



Route 66

A SINGING HIGHWAY AGAIN!

From the Side Pocket

By Andrew Machen

A week after I retired from Caltrans in July of 2022 I drove from San Bernardino to Chicago and back on as much of Route 66 as I could fit into a two-week trip.

In Albuquerque, I visited Dr. Roger Zimmerman, New Mexico's representative on the Team to nominate Route 66 as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. I had talked previously with Dr. Zimmerman about the possibility of getting New Mexico's Singing Highway restored as an attraction for the 1926 Centennial.

The Singing Highway is located a few miles east of Albuquerque in Tijeras Canyon, an un-inhabited area where the external noise from a rumble strip won't be bothersome to residents.

As a side-note Caltrans District 8 is experimenting with sinusoidal "mumble strips" with a project on SR-210 that have the potential to reduce external noise to a level that is less intrusive than the noise from conventional rumble strips.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/noise-vibration/rumble-strips>



The musical rumble strip on Route 66, constructed in 2014, is currently not functional due to traffic wear and tear, but I'm hoping that it can be restored in time for the 2026 Route 66 Centennial. I'm working with the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership to obtain funding for a restoration project. While I was in Albuquerque, Dr. Zimmerman and I met with the contractor who built the rumble strip, Frank Sanchez, at San Bar Construction, and talked about the history of the construction project and the initiation of a restoration project. Frank put me in touch with the two men at National Geographic who did the musical design, and the three of them and myself have since communicated on Zoom about the proposed restoration.

Of all the YouTube videos that have been posted by people who have driven the Singing Highway, the best musical quality that I've heard is the one posted by the Smithsonian Magazine: "If You

Drive The Right Speed, This Musical Highway Will Play You a Song." <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/take-drive-down-americas-musical-highway-180958449/>

National Geographic's own rendition provides details of the construction, as well as the music: National Geographic | Musical Highway | Crowd

Control

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uucy_blcSrg

And here is what the Smithsonian had to say about Route 66 as an endangered site: Smithsonian Magazine: Endangered Site - Historic Route 66, U.S.A.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/endangered-site-historic-route-66-usa-52145829/?no-ist>

Linda Supernaw added that a few days after the District 8 Summer Luncheon in July, The Sun Telegram ran an article about the "Musical Highway" on the historic Route 66 in New Mexico.

The article states, "The New Mexico Department of Transportation and National Geographic Channel hired a contractor that designs and builds traffic control devices to engineer a stretch of Route 66 that literally plays "America the Beautiful" when cars drive over it at 45 mph. There are also a handful of other musical highways elsewhere in the world, including one in Lancaster.

Smithsonian Magazine explained this was accomplished through mathematical equations and a series of perfectly spaced rumble strips. Engineers figured out how the distance of each strip affected the pitch that was produced when a tire drove over it.

All of the sounds and music notes that we hear in day-to-day life are just vibrations through the air. For instance, anything that vibrates 330 times in one second will produce an E note - a guitar string, a tuning fork or even a tire the article states.

Once the spacing was figured out, metal bars were welded together to make a template and the templates were pressed into heated pavement to create a freeway tune." □

Try this link to Historic 'California Highways and Public Works' Magazine.

<http://www.americanroads.us/forum/index.php?PHPSESSID=2ceb61e97c2d846c20a6107a40e397da&topic=249.msg456#msg456>

Index

Side Pocket	Page 1
State and District Officers.....	Page 2
California Transportation Foundation	Page 4
In Memoriam	Page 5
The QCC Website.....	Page 5
District 1 Report	Page 6
District 2 Report	Page 6
District 3 Report	Page 6
District 4 Report	Page 8
District 5 Report	Page 10
District 6 Report	Page 11
District 7 Report	Page 11
District 8 Report	Page 11
District 9 Report	Page 18
District 10 Report	Page 20
District 11 Report	Page 20
District 12 Report	Page 22
Central District Report.....	Page 22
Events	Page 25
Honorary QCC Members.....	Page 26
Membership Renewal Form	Page 27

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RECRUITING MADE EASY
(Forward the website below to people
you know that have 25 years of State
Service or more)

Nigel Blampied, D4 QCC Director, has posted a page on the Caltrans website advertising the QCC to all Caltrans employees. The site can be accessed at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/forward-issue-2/quarter-century-club>

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION (CTF)

A Workers Memorial Fund has been established in **Miguel Carrasco's** name. Miguel recently passed away after a journey with cancer. He served the Imperial Valley area in Caltrans Maintenance as a CEO I on the Midway Travelway Crew. Miguel has been with Caltrans for the past 8 years. We honor Miguel in his service to our community as he will be greatly missed. Miguel was a devoted family man and is survived by his wife Rebecca, daughter Julianna, son, and grandson.



Donations to this account are not tax deductible. By supporting the CTF Memorial Fund, we are making a difference in the life of a family when the tragic news comes of a loved one.

Donations can be made quickly online at <https://donorbox.org/miguel-carrasco-memorial-fund>.

Donations by check should be made out to "CTF" and designated "**Miguel Carrasco Memorial Fund**" in the memo line.

Please mail checks to:

CTF
9500 Kiefer Blvd., PO Box 276828
Sacramento, CA 95827-6828

A Worker’s Memorial Fund has been established in the name of **Joel Garibay**, a Caltrans contractor with Diversified Landscape Co. who passed away recently. Joel suffered a medical emergency while on the jobsite and could not be revived.



Joel served the San Diego area as a Cement Mason with the Laborers Union Local 89. He was respected by his fellow crew members at Diversified Landscape Co as a team player, mentor,

and friend to all who had the pleasure to work with him. We will miss his singing and positive approach to each day. We honor Joel in his service to our community as he will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his Wife, Barbara, his Children Janice, Jesus, Joel, Jr and his beloved grandchildren Emily, Adiel, Jailyne, Yuridia, Anayeli, Rosie & Issac.

Donations to this account are not tax deductible. Donations by check should be made out to "CTF" and designated "**Garibay Memorial Fund**" in the memo line. Please mail checks to:

CTF
9500 Kiefer Blvd., PO Box 276828
Sacramento, CA 95827-6828

Donations can be made quickly online at <https://donorbox.org/joel-garibay-memorial-fund>.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Ronald Edwin Johnson	01	Aug 26, 2023
Richard (Rich) Schwegerl	03	Aug 25, 2023
Don Kiser	04	Jul 28, 2023
Joseph (Joe) W Johnson	04	Mar 10, 2023
Frank G Milani	04	Mar 01, 2023
George Samoulides	04	Dec 19, 2022
Bill Cotnam	05	Jul 27, 2023
Michael (Mike) Counts	05	Jul 20, 2023
Ike Maatubang	08	Jun 27, 2023
Susan (Sue) Cleone Hays	08	Aug 30, 2023
Frank C (Sammy) Hoyt Jr	09	Jan 30, 2023
Fred Denenberg	11	Jun 23, 2023
Ernie Castillo	11	Jun 04, 2023
Ben Matsuo	C	Jul 11, 2023
Joe Sandhu	C	Aug 04, 2023
George Hood	C	2023
Clayton Giroux	C	May 31, 2023
Earl Latham	C	
Donald (Chuck) Chenu	C	May 21, 2023
Ellen Derby	C	Apr 03, 2023
Harold Garfield	C	May 26, 2023
Lily Shilling	C	2023
Steve Miller	C	Jun 24, 2023

The QCC Website

By Andy Machen, Web Master

Do you have a story to tell? About your world travels; hobbies; favorite places; life experiences - anything at all?

