



New QCC President...

“CONGRATULATIONS CHRISTINE VALLE!”

From the Corner Pocket

As my last official act as the State President of the QCC, I would like to announce the appointment of **Christine Valle** as the new State President of the QCC. Please welcome, encourage, and support her as she steps into this challenging role. In addition, **Jan Johnson** has been appointed to QCC District Director for D-3. Thanks **Christine** and **Jan** for stepping up to the plate in these trying times.

To borrow a line from the Kingston Trio (and Thomas Paine), it might be *“These are the times that try men's souls.”* Likely we all have been affected by this covid crisis. The biggest problem is the total **BAN** on friendly fellowship gatherings. The words of our constitution giving our Objective - to establish a closer bond of friendship, has taken a huge hit when QCCers cannot connect in person in any large numbers.

However, a plan to restart after the shutdown is something we can start now. Here are some ideas to get your minds working. District QCC events in a restaurant, picnic in a park, sports events, artistic outings to museums, etc. I am sure you can think of other ways to rekindle the fire to again warm the hearts and souls of our QCC comrades?

Speaking of my experience from D-11, there have been three different types of events, plus others that now and again pop up. The “Official” D-11 QCC events have been 1) a fixed fee banquet meal served in a restaurant and 2) a potluck in a park, with the QCC providing the meats, drinks, and utensils. These both typically have a hundred or so people show up, often including new people and people not seen for a while.

Also, another regular event has been 3) the R.O.M.E.O.s breakfast, *Retired Old Men (and women) Eating Out*. It is a monthly event where any number (typically 20 – 30 from a list of 100) might show up at the banquet room of a Denny's restaurant.



Fun ways to help with expenses are a 50/50 raffle by selling tickets with one half of the proceeds going to the winner of the drawing. Another big hit is when guests bring some “Delightful” donations to be put up as prizes. They are often a handicraft, artwork, a bottle of wine, or some treasure from days gone by. Each gift is then given a number and a matching small bag to collect the raffle tickets from those who might take a chance on that item.

Hopefully, this will spark your imagination to come up with greater ideas. Please send in suggestions to your own District Director, **Christine Valle**, or me.

Your future starts right now!

**Butch Biendara
QCC President**

Editor’s Note: **Butch Biendara** has been the Statewide QCC President for over 15 years. Let us all send **Butch** a heartfelt thank you for his service.

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**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
 FOUNDATION**
 By Kathy Freeman

A new Fund has recently been established to assist transportation employees in their time of need to help with losses from fire, flood, earthquakes, and whatever else the fates throw California's way: **Transportation Emergency Response Fund.**

Recipients of this Fund so far are **Anthony Patricia**, Caltrans HQ; **Doug Hunt**, Caltrans; **Robert Carpenter**, D9; **John McKnight**, D9; **Vin Cay**, City of West Sacramento. Each has received \$1500 from the Fund plus some have received additional donations from coworkers.

From all of us here at the Foundation, we wish you a happy, safe, and most importantly healthy holiday season.

History Corner
 By Arlene Hartin

This is a portion of an article published in the **Anderson Valley Advertiser:**

A Brief History of Highway 128
 By Wes Smoot on December 3, 2020

In the early days quite some time before Henry Ford or the Wright Brothers perfected their

inventions, transportation throughout this part of the country was a great task. There were many things that needed to move in and out to other parts of the county such as lumber, split products, wool, hops, grain, etc. But the roads did not make it easy to move.

In 1859 two men named Charles Cooley and Daniel Sink took on the task of building the first road from Cloverdale to Ukiah via the Mountain House Road to Hopland. This road was just barely better than a trail. It would accommodate a horse and buggy, however, if two of them would meet, one of them would have to back up to where they could pass. This road remained in use until around 1913 when the State of California and the US Government allocated money and bought right-of-way to widen the road and accommodate the increase of automobiles at that time.

On May 1, 1913, the citizens of Cloverdale put on a huge celebration for the opening of the new highway north via the Mountain House to Hopland route and other points in Northern California. That afternoon a barbecue was held at Prescott Park in Cloverdale where Bud Beaty, J.E. Helm and Jake Vassa cooked 1524 pounds of beef and 565 pounds of mutton. This celebration was the opening of the new "Redwood Highway." It is still called the Redwood Highway today. At this time the road from Cloverdale to Mountain House to Hopland became Highway 101.

In 1859 the Mountain House area was owned by a family named McDonald who had built a multi-room hotel in the area so that people traveling north and south could stay overnight and rest.

This was also where the road forked — the East Fork went north to Hopland [Highway 101] and the other fork went west through Anderson Valley and on to the coast. [future Highway 128] This part of the road got the name McDonald To The Sea Highway. It was given the number 28.

It remained Highway 28 until sometime around 1945 when the state changed it to Highway number 128. For the most part the highway from the junction of 101 to about two miles east of Yorkville is still pretty much in the same location as when it was first constructed.

There is one exception and that is just east of Mountain House where it runs down a pretty steep grade. The original road was across the canyon from where it is today.

Since then, from just east of Yorkville through to Flynn Creek and the junction of Comptche Road the highway has undergone many changes via reconstruction, widening, relocation and improvement. Today the section through Anderson Valley is a pretty good travel way while both ends are pretty crooked.

Going back to the far west end of Highway 128 at Flynn Creek. At that point the road left the valley and ran up a steep grade to the top of what was called the Navarro Grade. This was a very steep grade and in the winter it was almost impassable to travel on because it was very soft and muddy and the wagons would get stuck in the mud. It eventually came out on the coast south of Salmon Creek where it is now called the Navarro Ridge Road.

Later around 1922 or 1923 a road project was started just beyond Flynn Creek and the junction of the Comptche Road to build a road along the North Fork of the Navarro River to the junction of the main Navarro River where the Paul Dimmick State Park is located. The roadway was built on the north side of the river all the way to the mouth of the Navarro River where it would eventually join Highway 1 running north and south along the coast. This is the point where Highway 128 originates. Before this road was constructed there was a large trail down the North Fork of the Navarro to the main river and I was told by some old-timers that the trail crossed the North Fork about eight times.

That concludes the discussion of Highway 128 in Mendocino County. However, it also continues east to a small town in the Sacramento Valley named Winters. [Junction of I-505]

For the full story here is the link to the article: <https://www.theava.com/archives/141874>

[Wes Smoot is a retired D-1 Maintenance Supervisor in Boonville.]

Check the current haps at Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues

Name	District	Date
Jerry Michael	03	Nov 13, 2020
Kenny Nabeta	03	Oct 2020
Robert (Bob) Newby	05	Nov 25, 2020
Harold Eugene Avakian	06	Oct 28, 2020
Loretta Hennessy	08	Sep 30, 2020
Craig Lotze	08	Sep 06, 2020
Russ Plowman	11	Oct 14, 2020
Edward R (Dick) Kirwan	11	Nov 2020
Tim Vasquez	11	Sep 22, 2020
Joe Halterman	C	Apr 11, 2020
Sharon L Aquila	C	Nov 08, 2020

Check out the new QCC website here: <http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net>

The Haps in District 1

Even with the shutdown, things have been busy in District 1. Here are some things happening now.

Caltrans is working to improve safety conditions for anyone who rides a bike or walks along California highways.

Caltrans is asking cyclists and pedestrians alike to fill out a map-based survey, essentially directly communicating to Caltrans where exactly problem areas are.

The completed surveys will provide Caltrans with specific data which will be used to develop future projects aimed at making the highways safer for everyone.

