

MARCH 2024

March 4, 2024

March 11, 2024

March 18, 2024

March 25, 2024

March 4, 2024



INDUSTRY NEWS

Meet me in Sacramento

By Dustin Steiner, Vice President Government & Industry Relations

Singer/songwriter James Taylor reportedly once told a crowd "I can't thank you enough for showing up. It's not the same without you." It is in that spirit that I invite you to our biannual Joint AGC Legislative Committee on March 15 at Unger Construction in Sacramento from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided, and the midday meeting allows you to fly in and out on the same day. I'm on the 7:30 a.m. flight out of San Diego myself!

As a bit of a refresher, the Joint Legislative Committee is a shared body between members of AGC California and AGC San Diego. Our two AGC chapters share the same voice in the Capital with the APEX Group as our Legislative Advocates. We typically come together in early March to review legislation and take formal positions on bills as they begin to accelerate through the legislative process.

If there is legislation that you are tracking, please let me know so I can share it with the Sacramento team. Due to the breakout sessions and other constraints, there will not be a virtual option.

Please register here: https://web.agc-ca.org/events/Joint-Legislative-Committee-Meeting-3-15-24-11740/details

I am also pleased to announce that registration is now open for our **Joint Legislative Summit** in May! This is *your* opportunity to meet with our state legislators, mingle with AGC Cal members, and hear from our legislative advocates.

Book your flight for **Tuesday, May 7**, and join us for a reception that evening with proinfrastructure elected officials. On Wednesday, join us for breakfast and a day packed with Capitol meetings and legislative office visits. We will end the day with a tour of the Assembly or Senate Floor. You do not want to miss it! Please <u>contact me</u> and I will register for you. The registration link on the website includes an *AGC Cal* PAC dinner. If you have a PAC check burning a hole in your pocket, I would be happy to take it off your hands!

For details including a schedule, click here: https://www.agc-ca.org/sites/legislative-day-2024/

Oh, and if you haven't voted yet...tomorrow is **Election Day!** Check the AGC voter guide here.

I look forward to seeing you in Sacramento!

Construction Hiring Better Than Most Industries

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

Lately, public agency officials have been wondering out loud about whether or not the construction industry has the capacity to meet the present demand for infrastructure projects. There have been reports of contractors having to import workers from the Los Angeles and Inland Empire to keep projects on schedule. We know that the unions are working hard to bring in more workers here in San Diego, but in some cases, the demand for workers is exceeding the supply. All contractors have been wrestling with worker shortages, from craft workers to project managers and engineers. So, what is the story on industry capacity?

AGC America put out the results of a survey of contractors last month entitled the 2024 Construction Hiring and Business Outlook. One telling point in California and around the country is that a super majority of contractors expect to increase their firm's headcount in 2024. Most of them also said they expect it to be as tough or tougher to find qualified candidates in 2024 as compared to 2023. That matches what we are hearing anecdotally in the San Diego region as the work being put out by agencies and the private sector continues to surge.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) regularly puts out job numbers that we are tracking. There have been some jaw-dropping statistics as of late. It is not only construction that is having difficulty finding qualified workers, it is across the board.

In December of 2022, the number of job openings across the country, across all industries and government, stood at 11.2 million openings. In that same month, there were only 6.3 million jobs filled. Not quite half of the total job openings were filled. The government fared a little worse than the private sector. Also in December of 2022, the government had 1.1 million job openings but only filled 440,000 of the positions. It looks like they had 60 percent of their jobs vacant. Construction fared better than either the government or all industries combined last year. Construction had 488,000 job openings and filled 380,000 jobs in December 2022. Across the country, we were filling about three out of every four job openings.

Fast forward to December 2023, which is the latest data published by the BLS, the story is about the same. Across the country, in all industries and government, there were 9.0 million job openings. There were that month 5.6 million hires or about 60 percent of jobs open were filled. The government had 1 million job openings and filled about 400,000. Still, the

same for the government, not doing well filling positions. Construction had 449,000 jobs open around the country and filled 368,000 positions, an 82 percent rate of filling jobs. A little better than last year.

What the big picture looks like, around the country, is that for the last year, all industries have been struggling to fill open positions, which does explain a lot about prices and supply and demand. For example, the manufacturing industry is only filling fifty percent of their job openings, which has the effect of creating a supply shortage which usually raises prices.

The government has only been filling 40 percent of its openings and is still open, which begs the question, why don't they just eliminate the positions and save the taxpayers some money?

The BLS has also recently released statistics on total job growth over the last few years in the construction industry. The construction industry is growing in California and the San Diego region. The number of jobs would probably be larger if the workers were out there. So, no we have not hit an industry capacity point.

We are on a plateau, going up a little slower than the amount of project work being put out to bid by agencies' demands. Contractors are picking and choosing what projects they want to bid on and what owners they want to work with, because of all the backlog of work they have and the fact that some key subs may be overbooked at this point. These factors seem to be having an upward pressure on bid prices. We are also seeing some new contractors from other areas trying to enter the market in this region.

JOIN US - 2024 Reception Honoring Thomas L. Brown, Incoming AGC National President

The happiest hour is HAPPY HOUR at the AGC National Convention. Join us to celebrate the incoming 2024 AGC National President **Thomas L. Brown** of *Sierra Pacific West, Inc.* on **Thursday, March 21** at the **Marriott Marquis,** San Diego Marina - **5-7 P.M.**

AGC San Diego will host a reception honoring Thomas Brown for his continued service to the San Diego construction industry, our Chapter, and the nation's construction opportunities.

