

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association
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www.calapa.net

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CALENDAR

(Always on-line [HERE](#))

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FREE WEBINAR

'Environmental Product Declarations and Asphalt in CA'

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Click [HERE](#) for flier. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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FINAL DAYS TO REGISTER!

CalAPA Annual Dinner
Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019
5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Jonathan Club, 545 S.
Figueroa St., Los Angeles
Details [HERE](#).

Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044

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SIGN-UP NOW!

'Asphalt Pavement 101'
training class

Greetings!

This weekly bulletin contains the latest news and information of interest to the asphalt pavement industry in California. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others who may be interested in asphalt pavements.

→ A look ahead: Our predictions for the Top 10 stories that will impact the asphalt industry in California in 2019

Editor's note: Last week we offered our completely subjective Top 10 news stories of 2018. You can read the story [HERE](#). This week we're back with our fearless prognostications for 2019. If you would like to see how we fared with our predictions a year ago, you can read that story [HERE](#).

1. With the threat of losing more than \$5 billion a year in road-repair funds eliminated by the defeat in November of Prop. 6, state and local governments returned to the business of designing and advertising transportation improvement projects to begin chipping away at decades of deferred maintenance. Personnel changes, retirements and other impediments, however, slow down projects from getting into the pipeline and work won't begin in earnest until the second half of the year. Still, the new funds are welcome news for cash-strapped agencies that have for years delayed major projects as traffic and pavement roughness worsened.



A paving operation underway.

2. Oil prices globally drifted steadily higher in 2018, only to drop sharply in the 4th quarter. Observers who predicted prices were headed toward \$100 a barrel were suddenly trying to understand oil trading at almost half that price. In 2019 many of the factors that led to the sharp decline in 2018 will continue to weigh on prices, including the continued strong output domestically and uneven attempts by oil cartels to curb production internationally, ushering in a repeat of 2014 when price drops roiled markets. The implications for asphalt prices, which track loosely with oil prices, will be obvious (and cheered by agencies that consume asphalt).

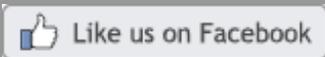
3. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will roll out a major revision to its pavement smoothness specifications, taking advantage of the latest equipment and technology to accurately measure pavement performance and ride quality. A product of years

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 8:00
a.m. to Noon
City of Antioch Department
of Public Works, 1201 W. 4th
Street, Antioch
Register [HERE](#).
Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044

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SAVE THE DATES!
Spring Asphalt Pavement
Conference & Equipment
Expo
Wednesday & Thursday,
March 20-21, 2019
DoubleTree Hotel, 222 N.
Vineyard Ave., Ontario
Details soon!
For exhibitor and sponsorship
information, contact Sophie
You at (916) 791-5044

SOCIALIZE

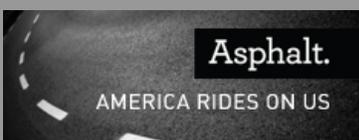


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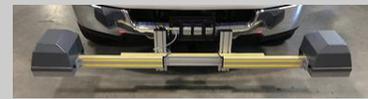


CHOOSE ASPHALT

Asphalt is used on about 93 percent of paved roads in California and across the U.S. Why? Because it's smooth, quiet, safe, durable and 100 percent recyclable. Visit the [Asphalt Pavement Alliance](#) website learn more about why asphalt is the right choice now more than ever.



of collaboration by industry, agency and academia, the new specifications will include incentives intended to challenge contractors to construct the smoothest pavements possible, which will trigger a flurry of activity as contractors obtain new equipment and train crews to understand how to meet the new standards. The new changes won't come into widespread use until the second half of 2019.



An inertial profiler.

4. A high-profile "Building Better Roads" initiative in San Diego County, intended to spur innovation and sustainability, results in a number of changes in local asphalt pavement specifications, including the utilization of higher percentages of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) in pavement mixes in response to rapidly disappearing sources of aggregate in the county. The initiative is being championed by San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chair Kristin Gaspar.



San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chair Kristin Gaspar.

5. In Washington, high hopes for a bipartisan infrastructure bill will continue to be elusive in 2019 as the Beltway is consumed with scandal, investigations and partisan bickering. By year's end politicians will be so focused on the 2020 presidential election that addressing the persistent insolvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund will remain out of reach. The silver lining will be that California politicians will wield enormous clout at the Capitol, partly as a function of the Democratic Party regaining control of the House of Representatives. U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D) regains the gavel as Speaker of the House, U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R) takes over as Minority Leader, and prominent roles are played by U.S. Reps. Adam Schiff as incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell as a member of both the House Intelligence Committee and House Judiciary Committee, and U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, emerging as a prominent voice of reason on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. As many set their sights toward the race for the White House in 2020, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (D) will continue to make headlines and influence debate on the issues, as will long-shot Swalwell and newly elected California Gov. Gavin Newsom.



6. Former San Francisco Mayor and Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom becomes the 40th governor of California, and quickly gets to work shaping his administration and areas of policy emphasis, including challenging all state employees to embrace cost-savings, innovation and efficiency at every opportunity. As is typical with the change of administrations, there will be a number of changes in cabinet secretaries and department directors, including at the California State Transportation Agency and the California Department of Transportation. The Department of Motor Vehicles will continue to make headlines in 2019, but as the year goes on the legally mandated cost savings required of Caltrans, \$100

GET TECHNICAL

Are you an engineer, designer or technical professional who makes decisions on pavement type selection? The DriveAsphalt website has technical reports and other resources may be just what you're looking for. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



CalAPA

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 981300
West Sacramento, CA 95798

Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 791-5044 (phone)

BACK ISSUES

Did you miss an issue of the *California Asphalt Insider*? No problem! Past editions of the newsletter are available at the CalAPA newsletter [archive page](#).