Here's how to get it posted on the Quarter Century Club website: Write your story in an email and send it to: post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com Your story is then transmitted to the CTQCC website where it is stored in a folder accessible only by the webmaster, who then extracts the text and pictures you sent and stores them in a private folder on the Stories page of the Caltrans District specified by you. The webmaster then sends you an email with a link to the page containing your story, accessible only by you and the webmaster. You can then view your story on the Internet, make any changes you would like, then send them in an email just as you sent the original.

The webmaster then notifies you by email when the changes have been made. When you are satisfied with the web page containing your story, send an email to the same email authorizing the webmaster to post the story for public viewing. You can still add to or make changes to the story as described above after it is published by sending an email to the same email. Let us hear from you!

The Haps in District 1

District 1 retirees had a great breakfast on July 20th with 22 people attending. **George Otterbeck** came from Washington to join us and brought his son-in-law's dad with him.

Sadly, **Ronald Edwin Johnson** passed away in January. A memorial was held on August 26th at the Freshwater Grange. His family was wonderful. Several people shared their memories including his lunch group. After the service, a nice lunch and barbecue was provided.

Our next breakfast is planned for October 19th. Please save the date.

- Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

No one else has contributed any memorable exploits or travels to share with you, so that leaves it up to me. I've had a good summer healing up from a severe bout with bronchitis that put me down for about 3 weeks. Still have a few lingering issues, but they are lessening every month. The experience has made me grateful that the fire season (so far) has been less dominant than usual, and I haven't had to deal with all the smoke as in the past.

Additionally, I am also grateful that masking is not required any more for general travels. That would have made breathing an extra chore beyond what it was. So, may you all be well and enjoy the great benefits of not having some unfortunate things in your life. Celebrate the good ones that come along.

-Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

Thinking Summer is almost over, then Mother Nature throws us a curve and Hurricane Hillary slams California. We received a little rain but nothing like what Southern California got. Hope everyone made it through without too much damage.

Planning our Fall luncheon. Seems like we just had our Spring one.

Just west of me, here in Yuba City, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had a stake (an LDS term indicating an intermediate size church). It was decided that a new Temple would be built in that location and then add a Fellowship Hall.

On March 19, 2019 the stake was demolished. The stake donated to the local churches all of the furniture and anything the locals could use. They wanted someone to take the organ, but because of its size and it was specially made to fit in the stake, that wasn't possible. Several locals were able to take some of the organ pipes. It was interesting watching the new Temple being built.

The new Feather River California Temple was completed on March 28, 2023 with all new furnishing, rugs, beautiful stain glass windows and pictures. The rugs were all hand woven and the patterns describe our local area. The paintings are beautiful. A few are of the Sutter Buttes, trees with our crows, and several include our local Chickens, that Yuba City is famous for. The

stained glass windows and doors have Almond Blossoms in them, the Gold and Brass railing in the Baptismal is designed like wheat and rice straw.

An open house was held from August 19th through September 9th. They held several group tours or you could go on your own self-guided tour. I went with friends on August 29th for a self-guided tour and oh my gosh was it beautiful.

My brother and family came over from Ukiah on September 4th and we toured with a friend of mine who is a member of the Yuba City ward. This time I saw and found out more than I did the first time through. If you ever get a chance to tour a newly built Temple before it's dedicated, take a tour. I understand they are building several new Temple's in California including Madera.

Here are a few photos of the Feather River California Temple.



ROAD LAST TRAVELLED

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of **Richard Lee (Rich) Schwegerl**, of Yuba City, California. After a long and courageous battle with cancer, Rich passed away in his home on August 25, 2023, with his family by his side. He was 52 years old.



Rich was born on April 13, 1971, in Shasta, California. He lived in the Yuba Sutter Area for the past 50 years.

Rich is survived by his spouse, DeAnna of 25 years; daughter - Rachel Quinn, son - Cole Schwegerl, both of Yuba City; father - Richard (Brenda) Schwegerl of Medford, OR; mother - Dona (Hap) Pugh of Grass Valley, CA; stepfather - Alvin (Debbie) Gonzales of Olivehurst, CA; and sister - Misty (Rick) Nevis of Yuba City, CA.

Rich attended Marysville High School and graduated in 1990. He enjoyed weightlifting and baseball, but his true love was football, which he played during all four years. He made many friends in high school that he stayed close with throughout his life.

Rich, like his father and grandfather before him, dedicated much of his career to trimming trees. He worked for Utility Tree Service for 11 years and continued with Caltrans Tree Crew for 18 years. After 29 years of tree service, he changed his career path and took a position with Caltrans as a Stripe and Stencil Supervisor which he held for the past 4 years.

Rich was a dedicated husband, father, and coach who loved hunting, fishing, and any adventure he could find in the great outdoors. He coached

softball, baseball, and junior football where he made a tremendous positive and lasting impact on the youth in our community. His love for hunting and fishing brought him an ample amount of joy, especially when he was doing it with his son, Cole.

When **Rich** wasn't coaching, hunting, or fishing, he was camping, hiking, and traveling with his wife, DeAnna. Some of Rich and DeAnna's favorite, most proud adventures were when they visited their daughter Rachel at each place she was stationed while serving in the United States Air Force. Rich was truly an inspiration to all of those around him and will be missed deeply by his family, friends, and community.

Published by Appeal Democrat on Sep. 1, 2023

That's it from District 3, enjoy the fall.

- **Jan Johnson**

The Haps in District 4

Dianne Steinhauser, **Michael Chan** and **Ed Coble** are organizing a Caltrans Retiree Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco on Tuesday, September 12. Another similar luncheon is planned in December. If you did not receive an invitation to the September event, please contact **Mike** and **Dianne** at chanhausers@juno.com to receive the invitation for December.

The Birthday Group continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Guadalajara restaurant near Fruitvale Station, Oakland, under the able leadership of **Anita Appiano**.

The NP Lunch Group also continues to meet 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, coordinated by **Bill Uesugi**.

Similarly, the North Bay Retirees Lunch Group meets on the second Tuesday each month at 11:30am at various locations in the Santa Rosa, coordinated by **Jerry Griffith**.

Harry Yahata wrote with the sad news of the passing of **Don Kiser** and a link to his obituary below.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sonomane/ws/name/don-kiser-obituary?id=52627333>

“It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of **Don Kiser** on July 28th, 2023. He was a loving husband, devoted father, cherished friend, and an exemplary member of his community. Don's departure has left a void in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

“Born in Napa on January 5, 1941, Don's life was marked by compassion, integrity, humility, and generosity. He was a source of inspiration.

“Don's family meant the world to him, and he was a pillar of strength and support to his beloved wife Jan of 61 years, and their children Jeff and Tim. He treasured spending quality time with them, his daughters-in-law Anna and Nicole, and grandchildren Steve, Erin, Megan, and Julia, whether it was during family vacations, camping trips, holiday gatherings, or simple moments shared at home.

“During his free time, Don found comfort in coaching his son's soccer and baseball teams, as well as waterskiing with loved ones. He had a passion for auto racing and often spent time with friends and family indulging in this interest. In particular, Don was fond of sprint car racing and relished being a part of the pit crew.