Emergency roadwork underway in aftermath of Slater Fire. (Published by KRRCR TV)
<https://krccrtv.com/news/local/slater-fire-emergency-road-work-underway>
 by Austin Herbaugh, Dec 2, 2020

HAPPY CAMP, Calif. — Emergency road work is underway on a 15-mile stretch of Highway 96 damaged by the Slater Fire.

The massive wildfire killed two people and devastated the town of Happy Camp-- burning more than 150,000 acres across northern Siskiyou County and southern Oregon.

Now, Caltrans is making sure that Highway 96 is stable and safe to drive moving forward.

“The emergency work consists of hazard tree falling and removal, drainage improvements and then erosion control via hydroseeding at the end of the project,” said Chris Woodward, Public Information Officer for Caltrans District 2. Work will be done on a stretch of Highway 96 starting eight miles west of Seiad Valley to the area just west of Happy Camp.

“Our personnel on the project are estimating that there are about 3,000 hazard trees that need to be removed and at least a dozen drainage locations that need improvement as well,” Woodward said.

Once that work is done, crews will be working to stabilize the landscape and prevent erosion along the highway.

Roadwork started on Nov. 24 and is expected to last through the end of January 2021.

Drivers can expect 15-minute traffic delays Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ninth Circuit Clears Path for Contested Highway Project in Ancient Redwood Grove
 (Published by Courthouse News Service)
https://www.courthousenews.com/ninth-circuit-clears-path-for-contested-highway-project-in-ancient-redwood-grove/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=ninth-circuit-clears-path-for-contested-highway-project-in-ancient-redwood-grove

by Nicholas Iovino, Dec 2, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The Ninth Circuit gave California a green light Wednesday to move forward with a contested highway project through a majestic grove of ancient redwood trees, reversing a lower court ruling that halted construction pending further environmental review.

The California Department of Transportation, Caltrans, has been trying for more than a decade to alter a 1.1-mile strip of Highway 101 through Richardson Grove State Park in Humboldt County, about a 3 ½-hour drive north from San Francisco. Established in 1922, the park is home to redwood trees as old as 3,000 years old and soaring up to 300 feet and with diameters as wide as 18 feet.

The goal of the project is to let larger trucks traverse the narrow strip of highway, which threads very close to old-growth trees, without a police escort. This would allow those trucks to avoid a 227-mile detour, which took almost twice

as long before another highway between Redding and Eureka was opened to larger trucks in 2017.

Lead plaintiff Bess Bair has sued to block the project three times over the last 10 years, most recently in 2017, each time challenging the state's findings of no significant impact on old-growth redwoods. Previous litigation required Caltrans to conduct further studies.

Last year, U.S. District Judge William Alsup again sided with environmentalists opposing the construction. He found Caltrans failed to fully consider the impact of paving and construction on trees' root zones, potential tree damage from truck accidents and the effect of traffic noise on park enjoyment.

In a 22-page opinion issued Wednesday, a unanimous three-judge Ninth Circuit panel reversed that ruling.

"The district court's rationale for requiring an [environmental impact statement] was predicated on its erroneous conclusions about the project's effects on redwood tree health and possible increases in truck traffic and noise," Senior U.S. Circuit Judge Ferdinand Fernandez, a George H.W. Bush appointee, wrote for the panel.

The latest version of the project requires the removal of 38 trees, none of which are old-growth. The construction is expected to affect the root zones of 78 old-growth redwoods.

The panel found Caltrans considered the effect of paving and construction on root zones and chose to narrow road shoulders, limit new asphalt and use a special paving material that will "promote air circulation" to minimize negative impacts.

Other proposed mitigation measures include increasing road height where possible and digging by hand to avoid severing tree roots, watering trees in the summer and removing invasive plants.

Although a state parks handbook recommends that no construction take place in the structural rootzones of protected trees, the National Environmental Policy Act "does not require an agency to follow all recommendations made by commentators, other agencies, or experts," Fernandez wrote.

Addressing the finding that Caltrans did not fully assess the impact of traffic volume and noise on park visitors, the panel found the state already concluded the project would not increase truck traffic. That conclusion was based on a survey of business owners, traffic studies in nearby areas, and Caltrans' opinion that most larger trucks will keep using the straighter and faster route of Interstate 5 to reach major coastal cities.

"Caltrans' conclusion that traffic would not increase is entitled to deference," Fernandez wrote.

Turning to potential tree collisions, the panel found an assumed increase in truck accidents ignored the fact that pavement will move farther from trees in some areas while moving closer to trees in other areas.

"The district court's speculation that trees would suffer more severe damage from collisions because of the weight or shape of [larger] trucks is not supported by any evidence in the record," Fernandez wrote.

In a 2-page concurring opinion, U.S. Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw emphasized that Caltrans acknowledged during oral arguments that more environmental review may be needed if "significant new information is discovered" during the construction process.

The Bill Clinton appointee added the project could provide valuable new data on the effects of construction on old-growth redwoods. Such data could "prove important to future decisions"

related to the trees, including any decision on the pending highway project if a new environmental study becomes necessary, she wrote.

U.S. Circuit Judge Daniel Collins, a Donald Trump appointee, joined Fernandez and Wardlaw on the panel.

In an emailed statement, plaintiffs' attorney Stuart Gross, of Gross & Klein in San Francisco, said his clients are disappointed, "but it is a loss of one battle, not the war to protect Richardson Grove's ancient redwoods from this misguided project."

He said the plaintiffs are evaluating their options for further appeal but look forward to pursuing their remaining claims against Caltrans in Alsup's court regardless. One of those remaining claims is that "Caltrans violated Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, a law enacted to protect the nation's parks from exactly the type of haphazardly conceived and analyzed road projects as challenged here," Gross said.

Caltrans spokesman Myles Cochran said the agency is still reviewing the decision to determine its next steps.

- Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

Jim Ceragioli wrote that since nobody is going anywhere including me, there is not any stuff to report.

Bill Belcher says that D-2 has been self-restricting from holding meetings so we stay within current safety compliance measures for the Governor's mandates regarding the pandemic. Personally, I am tired of being inundated with all the reports about everything COVID. I am certain that we all will be relieved when the vaccine(s) become

available and these draconian attempts to "contain" the spread of this virus are discontinued. It would be really nice for people to be able to start moving about again so we can obtain more stories of everyone's exploits and travels.

That said, I sincerely hope everyone stays well and has a most wonderful Christmas! I'd like nothing more than to spend some time with the grandkids. Hopefully, we will all have a bright New Year, including a return to some sense of normalcy.

- Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

With the passing of long time QCC District Director **Dan Johnson, Sr** earlier this year, D-3 has had a vacancy. So President **Butch Biendara** reached out to **Jan Johnson** to see if she was interested in the position and she accepted.

Here is Jan's reaction, "Wow, needless to say, I have big shoes to fill. Dan had been our Director for about 14 years and did an awesome job. As long as I have the support from my board, things should run smoothly. Keeping my fingers crossed."

The following article was published in the Appeal Democrat Newspaper.

"**Jerry Michael Bland**, 80, passed away on Nov. 13, 2020 after many years of courageously battling leukemia. Jerry and Marty Mordah were married on June 23, 1961 in El Centro and moved to Yuba City where he began his 40-year career with Caltrans. Jerry and Marty raised 3 daughters in Yuba City, Lori, Lisa, and Leslee.

Due to Covid-19 concerns, there will be no formal service at this time. But we will celebrate Jerry' wonderful life at a later date. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful

servants." Psalm 116:15. While we mourn our loss, we rejoice knowing he has finally received his reward.

Just received word that **Kenny Nabeta** passed away in October 2020. His son, Vance replied to **Janet Bauer**. Kenny worked for D-3 as an engineer.

