

# CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association  
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[www.calapa.net](http://www.calapa.net)

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## CALENDAR

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

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### NEW EVENT!

Topgolf pre-conference networking event  
Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6 p.m.  
Topgolf, 1700 Freedom Way,  
Roseville  
Flier [HERE](#). Sign-up [HERE](#).

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## 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.

## → Sergio Aceves named new Caltrans state pavement engineer; numerous other positions remain to be filled

In the annual "Top 10 predictions" article in the *Asphalt Insider* newsletter, published on Jan. 5, 2015, the following was reported: "The 'brain drain' of qualified and experienced engineers and technical personnel at public agencies at all levels will continue in 2015, resulting in increased pressure to recruit, train and develop the next generation of pavement experts."

It should be noted that this prediction came a more than two years before the Legislature passed SB1, a comprehensive road repair bill intended to address years of neglect of the state's transportation network, which had resulted in rapidly deteriorating state and local roads and bridges.

For the asphalt pavement industry in California, nowhere has that "brain drain" prediction been more visible than the top pavement engineer job at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which has seen eight different people occupy the position in the past four years, including several in a temporary "acting" capacity ranging from a few weeks to several months.

On Oct. 22, the latest name to head the Division of Maintenance, Office of Pavements, will be Sergio Aceves. He will only be the second person to receive an official appointment into the position since August of 2014 when Amarjeet Benipal left to take the top job at District 3 in Marysville. For most of the last year the job was held in an acting capacity by Mark Suchanek, on temporary assignment from District 1 in Eureka until his retirement last month. Although only filling in, Suchanek's tenure saw the official reorganization of how the Department and the construction industry interact in specification reviews, a revision in the specification related to the use of recycled asphalt in pavement mixes, and substantial work on a revised pavement smoothness specification, which is expected to be unveiled later this year.

The promotion of his permanent replacement, Aceves, was announced within Caltrans on Sept. 26. He began his Caltrans career in District 3 Construction, working as a resident engineer for eight years. He promoted to senior transportation engineer as district estimator in 2006 and also covered the duties of office engineer for six months. In the years since, he has worked in several positions in



**Sergio Aceves**

## HURRY! SEATS GOING FAST!

Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference, Oct. 24-25  
Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento.  
Details [HERE](#).

For sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044.

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## SIGN-UP NOW!

Southern California Paving Contractor Mixer

Thursday, Nov. 15, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

J.T. Schmid's Restaurant & Brewery, 2610 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim

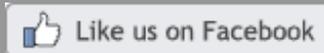
Flier [HERE](#). Register [HERE](#).  
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044

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## SAVE THE DATE!

CalAPA Annual Dinner  
Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019  
Jonathan Club, 545 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles  
Details soon!

## 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

planning, project management, traffic management, maintenance, permits. For the past six months he also has been on a temporary assignment as deputy district director over Maintenance & Traffic Operations at Caltrans District 3.

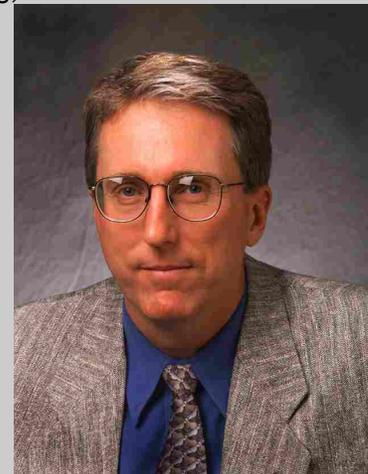
The State Pavement Engineer, which is a part of the Division of Maintenance, oversees asphalt and concrete pavement maintenance and specification development. The State Pavement Engineer also sits on the joint Caltrans-industry Pavement & Materials Partnering Committee (formerly known as the Rock Products Committee), which vets changes in materials specifications and testing requirements. That committee is sponsored by Karla Sutliff, Deputy Director for Project Delivery and the Chief Engineer, and Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director for Maintenance & Operations.



**Mark Suchanek**

Aceves reports to the Division Chief of Maintenance, who until last month was Tony Tavares. As reported previously by *Asphalt Insider*, Tavares was named permanently as District Director of District 4, covering the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. That *Asphalt Insider* story can be viewed [HERE](#). Tavares' position is being filled temporarily by Amer Bata.