“Don's warm smile, kind heart, and gentle spirit will be dearly missed by all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, and

kindness that will forever remain etched in the hearts of his family and friends.”

Published in Sonoma Index-Tribune – 8/9/2023

Joseph (Joe) W Johnson, an **Honorary QCC member**, passed away on 3/10/23. He had many years of Caltrans service in District 4 and 10.

Frank G Milani, also an **Honorary QCC member**, passed away on March 1, 2023 as reported by his wife of 56 years, Rose. Frank retired from Caltrans after 46 years of service. An obituary is available here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/marinij/name/frank-milani-obituary?id=49678568>

George Samoulides, another **Honorary QCC member**, passed away on December 19, 2022 at the age of 97, as reported by his son Steve. George retired from Caltrans as a Senior Transportation Engineer in 1987 after 37 years. Here is an obituary for more information.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sfgate/name/george-samoulides-obituary?id=38444887>

Here is another story from **Gordon Analla** below.

Santa Cruz Maintenance Yard, Primo **By Gordon Analla**

One of my regions when I first became a field Assistant District Safety Officer in District 4 was the San José Region. Back then, in 1983, the Santa Cruz territory was part of San José. During my 22 plus years as a safety person with Caltrans, I encountered many great people. I have to state, that one of my favorites stops was the Santa Cruz Yard. I never felt that I had to prove myself to any of the crews. This coming from a young man from The City, and also the District Office. They always went out of their way, to make me feel welcome. There was a certain vibe there, unlike any other yards/stations. I didn't feel like an outsider. I think they were just happy to see

someone from the District Office make the long trip down there.

There was an instance when a money carrier vehicle nearly penetrated their closure. This was brought to my attention during a safety meeting. After the meeting I got the information that was needed and I sent a letter to the company. Within a few days, I received a positive response from their management and relayed that to the crews first by a phone call, and then presented them my correspondence and the reply in person. **Larry Walker** was the Regional Manager then. A bear of a guy, but just a down to earth homespun person who slapped me on the back when I presented him the correspondence with an “atta boy!” It meant the world to me. And it meant acceptance. I believe it showed all involved that I would follow through.

One of my favorites times was going down Highway 1 from my home in Pacifica to Santa Cruz. I loved being near the ocean. It was a great stretch just to get away. Many times, the reason for me going down that highway was to do an operation field review at Waddell Bluffs. The residents of the yard kidded me with “if the boulders don't get you, the great whites might.” This was one way traffic control as they paved and/or removed the boulders and the rocks from the travel way.

There was one particular gentleman, who was the Landscape Supervisor. His name was **George Dunn**. A prince of a guy whom, I didn't work with and for him too long, but long enough to know that I respected him immensely. He had a medical condition which, sometimes his arms moved involuntarily or shook. And his speech to some might be hard to distinguish. This man showed me strength. And he was a good Supervisor and nice person to boot. I don't know what happened to him, but I am sure he retired due to health matters. But what an amazingly knowledgeable, helpful individual he was.

That yard, that area, to state again, were some of the best people I have ever encountered at Caltrans. **Jim Walters** was the Superintendent. There was **Richard Barnes, Don Saunders**, Lead worker; **Leon Juan**, “ Watsonville All-Star” **Manuel Ramirez, Dale Williams**, Tree Crew Supervisor; **Bob Pierce**, his Lead worker; **Dale Gray, Roger Hope**, and **Lester K. Jennings**, Lead worker. I labelled him “the great shark hunter,” as he told me of a tale when he was out in the ocean, and a scene like in the movie “Jaws,” was his experience. **Greg Mahoric**, Landscape Supervisor; **Cindy Cocoli. Keelee Adams. Floyd Schultz. Roger Willenberg**; Landscape Supervisor **Tom Gamblin**, who was raised in my neighborhood in The City; **Chris Rodrigues, Tim Fleck, Larry Culver, Al Zonio**, the very helpful and cheerful Resident Mechanic. There was a Travelling Mechanic, a young man in his late twenties or so, that travelled with his dog. I loved it. And of course, good man **James McMahan**.

As the years past like post miles travelling down the highway, my fond memories of this group always bring a smile to my face and a spring in my step. Thank you one and all for the way you treated me.

□

- Nigel Blampied

The Haps in District 5

Turning the page on the calendar, hard to believe it's September. We've just had our late summer heat spell here in San Luis Obispo, and I felt sorry for the crew that worked through it, paving the street in front of my house. My husband **Bob** always said he did not enjoy walking behind the paver under those conditions.

Caltrans District 5 has been in the news recently. Future projects may include the much-needed expansion of Rte 101 in the Pismo Beach area,

construction of a bridge over Rte 46 East at Union Road, a roundabout adjacent to Rte 101 South at Avila Road, another roundabout on Rte 154 at the intersection of Baseline Avenue and Edison Road, and improvement of pavement, lighting, and signs on Rte 183 near Salinas and Castroville. An overhead wildlife crossing is being planned over Rte 101 in San Benito County in the Rocks Ranch area to reduce collisions with animals.

Travelers on Rte 101 between San Miguel and King City should note that the speed limit is being reduced from 70 to 65 mph along that stretch, to help eliminate fatalities and serious injuries.

I enjoy viewing the various posts on the Facebook Caltrans Retirees group, both historical and hysterical. Thanks to all the contributors.

I recently saw a photo of the opening of Hwy 1 between Carmel and San Simeon on June 27, 1937. It is from the Golden Age of Travel 1830-1955. Gentlemen are wearing suits and hats. The road is full of vehicles, bumper to bumper, and I didn't see any guardrail along the southbound (ocean) side.

Faith and **Bill Fieldhouse** recently had a houseful of family, as their son came from Texas with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It was great to see all the generations enjoying themselves.

George Phebus recently came from Oregon for a visit with **Pearl Cole**. We enjoyed a pleasant lunch with **Joan McGrath** in a comfortable booth at Madonna Inn. It was fun to reminisce about the good old days.

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned **Bill Cotnam**, an **Honorary QCC member**. I'm sorry to report that he passed away on July 27 at age 92. Our local television station commented

on his many years as a supporter of sports at SLO High School. Tiger Bill will be remembered for his rally cry "Let's go, Tigers". He is survived by his daughter, son, and granddaughter.

I'm sorry to report the passing of Micheal Counts on July 20. He spent 34 years in the computer field and was our IT Manager at the time he retired. Mike and his wife April had relocated to Kansas to be close to family. He will be remembered for his kindness, his love of corny jokes, and sense of humor. He is survived by April and son Max.

If you have news to share about your travels or other activities, please let me know.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

District 6 is looking for a new QCC Director and QCC Secretary/Treasurer. Please let Terry Littleton or Mike Ogilvie, statewide Secretary/Treasurer, know if you are interested.

The Haps in District 7

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

The Haps in District 8

In July we had our last Summer Luncheon at Hannah's Restaurant as they are retiring. We had a great time visiting and an informative talk about what is going on with Route 66 Celebration planned for 2026 from David Bricker. He also informed the QCC that plans are in the works for a 100-year anniversary for District 8 (opened in 1923) for some time in October.