Vance also said that Ken's brother, **Ted**, and wife Audrey are in need of care. Vance has retired from his law enforcement job to care for them locally. **Ted** is also retired from Caltrans.

As with most of our Districts we have been unable to hold our Spring and Fall luncheons with the COVID restrictions. We will plan on a Spring luncheon, in hopes that this COVID has gone away.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday Season. Stay safe.

- Jan Johnson / Libby Haraughty

The Haps in District 4

Caltrans' reaction to the covid pandemic was very interesting. The following exchange regarding the impact of the pandemic might be of interest to QCC members. Some members are still working in Caltrans and will have experienced these events first hand. To others, this will be new.

Jim Davis, Chief Deputy Director of Caltrans, was guest speaker at a recent class in the MS in Transportation Management program at San Jose State University. Here is how it went.

Student 1: "COVID-19, obviously, was a big change. How did Caltrans respond? Were you able to adjust quickly respond?"

Jim Davis: "So we have a workforce of almost 22,000. And do you know how many laptops we had in March? 6,000. So we only had 6,000 laptops for workforce of 22,000. Now about 5,000 are maintenance workers and they don't need those. So right off the bat nobody was working in the office, right, everybody's home. Everybody has a computer, but most of ours were desktops. We're not taking the desktops home, they were here [in the office]. So one of the innovative and creative things that our IT department came up with was to find a way through a web portal to access from your home computer and portal in to your desktop at work. So you could do work. Everything was still on your desktop at work and your computer at home was just a portal."

"We turned that around and put that portal in place in about two weeks. So we lost about two weeks of downtime on that process. But within two weeks we were up and running. Are we, perfect? Absolutely not. I can tell you that we just put in our last order to get us up to 17,000 laptops, so that everybody will soon have a laptop, which creates a continuity of government. Now we know if we lose a building, whether it's from a flood or whatever, you know we have that redundancy, and everybody has their laptop with them. Then, you can keep working as a business."

"The other thing, just like this class is on Zoom, and who had heard of zoom before this? WebEx is the platform we use at Caltrans. I've now been to Zoom meetings, GoToMeetings, Microsoft Team meetings, Webex. They're just different platforms doing the same thing but, all of a sudden, this is our world. I have found though, and you probably see this, you put on your screen you see the Brady Bunch with everybody laid out. So you see everybody, and that's better than nothing, but you're worn out at the end of the day. Now, I think we're learning like everybody else how to use this technology and be more effective. It's not perfect by any stretch the imagination – I

think the human contact is missing.”

Student 2: “Do you think that Caltrans will ever go back to business as usual and have everybody in the office, or will you all always have the opposite, having people working from home?”

Jim Davis: “Great question. And I think we will always, from now on, have people working from home. I don't know what the right mix is and how we how we do that. I think that is something that we're going to have to work through. But one of the things is we had heard this before, that to be an employer of choice folks wanted that flexibility to work from home and not be in the office sometimes. And I think, absolutely, we're going to do that, but to what degree I don't know. When is COVID going to be done and allow us to come back? Is it six months from now, eighteen months from now, two years from now? It's really unclear. In early March we had 250 people on telework, and in the middle of March, we got up to 12,000! Boom, just like that! Now, we still have somewhere around fourteen or fifteen percent of our workforce in the office, and we have offices all the way from Eureka to San Diego and everywhere in between.”

“I come in to the office two to three days a week, and I'm home a couple days a week. We have some management in our buildings each day. But a majority of our folks are at home.”

“We do have the first line of maintenance folks and our folks that are managing construction contracts who are on the on the front line. They're out there every day, they don't get that opportunity to work from home. So we've got about 10,000 that are out in the field that don't get them. That is around 10,000 then another 10,000 are home every day, and about 2,000 or so, plus or minus, working in the office. I do see a significant portion of our workforce continue to work at home because we have made it work. We have reduced vehicle miles traveled, we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions, from a

climate change perspective. I think there are good unintended benefits from this grand experiment that I think is can make society better. Plus, you don't have to commute. there's less cost for your vehicle, you can get to your kids soccer practice, things like that.”

Student 3: “Did it take you guys a while to figure out that with reduced traffic you can fast track a lot of things on the roads?”

Jim Davis: “That's a great point. What we were able to do is, we had about 100 projects that took advantage of the thirty to forty percent reduction in the vehicles that were on the highway. Unfortunately, we've been having to do a lot of night work because the highways are all clogged with congestion, and we work at night when there are fewer vehicles out there. Well, your production rate and safety at night are significantly worse. So, when we had a reduction in all those vehicles, we were able to shift night work to day work and we could have longer work windows. So maybe where we were working from nine to three, that was your work window because you didn't want to be in rush hour in the morning or afternoon, we could open those up and get eight or ten hours out of it. That allows the contractor's operation to be much more efficient.

“We did that on about 100 projects, some of them big projects. For instance, in a little over a week's time we replaced an 800-foot section of the deck on Highway 101 in San Francisco. We also tore down a bridge that we were going to do over a series of weekends, and instead we did it over one weekend, on the I-5 in Burbank. So there were some things that we were able to do that were high profile, and able to make a big difference.

Student 4: “What about the workers out there? How did you guys work with them? My company had CDC guidelines that slowed the progression of our work down.”

Jim Davis: “We were in the same place. The safety of our workers is paramount, and making sure of their health and safety, and not losing lives to COVID. So we also looked at the CDC guidelines and the California version of them, and our own to look at how to manage this. What are we going to do? Those guidelines were changing every other day for a while. It was volatile.”

Student 4: “Yeah, like every week something new.”

Jim Davis: “Absolutely. And we adjusted and adapted, but, you know, the one thing is transportation was deemed essential. I think there were like nineteen essential functions in government and the private sector, and we were named one of those because you have got to be able to get medical supplies to hospitals, we need to get food to people, right, so transportation became of those essential functions. We had to find a way to operate and keep on maintaining the highways. As this is all going on we worked very closely with the construction industry and they recognized that there were a lot of people that didn't have jobs, but the construction industry is a job generator. If we need to keep going, keep people working and getting full pay. There was a just a huge incentive for our construction industry, and they bent over backwards to make sure that all our practices and procedures were performed in a safe manner. They talked about tailgates every day. ‘Here's what's going on. Here are the procedures that have changed. This is how we're going to change our operations.’

“So we worked really closely with them and we required them to submit plans to address all the CDC guidelines.”

These are certainly interesting times!

- Nigel Blampied

Check out the new QCC website here:
<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net>

The Haps in District 5

Happy Holidays! Hope you and your family are staying safe and well.

Not being out and about, I have little in the way of news. I would like to share an on-line discussion which may interest folks who worked at the District Office.

I belong to a Facebook group “You grew up in SLO if you remember...” Recently, someone posted a photo of the original office building at 20 Higuera, which later became the R/W building. The exterior is mainly brick with a tile roof, and it’s in a lovely setting. It has a historical designation now, and it was never retrofitted. No one has worked in it for several years.

The person who posted didn’t know the history and asked what it had been. Several people responded, and I was pleasantly surprised at the number who said “my dad/uncle/husband used to work there”. The grandson of the building’s architect, **Hardie Phillip**, also commented.

I’m going to list the last names of these folks and hope they will bring back memories:

Bishop, Burmeister, Currier, Cross, Deale, Duke, Foxe, Garing, Graves, Hanto, Long, McAllister, Paivine, Robertson, Rogers, Ross, Thompson, West.

Our long-time gardener **Tito Racho** was also mentioned; he kept the grounds beautifully, including the roses in front of the building.

