



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This message marks the end of my inaugural year as your QCC President. It's gone fast. Since my September message, I've had welcome responses from District 1 (thank you **Arlene Hartin**) and District 6 (thank you **Richard Beck**) on the project to document the leaders of the twelve Caltrans Districts. So far I have heard from Districts 1, 6, 8, and 11. That is only 1/3 of the field! But being an optimist, I'll have faith the other districts will come through soon.

In mid-November I chaired a panel of District 11 retired District Engineers **Jacob Dekema** (1955-1980), **Russ Lightcap** (1981-1983), and **Bill Dotson** (1983-1988) and present District Director **Pedro Orso-Delgado**. Unfortunately, ex-Directors **Jesus Garcla** (1988-1993), who was in Mexico, and **Gary Gallegos** (1993-2001), who was in South American on an FHWA-sponsored sojourn, were not with us. However, I expect them to be at the last of this series of presentations on December 13, 2002. The panel was, I thought, great as we discussed accomplishments, failed expectations, management styles, and related subjects. The District followed the session with a courtyard BBQ with the present District 11 deputies as servers. Everyone seemed to enjoy the proceedings.

The Southern California Auto Club has produced an interesting study of the State of California's surface transportation titled, *The Quiet Crisis – Transportation and Mobility in Southern California*. The document can be accessed at <http://www.aaa-calif.com/members/corpinfo/qc/quietcrisis.asp>. Its findings and recommendations have statewide applicability and cover five key policy issues: California's road system, the automobile, alternatives to the automobile, the planning and implementation process, and resources. The introduction states, "Many actions will be needed to solve the problems we face. Translating those policy recommendations into consensus and action will be a formidable task, but one that we believe is both achievable and essential."

Unfortunately the present condition of the State's finances clouds the prospects for addressing the "crisis." The November 26, 2002 Director's message to all Caltrans employees covers the present budget situation as follows: "Our current goal is to take measured steps in addressing the projected budget shortfalls and to lay a sound foundation in preparation for the economic up-turn that will inevitably occur in the future. . . . We must remember the Department currently has a record-level amount of work underway (after inflationary adjustments), almost \$7 billion worth. Our current level of spending is up approximately 60 percent from 1998, and the number of Department employees has risen to almost 24,000 from 16,500 in that same period of time. Our effort to address the current revenue shortfalls will require the active involvement of everyone in California's transportation community."

GEORGE GRAY, President  
QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

