

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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AND THEY'RE OFF!

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

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.

→ State budget work done early; SB1 boosts Caltrans spending, workforce

The Legislature and the governor breezed through final negotiations last week on a new state budget that will take effect on July 1, the start of the new fiscal year. The \$215 billion spending plan includes hefty reserves in anticipation of an economic downturn, and strategic investments in housing, health care and education.

The transportation budget, goosed by SB1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, exceeds \$14.6 billion, which is up from \$9.5 billion just two years ago. The department is also on a hiring spree, and projects 20,613 employees in the coming fiscal year, up from 19,219 employees two years ago. The big upswing in hiring will place enormous pressure on the department to hire, train and integrate the new employees quickly.



The road maintenance budget was one of the main beneficiaries of SB1, which included increases in state fuel taxes and registration fees and was promoted to address the dire state of the state's crumbling roads and bridges. Two years ago the Caltrans maintenance budget stood at \$523,000. In the 2019-20 fiscal year it is projected to be more than \$2.1 billion. The department is committing \$55 million and 346 positions to delivering the projects financed by SB1.

In the most recent "Mile Marker" report issued by the Department, Caltrans said over the past year it had utilized SB1 funds to repair more than 2,900 potholes, replaced or repaired more than 740 lane miles of pavement, repaired more than 37,500 feet of guardrail, replaced or repaired nearly 950 highway lights and traffic signals, re-striped more than 2,000 miles of highway to improve visibility and safety, and fixed 800 roadway signs.

By early 2019, the department reported, 53

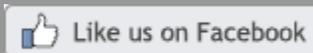
Hilton Sacramento Arden
West, 2200 Harvard St.,
Sacramento
Contact Sophie You at (916)
791-5044 for sponsorship and
exhibitor information.

*

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
table-reservation
information.

SOCIALIZE



Follow us on **twitter**



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.

department reported, 55 projects have been completed. Caltrans has awarded or started construction on 90 projects and has begun work, including design and environmental clearance, on 357 projects. It's expected that the number of projects completed with SB 1 revenues will reach 100 by the end of 2018.

By March, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated an additional \$758.1 million for 91 State Highway Operation and Protection Program projects throughout California, including \$90.4 million for 26 "fix-it-first" projects funded by SB 1. The funding allows crews to improve 21 bridges and more than 189 lane miles of pavement, upgrade 292 congestion reducing devices, and repair or replace 81 culverts to prevent flooding on highways. An SB1 information page, including compelling "before" and "after" photos of projects completed, is [HERE](#).



New Caltrans employee Jonathan Tsang (foreground) examines an asphalt briquette during a Hamburg Wheel Track training class last week at Caltrans Translab in Sacramento. Kevin McNeil with Graniterock is in the background next to the HWT testing machine.

→ Asphalt Institute publishes study to provide insight on asphalt binders & EPDs

The Asphalt Institute recently published a study that provides insight into the Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) of asphalt binders. The scope of this study considers environmental impacts associated with asphalt binders. The "cradle-to-gate" evaluation includes the impacts from crude oil extraction through production and transport. The study also considers various additives/modifiers used in asphalt binders. The information is formatted for incorporation into the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) Emerald-Eco-Label Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) program.

NAPA has developed the Emerald-Eco-Label EPD tool to assist contractors in developing the EPDs for their asphalt mixes. The tool calculates the environmental impact of the mix to the point that it leaves the plant. The calculations utilize environmental impact data of the mix components, the transportation of the components and the mixing of components that result in the final asphalt mix product.

An important component used in the production of the asphalt mix is the asphalt binder. The Emerald Eco-Label tool does provide inputs related to asphalt binders. Until recently, however, there were still

questions as to the appropriate data



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

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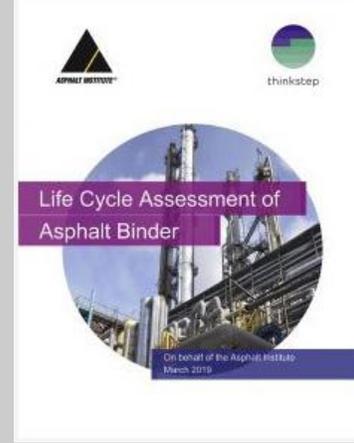
BACK ISSUES

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

questions as to the appropriate data to utilize for the various asphalt binder products used in mix production, as well as the various modifiers used.

