

# CIVIL ENGINEER



T H E N E W S L E T T E R

Tacoma ♦ Olympia Section of the  
American Society of Civil Engineers



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**CIVIL ENGINEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**

**THEY PROVIDE THE QUALITY OF LIFE!**

The **Civil Engineer Newsletter** is published for the Tacoma/Olympia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers monthly from September to June.

To submit ads or articles of interest, please contact the current President of the Section or the Editor. Information must be submitted not later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For address changes and corrections, contact the Editor.

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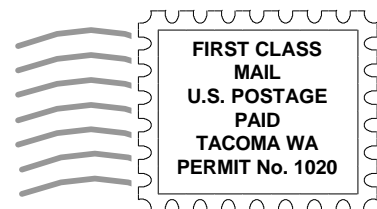
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**Section Home Page WEB address:**

<http://www.asce.org/gsd/sections/tacoly/tacoly.htm>

**CIVIL ENGINEER**  
**The NEWSLETTER**

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## “YOU GOTTA LOVE THOSE GUYS!” —AND THEIR NEW STADIUM

**Wednesday, May 20 1998**

**Social: 11:30 AM**

**Lunch: Noon**

**Program 12:30 PM**

**Fife City Bar and Grill, Fife**

**Lunch is \$13.00 for members, and students are half-price.**

Speaker: Tom Gibbs, Chair,  
Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium  
Public Facilities District

The program is free to all.

The restaurant offers limited selection so there will be two or three options available for you to choose from. (Lunch includes soft drinks and gratuity).

Mr. Gibbs served as executive vice-president and director of water practice for CH2M Hill before retiring in January of 1997. Before joining CH2M Hill in 1974 he was executive director of Seattle Metro. His biographical sketch lists an impressive involvement with community development councils and institutions. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Mountain to Sound Greenway and is on the Board of Coastal Climate Company.

### Directions To Fife City Bar and Grill:

From I-5 take the Port of Tacoma Road Exit. At Pacific Highway East turn west (left). The restaurant is on the right side about half a block from the intersection, between a tire store and a motel. There is additional parking behind the building.

### Thank You

Thank you Sitts and Hill for donating last month's raffle prize. I finally won! My family and a couple of friends were very pleased to attend the Tacoma Rainier's game. The reindeer mascot was a big hit.

### Check it Out

The new WAC 173-152, a Focus Sheet, a concise explanatory statement, and the written comments and responses are available on Ecology's home page at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/>

### Attention Students

It is the Tacoma-Olympia Section's long-standing policy that your meal price is half off. Remember to say you are a student when you make your reservation. As always, there is no cost to attend the presentation.

### Reservations

Reservations for **lunch** are Strongly suggested. Members with reservations who do not attend will be billed. For your reservations please call **Chris Beckman** at (253)798-3557 (new number) or **Mark Leingang** (360)586-6163 by the close of business, **Monday, May 18, 1998**. You can also make reservations by accessing the Tacoma-Olympia Section Home page at: <http://www.asce.org/gsd/sections/tacoly/tacoly.htm>

Members with reservations who do not attend will be billed.

It is very important to make firm reservations for the section meetings for the following reasons:

- To make sure that we have a place set for everyone;
- So the presenter can bring enough hand-outs for all who are present;
- We (section) give an advance count of attendees so the proper amount of food will be prepared;
- We are charged for each person we make a reservation for;
- If the meeting is canceled, we can notify you.

### ASCE Activities



The ASCE Membership Committee and staff are working to expand the percentage of government engineers on the ASCE rosters. Government agencies are being offered a discounted group payment based on the number of participating members.

Discounts may range from 10 to 50 percent of the membership dues and are available on the local, state, and federal levels. At least 10 percent of the agency participants must be new members in order for the agency to qualify for the discount.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Berson at (703)295-6000 or at [nberson@asce.org](mailto:nberson@asce.org)

### Positions Wanted/Positions Open:

Resume Policy Our section newsletter will provide free space for ASCE students and members to advertise their qualifications. The resume information needs to be received by the 20th of the month to make the next newsletter. If you still



This month's column is a well-written response from the other side of the fence.

**Letter to the Editor (President) of Civil Engineer Newsletter:**

I was interested to read your President's Corner in April's newsletter and believe one of your statements deserves further discussion. In Case No.

97-01-0004, I agree that the County which accepted the engineers work should be expected to abide by the results dictated by their requirements if the engineer has fully complied with them. However, I must take issue with your statement that "I think it is high time that the people who make the rules government agencies) have to accept the responsibility for making sure the rules work". This statement does a great disservice to many dedicated individuals working to the best of their abilities with the restricted tools allowed to them by prior administrations or due to a lack of staff or financial resources. Changing the rules is a long, hard, frustrating task opposed by many different factions within the community, each with their own agenda.

*(President's note: I agree, and with the Board's ruling, maybe the administrators will pay more attention to the engineers on staff and in the community.)*

Rather than use this newsletter as a means to further stereotype government, I would hope to see it used as a tool for creating a dialog on issues and as a call for action to correct deficiencies found in regulations. I would be extremely surprised to find a government which would turn away offers of assistance from a highly regarded association as the ASCE or it's members. With support from outside entities, corrective legislation moves through bureaucracy relatively quickly.

It has been my experience that, in general, the professional engineering community has not been a strong advocate/leader of strengthening engineering criteria even though it is recognized that a community's engineering standards are sub-standard. Due to market pressures, many times engineering firms have used weak criteria or ordinances to the advantage of their client and the detriment of the downstream or adjacent properties and environment. That being said, I am sure there are firms which are utilizing advancements in engineering design criteria without waiting for the regulatory community to advance the requirements. I say kudos's to them, but it is not enough. They must support active change to the regulations else they are competing with firms who do it "faster and cheaper" but with more environmental damage.