The reception will be held in the Marina Ballroom at the south tower of the Marriott Marquis, with hosted cocktails, street tacos, and appetizers.



Come and enjoy the **beach vibe theme** and have a craft beer (or two) on us! It's bound to be a good time! (You do not need to be registered for the Convention to attend this reception).

This event is an opportunity for the industry to hear from President Brown as we celebrate his accomplishments and vision for the future of the AGC.

Thomas L. Brown has served on the national board of AGC of America for over 12 years, becoming a life governor. He served as an AGC San Diego President in 2006 and has been a distinguished recipient of the prestigious AGC SIR Award for his dedication to the construction industry and, as the acronym suggests, standing for "Skill, Integrity, and Responsibility." Tom served on the National Political Action Committee and is currently chairman of the San Diego Apprenticeship and Training Trust board.

All AGC members are invited to attend this rare occasion. Attendance is free, but you will need to register first. Space is limited to 300 attendees; it's sure to be a don't-miss event!

DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2024

LOCATION: Marriott Marquis - San Diego Marina Ballroom

TIME: 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. **ATTIRE:** Business Casual

FLYER

Additionally, if you would like to attend the accompanying Installation luncheon honoring Mr. Thomas L. Brown on Friday, March 22, RSVP here.



Boy Scouts Lunch-O-Ree - Sponsorship Opportunities

Join us on **May 16** at **Paradise Point Resort** as we honor one of our very own for the 17th Annual Construction and Building Industry Lunch-O-Ree, hosted by the San Diego-Imperial Council Boy Scouts

of America! This year's honoree is none other than **Mike Furby**, the **Good Scout of the Year**, and President of **Marathon Construction Corporation** and **Lakeside Land Company**. This event continues to raise money for Boy Scouts of America to build facilities.

Even if you cannot attend, there are still opportunities to support the Boys Scouts.

Donations for this event can help them achieve their goal. Besides the different levels of sponsorship to choose from, there is also the option of just running an ad. <u>Click here</u> to view examples of ads from last year's brochure.

Ads are great opportunities to showcase your company. In doing so, you also play a part in helping create new young leaders through the Boy Scout program, leaders with a good moral compass and strong core values, with the confidence and fortitude to succeed and be of service to others.

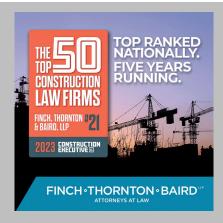
Please <u>click here</u> for details on the event and the different donation options, including advertising. <u>EVENT FORM</u>

If you can attend, the luncheon honoring Furby, a strong advocate of the Boy Scouts, starts with a reception at 11:30 AM. The program begins at noon and features keynote speaker

Keni Thomas. Thomas served as a United States Army Range deployed in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and the Battle of Mogadishu. He was most notably a survivor in what would be memorialized in the book and film, "Black Hawk Down." Keni was recognized by the President of the United States and Congress for his service and was awarded the American Patriot Award for his dedicated work on behalf of veterans and their families. He is now a country music singer-songwriter.

Questions? Contact Joe Garcia at Joseph.Garcia@scouting.org.







GIVING BACK



Computers 2 Kids' Electronics Distribution

By Soula Wynne, Senior Project Administrator, Sundt Construction

Last fall, the *AGC Build & Serve Committee* partnered with *Computer 2 Kids* (C2K) for its free electronics recycling drive. This was a great time to clean out junk drawers and closets of miscellaneous cords, mice, cellphones, computers, iPads, monitors, TVs, DVD/VCRs, and keyboards that were taking up valuable space in our homes. The items donated did not have to work, and by participating in this event, AGC members helped C2K connect children to computers at a very minimal cost to their families. I must admit, I was a little skeptical at how recycling my cords and broken electronics would help connect a child to a laptop.

On February 10, eight of my **Sundt co-workers** and I volunteered for C2K's school computer distribution event, and we saw firsthand the fruits of the electronics recycling campaign. C2K has a team of volunteers that rebuild old laptops, monitors, and towers with the latest software by using working computer components and/or monies earned from the electronics recycling drive. C2K builds top-notch computers for school children at a low cost to connect families to these refurbished computers and runs a very efficient distribution event.

The computer distribution drive-through was a success, serving **280 families** with **452 systems distributed.** C2K coordinates a distribution event 11 times a year in various parts of San Diego County. Sundt will be recycling its electronics and volunteering for future distributions with C2K.

For more information on volunteering with C2K, please reach out to Twyla Perry at tperry@2sdk.org or AGC staff member Marcy Knopman at marcy@agcsd.org.

Interested in joining the Build & Serve Committee? Contact Marcy Knopman.



Volunteers Needed - Saturday, April 20 Senior Smoke Alarm Project - Oceanside

The AGC Build & Serve Charitable Alliance has partnered again with the Burn Institute to install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at a senior mobile home park in Oceanside,

Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

We are looking for 8-10 volunteers interested in helping the senior community.

There will be a brief training and light refreshments at 9:30 AM, then installation at 10:00 AM as you work in teams. What a great way to spend a few hours on a Saturday making a difference to seniors, plus feel good about your efforts! This would also make a good community project for a parent to work together with their teenager while instilling the importance of giving back.

