

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association
Vol. 12, Issue 10 <> March 11, 2019



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CALENDAR

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

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'Asphalt Pavement 101' class

Wednesday, March 13, 8 a.m. to noon

City of West Sacramento City Hall Galleria, 1110 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento

Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044

Register [HERE](#).

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CalAPA Go-Kart Racing Networking Event

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.

→ Caltrans releases long-awaited guidance on HMA pavement smoothness relief for existing projects

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) last week released its long-awaited guidance to Caltrans engineers that makes major changes to its pavement smoothness specifications for existing asphalt pavement projects.

The Construction Procedure Directive (CPD 19-6), dated March 4, 2019, was posted on the Caltrans website and can be viewed [HERE](#). The various supporting documents can be found [HERE](#).

Bob Finney, acting chief of the Division of Construction, signed the policy document that "allows for change orders on projects without the smoothness incentive and disincentive specification that have pavement smoothness of 0.1-mile segments that exceed the contract MRI requirement." The CPD provides the contractor with a revised smoothness Mean Roughness Index (MRI) requirement. The revisions include a range for a disincentive and a revised MRI maximum that requires a mandatory correction.

The guidance comes on the heels of the department's announcement last year that it was moving to make major revisions to its pavement smoothness requirements for new projects, a development that was welcomed by the construction industry.



Grinding of asphalt pavement to achieve smoothness on the campus of U.C. Davis.

The Caltrans pavement smoothness specifications have been mired in controversy since they were first rolled out in 2014.

Despite numerous meetings with stakeholders, the final specifications omitted major recommendations from the construction industry. Once they were published, complaints and claims piled up, and the specs attracted the attention of elected officials and the news media. A Page 1 investigation by the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper, published on Dec. 17, 2017, bore the headline, "You're paying for America's smoothness roads. Can you tell?" Within months Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty and Chief Deputy Kome Ajise were gone, and other senior managers were reassigned.

The issue gained heightened intensity when a ballot measure to repeal a new fuel tax devoted to road repairs, Prop. 6, qualified for the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot. Surveys consistently show that ride quality is a top priority with motorists. In an unprecedented move, the eight

Tuesday, March 9, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
K1 Speed, 5350 Ontario Mills Pkwy, Bldg. E in Ontario
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

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'Asphalt Pavement 101' class
Tuesday, March 19, 8 a.m. to noon
University of Phoenix, Bakersfield Campus, 4900 California Avenue, Suite A300, class 111, Bakersfield
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

*

'Essentials of HMA Pavement Smoothness' class
Tuesday, March 19, 8 a.m. to noon
National University, 9645 Granite Ridge Drive, San Diego.
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

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REGISTER NOW!
Spring Asphalt Pavement Conference & Equipment Expo (plus optional training classes)
Wednesday & Thursday, March 20-21, 2019
DoubleTree Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario
Register [HERE](#).
For exhibitor and sponsorship information, click [HERE](#) or contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044

*

'Essentials of HMA Paving Smoothness' class
Tuesday, April 9, 8 a.m. to noon
National University, 2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Building B, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

*

'Essentials of HMA Paving Smoothness' class
Wednesday, April 10, 8

major construction trade associations in California last Spring identified Caltrans pavement smoothness specifications as the No. 1 industry concern, and shortly afterward Caltrans initiated a collaborative effort between department engineers and industry experts to revise the specifications, drawing heavily from research, practical experience and data gathered from the field. Prop. 6 was ultimately defeated at the polls, preserving more than \$50 billion in transportation funding over a decade.

The new smoothness specifications are due to appear in new construction projects in 2019, and Caltrans is training personnel on how to apply the specifications that contain new incentive and disincentives to achieve targeted smoothness. CalAPA has provided input to this Caltrans training.

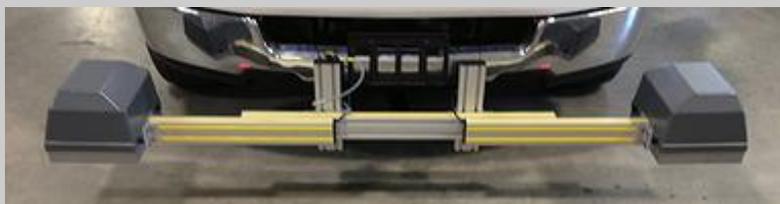
The CPD is silent on many of the revisions made in the new specifications addressing the significant issues with the current smoothness requirements. These include Open-Graded Friction Course (OGFC) paving, mill-and-fills, areas of exclusion and pre-pave smoothness corrections. Unlike the new smoothness specification, the CPD does not address any changes to the existing smoothness profile due to smoothness degradation over time (project delays, projects paving over multiple years, etc.), the utilization of contractor test data (requiring verification as well as identifying State resources to conduct the profiling), or level of accuracy of the segment locations.



