



Superior Focus

January 2010

Association of Environmental Professionals - Superior California Chapter
www.superioraep.org

President's Message

- by *Christy Ryan*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Save the Date!
- 3 Legislative Review Report
- 3 Membership Report
- 4 Holiday Party Pictures!
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 2010 Board Members

Welcome to 2010! I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season and are eager to begin a New Year! Last year was a great year for the AEP Superior California Chapter. I was reviewing our calendar and realized that you, our members, had a very busy year if you attended all of the AEP events. Here is just a small re-cap of our year:

- Four monthly luncheon programs touching on timely topics such as USFWS permitting, environmental analysis for solar energy projects, new wetland delineation regulations, and mitigation and monitoring challenges for wind turbine projects.
- Awarded our Annual Scholarship to California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) student Jennifer White in March.
- Participated in the 2009 Speaker Series - We partnered with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), California Sierra Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), Urban Land Institute (ULI), and US Green Building Council - Sacramento (USGBC), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the American Planning Association (APA) in the 2009 Speaker Series. Over the course of six interactive events, land use, design and planning professionals, together with social equity and environmental advocates, we discussed how our individual practices will have to change in order to create a sustainable region. AEP presented on SB 375 and how the implementation will result in a new breed of regional planning documents.
- Annual CEQA Basics Workshop in Sacramento in November.
- Annual Advanced CEQA Workshop in Redding and Sacramento in April.
- Annual NEPA Workshop in September.
- Annual State Conference in San Francisco in March.
- Monthly Stress Mitigation-our standing monthly happy hour to network with members and our new friends from Green Drinks.
- Attended various local college job fairs and Earth Day Festival in Sacramento to share our association with students and environmentally minded professionals.

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We are not successful without our members, so thank you for your continued support throughout the year. As a "people person," nothing makes me happier than meeting and getting to know our members. Secondly, I want to thank our fabulous Board of Directors for putting together yet another successful year.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, the elections are over and we've got some new faces. Please join me in welcoming three new board members: Alexandra Kleyman, Peter Masson, and Jennifer Parson. Alexandra and Peter will be coordinating our monthly programs for the next year and Jennifer Parson has bravely taken on the role of Student Liason/Scholarship Chair. You can find out a little bit more about our new board members on our website (www.superioraep.org)

Our newly energized Board of Directors met for our annual planning session on December 17th and I'll tell you that we're in for another busy year. The goal of the session was to plan events throughout the year that both pique your interest and provide you with resources that are relevant to our profession. We're kicking the year off with our Legislative Update scheduled for January 27th at the Embassy Suites. You'll find more information regarding our speakers and the program in this Newsletter. We have also made it a goal to provide more services to our members in Northern California. Lastly, I also want to remind you of the upcoming annual state conference is to be held on March 14-17, 2010 at the beautiful, contemporary Hotel Zoso, Palm Springs! Registration is now open and you can find all the information you need to register on the website (<http://califaep.org>).

Many of you have been regularly attending our Monthly Stress Mitigation and I believe we've found a great partner in the Green Drinks folks; therefore, we will continue to mingle with them the First Thursdays of the month. We'll keep you posted on the venue each month.

I look forward to serving the Superior California Chapter as President again this year. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail (CRyan@kleinfelder.com) or by telephone at (916) 366-1701. I'd be delighted to discuss what our local chapter can do to serve your needs in the coming year.

Hope to see you at a Chapter Event soon!

Save the Date!

The Superior California Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals Presents: Update on California State Legislation and Amendments to the CEQA Guidelines

Speakers Allan Lind and Curtis Alling will discuss legislation enacted in 2009 that affects CEQA and other relevant environmental laws along with pending legislation in the current session. They will also provide a summary of the CEQA Guidelines amendments adopted pursuant to SB97 related to greenhouse gas emissions.