On a sadder note, **Robert “Bob” Newby** passed away on November 25. He was preceded in death by his wife Carol.

- Kathleen Copeland

Check the current haps at Caltrans at
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

The Haps in District 6

District 6 wishes everyone a Merry Christmas in spite of the Covid. Not much activity to report.

Sadly, here is a notice of a Caltrans retiree that recently passed away.

Harold Eugene Avakian went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, in Fresno, CA. (Original article from Farewell Funeral Service – Palm Bluffs)

Hal was born on March 9, 1934 in Fresno, CA to parents Beecher and Beatrice Avakian and grew



up with his younger sister Donna Robinson. His

friends and family knew him as Sonny or **Hal**. He attended Fresno High School and went on to receive a Civil Engineering degree

at Fresno State. He was a dedicated employee at Caltrans for over 39 years.

Hal had a love for coaching the kids in the community as well as the kids at his church, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. He loved making a difference in the lives of the youth and thrived in coaching. If he wasn't coaching, you could find him cheering on his beloved Fresno State Bulldogs.

Hal loved to travel to his family home in South Lake Tahoe and spend his time fixing up his house and skiing with his family. He also loved the yearly family vacation to Santa Cruz to spend time playing backgammon and being surrounded by his extended Armenian family.

Hal spent his entire life attending Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. He served on many committees and was very involved in the Men's Forum and of course cooking the best Shish Kabab at any of the church luncheons and dinners.

He leaves behind his wife Sandra Avakian and two daughters Heather Buman and husband Jesse and Amanda Sullivan and husband Kerry and their two kids Connor and Kelsey.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to [Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church](http://www.pilgrimarmenianchurch.org), 3673 N. First Street, Fresno, CA 93726, in care of Christian Education Projects.

Virgle Ray: Knew him well. Did not realize his church involvement. Another star added to our heaven. So sorry for his family.

From **Steve Mason:** Thanks **Terry**. Sorry to hear about **Hal**. He was a great friend to us in Maintenance.

From Terry Littleton: **Hal** was the driving force behind all the great Christmas luncheons that we cooked at Pilgrim Armenian Church, along with **Carolyn Landy**, **Abe Paregian**, and so many others.

- Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

District 7 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

Check out the QCC website here:

<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net>

The Haps in District 8

Where has the time gone? Another quarter has come and gone and we are still dealing with the Covid 19 this last month of the year, December. Yours truly is still healthy and I hope all of you are also. This is a horrible thing that has attacked our country and I just hope a vaccine will be under testing and out very soon for all of us in the New Year.

We had scheduled a Christmas luncheon this month but had to cancel it. I talked to Kay's husband, Ignacio, and they have meals to go and also have Patio Dining at Hannah's Restaurant at 1355 E. Highland Avenue in San Bernardino. Please support them at this time of the year and in the future. Their telephone number is 909-883-2242.

Dear members!

As you may have anticipated – we unfortunately cannot hold our traditional Xmas luncheon on 12/12/20! No indoor dining, no gatherings outside our family "pods"... So **Marsha** will just mail the dues renewal notice soon. I hope you will continue your membership – and hopefully we can all meet again 7/10/21 for our summer luncheon!

But hope for effective vaccines is on the horizon! And we all can count our blessings that we have a roof over our heads, food, and the means to live comfortably!

If you know of anyone who does not – please tell them to call 211 or go to <https://www.211.org/> – the nationwide human help number and website portal – whether they need help with rent, food, etc. And also if you want to volunteer or donate!

When enough people have been vaccinated—maybe our QCC chapter could work with other CT organizations to have a large party for all those who retired/left D8 without being able to have a party – and their friends! And to honor those who passed during the epidemic without a celebration of their life...

If you are interested in helping with such an event – please contact me, **Sybille Phillips**, D8 QCC District Director. I want to thank **Butch Biendara**, our Statewide President, for suggesting to create recruitment flyers in this fiscal year with the 2020 chapter allocation, so that we can use the 2021 chapter allocation for party expenses ...

Until we meet again – Happy holidays and stay safe!

Sybille Phillips

The following information from Tamie McGowen, Caltrans PIO, didn't get published in earlier issues of the QCCer and I think it is interesting information at any time of the year.

Statewide Litter Date Success!

During the summer months you may have seen from media coverage that Caltrans held statewide Litter Day events announcing the resumption of trash removal from our state highways after temporarily suspending collection activity during the pandemic. In Sacramento, our effort took place on the Highway 99 and Broadway on-ramp, where crews filled hundreds of trash bags in a few hours. In just three months, litter had accumulated rapidly on the transportation system and this clean-up effort serves as a reminder that littering is illegal and poses threats to the environment and the safety of our maintenance crews. Districts across the state hosted similar

litter events designed to educate the public about the importance of keeping our roads clean.

Beautifying the roadways would not be possible without our partner programs, namely the Special Programs People (SPP) and Adopt-a-Highway volunteers. These dedicated crew members are responsible for clearing nearly 40% of the 20,000 garbage trucks of trash removed from California highway shoulders annually, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in the process. In addition to the economic and aesthetic benefits of litter abatement, these projects offer parolees and veterans an opportunity to change their lives while serving the community. Gary Harris who joined the SPP program a decade ago after nearly 30 years in and out of prison, told KCRA-3 on Tuesday morning: “Joining the program changed my life, it saved my life—that’s why I’m here talking with you today.” Gary now supervises other SPP crews and relishes the chance to mentor others with a desire to become productive citizens working to make society better.

A special thanks to our hard-working field crews and District team members who helped facilitate these events. Your efforts inspire us to continue educating people about the importance of always securing cargo loads and disposing of litter responsibly when traveling on our roads.

Reflective of the work, our PIOs endeavored to make it a success, Litter Day 2020, was covered extensively by the media throughout the state.

Thank you again for all you do.

On behalf of District 8 Communications, **Jean Advincula** announced the promotion of **Miguel Calixto** as the Senior Transportation Engineer for the Construction Claims/Change Order/CPM/Safety Unit effective October 12, 2020.

Miguel graduated in 1994 from CA State University, Long Beach, with a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering. Before joining Caltrans, Miguel worked for a Geotechnical company and Harris Associates as a consultant. Miguel received his CA Professional Engineer license in June, 2001. Miguel has been with Caltrans for 22 years. He has worked the last 19 years as a Resident Engineer in Construction where he delivered projects on Highways 10, 15, 60, 62, 91 and 215. In September, Miguel was selected to serve as the Acting Senior Transportation Engineer for the Colton Construction Field Office, Unit 2329.

In his spare time, Miguel enjoys RVing, hiking, biking and playing basketball.

Please join me in welcoming **Miguel** to his new assignment.

Christy Connors, PE, PMP
Deputy District Director – Construction
District 08, CA Department of Transportation

Another promotion was announced by Jean Advincula of **Aidee Arpon** to a Senior Right of Way Agent over Acquisition B function in Right of Way. Aidee will be responsible for \$10,000.00 and under parcels to Appraise & Acquire, Railroad Coordination and Federal Lands Coordination. Her promotion is effective October 14, 2020.

She began her state career in 1994 with the Department of Rehabilitation as an Office Assistant and, thereafter promoted to an Account Clerk. In the course of her career, she has held numerous positions, promotion from Office Technician to an Administrative Assistant for District 12. She transferred to District 8 Budgets in June 2006, as an Assistant Administrator and then promoted to Administrative Officer in

Budget Liaison and Contracts. She then promoted to Right of Way Agent in District 7 and a year later promoted to an Associate Governmental Program Analyst. In March 2011 she became an Associate Right of Way Agent and transferred back to District 8 in 2016. She eventually found her way back in the Division of Right of Way.