FLYER

Contact Marcy Knopman if interested and for more details (619) 592-4527.





2024

March 19-22, 2024 - AGC Convention - San Diego - Marriott Marquis Marina

March 21, 2024 - Reception Honoring Thomas L. Brown (as part of Convention) - Marriott Marquis Marina

April 11, 2024 - AGC Seaside Mixer - Tom Ham's Lighthouse
May 16, 2024 - Boy Scouts Lunch-O-Ree honoring Mike Furby - Paradise Point Resort

May 21 - Specialty Contractors Council - Meet Your GC/Cornhole Tournament - AGC HQ Lakeside

June 6, 2024 - Baseball Bash - Padres vs. Diamondbacks - Petco Park

June 24, 2024 - AGC/EGCC Spring Golf - Steele Canyon

July 8-12, 2024 - AGC Blood Drive - AGC Member Hosts
July 26, 2024 - Day at the Races - Del Mar Racetrack
August 9, 2024 - Affiliate Day Golf - Singing Hills Golf Resort - Sycuan
September TBD - Public Agency Showcase - San Diego Yacht Club
October 7, 2024 - AGC Fall Golf - Country Club of Rancho Bernardo
October 17, 2024 - CLC Car Show & Mixer - AGC HQ Lakeside
December 14, 2024 - Holiday Dinner Dance - Hotel Del Coronado

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETINGS

MARCH MEETINGS

March 6 - Safety Committee @ 7:00 a.m. - Lakeside March 8 - Caltrans/SANDAG @ 7:30 a.m. - Caltrans office

March 13 - County Liaison Committee - 1:00 p.m. - County Operations Center

March 15 - Technology Committee - 11:00 a.m. - Virtual

March 26 - Specialty Contractors Council - 11:30 a.m - Lakeside

March 28 - City of San Diego - 1:00 p.m. - City office

Committee Meeting
Calendar

<u>Get Involved - Join a</u> <u>Committee</u>

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

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

AGC Fall Protection Campus

6212 Ferris Square San Diego 92121

March 11 Qualified Rigger & Signal Person

March 11 Fall Protection CP Refresher Training

March 11 Confined Space 8-Hour CPT
March 11 Frame Scaffold CPT (3 seats open)
March 12 - 14 Confined Space 24-Hour CPT

March 18 - 20 Fall Protection 24-Hour CPT for EM 381-1-1 (10 Seats Open)

March 27 Fall Protection 8-Hour CPT

Technology/Software Training

March 5	Microsoft EXCEL Beginner
March 6	Microsoft WORD Beginner
March 7	Beginning QUICKBOOKS (Desktop Version)
March 11	Intermediate / Advanced QUICKBOOKS (Desktop Version)
March 12	Microsoft EXCEL Intermediate
March 13	Microsoft WORD Intermediate
March 14	Microsoft ACCESS Queries
March 18	Beginning QUICKBOOKS (Online Version)
March 19	Microsoft EXCEL Advanced
March 20	Microsoft WORD Advanced
March 21	Computer Basics (4-hour Training)
March 21	Microsoft OUTLOOK Beginner (4-hour Training)
March 25	Intermediate / Advanced QUICKBOOKS (Online Version)
March 26	Microsoft POWERPOINT Beginner / Intermediate
March 27	Microsoft EXCEL Beginner (3 seats Open)

AGCSD Lakeside Headquarters

10140 Riverford Road, Lakeside 92040

March 7 Prevailing Wage, Certified Payroll Compliance Training
March 11 Bluebeam REVU Basics Training – Hands-On (7 seats open)
March 12 Construction Law: California's Everchanging Wage and Hour Laws

March 12 & 13 QSP - Qualified SWPPP Practitioner Training March 12 - 14 QSD - Qualified SWPPP Developer Training

March 25 - 29 EM 385-1-1 40-Hour

March 28 CPR First Aid, AED Training

Online Virtual Training

March 5 Stormwater Seminar – 2022 CGP Reissuance Training

March 13 & 14 USACE CQM-C Certification (SOLD OUT!)
March 18 - 22 Construction Supervision Fundamentals

March 27 Construction Estimating Principles & Application

March 27 & 28 USACE CQM-C Certification



2024 Training Calendar and Class Registration

2024 Education & Safety Training Catalog

If you do not see a class your team needs, please contact the AGC San Diego Education Department to check the upcoming schedule, or schedule a group training session.

Becca Schaffer 619-592-4533

PLAN ROOM





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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AGC San Diego Chapter, Inc.

The **VOICE** of Construction (858) 558-7444

agcsd.org

Connect With Us









The Associated General Contractors, San Diego Chapter, Inc.

10140 Riverford Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

March 11, 2024



INDUSTRY NEWS



Three Cheers for 25 Years – Rae Passes the Baton to New Events Staff

After 25 years of commitment and dedication to the membership of AGC San Diego, our Vice President of Operations Rae Krushensky has announced that she intends to retire in March of 2025 from the events position. She'll finally be getting the rest she deserves, spending more time golfing, in Montana, or spending time with her family.

Now, AGC San Diego welcomes a new face who is well-poised for the position as a member who knows the pain of general contractors. Katie Hammock, the new Director of Meetings & Events, will support Rae as she transitions out of the position.

