

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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'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](#).

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.

→ CalAPA Regional Technical Committee meetings expand to 5 cities; industry, agency reps hear latest on RAP, RAS research

CalAPA's Regional Technical Committee meetings are becoming a popular forum for industry and agency personnel to keep current on the latest developments in asphalt research, design, testing and construction best practices in an informal setting.

The free meetings expanded to five locations last week, each holding simultaneous meetings via virtual meeting technology, which enables all participants to hear the same featured speaker at once, pose questions, and then to have a discussion of local issues afterward.

Wednesday's series of meetings were held in Bakersfield (hosted by Granite Construction), San Jose (hosted by the City of San Jose), West Sacramento (hosted by CalAPA), Santa Ana (hosted by the Orange County Public Works Department) and San Diego (hosted by the County of San Diego Public Works Department).

"This was a first in that we connected five locations at the same time, and it was also our largest attended meeting -- approximately 85 people statewide," said Brandon Milar, P.E., CalAPA's Director of Technical Services, who helped coordinate the meetings. "We hosted a mix of members and agency personnel."

The featured speaker was Dr. John Harvey, director of the University of California Pavement Research Center (UCPRC), who presented an overview of UCPRC research related to high RAP mixes. Harvey also summarized research on Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement performance from other states and other countries. A copy of his presentation can be found on CalAPA's SlideShare page [HERE](#).

As part of UCPRC's ongoing research effort, underwritten by Caltrans, they are requesting from industry and local agencies projects that include the use of high RAP mixes (>25%). Harvey said they would like to collect samples from four different regions in the state to conduct lab evaluations. A copy of the overview for RAP field mix request by UCPRC can be found [HERE](#). Milar requested companies or agencies willing to participate, which should plan to produce the mix



Participants at a CalAPA Regional Technical Committee Meeting held March 3 in West Sacramento. The meeting was one of five held simultaneously at five locations around the state.

*
'Essentials of HMA Paving
Smoothness' class
Wednesday, April 10, 8
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](#).

*
REGISTRATION OPEN!
Southern California
Contractors' Dinner

Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 p.m.
to 9 p.m.
Dal Rae Restaurant, 9023 E.
Washington Blvd., Pico
Riviera.
Details [HERE](#).

*
Transportation Construction
Coalition "Fly-in" to
Washington, D.C.
Tuesday & Wednesday, May
14-15
Details [HERE](#).
Contact: Russell Snyder (916)
791-5044.

*
SAVE THE DATE!
Day at the Races
Saturday, July 20, noon to
6 p.m.
Del Mar Race Track
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.,
Del Mar
Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044
Details [HERE](#).

*
SAVE THE DATES!
Fall Asphalt Pavement
Conference, Wednesday &
Thursday, Nov. 6-7
Hilton Sacramento Arden
West, 2200 Harvard St.,
Sacramento
Contact Sophie You at (916)
791-5044 for sponsorship and
exhibitor information.

*
SAVE THE DATE!
CalAPA Annual Dinner
Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020,
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Jonathan Club, 545 S.
Figueroa Street, Los Angeles.
Contact Sophie You at (916)
791-5044 for sponsorship and

in the next couple of months, should contact him at (916) 791-5044.

The research project and sample-collection will be discussed further at the CalAPA Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for April 8 in West Sacramento.

→ FHWA names new pavement & materials engineer for California

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), California Division, has named Chu Wei as its new pavement and materials engineer to replace Steve Healow, who retired last year. It is likely that Wei, like Healow before him, will be a regular attendee at various meetings between Caltrans and industry where changes to specifications, test methods and construction standards are discussed.

His official title is "Asset Management/Pavement & Materials Engineer," and he will be based in the California Division office in Sacramento.

Wei holds B.S. degree in civil engineering and M.S. degree in infrastructure system engineering from the University of Minnesota. He is a registered professional engineer in California. He previously worked for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.



Chu Wei

The announcement was made by Christopher Long, infrastructure team leader for the FHWA California Division.

Wei's phone number is (916) 498-5004. His e-mail address is: Chu(dot)Wei(at)dot(dot)gov.

He has big shoes to fill. He replaces longtime pavement expert Steve Healow, who retired from the FHWA last year. The widely admired and respected Healow was inducted into the CalAPA "Hall of Fame" as an "Honorary Member" for his many years of service elevating knowledge, standards and professionalism in public works. A story about Healow's retirement that appeared in the July 2, 2018 issue of *Asphalt Insider* can be found [HERE](#).



Steve Healow speaking at a CalAPA asphalt pavement conference.

Editor's note: In the e-mail address above, the "@" symbol has been replaced with "(at)" and the period (.) replaced with "(dot)" to deter spam software.

→ A glimmer of hope on infrastructure deal in Washington?

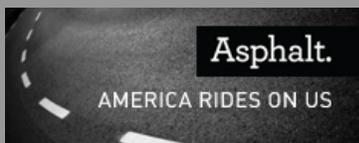
There was plenty of optimism when Donald Trump, a self-described builder who campaigned on rebuilding America's infrastructure, was elected president in 2016. He mentioned infrastructure in his brief Election Night acceptance speech, and after taking office frequently mentioned the need for a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill.

SOCIALIZE



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

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.