Aidee likes to enjoy her free time at the park, Disneyland Park that is, and is all about Mickey Mouse. She enjoys family time with her husband, Michael, daughter, Malia and Sophia and son, Christian. With the recent pandemic and school projects she has recently assisted with creating a working Roman Aqueduct and making sourdough bread.

Please join me in welcoming Aidee to her new assignment.

Rebecca Guirado

Deputy District Director – Right of Way
District 8 – Department of Transportation

Another promotion was announced by Jean Advincula on behalf of District Director, **Michael Beauchamp** for the appointment of **Diane Morales** as District 8’s Deputy District Director of Program Project Management, effective October 1, 2020.

Before joining Caltrans, **Diane** worked for ten years in the private transportation sector. She has over 20 years of state service, with 15 years of supervisory and managerial experience. She started her Caltrans career in 1999 in the Division of Transportation Planning. She also worked in the Division of Environmental Planning. In 2016, Diane was promoted to the position of Office Chief for Planning and Modal Programs in the Division of Transportation Planning.

Diane also served as the prior Project Initiation Document (PID) Program Manager for the

District responsible for managing the delivery and budget of the two-year SHOPP Program and was involved in statewide teams in piloting innovative and streamlined programming documents.

Since November, 2020, Diane has been the Acting Deputy District Director of Program Project Management, focusing on management, direction and coordination of the operations of the Division and maintaining current work expectations and delivery levels amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, as well as transitioning to a remote workforce.

Diane has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Cal Poly Pomona and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Cal State San Bernardino.

Diane and her husband, James, will be celebrating their 20-year anniversary soon. They live in the Highland area with their daughter, Julianne, who attends high school. Diane and her family enjoy visiting the coast to surf, swim, and paddleboard, and to enjoy the cooler weather during the summer months. When able, Diane and her family also enjoy traveling to Hawaii and visiting their family in England

Please join me in welcoming Diane to her new assignment.

An additional promotion was announced Jean Advincula of **Trent Lenfestey** as the District 8 Supervising Transportation Surveyor in the Division of Right of Way. In this role he will be supervising Right of Way Engineering, along with Utilities, Excess Land, and the Real Property Services functions effective Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Trent started his survey career in 1985 with Krueper Engg & Associates where he worked as

chainman on a survey crew. He worked his way up the next six years to a Party Chief and continued his studies to obtain his Land Surveyor Training Certificate in 1991. He eventually moved into the office to become a Field Coordinator overseeing multiple crews and project for various surveys.

In 1998 **Trent** started his Caltrans career as an Assistant Land Surveyor and promoting to a Transportation Surveyor. He gained a vast amount of experience and in 2007 he obtained his Professional Land Surveyors License. He was promoted to a Senior Transportation Surveyor in 2016 and becoming the Branch Chief for Right of Way Engineering “B”.

Trent and his wife, Stephanie, live in Highland with their youngest son, Jimmy, who started 8th grade this year. They enjoy traveling abroad, experiencing different cultures and are still looking forward to circumnavigating the globe.

Please join me in welcoming Trent to his new assignment.

Rebecca Guirado

Deputy District Director – Right of Way
District 8 – Department of Transportation

I received a note from QCC District Director **Sybille Phillips**, that **LaVerne Archie** announced that she was retiring the end of October, 2020. Congratulations, LaVerne. Enjoy your retirement and keep us posted of what you’re doing!

Norman Suydan sent a note to Sybille that he will be retiring at the end of the year. He made this announcement last week at his Senior Staff meeting. “My last day in the office will be December 4. However, there’ll be nobody there since Covid has everything closed down.

“I began working with District 7 in 1983 when **Heinz Heckerroth** was the Director of the District. I transferred to District 8 in 1991 and remained there until 2004 when I separated from the state. During that time there was a three- year period where I worked out of Headquarters in the Division of Design, Office of Geometric Standards.

“Following my separation in 2004 and for the next 15 years I worked for three different engineering companies primarily working on Caltrans related major improvement projects in Districts 7, 9, and 12 while working for SANBAG, RCTC, OCTA and LA METRO. I returned to District 8 in 2018 until the present time.

“My professional career spans 37 ½ years working on thousands of projects, making improvements to well over 100 different interchanges in the Inland Empire alone. As the HQ Geometrician for D-8, I approved the GAD drawings for eight of the 11 segments on the new 210 Freeway.

“It’s time for me to pull the plug and enjoy life, travel, and fill my day doing things I like.” - **Norman Suydam**

Congratulations **Norm!** Have a long and Happy Retirement.

Finally, I have some sad news to report:

Pat Hennessy, a long time QCCer in the past, suddenly lost his wife, **Loretta** on September 30, 2020.

Pat was a Transportation Engineer in PS&E for a very long time. He had recently retired. He and his family had a limited service at Fontana Mortuary, but only 25 people were allowed in the Viewing Room, so had to take turns. Loretta

would have celebrated her 80th birthday in December.

All our thoughts and prayers are with **Pat** and his family at this sorrowful time in their lives.

Yours truly has had a very sad and sorrowful time with the passing of my beloved husband, **Craig**. I had to call 911 on Sunday, August 30. He passed away on the following Sunday, September 6, of heart failure at St. Joseph's, St. Mary's Hospital in Apple Valley. My only consolation is that he didn't suffer and is now free from 24/7 pain.

Craig was born on March 12, 1952, in San Bernardino, CA to Walter and Naomi Lotze. The family of six included brothers **Gary**, who worked for Caltrans and Alan (both deceased) and Barry, is still living in Louisville, KY with his family.

Craig grew up in San Bernardino and graduated from Pacific High School. He worked various jobs and spent several years at San Bernardino Valley College. The classes he enjoyed most were those in aeronautics, air frame, etc. He had 5 hours of flying time left to get his pilots license at Rialto Airport under the tutelage of Art Scholl, and sadly, could not afford to finish.

Shortly after that time, **Craig** met **Marsha**, his future wife at the Division of Highways, when his brother, **Gary**, brought Craig to the Personnel Office, "to get a good job". He successfully passed the civil service examination for a Division of Highway Maintenance/ Landscape Worker (later called Caltrans). He promoted several times and when his back started giving him problems, he transitioned to the office and a training and development assignment as an Accountant I. He then transferred to an Engineering Technician position and ultimately promoted to an Assistant Transportation Engineer.

Craig and Marsha had their first "official" date on December 31, 1979 and were married in Las Vegas on May 31, 1987. Craig chose this holiday so he would NEVER forget his anniversary.

Having moved from Yucaipa to Apple Valley, CA in April, 2003, Craig and Marsha both retired from Caltrans on December 31, 2003.

Craig is survived by his wife, **Marsha**, three stepchildren; Bill, Matthew and Christina, and several grandchildren; a brother, Barry, his wife, and a nephew and two nieces in Louisville, KY.

Craig loved putting around in his garage, gardening, playing golf, and bowling with Marsha and with the Caltrans Bowling League. Before he met Marsha he loved skiing, fishing with his best friend, Jimmy, and tinkering with any and all household appliances, etc. – he could fix just about anything! One of his fondest memories was a vacation to Lake Tahoe where we rented a speed boat for an hour. He really enjoyed touring around the lake.

Graveside services were held and conducted by our niece, Ashley Miller, from Santa Barbara on November 6, 2020, at Montecito Memorial Park in Grand Terrace, CA.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

Things are somewhat back to normal in the Eastern Sierra's, cold clear days and freezing nights. For two months this summer the air quality index in the Owens Valley varied from unhealthy to hazardous from the California wildfires. Most of that time we could not see the Sierras nor the White Mountains. Combining that with the covid nonsense, it was a miserable time.