Katie has spent the last six years in the proposal industry, with previous member company, Herman Construction (then SES Group of Companies, then Bristol Bay Construction Holdings), and nonmember defense company, General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems. During this time, Katie served as a proposal manager and marketing director, submitting over 560 federal proposals while leading her West Coast team, and guiding, in one instance, 100 subject matter experts to a proposed solution. She also led integration and training activities for Monday.com to streamline onboarding estimating procedures.

As a catchall for project management and process improvement activities across the organization, Katie is no stranger to baptism-by-fire training and herding cats to get desired outcomes. This will surely serve her well in her event management position.

Katie is an award-winning journalist with some deep cuts in Washington, D.C. with *The Daily Caller* (yes, of **Tucker Carlson** fame), which once took her to the White House Briefing Room. She also previously worked at the *San Diego Business Journal* with a construction beat.

While filling the enormous (figurative) shoes of Rae is a big task, Katie is already on her way, learning all that she can from her, using the soft power she can amass to serve the membership in a way that is reminiscent of these great times.

Even though Katie has been entrenched in the industry, she welcomes feedback from the membership. Brighten her day or knock down her door with your questions, concerns, and high praise for our *glamorous* events!

While Rae's transition is almost a full year away, time flies (where did February go?). Rae is a permanent fixture of this amazing community here at the AGC. This makes for a great leader for Katie as we, as an organization, continue to spend time together, creating events that our members remember and enjoy for years to come.

One Week Until AGC of America Convention – In San Diego

By Eddie Sprecco, CEO

Yes, the nation's entire construction industry is soon to head west to San Diego for its annual Convention at the Marriot Marquis San Diego Marina.

As always, the <u>Convention Agenda</u> is packed with programs both useful for Chapter staff, but directly for AGC member contractors. A few highlights:

- Awards: Safety, Build America
- Division Meetings: Federal/Heavy, Building, Highway/Transportation, Utility
- Information Sessions: Negotiation of PLAs, Al, Managing Risk
- Networking: Celebrate Construction Party

What's unique about THIS year's Convention is that it is IN San Diego, allowing you and your staff to attend and see what AGC of America has to offer without the travel expense. And, this year, AGC of America has offered "late bird" pricing of **\$699 through March 15** for San Diego Chapter members to register using the promo code: **AGCSD699.** This will give you access to the entire Convention for a fraction of the price.

Also special for this year, AGC San Diego Chapter's very own **Thomas L. Brown**, *Sierra Pacific West*, is slated to become AGC of America President at this year's Convention. A great big party will be held for incoming President Brown, so don't miss out — more information in the article below.

Leaders of the construction industry locally and nationally will be all together for a great week of work and fun – don't miss out. Register today.

Primary Election Day Recap and Lookahead

By Dustin Steiner, Vice President Government & Industry Relations

And then there were two. After a relatively not-so-Super Tuesday, the top of the ticket is decided. Following a string of defeats, the last challenger standing dropped out of the Republican race, leaving voters with just what they asked for, or at least voted for, a

rematch of 2020. Locally, in San Diego, there were few surprises as incumbents and familiar faces fared well. So, what happened and why does it matter? Let's get into it!

At the state level, AGC-endorsed candidates **David Alvarez** and **Kristie Bruce-Lane** each finished first in their respective races, punching their tickets to November. Former San Diego Councilmember and radio personality, **Carl DeMaio**, also finished first capturing 43% of the vote in the six-person race. AGC Candidate **Andrew Hayes** moved into second place over the weekend. In the first drop, he trailed Democrat newcomer, **Kevin Juza**, by 3,795 votes, but has since pulled ahead by 560 votes. There are still roughly 10,000 outstanding ballots in that district, but if the trend continues and Hayes stays in that position, it will set-off an intraparty rematch in November.

Locally, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria captured just over 50% of the vote in his bid for reelection and will square off against San Diego Police officer and independent candidate Larry Turner. Henry Foster III appears to have won the special election for his boss's seat outright with 53% of the vote, avoiding a runoff later this year. Foster is a long-time Chief of Staff to former Councilmember, now Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe. His election likely reinforces the 5-4 "split" on the Council in favor of Council President Sean Elo-Rivera's leadership. Speaking of Elo-Rivera, he and fellow Councilmember Stephen Whitburn were the only two facing opposition on the ballot and both cruised to first-place finishes. Councilmembers Joe LaCava, Marni von Wilpert, and Raul Campillo ran unopposed. In what may be one of the few surprises of the season, establishment candidate Brian Maienschein currently trails fellow Democrat and political neophyte **Heather Ferbert** by nearly five points. Maienschein has the backing of Mayor Gloria, the San Diego Building Trades, and the San Diego Democratic Party, among others. Political observers will note Ferbert's race is not unlike her boss and current City Attorney Mara Elliott's eight years ago. Ferbert, like Elliott, leaned in on her credentials as Chief Deputy City Attorney, a ballot title voters seem to like. Just ask new judges, Deputy District Attorneys Brian Erickson and Valerie Summers.