When: Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Embassy Suites, 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento

Cost: \$20 for AEP/NAEP members and \$30 for non-members

Legislative Review Report

- by Bruce Webb, Chapter Legislative Committee Representative

The state-wide Legislative Review Committee (LRC) met by conference call on December 17, 2009. This was the first meeting following the recent state board election in which Bill Halligan, newly elected Executive VEEP assumed the chair of the LRC following former chair Gene Talmadge's election as AEP President. The LRC carries out AEP's legislative platform and conveys AEP's position on legislation, especially any changes to CEQA, to bill authors, legislative committees and special interests that seek legislative change. AEP's legislative analyst Allan Lind will continue his role with the LRC into 2010.

AEP's detailed comment letter to the Natural Resources agency on its proposed Amendments to the CEQA Guidelines for Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions figured prominently in the agency's final revised CEQA Guidelines amendments which were transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on December 31, 2009. See the final changes here: <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/>. The amendments are expected to become effective within 60 days, after the OAL files the new regulations with the Secretary of State.

The LRC learned that Office of Planning and Research staff has confirmed the Governor is likely to propose an "elimination" of OPR. Although details are uncertain at this time, the LRC directed that AEP's previous position letter (regarding opposition to) OPR or Clearinghouse elimination be retransmitted to key staff in the administration and Legislature, and identify other groups who may share AEP concerns about OPR elimination.

Allan Lind will be providing State Capital Chapter briefings on Legislative matters for interested chapters. Allan will be the featured guest for this chapter's January program. The LRC also plans to update its "Public Policy Program" document in 2010, and adopt priorities for its work program. Among other things, priorities are likely to include: the future of OPR, further interests in bridging the gap between CEQA and AB 32, and the timing of input by the State Attorney General into CEQA documents.

If you have any questions regarding this report, or any other LRC issue, please feel free to contact me.

Welcome to our New Members!

- by Lisa Raffetto

The following are new members to our Superior California Chapter:

- Pooja Nagrath, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Erin Reddy (Student member)
- Holly Upton
- Nicole Hastings, Versar, Inc.
- Ben Dines (Student member)
- Scott Eckardt, Dudek
- Jennifer Parson, Kleinfelder
- Jennifer Farrell, Tetra Tech
- Jon di Cristina, UC Davis School of Law (Student member)
- Dawn LoBaugh, HDR

Not yet a member? Join the AEP Superior California Chapter of AEP and experience the benefits of the fellowship. Please email Lisa Raffetto, Vice President of Membership, at lraffetto@kleinfelder.com or check membership information on our website by clicking here (<http://www.califaep.org/content.asp?pid=8>) to read about the benefits of membership and sign up using the form provided.

Fun, Food, and a Game of Pool

AEP's Holiday Mixer at Blue Cue

- by Scott Sjulín

Members and friends of the AEP Superior California Chapter gathered at Blue Cue in Downtown Sacramento on December 3 for an evening of good conversation, great food, and a game a pool! The Wildlife Society joined AEP for this wonderful event staged at this lively, festive venue. Over 90 guests attended, lounging in Blue Cue's relaxing atmosphere and, perhaps, sharpening their pool skills while enjoying the venue's wonderful selection of cheeses, Asian-themed appetizers, and creative cocktails. Guests collected wonderful AEP party gifts while they lasted, and commented on this wonderful event as a great way to wrap up 2009! Special thanks to all who helped coordinate and to Blue Cue for such a great venue!



The NEW\$ from your Treasurer

- by *Emily Bacchini*

It is that time of year again, when we talk about the annual Superior California Chapter budget, this year for Fiscal Year 2010. At our November board meeting we drafted a budget for the 2010 fiscal year based off of the 2009 income and expenses, changing allocations as necessary. The budget was then approved at our December board meeting.