Don Matthews with Pavement Recycling Systems (standing) presents data to a joint Caltrans-industry pavement smoothness meeting held July 19, 2018 at CalAPA offices in West Sacramento.

Because so much has changed with the smoothness standards, industry is pushing out information to contractors on the new specifications so that companies are knowledgeable when they prepare their bids and perform the work. CalAPA "Member Alerts" dated Jan. 7 and March 7 provide additional detail and guidance, and CalAPA has scheduled pavement smoothness classes in San Diego, Sacramento, Fresno and San Jose. Pavement smoothness will also be featured prominently at the Spring Asphalt Pavement Conference March 20-21 in Ontario. Details on the conference can be found [HERE](#).

CalAPA also will schedule a one-day ProVAL pavement smoothness software training next month in Sacramento. ProVAL is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-sponsored engineering software that allows users to view and analyze pavement profiles, which can be used to identify rough spots and develop grinding plans. The software is free to download. Additional information on ProVAL is [HERE](#). Details on the CalAPA-sponsored ProVAL training class will be announced later this week.



A vehicle with Inertial Profiler equipment to measure pavement smoothness.

a. m. to noon

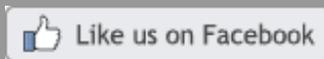
National University, Fresno
45 E. River Park Place West,
Suite 201, Fresno, CA
Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

*

'Essentials of HMA Paving
Smoothness' class
Thursday, April 11, 8 a.m.
to noon

National University, San Jose
Campus, 3590 N First Street,
Suite 100, San Jose, CA
Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044
Register [HERE](#).

SOCIALIZE

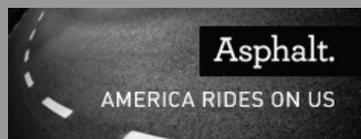


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CHOOSE ASPHALT

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.



GET TECHNICAL

→ CalAPA 'citizen lobbyists' walk the halls of the Capitol to promote transportation

CalAPA members descended upon the state Capitol in Sacramento last week for the association's annual "Fly-in" to develop and strengthen relationships with elected officials and other policy-makers.

The two-day event, held March 5-6, was very different in tone from previous years, when inadequate road funding and crumbling infrastructure was at the top of the agenda.

In 2017, the Legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, SB1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, which raised fuel taxes and fees to generate more than \$5 billion per year for state and local transportation. A statewide voter initiative on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot would have repealed the taxes, but it was rejected by voters.

CalAPA members returned to Sacramento to thank those that voted for SB1, chided those who didn't, and also welcomed new members of the Legislature who were briefed on the importance of good roads to our state's economy and quality of life.

The "citizen lobbyists" also highlighted the asphalt industry's many innovations to be more sustainable and good stewards of our resources. In particular, the industry noted the recent work being done by Caltrans and industry representatives to develop specifications to incorporate more recycled asphalt into pavement mixes. Asphalt is the world's No. 1 recycled product, and old asphalt can be ground up and reused again and again to rehabilitate roads.

The top concern voiced by CalAPA members was the importance of delivering road-improvement projects quickly to show voters that their money is being spent as intended. Last year voters approved Prop. 69, which was intended to prevent transportation dollars to be diverted to other purposes, yet there remain concerns that projects with tenuous "transportation" links -- and not visible to motorists -- could be funded by SB1. Many lawmakers shared that concern.

The event's special dinner guest was Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell, D-Long Beach, a teacher who is also a member of the Assembly Transportation Committee. He shared a passion with the CalAPA members on the subject of jobs and workforce development, including vocational education. The evening dinner was underwritten by CalAPA members Valero and Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions.



Assemblyman Vince Fong, R-Bakersfield (second from right) meets with the CalAPA delegation.



The CalAPA delegation meets with Assemblyman Jim Fraser, D-Oakley, chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee (center).

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)

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West Sacramento, CA 95798

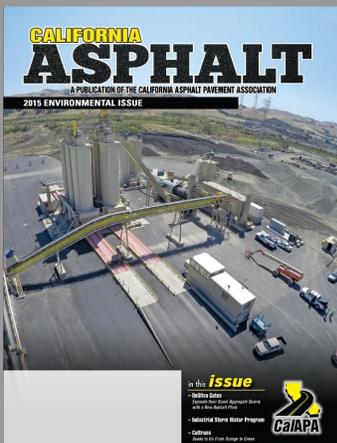
Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(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



CalAPA produces a highly

More photos from the event can be found on the CalAPA Facebook page [HERE](#). An updated CalAPA backgrounder that was presented to lawmakers can be downloaded [HERE](#). CalAPA will be leading a delegation to Washington, D.C. May 14-15 to meet with members of the California Congressional delegation to discuss federal infrastructure funding as part of the Transportation Construction Coalition "Fly-in" to the nation's Capitol. Details on that event can be found [HERE](#). If you plan on attending the TCC Fly-in please notify CalAPA at (916) 791-5044.