Governments are being assailed on many fronts in the 90's and will continue to be so in the coming decade. Budgets are being slashed, experienced, knowledgeable employees let go, and departments told to do more with less money. "Work smarter, not harder" isn't just a Dilbertism but a mission statement for many departments. Your assistance can be invaluable if given in the interest of betterment for all citizens and not just for one faction to the detriment of all others.

One final thought: as professional engineers, strict adherence to the community's requirements should not be enough if the requirements are known to be inadequate. It offers protection in a

court of law (most of the time) but it does a great disservice to the community and your reputation. Sometimes the regulators need to be educated on the issues themselves; persevere. It helps all the citizens of the Puget Sound region. I would like to see the professional engineering community in Pierce County agree to a standard where the goal is no measurable impacts to neighbors and downstream property owners even if it means designing beyond the regulation requirements. Perhaps the motto should be "through my design I will inflict no harm" (to borrow from another well known oath).

Paul A. Bucich, P.E.  
(253) 798-6179

Rebecca Vader, President  
Tacoma Olympia Section  
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don't have a job, send it again the next month. The resume information is limited to:  
  
Name, Engineering Degree/Year, Position Desired, Years of Related Experience, Membership Status, ASCE section, Address to obtain more information, and Daytime Phone .  
  
Please send information to Rebecca Vader, 2917 South 17th Street, Tacoma, WA 98405 or e-Mail <timv@halcyon.com>

## Nominations

The nominating committee offers the following individuals for your consideration to lead the section during the next year. Your ballots are enclosed in this newsletter.

**President:** Jim Brigham. Jim works for GeoEngineers in Tacoma. He has held several board positions and is currently President-Elect.

**President Elect:** Kathy Hargrave. Kathy works for Sitts and Hill Engineers in Tacoma. She is currently serving her second term as Secretary.

**Secretary:** Chris Beckman. Chris works for Pierce County in Tacoma. He has been the Tacoma house Chair for several years.

**Treasurer:** Kristina Nelson. Kristina works for the City of Tacoma. She has held several positions on the Board and is currently serving as Treasurer for the third or fourth term.

**Director** (2nd year of current term): Perry Shea. He is currently serving in this position, and the Board expresses every confidence in his performance.

**Director:** Michael Hale. Michael works for the City of Tacoma. He has served in various positions in past years.

**Younger Member Chair:** Brian Matthews. Brian works for Skillings - Connolly Inc. in Lacey. Brian was appointed to this position by the Board to complete the term vacated by the past chair moving out of state.

**Nomination Committee:** Barb Proft, Jerry Hendricks, Craig Olson. Each of these individuals works for the public sector and has served as president in the last five years.

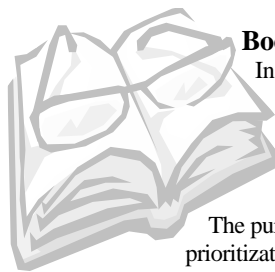
### Notes:

The Board is requesting volunteers to serve as Tacoma House Chair. The position involves serving as a reservation taker, checking people in and collecting money at the Tacoma meetings, and coordinating with the Treasurer and the restaurant.

## Your Newsletter

This newsletter is a function of the section, and your thoughts, announcements, articles, essays, and letters to the editor (President) are welcome at any time. Contributions made before the 20th of the month will definitely make the next newsletter, and after that, you take your chances.

If you care to send documents attached to email, please format them so they are readable by Word 5.0 or WordPerfect 3.0 (Mac versions) or are saved as text files. My technology is a few years old, and chokes on the modern stuff.



## Book Review

In April I received a half-inch thick document containing the results for the hearings and decisions on the new water rights administrative rule, Chapter 173-152 WAC. This rule became effective on March 31, 1998.

The purpose of the rule is to permanently implement prioritization criteria for processing water right applications, to organize the counties into regional office service areas, and to allow water rights decisions to be deferred until basin assessments are complete, to state the elements of a watershed assessment.

Following are some of my questions about water rights, most of which were not affected by the new rule. The answers are by Steve Hirschey of Ecology's Water Resource Program.

**Q: How many times can a right-holder use the water? Put differently, is a certain discharge of the water a part of a water right?**

A: No, not explicitly. A water right holder may use the water allocated to satisfy the beneficial use applied for. Once that use is satisfied, the water goes back to the public domain.

**Q: Can irrigation runoff and shallow infiltration be collected and re-applied? (This may have benefits for using up dissolved fertilizers and such as well.)**

A: Irrigation run-off can be reused by the original water right holder only to the extent the reuse satisfies the original intent of the application. No expansion of the original intent {additional area, etc.} is permissible.

**Q: As technology, DOH requirements, and frugality/conservation move us toward water reuse and reclamation, will Ecology clarify that a right-holder can reuse and reclaim water, and under what circumstances.?**

A: The currently proposed rule does not address this issue. If you want, I can direct you to some case law which describes or clarifies that a water right can be "reused" by the original right holder under very narrow circumstances.

## ASCE Calendar

⇒ **May 20 Section Lunch Meeting**, Tacoma, Fife City Bar and Grill 11:30 social Lunch NOON

**June 3 Board Meeting**,

**9 Section Meeting**

**July and August Summer Recess**

### PELP Programs

For additional information about these or other PELP courses or to have your name added to the course announcement bulletin mailing list, contact Ron Bucknam, PELP Program Director.

Quaternary and Engineering Geology of the Central and Southern Puget Sound Lowland August 6-8, 1998: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.