Entering Year 3 of the Trump administration, however, there has been little tangible evidence that such a deal from a man who once lent his name to a book titled "The Art of the Deal" was ever going to happen, despite seemingly bipartisan support.

In recent weeks, however, there appears to be more serious talk of an infrastructure deal in Washington, specifically about addressing the ailing Highway Trust Fund. Additionally, the broad outlines of an emerging consensus is also taking shape that some sort of increase in the federal fuel tax is needed, which has stood at 18.4 cents per gallon of gasoline since 1993 (24.4 cents for diesel).



Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao recently mused to a Senate subcommittee that a gas tax increase "is an issue we all need to discuss," and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has been pressing for elevating the issue on the Washington priority list.

The flurry of activity comes as the American Road & Transportation Builders' Association (ARTBA) released a report showing a growing number of bridges across the United States are deficient and need of repair or replacement, including 1,812 in California. Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

Transportation funding has often been described as a three-legged stool, comprised of federal, state and local sources. In California, the Legislature passed SB1, the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, that increased fuel taxes and other fees to raise an estimated \$5 billion per year for transportation improvements. Additionally, voters in 25 of California's 58 counties -- representing about 90 percent of the state's population -- have endorsed sales-tax increases devoted to transportation, and SB1 contains additional incentives for the so-called "Self-Help Counties." More information on the Self-Help Counties can be found [HERE](#). The federal leg of the stool, however, has been wobbly for many years, with a series of stop-gap measures passed by Congress to shore up the Highway Trust Fund while no for long-term solutions have been put forward.

Observers say that this year holds the best hope of some sort of transportation deal because politicians will be reluctant to vote on a tax increase in 2020, an election year, when all members of the House of Representatives who choose to run again and many U.S. Senators will be up for re-election.



U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), chair of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, helped cobble together the last transportation bill that temporarily propped up the Highway Trust Fund. Here she talks in 2013 with an asphalt delegation, including CalAPA board member Len Nawrocki with Valero

Getting a long-term federal transportation funding solution will be Priority No. 1 during the annual Transportation Construction Coalition "Fly-in" to Washington, D.C. May 14-15. CalAPA will be organizing appointments with members of California's Congressional Delegation to discuss this

CalAPA

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

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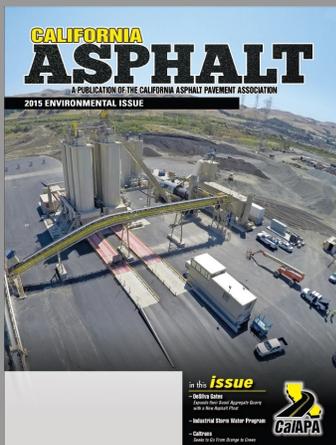
Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(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 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

and other issues of *(right)*. importance to the asphalt pavement industry. For information on the TCC Fly-in, click [HERE](#), or contact Russell Snyder of CalAPA at (916) 791-5044.

→ Deadline extended: Input sought on national survey of RAP, RAS, WMA usage

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), a CalAPA partner, is seeking data from asphalt producers in California as part of its annual national survey of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP), Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAS) and Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) utilization.

To participate in the survey, click [HERE](#). The deadline for survey responses has been extended to this week. It is recommended that you download a printed version of the survey from the NAPA website [HERE](#) to ensure that all the relevant data is at hand before beginning the process. Survey participants will receive a complimentary copy of the report once it is released.

A summary of the previous RAP and WMA survey can be found [HERE](#). The 8th annual survey found that, during the 2017 construction season, more than 76.2 million tons of RAP and nearly 950,000 tons of RAS were put to use in new pavements in the United States, saving taxpayers more than \$2.2 billion. Also, the survey found, nearly 39 percent of all asphalt pavement mixture produced in the country that year was made using warm-mix asphalt (WMA) technologies.



Working a RAP stockpile.

The current survey is gathering data from the 2018 construction season. It will be kept completely confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining quantities. Data will be reported by state only, and no company-specific information will be disclosed or used for any purpose. To further protect the confidentiality of the information, no state specific data will be reported if fewer than three producers report for a state. Because data is being aggregated by state, companies or branches active in more than one state need to complete a separate questionnaire for the mixes produced for each state. If a plant provides mix for more than one state, the tonnage should be divided accordingly.

For more information, contact Brett Williams, director of engineering & technical support for NAPA, at (301) 731-4748, or via e-mail at: [bwilliams\(at\)asphaltpavement\(dot\)org](mailto:bwilliams(at)asphaltpavement(dot)org).

Editor's note: In the e-mail address above, the "@" symbol has been replaced with "(at)" and the period (.) replaced with "(dot)" to deter spam software.

→ Tech Term of the Week

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

MARSHALL MIX DESIGN: An asphalt mix design method originally

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To visit the PAVEExpress website, click [HERE](#). To view the companion website, PaveInstruct, click [HERE](#).

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developed by Bruce Marshall of the Mississippi Highway Department around 1939 and then refined by the U.S. Army. The Marshall Method seeks to select the asphalt binder content at a desired density that satisfies minimum stability and a range of flow values.

→ 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](#).

AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION: When working on a parking lot, if scheduling permits, allow the pavement 2-3 weeks to cure before final parking lot striping is added. Schedule a walk-through with the owner on the completed project to ensure satisfaction with the workmanship and finished product.

→ Quote of the Week

"Logic clearly dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

Spock

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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