Bob Watkins shared a great story earlier this year by email.

“**Lance** - I have one or two District Nine stories I would like to share with you. Here is one.”

**The North End of a Southbound District
Engineer
By Bob Watkins**

In the winter of 1979-80 the district directors met in District 7. At dinner that evening we were joined by some retirees. I was seated between two of the greatest freeway builders of all time **Edward Thomas Telford**, retired District 7 Engineer and **Jake Dekema** then in his later years as the leader of District 11. They had respectively led in the efforts to build the LA and San Diego freeways. What a great chance for me to hear of their accomplishments. But since both of them had served in District 9 early in their careers they shared one District 9 story after another. Anyone who spends much time in District 9 will leave with a bag full of stories and **Ed** and **Jake** were no exceptions. Most have slipped from my fading memory but Ed’s OHA story stuck.

Young **Ed Telford** was on a survey crew for SR 108, a new alignment for the state highway east of Sonora, over the Sierras. When the crew reached highway 395 they were transferred to District 9 and worked as far south as Mojave. When setting the alignment for US 395 through a pass in Mono County the District Engineer, **Frances Somner** drove up to look over the alignment. (Frances was the District Engineer from 1923 until 1932.) He didn’t like what he saw and started pulling up the survey stakes to shift the road to the west. Then he changed his mind and set the line back to the crew’s alignment. With the stakes pulled and the damage done Mr. Somner got back in his Dodge touring sedan and drove back down the steep Sherman Grade to Bishop.

As he drove away one of the crew remarked “that old horse’s ass” and so that pass in southern Mono County was named OHA Pass. Now the US 395 is a freeway to the east of the pass but the county road still follows Telford’s alignment. The US Forest Service maps showed “OHA Pass” as late as 1970. I hope they still do. That survey crew deserves that recognition.

Since the bowling league folded from the covid nonsense, we pretty much stay around the house and do not see many old coworkers.

Chuck Carter passed away Nov 5, 2020 after struggling with sepsis disease. He was 90 years old. He worked for Caltrans for 46 years and retired a Local Assistance Engineer. Chuck was always friendly and outgoing and involved with local sports, Bishop gold club and going to Hings Donuts shop. Our condolences to his family and friends.

- **Lance Hinek**

The Haps in District 10

District 10 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 11

Due to the ongoing pandemic no QCC events are planned in the near future. We are hopeful that may change next year. We will keep you posted in the event we can begin to have some in-person gatherings.

Caltrans D-11 has recently had several facilities that have received the following letter from **Gustavo Dallarda**, District Director.

Dear Caltrans Colleagues,
This memorandum is to provide information on actions we're taking in response to Coronavirus COVID-19. Caltrans cares about and is committed to all our valuable employees, and we are taking steps to provide you with a safe working environment.

Caltrans has learned that an employee at Kearny Mesa Maintenance Yard tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The employee was tested for the virus and received positive results of this test on November 20, 2020. The employee was last in the office on November 19, 2020. This email is to notify you that you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 and you should contact your [local public health department](#) for guidance and any possible actions to take based on individual circumstances. Employees that have been identified as having close contact (<6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a COVID-19 positive employee will receive a separate communication with information on needed actions.

Employees that may have been exposed, but did not have close contact, should self-monitor for symptoms, i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, fatigue, body or muscle aches, headache, congestion/runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, and contact your healthcare provider for guidance and any possible actions should you develop any of these symptoms.

If you are subject to quarantine or self-monitoring from a local public health department, you may be eligible for Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) and telework will be considered, consistent with department

policy. All requests for EPSL must follow the department request and approval process.

While we understand employees may have questions about the health of coworkers and friends in the office, it is necessary that we protect the health-related information of our employees. We cannot confirm the health status of employees or communicate about coworkers' health.

In response to this positive result, we are taking the following steps at the direction of the local public health department:

- The Kearny Mesa Maintenance Yard will be closed November 23, 2020 to allow for cleaning.
- During this time, staff will telework if operationally feasible.
- On November 24, 2020 employees will return to their duties.
- The Kearny Mesa Maintenance Yard will continue to be cleaned daily by the Department of General Services.

Caltrans is working closely with the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and will share information and updates as they become available.

Stay informed by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website [here](#) and the California Department of Public Health website [here](#). Both websites are updated daily with the latest information and advice for the public.

Please remember that the [Employee Assistance Program](#) is also available to assist employees during this time. Magellan has opened a free 24-hour support line for anyone who needs help during these times. Individuals who call the hotline will speak directly to a masters-level, certified licensed mental health clinician. The toll-free number is: 1-800-327-7451 (TTY 711).

State employees may also continue to access the regular EAP services by calling 1-866-327-4762. Additionally, Magellan has developed a central location for crisis communication resources <https://www.magellanhealth.com/news/crisis-communications/>. Please feel free to share this resource with your family and loved ones.

Thank you again for your hard work, flexibility, and patience during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Dallarda

District 11 Director

A similar letter went out to the Santee and Descanso Maintenance Stations, Escondido, Brawley, and El Centro Maintenance Yards, and the I-5 (Manchester) Construction Field Office.

Another Caltrans event was the retirement party via webex of **Ron Caraet** of Construction on December 17th. Many commented that Ron is too young to retire! Everyone wishes him the best in his retirement.

Road Last Traveled

Kelly reported the following: **Russ Plowman** passed away on October 14 after an illness. He was under the care of Hospice at the time of his death. Russ was in his early 80's and had been retired since the early 2000's. Russ was an **Honorary QCC Member** and faithfully attended QCC events. He worked for Caltrans since the mid 1960's and spent the 70's as a construction inspector working on many projects on Interstate 8 and 805. He also spent time working as the Construction Training Officer and also as the Auditor for Construction Projects. During his time at Caltrans Russ also worked hard preparing taxes as a sideline job. Many of his co-workers were also his tax clients as well. **Russ** was born in Minnesota and he loved fishing and vacationed many times back in Minnesota with his family and in Alaska with his son Kevin along with local trips to Mission Bay and the

Colorado River. Russ was a very generous person and often treated family and friends to dinner. Personally, after the last few QCC events Russ approached me to say how much he appreciated our efforts and slipped me some money to buy the gang a drink for our hard work! He is survived by his wife Donna, (they just recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary) son Kevin, daughters Kim and Kristy and many grandchildren.

Sandy Johnson and **Karyn Farr** sent in the following from what was Published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on Dec. 3, 2020.

Edward R. 'Dick' Kirwan passed away in November and was nearly 89 years old. **Dick** is now reunited with his wife of 61 years, Anita Quigley. He grew up in Boston, MA with his sister Joan O'Bymachow, coming to San Diego during WWII while his father served in the US Navy. A '49 St. Augustine's HS alumni, he served on the Naval destroyer USS Furst as a fire control technician and graduated San Diego State College in 1955 becoming a lifelong Aztec. After a 40 year career with Caltrans, he retired in 1994 having risen to Deputy District Director for Right of Way, District 11.

Survived by daughters Leslie and Shelley, sons-in-law Dan Hopwood and Kyle Bruss, grandchildren Kylie Hopwood, Kendall and Chris Richmond and Travis Bruss, great-grandsons Kade, Darcy Edward and Louis Richmond. "Pa" will be deeply missed, but we are heartened his journey is complete. His smile, kindness, humor and stories shared will always be remembered. Services were held on Dec. 7 at St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church.