In attendance were Andy Machen, David Bricker, Terri Kasinga and Mitch, Vera Holloway, Jo Stringfield and Matt, Jamal Elsaleh, Tom Powell, Janice Feenstra, Stan and Ina Lisiewicz, Sylvia Mata, Teri Lopez, Mike Miles, Jay Rodriquez, Sybille Phillips, Laverne Archie, Judi Hudgens, Priscilla Williams, Linda Wilford, Diana Barich, Bob Sassaman, Rosanna Roa, Charlotte Sheehan, Ben Ramirez, Wanda Gernux and Linda Supernaw.

Received an e-mail from John Reed (longtime Division of Highway employee) as follows:

"Before I cork off, I'd like to beat my own chest about rumble strips - yep, the recessed grooves in the shoulder of the westbound Baker grade approaching Baker (if they're still there).

We (the Traffic Dept) were undertaking studies to see if we could wake someone up before they ran off the road. We had already placed raised bars (we'd call them speed bumps now) along a short stretch of the eastbound shoulder before reaching Baker but running over them at any speed was more disconcerting than alerting.

I didn't exactly invent rumble strips, but I noticed that our Maintenance Dept. had scored the road with tread marks several times in the mountain areas where they had to move a Caterpillar tractor from one side to the other. The 'Cat' tracks made my car vibrate without causing any loss of control. So (Traffic) got in touch with the RE on the job that happened to be starting westbound on the Baker grade and suggested that he pad one side of 'Cat' treads and run the unpadded tread down a stretch of newly laid asphalt shoulder to create depressions in the shoulder near the edge of traveled way - the RE did us one better and welded some pipe like bars to a metal wheel and used it to create even depressions (similar to the 'cat' tracks) in the outside shoulder as they laid the asphalt. No additional materials, no

raised anything to interfere with driving or plowing snow, and they rumbled great.

I did an 'after' study (it had **John Chadoin's** name on it) and came to the conclusion that there was a slight, but significant reduction in 'run off road' accidents in that area. Some math student reviewed the study later (in the '90's, I think) and found no significant reduction, but he used the chi square test, Gary Nelson told me. [I don't believe that is a proper statistical method for evaluating rare - such as 'run off road accident' - events. For example, you can't use it to determine the likelihood of being struck by lightning very well.]

By that time I'd long transferred out of Traffic, and just knew that rumble strips were picked up by other states in some form or other.

Thanks for keeping us posted with 'Division of Highways' (Oh! You say it's 'Caltrans' now?) information. (This was a jab at the 50th Anniversary of Caltrans news!)” – **John Reed**

On another note, had an e-mail conversation with **Norm Suydam** who informed me (**Linda**) that he had talked to **George Morhig** recently and you'll all be glad to hear that George finally made it to Naples, Florida where he owns a condo and that is where he will reside for his retirement years. If you ever worked with George, you will remember how much he wanted to get back to Florida!!

We love getting stuff like this from the QCC, especially our older Retirees so keep it coming!!!

There have been a lot of new appointments - all announcements sent to Linda Supernaw on behalf of D8 by Jean Advincula:

D8 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Karen Adame** as Senior Transportation Engineer for the Encroachment Permits Unit -

Riverside County in District 8, effective July 03, 2023.



Karen earned her Civil Engineering degree from the University of California, Irvine in 2017 and professional licensure in 2021. Prior to Caltrans,

she worked for the City of Colton, Public Works Department.

Karen started her career with Caltrans District 8 in 2018 as a Transportation Engineer in the Division of Design. She has worked on multiple projects, and on various in-house and oversight projects throughout her rotation assignments in the Division of Design, Traffic Operations, Construction and PPM.

D8 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Dean Howard** to the position of Program Manager of Business Management Services, Staff Services Manager II (SSM II), in the



Division of Administration. He will be responsible for the district's business management activities, and overseeing the Office of Facilities Management, Health and Safety Management Services, and Building Operations. His appointment is effective July 3, 2023.

Dean started his career in District 8 in 2019 as the district's Employee Engagement Analyst in the Division of Administration. During his tenure, he helped the district launch a talent management and succession planning project, worked with his

Dean started his career in District 8 in 2019 as the district's Employee Engagement Analyst in the Division of Administration. During his tenure, he helped the district launch a talent management and succession planning project, worked with his

supervisor to develop and launch the employee clubs program, assist with recruitment at college career fairs, and work with the Executive Team to complete SWOT analysis and develop measurable goals as part of the department’s Strategic Management Plan.

In fall of 2020, **Dean** left state service and went to work for Amazon and worked as an Operations Manager and District Manager. Welcome back to D8 Dean!

D8 is pleased to announce the promotion of **Danette Gonzalez** to Staff Services Manager I (SSM I) in the Administration Division – Budgets, leading the Operating Expense Unit, effective July 25, 2023.



Danette has been with the Department of Transportation for 23 years. She started her career with Caltrans District 8 in 2000 as an Office Technician in the Division of Maintenance, South Region Office supporting 21 supervisors and their crews. In 2002 she transferred to the Division of Planning and Local Assistance. During her 12 years in Planning, she was the Assistant to the Planning Deputy and was later promoted to Staff Services Analyst in the Local Assistance unit.

Danette took a year off from Planning to join the Design Build Team for the Devore Interchange Project.. Danette returned to Planning and was promoted to Associate Governmental Program Analyst and provided support to all the Planning units.

In 2014 Danette joined District 8 Budgets Resource Management Unit as a Resource Management Analyst. She gained valuable experience when she had the opportunity to serve as the acting SSM I for the Operating Expense unit. Danette transferred to the District Project Control team where she works closely with PPM, Maintenance, Planning, R/W, Design, Construction and Environmental staff on all project budget related requests.

D8 is pleased to announce **Max Quach** will be Senior Transportation Engineer (Supervisory) for the Pre-Programming/Engineering Studies (Project Initiation Documents) unit in the Division of Transportation Planning, effective August 1, 2023.



Max Joined the Department of Transportation in 2006 with the Division of Engineering Services – Office of Structure

Construction. In 2014, he joined District 8 in the Division of Construction where he worked as a Structure Representative and Resident Engineer. He has also worked in the Division of Traffic Operations, Surveillance and Capital Outlay Support, for the delivery of safety and innovative projects, like the Dynamic Truck Parking for Safety Roadside Rest Areas.

In his most recent position as Senior Transportation Engineer (Specialist) with the PID unit, Max has implemented a Quality Control/Quality Assurance process for the PID development. He acts as the District 8 Zero Emission Vehicle coordinator and program advisor initially to implement California’s 2016 ZEV Action Plan, now is working towards alternative fuel accommodations for all users. Max is a certified remote pilot from the FAA and

uses drones for Planning level field inspection and 3D modeling. He recently took on the role of District 8 Equity Lead and is part of the Safety and Engagement Action Plan working to develop guidance to implement the Safe System Approach and involve communities in the decision-making process.

D8 is pleased to announce the promotion of **Quyen Sy** to Senior Transportation Engineer, in the District 8 Division of Planning, where he will serve as the District Local Assistance Specialist (DLAS) to provide Quality Control/Quality Assurance (QC/QA) to the Local Assistance processes and deliverables, effective August 16, 2023.



Quyen started his career with Caltrans in 1998, as a Transportation Engineer with Design in District 8, where he prepared technical reports, plans, specifications and estimates for the construction of transportation improvements.