Looking ahead to the fall, the County Supervisor races will be on the ballot where AGC has endorsed Supervisor **Joel Anderson** for re-election and former San Diego Mayor **Kevin Faulconer** in his bid to unseat the incumbent in D3. The **Let's Go! San Diego** Coalition has qualified a ½ cent sales tax measure to fund infrastructure in San Diego and the San Diego City Council is also considering a parcel tax for stormwater projects, as well as a one-cent sales tax to fund municipal operations. Newsom's **Proposition 1**, the \$6.4 billion plan to fund mental health treatment facilities, is currently clinging to a slight lead as California voters appear evenly split...which could be a harbinger of things to come in the fall.

If you've made it this far and still have an appetite for more, join AGC of America for a free webinar **TODAY at noon**. For more information and to register click here, <u>Display</u> event - Battle for the White House and Congress - The 2024 Elections (agc.org)

Eventually, You Run Out of Other Peoples' Money

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

Now that we have, for all practical purposes, one-party rule in San Diego and Sacramento, how are things going objectively speaking? Recently we heard one of our San Diego city council members say that "this city used to be ruled by greedy conservative businessmen, which is why this city has so many problems." Fair enough, I guess. But if you look at the facts, I am sure things are not getting better.

Let's start with homelessness. This has become the scourge of California including San Diego. There are more homeless people in California than anywhere else in the country. Recent reports show that over one-third of the homeless people in the country are in California. The ruling party has appropriated billions of dollars around the state and the problem has just gotten worse. Will this fact hurt them on election day in November?

Despite exploding homelessness, and according to the President of the United States, the economy is booming. The stock market has been soaring and unemployment is at, historically speaking, very low levels. Everybody seems to be hiring. What the ruling party is going to have a hard time explaining is why, even under their own policies and within their complete control, we have a \$68-billion deficit in the state's general fund budget and a \$220-million deficit in the City of San Diego's general fund budget. As Margaret Thatcher famously said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." I think that we are at that point in Sacramento and downtown San Diego. Will this fact, of huge deficits, that are widely reported, hurt the ruling party in November?

Our present leadership seems to think the government somehow funds itself. The fact is that the government is funded by individuals, corporations, and other entities that create jobs and payrolls, purchase equipment and materials, and generate profits that all are taxed by the government. So, it is logical for policymakers to try to create policies that stimulate the private sector economy. Instead, they burden the economy with regulations, liability, accusations of wage theft, and a sort of socialism that is hurting millions of lower-income Californians.

The large unfunded liability of the state's public employees' pension systems and the City of San Diego's pension system are train wrecks in public view. California's public pension systems are projected to be \$245 billion short of where they need to be after 2023, the largest unfunded liability in the nation, followed by Illinois with \$144 billion in unfunded liabilities, New Jersey with \$100 billion, Texas with \$88 billion, and Ohio with \$68 billion. Eventually, all the cities and counties around this state that are part of the state's pension system and who have awarded rich pensions to public employees are going to have to dip deeper and deeper into their general funds to pay for those pensions. Two cities here in this region, Escondido and Chula Vista, have gone to the voters for an increase in sales tax to pay for the pensions they have already awarded. This is just the tip of the iceberg. But will it hurt the ruling party in November?

Finally, there is out-of-control crime. According to some statistics, lately, crime is supposedly down. I think what is down is the response by the police who are short-handed and "handcuffed" by the policies of this state. For example, my car window was smashed in by a person wielding a brick doing major damage to the passenger side door. When I contacted the police, they responded that they do not roll to vandalism complaints. So, no report was made even though there was a crime committed. I don't

think anybody believes crime is down in this state or this region. But will it hurt our present leaders in the November election?

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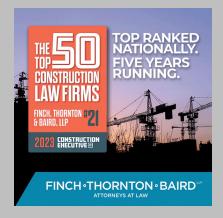
LOCATION: Marriott Marquis - San Diego Marina Ballroom

TIME: 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. **ATTIRE:** Business Casual

FLYER

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GIVING BACK



Last Call for Volunteers - Saturday, April 20

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SAN DIEGO, CA / MARCH 19-22

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December 14, 2024 - Holiday Dinner Dance - Hotel Del Coronado

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETINGS

MARCH MEETINGS

March 13 - County Liaison Committee - 1:00 p.m. - County Operations Center

March 15 - Technology Committee - 11:00 a.m. - Virtual

March 26 - Specialty Contractors Council - 11:30 a.m - Lakeside

March 28 - City of San Diego - 1:00 p.m. - City office

Committee Meeting
Calendar

<u>Get Involved - Join a</u> <u>Committee</u>

EDUCATION / SAFETY TRAINING

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

AGC Fall Protection Campus

6212 Ferris Square San Diego 92121

March 12 - 14 Confined Space 24-Hour CPT

March 18 - 20 Fall Protection 24-Hour CPT for EM 381-1-1 (10 Seats Open)

March 27 Fall Protection 8-Hour CPT

Technology/Software Training

March 12	Microsoft EXCEL Intermediate
March 13	Microsoft WORD Intermediate
March 14	Microsoft ACCESS Queries
March 18	Beginning QUICKBOOKS (Online Version)
March 19	Microsoft EXCEL Advanced
March 20	Microsoft WORD Advanced
March 21	Computer Basics (4-hour Training)
March 21	Microsoft OUTLOOK Beginner (4-hour Training)
March 25	Intermediate / Advanced QUICKBOOKS (Online Version)
March 26	Microsoft POWERPOINT Beginner / Intermediate
March 27	Microsoft EXCEL Beginner (3 seats Open)

AGCSD Lakeside Headquarters

10140 Riverford Road, Lakeside 92040

March 12	Construction Law: California's Everchanging Wage and Hour Laws
March 12 & 13	QSP - Qualified SWPPP Practitioner Training
March 12 - 14	QSD - Qualified SWPPP Developer Training
March 25 - 29	EM 385-1-1 40-Hour
March 28	CPR First Aid, AED Training

Online Virtual Training

March 13 & 14	USACE CQM-C Certification (SOLD OUT!)
March 18 - 22	Construction Supervision Fundamentals
March 27	Construction Estimating Principles & Application
March 27 & 28	USACE CQM-C Certification



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2024

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Becca Schaffer 619-592-4533

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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

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The Associated General Contractors, San Diego Chapter, Inc.