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

From **Bruce April**; I am sad to announce that one of District 11's environmental pioneers has passed away. Retired Senior Environmental

Planner **Tim Vasquez** passed away on September 22 at the age of 84.

Please see article on **Remembering Tim Vasquez, Environmental Pioneer** on page 24.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!

- **Kelly Manning**

The Haps in District 12

District 12 did not have any QCC events due to the covid. Hopefully next year we can start to have some gatherings.

From **Frank Paras Jr**: Similar to Oscar Awards, the Gawad Amerika Awards honor all Filipino Americans. On November 21, 2020 the Gawad Amerika Awards celebrated the 19th Gawad Amerika Awards. After 18 years celebrating at Hollywood Celebrity Center, for the first time the Gawad Amerika Awards were held outside celebrating at Porter Ranch Park.

The Gawad Amerika Award winners were (1) Kingdom of Jesus Christ Executive Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy who has 7.5 million followers in the world (2) Legendary Superstar Nora Aunor; (3) Governor Daniel Fernando; (4) Philippine Basketball Hall of Fame Ricardo Brown; (5) Actress-Singer Jayda Avanzado; (6) Independent Movie producer Baby Go; (7) Congressman Alfred Valdez and Congresswoman Nina Taduran; (8) BG Showbiz Plus Magazine; (8) BG Productions International; (9) CEO Emma Cordero; (10) Mr. Erwin Tulfo; (11) Filmmaker Rey Caco Rodis; (12) Publisher Sonia D. Bermejo; (13) Hollywood Actress and Model Cora Ugalde Armenta. Charles "Bong" Simbulan is the founder, president, and CEO of the Gawad Amerika Awards.

-**Frank Paras Jr**

The Haps in Central

Here are some Upcoming Gatherings: Spring Lunch, Thursday, April 15, 2021 Members will receive a notice of menu choices, payment, and/or (hope not, but...) cancellation due to health restrictions. Lunch location is the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864

EVENTS

All Lunch events are held at the the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864. Contact **Dave Saxby** for details and ordering your meal. Phone or email Dave at 916-497-2978 or dpbear74@gmail.com.

Save the date for our Summer Lunch, Thursday, August 19, 2021.

Other News: We decided to cancel our December luncheon due to COVID restrictions. Also, our officers wished to not place our members in a potential situation for being exposed to the virus. We all recognize that our age makes puts us in a higher risk category.

John Reeves has enjoyed our Sacramento QCC lunches for years. He won't be attending them in the future as he is currently residing in the Memory Care Unit at Carlton in Davis, CA. "John is comfortable and doing well, all things considered, but doesn't remember most people these days," says his daughter, Debbie Reeves. If you are interested, she can be reached at 332 Fiesta Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, or deb1961@pacbell.net.

Caltrans retirees passing: Joe Halterman

https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sacbee/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-a-halterman&pid=196637051&utm_source=Market

ingCloud&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ObitShare_PowerInbox_20191212&utm_content=ViewObituary&sfmc_id=134157937

(Published in the Sacramento Bee)

Joe was born in Clayton, New Mexico on July 17, 1931 to Roscoe and Martha Halterman. He passed away on April 11, 2020. Joe was an avid fisherman and volunteered with the Fishing in the City program. He was an active member of Cordova Presbyterian Church since 1967 and a founding member of Eventide Community Church. Joe was also a long time member of SIRS - Dredgers-Branch 112. Joe was kind and generous, always supportive of his family. After graduating from high school, Joe joined the Navy. After his tour ended, he moved to Fort Wayne, IND to attend college. He graduated from Indiana Institute of Technology in 1959 with a degree in Civil Engineering. While he was in Ft. Wayne, he met his wife, Carol, and they were married on August 30, 1958.

After **Joe's** graduation, he accepted a job with CalTrans and they moved to Eureka, California. They eventually moved to San Diego, and after three years, they moved to Sacramento and have lived in Rancho Cordova since 1967. Joe retired in 1993 from the Engineering Board as a Senior CE.

Joe is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carol, his son, Thomas (wife, Kathy), his daughter, Dr. Mary Halterman. Two grandchildren, granddaughter, Pariesa (husband, Lindsey), and grandson, Ehsan. He is also survived by his brother, John of Alaska, niece Dawn, nephews Johnny and Jesse of Alaska; niece Susan, nephew Bruce of Indiana, many cousins and many friends. His family wants to thank the caregivers at Vintage Farm House Board and Care facility for their loving care.

Sharon L Aquila passed away from heart failure on November 8, 2020. She was retired from Caltrans Headquarters in Sacramento and was a **QCC Member**.

-Wes Lum

Make sure you try out this website for travel speed, accidents, and other road information. This covers the entire state and even other states and Mexico. It includes local roads also. After you get to the website, select **options**, then click on **road conditions**, and then click on what you want and scroll to the map.

<http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

Events

Got a group that meets regularly? Let your director know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka. Contact **Arlene Hartin** at ahartin@suddenlink.net or call (707) 443-8841 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact **Retha Rubiec** at goldmine@c-zone.net.

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding.

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665, doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at various locations on the Peninsula.

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219, edcoble49@astound.net

The Birthday Group (primarily retired Admin staff but all welcome) meets on the third Wednesday each month at 11:30am at Guadalajara Restaurant, 1001 Fruitvale Ave,

Oakland. Contact **Anita Appiano** 510-813-3667
anita.appiano68@gmail.com

The North Bay Retirees Lunch Group meets on the second Tuesday each month at 11:30am at various locations in the Santa Rosa area. Contact: **Jerry Griffith**,
tallones2@hotmail.com, (707) 494-2084

The NP Lunch Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at Chevy's in Emeryville in odd months and Original Joe's Westlake in Daly City in even months. Contact: **Bill Uesugi**, patbillu@comcast.net,
 (650) 355-1410

The SF Lunch Group meets on the second Thursday each month at 11:30am in the Dragon River Restaurant, 5045 Geary Blvd (between 14th & 15th Ave).
 Contact: **Ron Lee**, retronl@aol.com

District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834
bcopel4674@aol.com

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay.
 Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

District 7 -

The **Tom Fera** Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month in LA.

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard at BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at the **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel.

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at the Family Home Style

Café on Redlands Boulevard near Tippecanoe in San Bernardino.

A group meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of even numbered months. Currently they meet at The Sizzler on South Waterman at 11:30am. Everyone is invited.
 Contact **Sybille Phillips** for more info

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885

District 10 -

Details on events contact **Brian Young**
 209-329-3445 cell or blyoung365@gmail.com

Lenny's Huddle meets at 8:00 am on the last Tuesday of the month. Location has changed.
 Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

D-11 Retirees meet 3rd Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

Informal Luncheon meets at Soup Plantation in Kearny Mesa. For more information, contact **Ava Sarkisian**.

Central District -

All QCC Luncheon events are held at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864. Contact **Dave Saxby** for details and ordering your meal. Phone or email Dave at 916-497-2978 or dpbear74@gmail.com.
 Spring Lunch, Thursday, April 15, 2021
 Summer Lunch, Thursday, August 19, 2021

To Honorary Members

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer, or the electronic version of the QCCer for free.

If paying the dues would be a hardship for you, you may be able to get your dues waived. Contact your QCC District Director and if they approve, send the request to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer. See Renewal Form on page 23.