In 2007, Quyen joined District 8's Design Division as an Oversight PE for several high-profile corridor and interchange projects. He provided technical oversight and served as the single point of contact for internal units, headquarters, consultants, local agencies, and FHWA. He was also instrumental on committees that developed guidelines for PDT meeting, District 8 Innovation Team, and PE Think Tank forum that is an informational sharing group.

Quyen is committed to effective communication, responsiveness, and teamwork. His experience, leadership, and result-oriented approach will ensure success in delivering quality

transportation projects and meeting the District's goals.

D8 is pleased to announce that **Michael Martinez** has been promoted as the new Maintenance Public Information Officer (PIO), effective August 2, 2023 for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8, which encompasses Riverside and San Bernardino counties.



Michael obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, San Bernardino in 2016. He started his journey with Caltrans in April 2022 as the Clean

California Public Information officer. His knowledge, skills, and creativity made him the best candidate and point of contact to provide information, and outreach, to the public, media, and local partners.

D8 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Abigail Delgado** as the new Manager, Strategic Engagement for the Division of Administration, effective August 2, 2023.



Abigail has worked for the State of California for six and a half years. Before joining Caltrans, she worked for the Department of Consumer Affairs in Field Operations and Enforcement, and Cal Fire in administering their Wildfire

Prevention grants. Abigail graduated from the

University of California, Irvine, in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

D8 is pleased to announce the promotion of **Illeen Prentiss** to Senior Environmental Program Manager effective July 31, 2023.



Illeen has been in service of the State for 24.5 years, joining Caltrans in 2001 via the Division of Program Project Management. Illeen later

joined Environmental Planning in 2008 as an Environmental Planner. She also played a valuable role in the first Fuel Reduction efforts in the Cajon Pass, and spearheaded the streamlining of the MS 600 Certification of Environmental Compliance at Construction Contract Acceptance.

Throughout her career at Caltrans, **Illeen** has been an active member of our community, serving on the Employee Recognition Committee since its inception, as a member of the Bring Your Child to Work Committee, participated as a mentor and mentee in the D8 Mentor Program and under her floppy hat, behind a camera, is capturing various D8 events for us!

D8 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Anthony Liao** as the Deputy District Director of Program Project Management effective August 14, 2023.



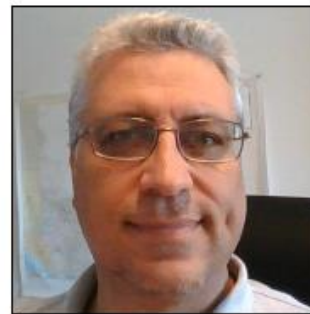
Anthony has over 25 years of service with Caltrans with approximately 17.5 years with the Division of Program Project Management

(PPM). He began his Caltrans career in 1998 as a Range D Engineer and recently served as one of the Office Chiefs

for the PPM Division. He has held various positions through the years including Hydraulic Engineer, Project Manager, and District Program Manager. As a PPM Office Chief, Anthony assisted in overseeing all aspects of project and program deliveries as well as resource needs including A&E for the capital program. He also has extensive knowledge and experience in resolving budgetary and audit findings with the FHWA and the Inspector General's office. Before joining Caltrans, **Anthony** practiced as a structural design engineer including the design of Ontario Mills.

Anthony has a master's degree in Civil Engineering with structures and is a graduate of UCLA and UC Berkeley. He is also a registered Professional Engineer.

D8 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Samer Georges** as Senior Transportation Engineer (Specialist – Project Manager) in the Division of Program Project Management, effective September 1, 2023.



Samer's journey began with the attainment of a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering – Structural from Syria in 1993. Over the course of five

years, he contributed to the General Services Department while concurrently working as a computer instructor and offering computer repair services. His path led him to the United States, where he engaged in various occupations. Starting as an employee at a liquor store, he progressed through becoming a Certified Novel Administrator (CNA) and a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), subsequently serving as a technical support representative for two distinct companies before eventually finding his place at Caltrans.

His association with Caltrans began on May 22, 2006, as a Transportation Engineer, focused on design. Notably, he accomplished the Professional Engineer (PE) examination in 2009. In 2011, he transitioned to the Hydraulics unit, concurrently attaining the Project Management Professional certification. In the following years, **Samer's** journey encompassed roles in construction, including serving as an Assistant Resident Engineer, Engineer, and eventually, Acting Senior Transportation Engineer (Supervisor) until May 31, 2021. His trajectory then led him to the Traffic Management Center (TMC), where he commenced as the Acting TMC chief on June 1, 2021, subsequently securing the role permanently on April 1, 2022.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Rajan Rijal** as the Senior Transportation Engineer, Project Manager, in the Division of Program/Project Management effective September 4, 2023.



Rajan received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the Philippines in 2002 and his Masters in Civil Engineering from the California State

University Fullerton in 2012. Rajan has about 16 years of civil engineering experience working at various organizations.

After obtaining his Bachelor's Degree, Rajan worked as a District Co-Ordinator at the Department for International Development, managing and leading programs in various districts in Nepal. After completing his studies and obtaining his Professional Engineer license in 2014, Rajan worked as a Civil Engineer in public and private organizations such as Southern California Edison (SCE). Rajan eventually started his career with Caltrans in

2018 as a Transportation Engineer in the Oversight Design team.

D8 is pleased to announce the appointment of **Bihari Mehta** as the Senior Transportation Engineer, Project Manager, in the Division of Program/Project Management effective August 21, 2023.

Bihari has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and is a licensed Civil Engineer since 2010. Prior to working in Caltrans, he worked in the private sector for many years.

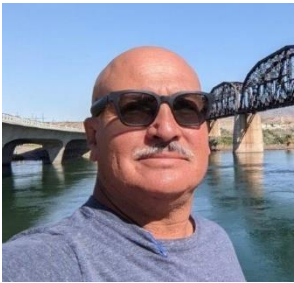


Bihari joined Caltrans in 1998 and has worked in multiple offices which includes Traffic Operations, Design, Asset Management, Sustainability, and Innovation. As a project engineer, he

delivered two Contract for Delivery projects and one safety project. He was an oversight engineer of several interchange improvement projects including the Scott Road interchange and Placentia Avenue interchange on I-215. For the last 5 years, he has been working with District Asset Manager in screening and prioritizing SHOPP projects, balancing SHOPP Project Book, and coordinating the preparation of project initiation packages. He is a member of the Statewide Organization Change Management Committee for the new all-encompassing Transportation Asset Management System and is one of the District 8's Sustainability representatives. For the past couple of months, Bihari has been working on an out of class assignment as a Project Manager, managing some in-house and oversight challenging projects.

Salvador Castaneda retirement memo was sent to **Linda Supernaw** by **Jean Advincula**. It is included below:

As I reflect on my career spanning over 25 years with the Department of Transportation Division of Maintenance—I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for the life and health that has afforded me the opportunity to be a part of this great team that serves the Golden State.



Salvador Castaneda

When I started my career with Caltrans in May 1998, I was hired on as a Highway Maintenance Worker for a landscape crew in District 12. A year later I promoted to Equipment Operator II on the Fence and

Guardrail crew, where I spent the next five years before transferring to District 8. I spent four years on the Ontario Maintenance crew before promoting to Maintenance Leadworker on the Guardrail crew. Two years later I had the opportunity to promote to Maintenance Supervisor, where I oversaw contractor work and guardrail inspections, followed by supervision of the Stormwater/Vector crew.

