Committee** - 11:30 AM - AGC HQ - *Lakeside*

Feb. 20 - **Construction Leadership Council (CLC) Job Walk** - 2:00 PM - [Email for details](#)

Feb. 24 - **Affiliate Council** - NOON - AGC HQ - *Lakeside*

Feb. 26 - **City of San Diego** - 1:00 PM @ *City CMFE Office (9573 Chesapeake Drive)*

Feb. 27 - **Construction Technology Committee** - 11:00 AM - *Virtual*

[Join now!](#)

Committee Meeting
Calendar

Get Involved - Join a
Committee

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

Last Chance to Register for FREE CMMC Training this Wednesday!

Unsure what you need to do to comply with CMMC and DFARS actually require? Join us on **January 28** as the **AGC Technology Committee**, together with *Hoop5 Networks* and *Cavnac*, will host the **CMMC Compliance & Risk Management: Protecting Contractors in the Federal Supply Chain**.

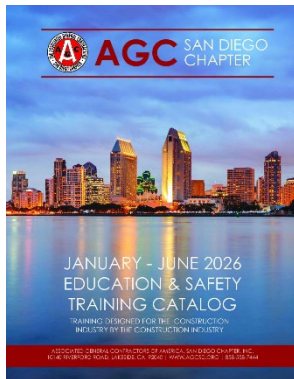


This practical, contractor-focused session will break down CMMC and DFARS requirements in plain language, explain how flow-down obligations impact subcontractors, and share what prime contractors are increasingly expecting from their partners.

Gain insight into documentation requirements, SPRS scoring, common readiness gaps, and how cyber insurance intersects with compliance and shared risk.

Designed for anyone supporting federal work, this presentation focuses on clarity, real-world expectations and practical next steps. No scare tactics, no unnecessary technical jargon.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



The 2026 AGC San Diego Education & Safety Training Catalog Is Now Live!

[!\[\]\(f98cd12c867353ebaaded7ce381da3e1_img.jpg\) View the 2026 Catalog Online](#)

JANUARY TRAINING SCHEDULE

January 27 – Excel Advanced Training

January 28 – CMMC Compliance & Risk Management: Protecting Contractors in Federal Supply Chain

January 29 – MS PowerPoint Beginner/Intermediate

January 29 – Adult Mental Health First Aid Certification

ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMS

January 28 – Bluebeam Baseline Basics
January 29 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Basics
January 30 – Bluebeam REVU Takeoff & Estimates – Advanced
January 30 – February 27 - AGC EDGE Project Manager Development Program

UPCOMING - FEBRUARY TRAINING SCHEDULE

February 2 - 4 – Fall Protection 24-Hour Competent Person for EM385-1-1 & Rescue Training
February 2 – 5 - EM 385-1-1 40-Hour Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Requirements
February 2 – QuickBooks Beginner (Desktop version)
February 2 – EM 385-1-1 8-Hour Awareness & Refresher (Virtual / Zoom)
February 3 – SWPPP Seminar: Rainy Season Check-in (Virtual / Zoom)
February 3 – Excel for Beginners
February 3 & 4 – Blueprint Reading for Construction 2-Day Training
February 3 – Bluebeam for Administrative Professionals (Virtual / Zoom)
February 4 & 5 – Construction Quality Management for Contractors(CQM-C) Course (Virtual) - **3 seats open**
February 6 – Confined Space for Entrant, Attendant, Entry Supervisor, Competent Person and Non-Entry Rescuer

[VIEW PDF LIST OF FEBRUARY CLASSES](#)

Classes are held at our **Ferris Square** location in Sorrento Valley, our **AGC Headquarters** in Lakeside, or **online**.

PLAN ROOM



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FIND US



AGC East County Facility & Apprenticeship Training Center

10140 Riverford Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
(858) 558-7444

[DIRECTIONS](#)

AGC Government Affairs Office & Fall Protection Training Campus

6212 Ferris Square
San Diego, CA 92121
2nd floor

[DIRECTIONS](#)

About Monday Morning Quarterback

AGC San Diego Chapter's Monday Morning Quarterback is a "hot off the press" and to the point Monday morning briefing on the important issues facing San Diego's construction industry. It is prepared by AGC Chief Executive Officer, Eddie Sprecco, and Vice President Government & Industry Relations, Dustin Steiner.

Please contact [Eddie Sprecco](#) or [Dustin Steiner](#) with your comments, or with information that should be conveyed to the industry through this service. Well over 3,000 individuals employed by AGC member firms are part of this system.

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