These QCC members received Honorary Certificates effective January 1, 2021

Name	District
Bernard Arney	1
Burt Brockett	2
David Criswell	2
Wanda Lee Rocha	3
Gary P Saunders	5
James W Fowler	7
Robert W Sassaman	7
Linda R Grimes	8
John C Buechner	11
Bob Gibbs	11
Roy Riesgo	11
Gary W Bush	C
Joe Dobrowolski	C
Stanley G Ford	C
Wayne Luney	C
Lawrence E Phillips	C
Lynn Rickborn	C
O. J. Solander	C
Warren Weber	C

New members who joined in 2020

New Member	District
Peter Anderson	Central
LaVerne Archie	8
Randal Pierce	2
Frank Rivas	2
Bobbie Shaw	2
Albert Trujillo	2

REMEMBERING TIM VASQUEZ- ENVIRONMENTAL PIONEER

Bruce April, D-11 Deputy District Director Environmental announced that one of District 11's environmental pioneers had passed away. Retired Senior Environmental Planner **Tim Vasquez** passed away on September 22 at the age of 84. Tim retired in 1999 after 45 years of state service, all with District 11. He was instrumental in shaping the way the District 11 Environmental Division works today. He was truly a unique individual and bit of a character to those that knew him. He was a rare breed that was a licensed civil engineer without an engineering degree. He was self-taught and passed the test.

Tim was passionate about his work and was a big influence on those that worked in the Environmental Division, past and present. Some had much to say about Tim that it is shared 'In their own words' below.

Tim is survived by his wife Rosemary Vasquez and son Frank Rocky Vasquez. His daughter Sabrina Elizabeth Vasquez, who worked at Caltrans, passed away in 2012. Tim was also a



grandfather and great grandfather. The family is holding a private event later this week. The Egyptian themed ceremony will conclude with his ashes taken to the great pyramid of Cheops at Gaza.

In their own words

From Susanne Glasgow: Retired Deputy District Director Environmental

Before any guidance was written, “the environment according to Tim” was implemented. I believe the first project to come under review was I-15 north of Escondido, the project that replaced US 395. The document should still be in the environmental library, if the library still exists. We were undoubtedly the first in the state to incorporate visual analysis and use visual sims, which were all done by hand by graphic artists. And, to use 3-d models that were hand made.



From L to R; Pedro Orso-Delgado, Susanne Glasgow, Chris White, Tim Vasquez

I believe SR-52 was the first major project to address the full plethora of state and federal laws. As you know and disliked, he wasn't just about the birds, bees, and weeds. He was about community impacts and felt a huge amount of empathy for those impacted by our projects. Examples - SR 52 community impacts to the mobile home parks, the work with the community on the Coronado Bridge retrofit project, 125. And it wasn't the Environmental Division... It was Environmental ANALYSIS - and that is what we did. He did emphasize the importance of having a multidisciplinary team approach.

He spent time taking us out in the field and teaching. He loved teaching and I believe that

was also a passion of his.

I think his goal with his Egyptology study was to develop the most thorough annotated bibliography of articles and books ever published. Rosemary will explain and reflect on how he hijacked their guided trips to Egypt because he knew more than the guides.

Tim did not have an engineering degree, but he was a licensed civil engineer. He took the exam and passed- self-taught.

He certainly taught me the importance of the environment. In fact, it was probably because of him, that I chose my course of study at SDSU. I was on track for a planning degree! I was working in Transportation Planning and I was loaned to go to what must have been a PDT meeting to take meeting minutes. Tim was there talking about environmental considerations. I thought it was super interesting...so I altered my course. I had absolutely nothing to offer the environmental analysis branch when I was interviewed - nothing other than enthusiasm. He hired me because I really, really wanted to learn about it. As I was leaving that Friday finishing my first week, I remember telling him how much I enjoyed it. I guess that was the beginning of the really great working team we made.

From John Chisholm: Environmental Planner Supervisor

Tim Vasquez passed away September 22 at 84 years old. He was a bit of a character according to some folks who knew him, but an inspiration to hundreds of Caltrans employees. He left Design Engineering to run the newly created Environmental Branch for D-11, when new Environmental laws were passed by Congress (NEPA), and the California equivalent (CEQA). Suddenly, Caltrans projects had to adhere to a host of new laws protecting the environment and communities. This was a paradigm shift, where Caltrans had to change. He leapt into this breach

and it is truly amazing what he achieved in the absence of Caltrans policies. He thought out of the box and created guidance that affected Statewide policy on how we handle the environment. I still recall his many "Branch Policy Directives" which he wrote in the absence of standard State policy. He was a brilliant writer, editor, and document reviewer, with the mind of lawyer-engineer. Creative, visionary, and intelligent beyond measure, he was determined to implement rational guidance and make our projects on the highway system BETTER for all. When someone has this level of passion, they accomplish great things. Tim's passion to do things right - I can hear him saying "always do the right thing!" always with the exclamation point - lead to extremely interesting meetings and even conflict.

Environmental would get major roadblocks back in the 80's and 90's with resistance to change. For many in the Environmental Branch, this was educational, and Tim became a legend because of his strength and never-swaying ethics; we all had to compromise and work well with our engineering counterparts to make better projects. Tim never shied away from push-back or conflict with people or even upper-management, when they did not appreciate the new ways of doing projects, like having to do certain required studies. When they said, "this is not how we have always done it", he would insist it must be done properly and would quote the new myriad laws and regulations which were descending on Environmental like confetti at the time. People respected him immensely because of his ethical positions that always seemed to have a substantive basis. He loved to be a mentor and teacher and show people how we can improve; by the late 1990's, his success was evident in the exceptional relationship between Environmental and our Engineering units, where everyone accepted the new laws and found ways to work closely as teams, leading to PDT's and Project Managers. D-11 became a model for the

other 11 districts, which were also going through similarly rough changes.

It still is. He was especially supportive of our Landscape Architecture Branch as they were going through similar teething problems as work "extra to basic highway Design".

He had another passion after work, interesting for an engineer: Egyptian history/ archeology/ Egyptology. He spent hours after work in libraries studying this subject, which helped him understand the complex new cultural resource work we now had to do.

From Steve Alvarez: Acting Senior Landscape Architect

Tim was one of the first mentors I had at Caltrans and a pioneer in community wholistic thinking. Yes, he respected what Landscape Architects brought to the table because he had a broad view of the world and the duty we have as public servants to make it better. He was sensitive to context design before "context sensitive solutions" was a thing. When we started the process of the 40th Street project in mid-city Tim was always there to support our visual assessment and community outreach. This was a huge paradigm shift on how we developed projects through communities, especially in disadvantage communities. This was not an easy task in an organization that is engineering based and we had pushback from many directions.

In 2000 when Tim retired, we received the first Excellence in Transportation Award in the category of Context Sensitive Solutions for the State Route 15/40 Street Structures, the park deck Teralta remained the only cut and cover park in the state for 20 years. Today the community benefits with better livable places, transit, parks and connectivity.

We can only hope we can follow Tim's example in our future with his level of insight – he will be missed. An era of enlightenment is due.

QCC Membership Renewal Form, effective 1/1/2014

Please complete and return this form, **even if** your dues amount is \$0.

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____@_____

Date of Retirement _____ Years of Service _____

Dues amounts:

check one

80+ years of age, born before 1931, printed/mailed QCCer	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, born after 1930, printed/mailed QCCer	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, online (emailed) QCCer	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, printed/mailed QCCer*	\$0*	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, NO QCCer newsletter, but keep me on your roster	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Printed/mailed QCCer for younger members	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online (emailed) QCCer for younger members	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>

*- this option is for hardship situations where the Honorary member does not have email and cannot afford the normal dues amount. Your QCC District Director's written approval must be enclosed with this renewal form.

Make any checks payable to the Quarter Century Club

Mail to:

QCC

PO BOX 421292

SAN DIEGO, CA 92142-1292