It was in September 2015 when I promoted to Bridge Maintenance Supervisor. With it came a lot of new challenges but also a welcome opportunity to apply and practice knowledge and experience gained in building structures during my 12 years in construction before Caltrans. In every position during my career, I've always performed my job with enthusiasm—always keeping in mind the safety of the traveling public and my own personal goal of making a difference when performing repairs to our bridges and structures. With that in mind, Caltrans is where I found my passion in maintaining and repairing the safety components of our bridges and structures.

I want to express my appreciation to all Caltrans mentors that have given me the opportunity to serve at every level in my career. I also want to thank all my coworkers that have helped me throughout every occasion and every new position. A special thanks to my bridge crew members taking part in every job that we all performed together and for following my guidance, doing your job well, and staying safe.

I feel very fortunate for this great opportunity in life, to be part of this department of the Great State of California.

Thank you all—it has been a great ride with many friends, new and old. Wish you all the best.
Salvador Castañeda

Update from Chris Grimes, son of **Linda Grimes**. Linda's phone is not working correctly so if you call please use Chris's number (909) 648-3401 so he can help with the call as she can't read the face of her phone or cards or anything.

Linda loves hearing from people. Her health is good. She was diabetic when she went to live with Chris but with diet management her blood sugar stabilized and she does not have to be monitored anymore. Her eyes were bad 10 years ago and they just got her new glasses but the doc said her eyes are what they are. They can't do anything to make them better. She can see shapes on the TV and she watches 40 year old reruns so she knows the plots by heart but she is in good spirits. All things considered she is well. They look forward to hearing from Caltrans retirees, their door is always open to visitors so please call or stop by when you can.

Sad news was reported by **Mark Pertile** regarding the passing of **Ike Maatubang**. Ike started with Caltrans back in 1988 and retired in 2020. Ike worked in the PS&E Unit until transferring to Greg Ramirez's Design Group. Mark Pertile took over that group in 1999

and Ike didn't leave that Unit until after Mark was promoted to Design Supervisor in 2019. Mark said **Ike** was his Specifications and Estimate Expert, easy going and always quick to laugh. Ike was born 9/18/1955 and passed 6/27/2023.

Teri Lopez & Wanda Gernux relayed the passing of **Sue Hays** on August 30, 2023. Sue worked at one of the State Prisons before coming to Caltrans as the Executive Secretary to District Director **Stan Lisiewicz** and then promoted to Program Management working for **Joe Fehrenkamp** and **Manuel Farias** before retiring around 2006. **Susan Cleone Hays** was 73 years old and is buried in Riverside National Cemetery.

Upcoming Events for D8:

Our next Informal Luncheon at Sizzler's on Waterman Ave in SBd, will be on Wednesday, September 27, at noon. Please let Laverne Archie know by text at (909) 936-9940 if you can make it so we reserve enough tables. The next one after that will be Wednesday, November 1, also at noon.

The District is planning a big Diversity Day Celebration on November 7 from 11:30 – 1:30 in the District 8 Courtyard. Retirees are invited to join in the festivities!

The Christmas Luncheon will be December 9 at a new place yet to be determined, but save the date! Flyer will be sent by e-mail so watch for it...

That's all folks,
Remember District 8 is Great!

- **Linda Supernaw**

Editor's Recruiting Note:

Please check the current news for Caltrans 25- and 40-Year Awards and recent Retirees <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

The Haps in District 9

Not much to report from District 09 again and not much of a response from the people that were sent emails.

There are still ponds in some of the low spots in the Owens Valley from the wet spring we had this year. On Aug 21, we got 1-2/3 of an inch of rain. The temperatures are cooling down. On Sept 2 the top of Mt Tom got a skiff of snow.

A lot of people were in town for the Tri-County Fair with many pedestrians and vehicles moving around. It appears that the economy is doing well and it is great for the local businesses. Outside we can hear the fun entertainment from the loud speakers.

Since this is a short submittal included is a Tomato Report: It has been a good year for our tomatoes plants, made tomato juice and caned some whole ones. The cooler fall temperatures have slowed their ripening, as they do best from 55°F to 95°F. The Preferred variety are indeterminate rather than determinate, my seeds to success is using Big Beef variety and sometime these seeds are difficult to purchase.

"Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened." - Jennifer Yane

A L (Tony) Cole sent news of **Frank Crosby "Sammy" Hoyt, Jr.** passing away on January 30, 2023 at the age of 98. Frank started his career with the Division of Highways in District 07 and worked there for many years prior to transferring to District 09.

Lance Hinek stated that he worked with Frank in the mid 1980's when Frank was Deputy District Director of Right of Way for District 09 and his boss.

The following was taken from the Funeral Service:

Frank Crosby “Sammy” Hoyt, Jr. passed away peacefully in his family home in Laguna Woods on January 30, 2023 surrounded by his wife Elizabeth “Betty” Hoyt and many other immediate family members. Known as “Cubby”



as a boy, Frank grew up in Eagle Rock and later in Long Beach with his father Frank Sr, mother Nonnie, sister June, grandfather Royal Hoyt, grandmother Catherine Brady, later with his stepmom Lois, as well as many other

relatives and friends in a very loving and caring family.

Frank attended Naples Elementary and Rogers Jr. High, where he first met and courted his bride to be, Elizabeth Mae Linde. He went on to Wilson High School and enrolled in Aviation Shop where he worked on real airplanes for 2-3 hours a day. It was during his years at Wilson where he was given the nickname of Sam, or Sammy, which remained with him for the rest of his life. He graduated early from Wilson and was drafted in June 1943. After completing officer and flight training, Sammy graduated as a 2" lieutenant on June 27, 1944, at Luke Army Airfield in Arizona. He married his sweetheart, Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Linde on February 23, 1945, in Phoenix, Arizona, with Betty’s parents in attendance. Despite his desire to help the war effort as a fighter pilot, Sammy was never called to serve abroad due to the surrender of Japan in August 1945. Sammy was discharged from the service in October 1945 and went to college on the Gi Bill. Upon graduation he went to work for the Division of Highways.

After his family, Sammy loved flying more than anything. He was able to enlist as a reservist in the 303° Air Rescue Squadron and flew many

missions including to Spain and Hawaii. He also found a way to own and fly his own plane for many years out of Long Beach and later Mammoth where he was a member of the Mammoth Air Force flying club.

Sammy loved the outdoors and shared that love with his kids as they grew up on many camping trips to Yosemite and other destinations. He led his kids on so many hikes, including summiting Mt. Whitney. Sammy also found time to be a scout leader and teach his kids outdoor living skills and to follow scout values such as being “trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, cheerful, thrifty, and reverent.” Sammy shared his love of travel and adventure by taking the family to Spain in March 1964 to go to school, learn Spanish and see sights caravanning around Europe. That experience taught the family to appreciate other cultures and nationalities. The many people they met in Europe were invariably friendly, helpful and kind to the Hoyts.

The family returned to the US in July 1965 to a new home in Costa Mesa which served as a launching pad for the children as they completed school and went off to college. In 1978, after ski trip to Mammoth, Sammy and Betty moved to Mammoth where they lived until 2013. During the many years in Mammoth, Sam and Betty skied, fished, played bridge, and traveled extensively with family and friends to many destinations in the US and abroad. They also owned a Bouncer RV which Sam and Betty drove all over the country.

