

ASCE Government Relations Committee Update

Jeff D. Meiter, LS, RCE
Region 9 Government Relations Chair
jeff@valued-eng.com / (909) 982-4601



Members of ASCE Region 9 embarked upon their annual Legislative Visit day in Sacramento to speak to our State Senators and State Assemblymembers on behalf of legislative matters on Wednesday, May 15th. Led by former Region 9 Director, Kenneth Rosenfeld, over 70 attendees from both ASCE as well as the American Public Works Association (APWA) headed to the Elks tower in downtown Sacramento where they were trained and brought up to speed on current legislative issues before being guided to the Swing Space where all of the Senators and Assemblymembers offices are located for pre-scheduled meetings. Topics that were discussed with the elected officials included workforce development, CEQA reform to increase project delivery timeframes, and timely distributions of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds from the federal government down to local agencies. Countless attendees were overheard mentioning the positive interactions that they had with their legislators and felt as they had made a positive difference towards matters that are important to Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors.



Many people reading this article would say, "That's great, but I would never dream of speaking to our elected official. I wouldn't know what to say." ASCE takes care of this by providing excellent training in the morning timeframe before any interaction with an elected official is had. You are briefed on the issues that will be discussed and even provided with opportunities to hear from legislators in person with tips and conversation suggestions. The best advice that is provided is to simply tell your story and what your experience is relating to the legislative issues. First-time attendees are then paired up with members who have previously attended Legislative Visit Days. As a group, the ASCE/APWA members head to the Senators and Assemblymembers offices to discuss

Engineering matters, but more importantly create and foster a relationship with the elected officials into the future. It is a good reminder that we are the experts in the field of Civil Engineering and Land Surveying matters and we should desire to provide our knowledge to those in the legislature that may not be aware of the importance. I personally feel honored to represent not only Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors when I am in attendance at Legislative Visit Day, but realize the important benefit that I am providing to the elected officials in helping them understand the vital role that Engineering plays in the advancement of our society. I will be back again next year in May to do my part in fostering a continued relationship with our elected officials and I hope you will consider joining me in this important event as well. If any questions, please feel free to contact me.