In other Caltrans management shuffling, Construction Chief Rachel Falsetti recently moved temporarily into the top spot in engineering services to replace Mike Keever, who moved over to a temporary position in project management. Falsetti's position is being filled temporarily by District 4 construction chief Bob Finney.



**Bob Finney**

The changes come on the heels of the departures earlier this year of Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty and Chief Deputy Kome Ajise. Dougherty was replaced by District 11 Director Laurie Berman, and Ajise was replaced by Ryan Chamberlain. All the management changes have a domino effect on other positions in the department. The organizational chart posted on the department's website, dated this month, lists a total of 61 positions. Of that number, 12 have people listed as "acting" and another three positions have no name identified with the position at all. You can view it [HERE](#).

Aceves will have his work cut out for him as there also has been a large amount of turnover among the rank-and-file in the Division of Pavements. He told *Asphalt Insider*: "I look forward to working with both internal and external stakeholders to maximize the performance and accountability of the pavement program for the traveling public."

Overall, Caltrans says, about 54 percent of its workforce is age 50 or older -- a phenomenon often referred to within the department as the "silver tsunami." There were 877 employees who left the department, many through retirements, in fiscal-year 2016-17, and another 1,023 in 2017-18. The department reports it has about 18,500 permanent full-time employees, and has embarked on a major recruiting effort to fill the vacancies. The Caltrans jobs page is [HERE](#).

SB1 and the thousands of road-improvement projects it has made

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.



## CalAPA

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

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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

possible will be on the ballot in the form of Proposition 6, which seeks to repeal the fuel taxes and other fees that pay for the work. A "no" vote will preserve the funding and keep road-repairs happening around the state. But it takes planners, engineers and administrators to convert those dollars into projects, and regardless of what happens with Proposition 6 recruiting and training the next generation of pavement experts will be a daunting challenge for all public agencies in California for the foreseeable future, just as it is for private industry.

### → CARB webinar focusing on asphalt, aggregate and concrete operations to be held Oct. 18

The California Construction & Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA) is hosting a webinar this Thursday, Oct. 18 focusing on air quality regulations and compliance for the asphalt, aggregate and concrete industries. CalAPA members are invited to participate, but space is limited and an RSVP is required. Click [HERE](#) to view a flier with additional details. For more information and to RSVP, contact Courtney Orozco at CalCIMA at (916) 554-1000, ext. 4, or via e-mail at [corozco\(at\)calcima\(dot\)org](mailto:corozco(at)calcima(dot)org).

The featured speaker will be Ben Sehgal, a senior engineer and staff air pollution specialist for the California Air Resources Board (CARB). With more than 26 years experience, Sehgal has been one of the instructors in the CARB training section since 2000. As a technical subject-matter expert, he has delivered complex engineering/inspector classes covering CEMs, CAM, Boilers & Gas Turbines/ power generation, control devices, Hot Mix Asphalt, aggregate and concrete batching operations.



**Ben Sehgal**

The webinar, titled "Considerations for Operational Compliance and Best Practices," will cover issues such as modification of existing permits and associated planning, emissions and health impacts, regulation changes, movement of portable sites, activities that may lead to additional inspections and/or scrutiny, public perceptions that lead to complaints, investigations and potential violations.

In addition, the webinar will highlight Best Available Control Technology (BACT) controls and best-practices related to quarrying, sizing of quarried material, sorting, stockpiling and transfer of aggregate products, concrete batching, and blue-smoke curtailment and odor issues.

Sehgal of CARB can be reached directly at (916) 229-0638, or via e-mail at: [ben.sehgal\(at\)arb\(dot\)ca\(dot\)gov](mailto:ben.sehgal(at)arb(dot)ca(dot)gov). The training area of the CARB website is [HERE](#).

**Editor's Note:** In the e-mail addresses above, the "@" symbol has been replaced by "(at)" and the periods have been replaced by "(dot)" to deter spam software.

### → Job Opportunity: Hardy & Harper seeks estimator, project manager

Santa Ana-based Hardy & Harper Inc., a CalAPA member, is seeking



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](http://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.

qualified applicants for the positions of estimator and project manager. Click [HERE](#) to view details of the estimator position. Click [HERE](#) to view details of the project manager position.