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March 18, 2024



INDUSTRY NEWS

Let's Go! San Diego – AGC Joins the Campaign

By Dustin Steiner, Vice President Government & Industry Relations

AGC San Diego joins a growing coalition in support of *Let's Go! San Diego's* November ballot measure to increase the sales tax by a ½ cent. The citizens' initiative requires a simple majority (50% +1) and promises **\$350 million** (projected) for infrastructure annually with no sunset. With the influx of federal dollars from the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), that \$350 million could be leveraged to potentially double its impact locally. If passed, this money would stay in a special dedicated county fund with oversight and disclosures to ensure it's spent as promised to the voters.

The ballot language includes a 27% carveout for "capital projects related to road and highway traffic flow and commuter safety" which includes "fire evacuation routes on SR 67...bridge safety repair and retrofits...highway maintenance, improvements, and connectivity projects on SRs 56, 76, 78, 94, 125, and Interstates 5, 8, 15, and 805." The tax would also fund transit-friendly projects such as an airport connector, and Purple Line trolley extension from South County to Kearny Mesa. Additionally, there are safety priorities such as moving the rail line off the bluffs, underground stormwater and road/grade separation improvements.

AGC SD joins business and labor groups, including **San Diego Carpenters Local 619**, **Flatiron**, **Rebuild SoCal Partnership**, **Mid-Coast Transit Constructors**, and **Laborers San Diego Local 89**.

To read the text of the measure, click here: <u>Microsoft Word - San Diego County Transportation Measure FINAL.docx (constantcontact.com)</u>

To learn more about the measure, click here: <u>Let's Go! San Diego | Traffic Relief. Transit.</u> <u>Jobs. (letsgosd.org)</u>

City Implements New Good Faith Effort Evaluation

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

A few months ago, the City of San Diego changed how it evaluates contractors' good faith efforts (GFEs) for construction projects with Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) goals. In the past, the city used a pass/fail method of evaluating good faith efforts by contractors in cases where a bid is submitted but the project SLBE goals are not met. One small error in the GFE documentation would lead to a rejection and then a finding by city staff that the bid was unresponsive. In many instances where this occurred, contractors felt the rejection of their GFE was arbitrary and non-transparent. This led to widespread criticism by contractors of the well-intentioned program.

As of this past December, we have been watching as the city has initiated a new points evaluation of contractors' GFEs. Instead of a pass/fail evaluation, a contractor now gets a certain number of points in five evaluation areas of the GFE. If the contractor gets 80 points out of 100 the GFE is approved. Here is how it works.

The first evaluation area is the level of SLBE participation that is achieved. This area is worth a total of 30 points. If you achieve 70 percent or greater participation, then you get 30 points. Then it drops to 25 points if the participation percentage is in the 60's. Then drops to 20 points if the participation percentage is in the 50s, and so on down to 10 points for participation in the 30s.

The second evaluation area is the SLBE written solicitation requirements worth 20 points. This area has a tremendous volume of documentation that requires the prime contractors to offer in their solicitations assistance such as free plans and specs, assistance with insurance, bonding, lines of credit, and help to procure materials and equipment. This area has nothing in terms of guidance to the staff on deducting points, so it appears to be an all-or-nothing 20 points.

The third evaluated area is the follow-up requirements for the SLBE solicitations. This is worth 20 points and, again, looks to become a pass/fail evaluation as there is no indication in the instructions on how any deductions would be taken. One thing wrong would mean you have deducted 20 points. Some of the past requirements for follow-up contacts have been reduced and made a little more logical.

The subcontract award summary is the next evaluation area. It too is worth 20 points. The written requirements are full of "must" and "all," so once again, a pass/fail evaluation area.

Lastly, the evaluation area of outreach assistance is worth 10 points and is also full of "all" and "must" language so it is also a pass/fail evaluation.

The GFE used to be an evaluation that if you, for example, failed to provide documentation of a solicitation to even one certified SLBE firm due to an oversight, your GFE was deemed not good enough and your bid was deemed non-responsive. In other words, it was an all-or-nothing evaluation. Therefore, most contractors either met the goal on paper or did not submit a bid.

With this process, if you are close to meeting the goal and only, for example, have some oversight in the solicitation follow-up you could still get 80 points and have your GFE approved. It is too early to tell how things will work in practice. It is a small step in the right direction. We will be keeping an eye on it.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The AGC Board of Directors and staff welcome the following new members:

BKF Engineers
California Fuels & Lubricants
CS Vertical Flight Solutions
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company
PeopleReady Skilled Trades

AGC's Motto: "It's Good Business to do Business with an AGC Member."