MAGAZINE

million as mandated by SB1, will gain greater scrutiny.

7. In the most high-profile project of its type since making its debut on the 710 Freeway in Long Angeles County, Caltrans will move forward with a major long-life (perpetual) asphalt pavement project on Interstate 5 in Sacramento, further codifying an award-winning design strategy to deliver asphalt pavement projects that last for decades with minimal maintenance. The project will benefit from years of research by the University of California Pavement Research Center, as well as practical experience drawn from previous projects on I-5 in the North State, Interstate 80 between Sacramento and the Bay Area, and on several projects on the 710 Freeway heading out of the busy Port of Los Angeles complex. Although the project was originally scheduled to get underway in 2018, important design changes based on industry feedback will result in streamlining the testing and acceptance process and making the pavement strategy more likely to be easily adopted by other districts.



Gavin Newsom poses with "California Asphalt" magazine publisher Kerry Hoover during a Vulcan Materials asphalt plant tour in 2015 organized by CalAPA.

8. A new Legislative session begins in 2019 with Democrats firmly in control of both the Assembly and the state Senate, holding two-thirds "super majorities" in both chambers. After all the votes were tallied, there were 60 Democrats and 20 Republicans in the Assembly, and 29 Democrats and 11 Republicans in the state Senate. Among the most ambitious bills of the year will be AB40, a revised version of a failed bill from last year, introduced by Assemblyman Phil Ting, to gradually phase out fossil fuel-powered vehicles in California. Numerous other spending proposals also will be floated at the Capitol, although incoming governor Newsom will strike a fiscally cautious tone and clamp down on profligate spending proposals as a hedge against the potential of a downward dip in the economy.



Jonathan Layne and other industry leaders head to the state Capitol in 2013 to meet with lawmakers during CalAPA's annual capitol "Fly-in."

9. Fresh off a big loss in November with Proposition 6, the gas-tax repeal initiative, anti-tax gadfly Carl DeMaio is back with an alternative funding plan for transportation that is currently approved by the Secretary of State to gather signatures to place on the statewide ballot. The initiative, among other things, would shift current state highway transportation funding and responsibility to cities and counties, and divert vehicle license fees from support of local government police, fire, and health programs and other funds from support of the DMV and CHP to fund road maintenance and operations. Finally, it would terminate the troubled high-speed rail project. Initial estimates are that it will impact tens of billions of dollars in funding. Supporters must gather 585,407 signatures of valid California voters by May 28 to qualify the measure for the November 2020 general election ballot, but they will fall short.

10. The Hamburg Wheel Track test will undergo additional scrutiny in 2019, particularly as it relates to testing of Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt pavement mixes. Caltrans materials engineers and their



CalAPA produces a highly regarded magazine, *California Asphalt*, and an annual membership directory. To view current and past issues of the magazine, click [HERE](#). For advertising sales information, click [HERE](#) or call Kerry Hoover with Construction Marketing Services at (909) 772-3121.

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www.calapa.net

GET CERTIFIED!



The Caltrans-industry Joint Training & Certification Program (JTCP) for materials technicians is holding classes in Northern and Southern California. Click [HERE](#) to visit our JTCP resource page to learn more.

industry counterparts will confer on proposed changes to the standards and acceptance language to more closely align Caltrans standards to national standards and also more closely align the test with other performance data.



A CalAPA-sponsored Hamburg Wheel Track training session held in 2013 at Twining's testing facility in Sacramento, attended by industry and agency personnel. The training session was conducted by Toni Carroll.

→ Tech Term of the Week

Each week we highlight a word, acronym or other reference commonly used in the asphalt pavement industry in California.

ASPHALT BASE COURSE: A foundation course consisting of mineral aggregate, bound together with asphaltic material.

→ Paving Pointer of the Week

Each week we highlight a key point or best practice of interest to asphalt paving crews, inspectors and others working in the field. We welcome suggestions. More tips can be found in our Asphalt Parking Lot Construction Checklist [HERE](#).

RECORD RETENTION AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION: Take a final photograph or photographs of the site for your records and retain all records from the project including: copies of all truck delivery tickets and record of all the temperature recordings and compaction readings you took during the project.

→ Quote of the Week

"Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I -- I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

Robert Frost

We hope you enjoy CalAPA's *Asphalt Insider*. We are committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information on technical

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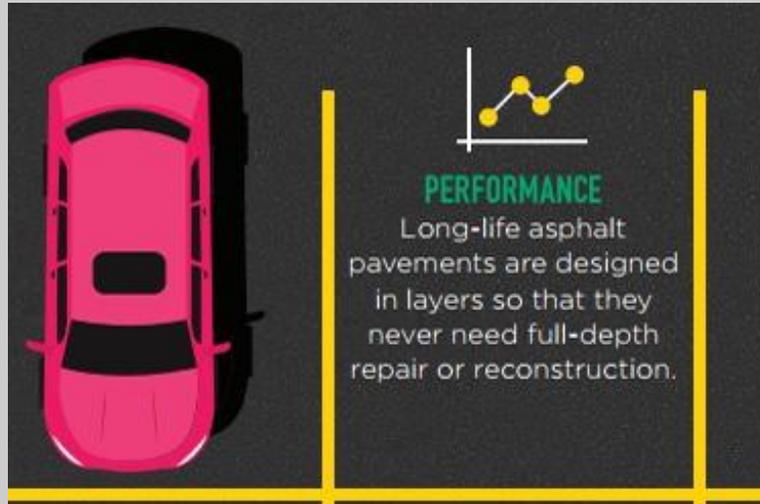
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issues, regulation, news, analysis, events and trends in California that may impact the asphalt pavement industry. Click [HERE](#) to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Snyder, CAE
Executive Director
California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)®



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