During the annual CalAPA State Capitol Fly-in to Sacramento March 5-6, 2019 (pictured left to right): Jeff Sievers, Carpenter Sievers (CalAPA advocate); Brian Stopper, Syar Industries; Scott Metcalf, Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions; Crystal Howard, EnviroMINE; Steve Ward, Pavement Recycling Systems; Gary Houston, Valero; Jordan Reed, George Reed / VSS; Scott Dmytrow, Telfer Pavement Technologies; Peggy Robertson, Holliday Rock; Jeff Benedict, Valero; Toni Carroll, Graniterock; Scott Fraser, R.J. Noble; and Martin Hansberger, Holliday Rock. Not pictured: Richard Champion, CEI and Brian Handshoe, Kenco Engineering.

→ A gathering of bright minds, bright ideas at the 12th annual Geotechnical Graduate Student Society Round Table event at UCD

It wasn't a job fair, but there were likely many connections made between bright engineering students and future employers in the construction industry at the 12th annual Round Table Event of the Geotechnical Graduate Student Society (GGSS) at the University of California, Davis.

CalAPA was one of numerous sponsors of the March 8 event, which featured impressive displays of research being conducted by students, including some of great interest to the asphalt pavement industry.

Seismic deformations, liquefaction-induced down drag on axially loaded piles, and long-term oxidative aging of asphalt binders were just a few of the



Frank Rancador with Graniterock,

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.

STAY INFORMED



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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.

DESIGN!



To visit the PAVExpress website, click [HERE](#). To view the companion website, PavInstruct, click [HERE](#).

LEARN!

research projects that attracted lots of interest and questions from the attendees.

A panel discussion, "Keeping large projects on time and on budget: skills and attributes of an effective leader," was not only timely but universally relevant.

With billions of dollars worth of SB1-funded transportation improvement projects hitting the streets at state and local agencies, snatching up the bright young minds to help design and deliver that work was no doubt on the minds of many of the industry representatives in attendance.

Several past recipients of CalAPA and NAPA scholarships were in the room, including Hannah Curran, recipient of a NAPA 'Young Leader' scholarship in 2014. CalAPA's Strategic Plan calls for the association to promote activities that will help recruit and develop professional and craft workers to the industry. To learn more about the GGSS, click [HERE](#).

Brandon Milar with CalAPA and Frank Farshidi with the City of San Jose (left to right) at the GGSS Round Table at UC Davis. Graniterock and the City of San Jose co-sponsored the event.



CalAPA's Brandon Milar (left) and Sallie Houston with George Reed / VSS (center) listen to Dr. John Harvey with U.C. Davis discuss research on asphalt pavements at the GGSS Round Table event. VSS was another of the event sponsors.

→ Tech Term of the Week

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

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): A federal law passed in 1990, and generally referring to subsequent laws and guidance, that mandate that public facilities be made accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

→ 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 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

"History resides in both the unexpected and the long-predicted."

Peggy Noonan

We can bring CalAPA's popular training classes to your facility at a date and time convenient to you! Click [HERE](#) to view our "hosted" training class flier, or contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044 for details. This service is available to public agencies and CalAPA members only.



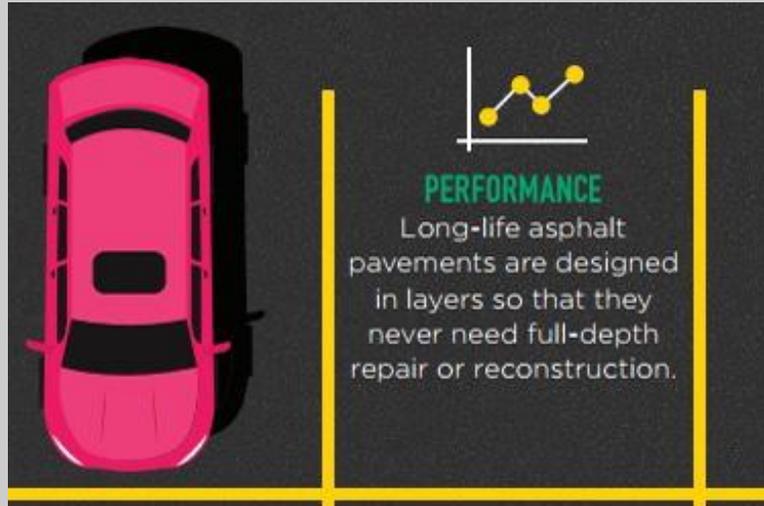
We hope you enjoy CalAPA's *Asphalt Insider*. We are committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information on technical issues, regulation, news, analysis, events and trends in California that may impact the asphalt pavement industry. Click [HERE](#) to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Snyder, CAE

Executive Director

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)®



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