SAN DIEGO, CA / MARCH 19-22

2024

March 19-22, 2024 - AGC Convention - San Diego - Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina

March 21, 2024 - Reception Honoring Thomas L. Brown - Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina

April 11, 2024 - AGC Seaside Mixer - Tom Ham's Lighthouse

May 16, 2024 - Boy Scouts Lunch-O-Ree honoring Mike Furby - Paradise Point Resort

May 21 - Specialty Contractors Council - Meet Your GC/Cornhole Tournament - AGC HQ Lakeside

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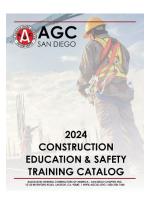
AGCSD Lakeside Headquarters 10140 Riverford Road, Lakeside 92040

March 21 Qualified Rigger & Signal Person

March 25 - 29 EM 385-1-1 40-Hour (6 seats open)
March 28 CPR First Aid, AED Training

Online Virtual Training

March 27 Construction Estimating Principles & Application
March 27 & 28 USACE CQM-C Certification



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10140 Riverford Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

March 25, 2024



INDUSTRY NEWS

AGC of America Convention Says Goodbye to San Diego By Eddie Sprecco, CEO

The AGC of America Convention wrapped up Friday, and thousands of the nation's leaders in the construction industry begrudgingly bid farewell to San Diego.

The San Diego Chapter had a busy week, including bussing chapter staff from around the country to a Workforce Development tour at our Lakeside Training Center.

On Tuesday night, the AGC Construction Education Fund Gala featured student scholarship winners from San Diego State University, while the overall Fund raised over \$1.5 million for its scholarship programs.

WATCH SDSU VIDEO FEATURED AT GALA

AGC members, meanwhile, stayed busy competing for Safety and Build Awards while mixing in learning sessions and AGC Divisional Meetings. **2024 San Diego Chapter President Gita Murthy** was featured on the Federal Division panel, alongside Captain Laurie Scott, Commanding Office at NAVFAC Southwest, to talk about partnering on federal projects.

Among the many breakout sessions, the sessions on Artificial Intelligence were much talked about, not only for use in the AGC Chapters but also for contractors as well; the advancement of this technology in a few short years is exciting and a bit unnerving.

The other hot topic was Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). While the San Diego construction industry has struggled with how to deal with PLAs for many years, much of the nation's industry is learning about the difficulties of PLAs for the first time, and they are not very happy. This, of course, is due to President Biden's Executive Order to mandate PLAs on federal projects above \$35 million, which is widely viewed as an unworkable policy. This latest EO seems to have kicked the proverbial hornets' nest; expect more political fallout and litigation now that the PLA fight has gone national.



Thursday night was a celebration as AGC San Diego hosted a party for incoming **AGC of America President Tom Brown**, Past President of our Chapter and current Chair of the Apprenticeship Trust. On Friday, over 100 San Diego Chapter members joined a packed room to see Tom Brown officially sworn in as AGC of America President.

It was a jam-packed week full of business and a bit of fun mixed in. We look forward to the 2025 Convention in Colombus, Ohio! Mark your calendars for April 2025!

AGC National Convention Apprenticeship Training Center Tour Brings Almost 50 People to HQ

Almost 50 people across 26 AGC chapters (representing almost 20 states) were bussed to our Lakeside headquarters, our state-of-the-art facility, to learn more about our workforce development and apprenticeship programs as part of the national convention activities last Tuesday.

Our AGC chapter president, **Gita Murthy**, welcomed the attendees to the office as they arrived on two of our chartered buses to learn about all the ways we are preparing the workforce for the industry on behalf of our members.

AGC Apprenticeship's **Glenn Hillegas** and **Jon Hill** walked attendees through indoor/outdoor demonstrations, while students from Montecito High School performed steel stud framing and wood framing activities. AGC SD CEO **Eddie Sprecco** gave attendees a tour of the administrative portions of the building and ushered folks in to try out our simulators.

Our partners at this event – SDSU's **Thais Alves**, Milwaukee Tool's **Justin Ross**, and CM Lab's **Joe Najjar** – provided invaluable information about how they work with us to create opportunities and solutions for general contractors. San Diego icon, Hodad's, hosted lunch, providing attendees with their local favorites, burgers and fries.

Topics covered include apprenticeship career exploration, partnerships, AGC San Diego's education/safety programs, and workforce development.

Chapter members from across the convention provided positive feedback about the impressiveness of our facility and operations.





AGC San Diego Members Take Home Top Honors at AGC of America's Annual Convention

Our member firms won **three FIRST PLACE** awards and **two SECOND PLACE** awards for Construction Safety Excellence.

This year's competition was held in 18 categories based on the type of work (building, construction management, heavy, utility infrastructure, specialty, highway, and service and supplier), and the number of work hours completed. The following firms won in the AGC San Diego local competition and went on to place in four of the national categories:

Heavy Division

Sundt Construction, Inc.: 2nd Place - Over 1 million work hours

Highway and Transportation Division

Herzog Contracting Corp.: 1st Place - Over 400,000 to 1 million work hours

Building Division

BNBuilders: 1st Place - 1 million to 2.5 million work hours

Specialty Division

Helix Electric: 2nd Place - Over 2 million work hours

A special shout out goes to the AGC's Safety Committee Chair Jerry Fredericksen, Countywide Mechanical Systems, Vice Chair Marie Helkenn-Cole, Erickson-Hall, and AGC Safety Director, Vince Hundley, SMART Safety Group for getting these safety winners to the finish line.