The majority of our income comes in the form of subventions that we received from the AEP State Board (25 percent of your annual dues comes to your local chapter). In addition to subventions, we receive income from job ads placed on the chapter's website (<http://superioraep.org/>) and from money we make on programs including the CEQA workshops and other local events (lunch and social programs). We try to break even on those local events, or even go over event allocations, as we have strong reserves in place for such purposes.

Similar to last year, expenses for our local chapter of AEP for 2010 include:

- Membership outreach, primarily through the upkeep of our website
- Student outreach (student scholarships)
- CEQA workshop expenses
- Standard local programming expenses (lunch programs)
- Other programming expenses (mixers or other social programs)
- Board expenses (funds for our monthly board meetings and to cover our Chapter Director's attendance at the quarterly state board meetings)

This year we decided to increase our allocation for membership outreach - this includes events like participating at Earth Day events or supporting other local programs, like the ECOS Land Use Planning workshop we helped support in November. More than 80 percent of our budgeted expenses go towards member events, exceeding the statewide goal of 60 percent.

If you have any input or would like to review the recently approved annual budget, please contact your Superior California Chapter Treasurer Emily Bacchini at ebacchini@esassoc.com.

Monthly Stress Mitigation?

In 2010, the AEP Superior California Chapter is partnering with Green Drinks to continue our Monthly Stress Mitigation tradition. "Green Drinks maintains a casual atmosphere to hang with people that share interests and passions for the environment, sustainability, and all things green." Green Drinks meets the first Thursday of every month, from 6:00 - 8:00, in different locations in the Sacramento area. We will continue to help get the word out, but you can also check out <http://www.greendrinks.org/CA/Sacramento>, or add them as a friend on Facebook at Sacramento Green Drinks.

Congratulations to our 2010 Board Members!

Thank you to all who participated in the election of our 2010 Board - we had a record turnout! Congratulations to our new officers: Peter Masson and Alexandra Kleyman join Janet Dallas as our Programs Directors, and Jennifer Parson is our new Scholarship/Student Outreach Coordinator. Here is some information on our new Board Members.

- Peter Masson is the Northern California Environmental Lead for Parsons Brinckerhoff. Although new to the company, Mr. Masson brings with him 20 years of environmental experience from around the country, including NEPA and CERCLA work. In his position, Mr. Masson will be responsible for business development in northern California and managing major NEPA/CEQA projects. He joined AEP this summer, but has sat on the board of three NAEP chapters, including Michigan, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest. In his free time, he enjoys sailing his cutter-rigged ketch *Cetacea* on San Francisco Bay, bicycling, kayaking, backpacking, and is currently writing his third novel.
- Alexandra Kleyman graduated with a Masters Degree in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning and relocated last year to Sacramento for her current position at CDM. In her role as Environmental Planner at CDM, Ms. Kleyman has worked on a variety of NEPA/CEQA planning projects, including large-scale EIS/Rs for light rail transportation projects in Los Angeles, and CEQA assessments for water supply/dam safety projects throughout the state. She also assisted in the preparation of a grant application to the U.S. DOE for a waste to ethanol facility to be built in Indian River County, Florida. She currently is working on a sewer project that will involve many environmental permits, including, CWA 404/401 and Coastal Development Permits. Outside of work, she has been involved in the Social Networking Committee of the Young Planners Group of the Sacramento Valley APA.
- Jennifer Parson works as an Environmental Scientist and biologist at Kleinfelder, Inc. Ms. Parson has over eight years experience in the areas of water quality, aquatic bio-assessments, CEQA studies, biological surveys, and GIS data management. In her off time, she enjoys yoga, hiking, camping, skiing, scuba and abalone diving, and motorcycle riding.

And congratulations also to our returning Board Members: Christy Ryan (Chapter President), Trevor Macenski (Chapter Director), Lisa Raffetto (Membership), Emily Bacchini (Treasurer), Wendy Haydon (Secretary), Janet Dallas (Programs), and Matt Franck (Newsletter). Board contact information is on our Chapter website: <http://www.superioraep.org/board.htm>.

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