Sammy, a patriot through and through, loved the USA dearly. All his life, he loved to fly the flag. Sammy never tired of watching WWII movies or documentaries, He also loved watching sports with Betty or with his kids until the day he died. He was an avid reader as well, and especially treasured books that had to do with flying, WWII or both. Sammy was a devout Catholic from the time of his birth and lived a life that was

honorable, calm, even tempered, decent, generous, fair, and friendly. He smiled and laughed easily.

He was a great storyteller and loved to tell a joke. He liked to cook pancakes for the grandkids and paella for guests. He loved to mix sangria, martinis, or a gin and tonic for grownups. He made friends easily, but most of all he loved his wife and family. And they loved him. All in all, Sammy led a life blessed by God, love, longevity, and happiness. A finer or fuller life cannot be imagined. We are certain that Sammy has gone to heaven and is resting in Peace.

-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

Hope everyone had a great summer and please let me know if any of you took some interesting trips this year! We'll post your travels along with pictures for others to enjoy.

Fall is on the way and we're smack dab in the middle of planning our picnic. We were unable to find a sponsor for Admiral Baker Field, so we switched gears and reserved a spot at Flinn Springs County Park east of El Cajon. The picnic will be held on October 21 and a save the date email was sent out to all members who have provided their email addresses.

I received multiple responses to my request for volunteers to help out at the picnic, setting up, working the raffles and cleaning up. Thank you to all who got back to me which allows us to put

on these events! I'll be sending out a flyer with more information and it will also be posted on our District 11 QCC Facebook page and at the District Office.

Remember to send in your dues so you can continue to be members in good standing! Dues have to be sent in to the QCC post office address. If you don't have the form, email me and I'll send it out to you. In the past, I sent out email updates to prior members, but now my email list only includes active members.

Please note that invitations to all future events will be sent out via email so make sure we have your current email addresses or you won't receive notifications regarding happenings!

We had a happy hour event this summer on July 25 at The Coronado Brewing Company off Morena Blvd. There was a great turnout with over 45 people attending! It was really nice to see old co-workers and catch up. We signed up nine new members **Gerard Chadergian, Victor Diaz, Brian Pecus, Arlene Gerstner, David Verdugo, Manuel Rivas Carl Savage, Nadine Danjou** and **Rebecca Diaz**, and renewed another four memberships. Welcome to you all! The get together was scheduled for Barra Barra in Old Town, but they canceled at the last minute and luckily The Coronado Brewing Company accommodated us. Everyone enjoyed the venue so we'll definitely be back there again next year! There should be pictures on the QCC Facebook page so look for those and thanks to all who came out and made the happy hour a success, we appreciate it!

The **ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)** breakfast at the Denny's in Fletcher Hills is held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month to come out and join the gathering. The next one will be October 18th! All are welcome to come!

A Road Last Traveled

QCC member, Fred Denenberg, 62, passed away on June 23, 2023. Fred worked at State Fund prior to transferring to Caltrans in District 11 and worked in Construction at the time of his retirement. **Fred** was the loving son of Burton H. Denenberg and the late Judith nee Sklair; brother of Joel Denenberg (Fiancee: Cindy Surman). His interment will be at Shalom Memorial Park.

Longtime **QCC Member Ernie Castillo** passed away on Sunday, June 4. Ernie worked in several departments in District 11 including Design Clerical and Right of Way during her decades long career at Caltrans. Her niece, **Sharon Sarquilla-Mills** is also a District 11 retiree.

In Other News

Erwin Gojuangco, District Division Chief-Traffic Safety & Operations, announced the selection of **Levy Le** as the Branch Chief for



Traffic Safety & Operations North Region on August 17, 2023. After graduating from San Diego State University with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering, Levy worked in the private

sector for two years before joining Caltrans, District 11. Levy’s previous assignments include Program Project Management, Design, Traffic Project Development, Traffic Engineering Analysis, I-5/SR-78 Corridor, Construction, and acting Branch Chief in Traffic Safety & Operations.

His most recent role was the Project Manager for Middle Mile Broadband Network where he managed two Construction Manager General Contractor (CMGC) contracts and a Job Order Contract (JOC). **Levy** has also been involved with the Board for Professional Engineers in P.E. Exam development. As the District 11 Construction rep, Levy was the statewide Lead of

the Construction Sub Team for the Construction Support Cost Estimating Reduction Committee in developing the statewide Support Cost Estimating Tools.

He was instrumental in the roll-out and training for Project Resource Schedule Management (PRSM). He also played an important role in the “Wrong Way Driving Prevention” implementation/roll-out program. He loves to travel the world to experience other cultures and foods. He also enjoys playing volleyball, skiing, hiking, and fishing.

Karen Jewel, Corridor Director, announced the promotion of **Jason Alsheikh** as Senior Resident Engineer/Construction Engineer for the Central Corridors as of July 24th.



Jason brings over 23 years of experience to this position. He started with Caltrans as a Transportation Engineer in 2000 after graduating from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He has held a range of assignments within the Divisions of Design and Construction. He worked on major projects including State Route 125 Toll Road Design-Build project, Interstate 805 HOVs South, Laurel St Bridge Rehab, and the Friars Rd Interchange.

In 2019, Jason moved to the administration side of the Construction Division where he acted as Branch Chief for Construction Office A and subsequently assisted with the development of work agreements, project management, and constructability reviews. He also served as the Acting Construction Engineer for the Construction Division in North County. He is the Contract Manager for several construction A&E contracts. Outside of work, Jason enjoys spending time with his family and traveling.

Sam Amen, D11 Division Chief, Design, announced the selection of **Liza Galon** as District 11 Senior Design Liaison in the Design Division, effective September 11, 2023.



Liza began her career with Caltrans District 11 in late 1997 in the Design Division. Shortly after finishing the SR-52/SR-67 Interchange project design, she transferred to Construction in 2009. In late 2019, she transferred to the Central Corridors Division.

Recently, Liza has acted as D11 Senior Design Liaison for the past 4 months and has been an active member of the WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar) San Diego Chapter and District 11 Women's Collective.

Liza was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the US after getting her engineering degree from the University of the Philippines in 1991. She did one tour in the US Navy before joining Caltrans as one of the first waves of new hires after several years of hiring freeze.

She enjoys traveling and spending time with relatives and friends. Her goal is to "touch" all 7 continents before she retires.

Please join me in welcoming Liza to her new permanent role.

Retirements

George Crawford – June
Kiersten Bousquet – June
Tim Brownson - July
Leticia Engelhorn – August
Rebecca Diaz - September

- **Kelly Manring**

The Haps in District 12

District 12 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in Central

The recent gathering in August for lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory was enjoyed by many. We had several new attendees including: **Mandy Chu** and **Kuo-Wei Lee**, **Daniel Okoro**, **Stan Hunter**, **Randy Ronning**, and **Rick Ortiz** (totaling 39). (See Photos Below)





QCC Summer Luncheon

Allen Wrenn will soon leave on an exciting adventure with his lady-friend Patti Hoffman. They will fly to Ft Lauderdale, FL and board a Holland America Line ship for a 73-day cruise. The cruise will take them across the Atlantic Ocean, into the Mediterranean Sea, through the Suez Canal, around the continent of Africa and back to Ft Lauderdale. Along the way they will stop in 26 ports-of-call, with some of them being for 2 days. These 2-day stops will allow them to visit well-known tourist locations. For instance, the ship will be in Aqaba, Jordan for 2 days to allow time to visit the Rose-Red City of Petra and to visit Wadi Rum.