Congratulations to our award winners!

View Photos of the 2024 Annual Convention - Award Winners



Thomas L. Brown Installed as 2024 AGC President, Honored at National Convention Reception

Thomas L. Brown of Sierra Pacific West, Inc., is no stranger to San Diego or its construction industry. Brown was installed on March 22 at the AGC National Convention, last week, as the 2024 AGC President of the National Board of Directors of AGC of America.

Brown will preside over the governing body of the association, defining policy that governs the conduct and affairs of the association, including oversight over its officers, occupational division chairs and vice chairs,

specialty contractors council chair, service and supply council chair, executive leadership council, and nine other selected board members.

At a reception hosted by the San Diego Chapter Thursday, multiple governing officials made proclamations and provided Brown with local, county, and state honors at his reception. This reception was well-attended with over 350 people from the chapter and the industry.

Brown, a past president of AGC San Diego Chapter (2006), has been in the construction industry for 52 years. His company, Sierra Pacific West, Inc., is a general engineering contractor based out of San Diego (Vista, CA), and has completed a wide variety of projects, ranging from commercial, industrial, roadways, and schools, to military, memorials, community parks, and hospitality facilities. Brown's company has won the AGC of America General Engineering Contractor of the Year award three times, with 15-plus accolades across industry awards programs.

Brown has been known nationally for his participation for some time now, contributing as the 2023 Senior Vice President on the National Board of Directors of AGC of America, serving on the National Political Action Committee, and chairing both the Board for the San Diego Apprenticeship and Training Trust and the AGC Charities. He is a member of the Consulting Constructors Council of America (CCC) and has been a past chair for AGC of America of the Highway Division, Open Shop Committee, and Work Zone Safety Committee.

Brown is a veteran of foreign wars, having served in the U.S. Army Intel Group, 79th Combat Engineers, and with attachment to the 10th SFG in Europe. Brown is an honorary San Diego County Deputy Sheriff, and a member of the American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE), the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), the Building Industry Association (BIA), The Lincoln Club of San Diego, Women in Construction Board of Directors, and Trustee Vista School District (Vista Tech).

Brown's focus on service continues to this day, with contributions and service in high-level positions for the San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation to combat domestic violence, and also with Camp Hope. This organization provides refuge for children who

are victims of domestic abuse. He was previously involved with the San Diego International Sports Council and the North County Trade Tech High School.

He received the AGC SIR (*Skill, Integrity, Responsibility*) Award in 2011, and was recognized as a 'Good Scout of the Year' by the San Diego Imperial Council Boy Scouts of America organization in 2016 as part of their Lunch-O-Ree event.

Congratulations to Tom on his installation as the National President of AGC of America!

City Sales Tax Proposal Sees Light of Day

By Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

The San Diego City Council Rules Committee met last week to consider the idea of placing a sales tax measure on the November ballot. It was amazing how little pushback came from the public given the recent history of the city's financial decision-making and the ongoing fallout from the massive flooding last month.

Mayor Todd Gloria led off the meeting with a general proposal, followed by a more detailed justification presented by two staff members. The proposed action: The Mayor's office and Council District 7 (Raul Campillo) will work with the Independent Budget Analyst and the City Attorney's office on a fiscal, operational, and legal analysis of the proposal and report back to the Rules Committee with a framework for a ballot measure for the 2024 November election. The measure would be a 1 cent general purpose sales tax increase.

In California, charter cities must submit proposed general taxes to a majority vote of the people. Local government must secure two-thirds voter approval for any tax to be used for special purposes, even if the tax revenues are to be placed in a locality's general fund.

The staff members who made the presentation stated that the age and reliability of the infrastructure had hit "a breaking point." Blame was thrown around generously that previous administrations had historically underfunded the maintenance of the infrastructure and had not leveled with the city taxpayers about the city's real financial picture. Nine billion dollars is needed over the next five years for infrastructure alone with more needed for police, fire protection, and dealing with the homeless crisis.

The staff report pointed out that the current sales tax in the city is 7.75% tied for the lowest city sales tax among all cities in San Diego County. The city only gets 1% of the sales tax while the remainder goes to the state and the county. The city's share of the sales tax generates about \$375 million per year. A 1% increase would double the revenue for the city, generating an additional \$375 million per year. The staff also pointed out that the city's sales tax rate is at the bottom of the major cities in California. For example, Long Beach and Oakland each have a 10.25% sales tax.

It was also presented at the committee hearing that it would be a cost savings over the long run to address deferred infrastructure maintenance now. We concur with that analysis. But will this sales tax hike mean more work for contractors?

Surprisingly there was little pushback from the public during this committee hearing, even though the city has a \$170 million budget deficit in the upcoming year and structural deficits beyond that. Additionally, 101 Ash Street was brought up, but only briefly, an epic illustration of the poor financial decision-making by the city government. According to the *Union-Tribune*, the city council has agreed to take on a \$207 million debt to buy a building that cannot be occupied or used. The ongoing daily costs, including security and maintenance for a vacant building, are running at \$20,000 a day with no end in sight.









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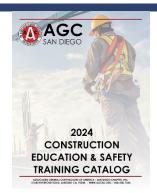
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