In California, consumers and various government agencies are requesting environmental information from companies related the the products they offer. Asphalt is not an exception. Caltrans will include on several pilot projects throughout the state a requirement for EPDs for asphalt mixes. Caltrans is evaluating the policy guidelines for the use of various environmental information (i.e. greenhouse gas emissions, harmful chemical components, etc.) in designing and constructing the state's infrastructure.



A link to the Asphalt Institute website where the full LCA report is available for download is [HERE](#).

In January of 2019, CalAPA hosted a webinar related to EPDs. Click [HERE](#) to hear and see the presentations from Caltrans, the University of California Pavement Research Center, and NAPA.

During the 2019 Spring Conference, attendees heard from Caltrans and CalAPA members on how to develop EPDs for asphalt mixes using the NAPA Emerald-Eco-Label tool. Click [HERE](#) to view the Caltrans presentation, and [HERE](#) to view a presentation on a contractor's perspective on EPDs. A California Asphalt magazine story on the topic, published in 2017, is [HERE](#).

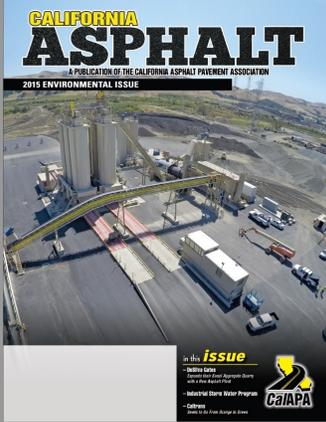
→ CalAPA's Brandon Milar featured in 'AsphaltPro' magazine interview

CalAPA's technical director, Brandon Milar, P.E., was interviewed recently for an in-depth feature in *AsphaltPro* magazine, a national publication. He shared his thoughts on industry challenges, including work force development and changing standards and specifications.

"Our association focuses on sharing information related to all aspects of asphalt materials and pavements," Milar said in the interview. "To address our members' needs, I focus on understanding the technical issues and future direction of our industry and how to find the information and expertise to address these issues."

A graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly - SLO), with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, Milar worked for Kaiser Sand & Gravel, SemMaterials, Ingevity and had a stint as executive director of the regional asphalt pavement association before a statewide merger in 2012. He returned to CalAPA two years ago as technical director and has spearheaded numerous initiatives, including expanding regional technical committee meetings, helping re-write the Caltrans pavement smoothness specification and other technical standards.

In the interview, Milar discussed his



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



Click [HERE](#) to receive *California Asphalt Insider* each week via e-mail FREE! Or visit our website at: 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

In the interview, Milar discussed his commitment to serving members and strengthening the association.



Brandon Milar presenting at the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists (AAPT) Annual Meeting in 2017.

"We have found that our continuous effort to position our organization as asphalt pavement experts has resulted in an increase in membership," Milar said. "We take the lead on asphalt issues and this leadership role is acknowledged by the various stakeholders. Our conferences, educational programs and electronic newsletter is accessible to anyone, and many of our new members joined after being exposed to one of our educational programs."

He also said he enjoyed the work and the interaction with members, agency partners and other stakeholders.

"We are fortunate to work in an industry filled with incredible people of diverse backgrounds," he said. "Throughout my career I have learned that this experience is true here in California, across the U.S., and even overseas. I enjoy spending time with my industry colleagues to share our career expertise and compare our life's journey."

To read the complete interview, click [HERE](#). Milar's full bio is [HERE](#).

→ Tech Term of the Week

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

FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT: A pavement structure that maintains intimate contact with and distributes loads to the sub-grade and depends on aggregate interlock, particle friction, and cohesion for stability. Asphalt or bituminous concrete pavements are often referred to as flexible pavements, while concrete pavements are generally referred to as rigid pavements.

→ 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](#).

COMPACTION: Check pavement temperature before compaction begins. Don't rely solely on an infrared temperature gauge. Have a probe thermometer on hand to check the internal temperature of the mat. The ability to achieve proper compaction requires a mat temperature of 175 degrees or greater. Do not let roller operators park equipment on the fresh mat while compaction is ongoing.

→ Quote of the Week

our STCP resource page to
learn more.

DESIGN!

PAVEExpress
Specify & Verify Pavement
Designs Online for Free
www.pavexpressdesign.com

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

LEARN!

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.



"Some of the worst things in my life never even happened."

Mark Twain

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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