Some of the places they will visit, Allen has never heard of. For instance; Mamoudzou, in the French Overseas Region of Mayotte. But, that is one of the ports they will visit.

After they return, **Allen** will post an after-trip account here.

Saying Goodbye

We are mourning the passing of several colleagues and friends:

- **Ben Matsuo, Joe Sandhu, Greg Hood, Clayton Giroux, and Earl Latham** from Structures
- **Chuck Chenu** from Transportation Planning
- **Ellen Derby** from Accounting
- **Harold Garfield** from Traffic
- **Lily Shilling** from Budgets and Administration
- **Steve Miller** from Rail

Please see some of the memories below:

I am regularly informed by **Ray Zelinski** of former colleagues and friends who worked for Caltrans/Division of Highways in the Structures/Bridge areas.

Here are **Ray's** words regarding several of these retirees: I wish to inform you of the passing of two of our former SIR 23 members, **Ben Matsuo** and **Joe Sandhu**. Obituary notices were not posted for either gentleman.

Ben Matsuo passed away at age 88 on July 11. The family held a private service for him. Thanks to **Marwan Siagian** for notifying me of Ben's passing.

I received notice of **Joe Sandhu's** passing from a mutual friend. He passed away on his 89th birthday on August 4. An open service was held for Joe on Friday, August 11.

Both were very active golfers with the Caltrans Bridge Golf Club during their work career. May they RIP.

Here is more from **Ray**: I received this message from Greg Hood letting us know that his father, **George Hood** passed away. "He moved into Mercy McMahan Terrace for assisted living on 6/5 and was there exactly 4 weeks. George was 99 years old. He loved golf and played a lot of

rounds with SIRS over the years besides playing with friends as well.

Rich Bordquist offered the following of our friend and colleague **Clayton Giroux**: Clayton Giroux was a Great guy!! I met him at work at Caltrans. He was my first client [victim] as an Information Technology [Computer] Analyst. He was a renaissance guy, smart, patient and kind. **Vic Graf** was also on the project. He was more intense, but he did want information correct for Caltrans. Clayton was a member of the Caltrans **Quarter Century Club**.

Clayton was an old car guy. He had a 1918 Peerless V8. One time he went to the Hershey Swap Meet in PA wearing a sandwich sign looking for parts. Another time he had a big party to start up the newly overhauled engine [stand alone]. The engine did start the first time and ran well. He eventually completed the 1918 Peerless V8 rebuild.

His house had huge backyard but no alley; so he put another big garage door on the back of his garage so one could use the garage for a pass-thru for vehicles and people. I took my 1937 Buick Business Coupe there and parked it in the backyard.

Clayton was a friend of **Carroll Harris** - another great Caltrans car guy. Clayton called me about year ago and we had a nice chat. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/clayton-giroux-obituary?id=52312732>

From **Ray Zelinsky**: I also received notice last week that **Earl Latham** passed away recently. I have no details of the date of passing. He has resided somewhere up the northern CA coast since retirement. I believe he retired as a Principal Bridge Engineer. He was a long time Bridge Design Supervisor and also headed Bridge Construction for several years. He turned age 92 in April.

Wayne Luney advised me that **Chuck Chenu** had passed. He said the following: Chuck had been my supervisor for a time and we worked well together. I liked him even though we had a few minor political differences. I looked forward to meeting him at **Quarter Century Club** meetings.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/donald-chenu-obituary?id=52259237>

Here is information on **Ellen Derby** from Accounting.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/ellen-derby-obituary?id=52197166>

Harold's wife, Dolores, contacted me with news that **Harold (Hal) Garfield** passed on May 26, 2023. She will hold a small family service for him this fall at the Sacramento National Veterans Cemetery in Dixon, CA. I worked with Hal in Traffic and recall his easy manner and wise offerings to the conversation. We mostly visited during our "famous Traffic coffee breaks".

Tim Craggs is good about sending me notifications of our friends who have passed. The following is retyped from a facebook screen shot for **Lily Shilling**: Hello All, Again, thank you for all the love and support you have given to Denise and me over the past month. Your calls, messages, cards, texts and general output of love and prayers have been appreciated! As you know, Mom was special to each and every one of us. She truly had the power of love in her and shared it with so many around the world. Today we were able to put her ashes in her beautiful urn as you can see. The inscription on the top says her name, her dates, and it says, "Extraordinary Mom and Nana."

Stan Hunter relayed the following regarding **Steve Miller**: "I am saddened to report that former member of the Caltrans Division of Rail, Steve Miller, passed away on June 24, at the age

of 76, after a brief illness. Born in Oakland, CA, Steve was a long-time member of the La Mesa Model Railroad Club in San Diego, where he participated in many operating sessions and other club activities, as well as being a Greyhound dispatcher in Oceanside, and owner of a model railroad hobby shop.”

“Steve moved to Sacramento when he got a job



with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Mass Trans, where he performed a large number of tasks related to rail and mass transit throughout California. His largest contribution was the management of the statewide, Caltrans-sponsored, connecting bus program for a number of years. “Steve’s buses” brought many passengers to the state-supported Capitols, San Joaquins and Pacific Surfliners, augmenting those corridors and extending those services to many areas of California that did not have direct rail service.”

“He retired in 2007, and his party was a group outing to a Sacramento River Cats baseball game. His legacy lives on in the ongoing success of the California rail programs. As an avid traveler, he rode trains and transit all over the world. Steve made huge contributions to the Central Coast Railway Club, the National Railway Historical Society and other organizations through participation in excursion planning and operations, bus services, content for

publication, preservation of artifacts, and presentations. Many successful train excursions were the product of teams of volunteers that included Steve and his expertise and enthusiasm for passenger trains.”

“Steve was also a passionate supporter of live music, baseball, history and public radio, and his hand-drawn Christmas Cards will be sadly missed this year. He remains in the memory of many including his family and friends. I’m sure Steve sends out a Giant “Thank You” to everyone, past and present, who made all the events in his life so meaningful.” -**Stan Hunter**

- **Wes Lum**

Events

Please verify that the group is meeting prior to attending.

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

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets three times a year at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Contact **Dianne Steinhauser** and **Michael Chan** at chanhausers@juno.com to receive invitations to these gatherings.

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

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 -

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 -

Informal Get Together meets 4th Wednesday of odd months at 12:00 currently at Sizzler on Waterman Ave
Bring a friend – QCC membership not required.
Everyone pays their own. Locations may vary. Please call or text **LaVerne Archie**, 909-936-9940.
RSVP desired but not required.

District 9 -

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

District 10 -

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.
Contact Butch Biendara 858-279-5054
eagleayerie@hotmail.com

Central District -

QCC Winter Luncheon is Thursday, December 14, 2023.
Where: Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento.
Contact **Dave Saxby** 916-479-2978 or
dpbear74@gmail.com.

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.

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/>

Check out the QCC website here:

<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net>

QCC Membership Renewal Form

Effective 2023

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

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIABLY)

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone (____) _____

E-Mail address _____@_____

Date of Retirement _____ Years of Service _____

Dues amount: _____ 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 and mail to:

QCC

PO BOX 421292

SAN DIEGO CA 92142-1292