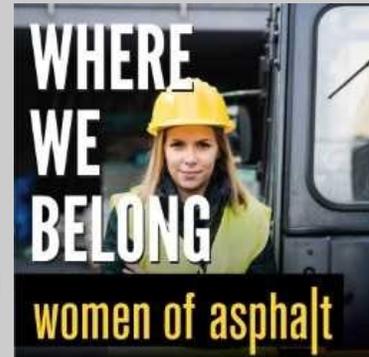
Founded in 1946, Hardy & Harper specializes in a wide variety of asphalt pavement-related work, including new asphalt paving, removal and replacement, overlays, patching, pavement preservation and maintenance.

For more information, contact the company at (714) 444-1851. The company website is [HERE](#).

## ➔ Women of Asphalt website, podcast launched; CalAPA Fall Conference panel featuring women leaders supports effort

The CalAPA-supported Women of Asphalt (WofA) has launched a newly redesigned website and debuted a "podcast" focusing on issues of interest to women in the industry. Both can be found [HERE](#).

A special "Women of Asphalt" leadership panel discussion, to be held Oct. 24 in Sacramento in conjunction with the CalAPA Fall Conference, has been developed in coordination with the national WofA effort. A flier for the Oct. 24 dinner event can be found [HERE](#). Attendance at the leadership panel discussion and dinner is complementary for all Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference attendees, or tickets may be purchased for the dinner as a stand-alone event. Click [HERE](#) for details about all the conference week events.



The WofA website has been expanded to serve as a hub for WofA membership, including a wide range of relevant, useful information for women in the asphalt industry, information about upcoming WofA events, and opportunities to become a mentor.

The new WofA podcast, "Where We Belong," is dedicated to highlighting women in the asphalt industry, the group said in a recent announcement. The series focuses on discussions with women from across the county, discussing their experiences and available career paths within the asphalt industry.

The hosts and guests will talk about how they started in the asphalt industry, non-traditional roles they've taken on, obstacles they've overcome, and how they're changing the face of the industry.

In the inaugural podcast, "Who We Are," founding WofA members Amy Miller, national director of the Asphalt Pavement Alliance, and Natasha Ozybko, regional sales manager at Road Science, a Division of ArrMaz, discuss in detail why WofA was started, its main purposes, and its goals. Miller will be a featured speaker at the CalAPA conference and also on the dinner leadership panel.

Women of Asphalt is a national grassroots coalition started by women in the asphalt industry with the purpose of supporting career growth and development for women in all aspects of the industry. WofA encourages women to seek careers in the asphalt industry and provides mentoring, networking, education, and advocacy opportunities. The Asphalt Pavement Alliance provides technical and operational support to WofA. The Asphalt Pavement Alliance is a partnership of the Asphalt Institute, National Asphalt Pavement

## DESIGN!

**PAVE**Express  
Specify & Verify Pavement  
Designs Online for Free  
[www.pavexpressdesign.com](http://www.pavexpressdesign.com)

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



Association and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations, including CalAPA.

In addition to APA's Miller, the Oct. 24 Women of Asphalt leadership panel speakers will include: Mary Teichert, executive vice president / chief operating officer of Teichert, Inc.; Amy Epps Martin, Ph.D., research engineer for the Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University; Corrina Wong, P.E., quality control engineer, Granite Construction; and Toni Carroll, quality control manager, Graniterock. The panel will be moderated by Rita B. Leahy, Ph.D., P.E., former technical director of CalAPA.

**DINNER EVENT – WOMEN OF ASPHALT LEADERSHIP PANEL**

This panel discussion will feature prominent leaders in the Asphalt Industry focusing on challenges and opportunities for women finding success in the asphalt industry.

- Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2013
- Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Location: Doubletree Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento
- Cost: Event is free with Fall Conference registration. Dinner-only charge is \$79.

Contact Sophie You at 916-791-5044 or register online [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.*

**ENGINEER:** The term used in Caltrans specifications to refer to the department, as when the engineer will direct the contractor to do something. Similar in many respects to project OWNER.

## → 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](#).*

**PREPARING FOR ASPHALT DELIVERY:** Ask yourself: Has a pre-paving meeting been held with the paving foreman to inspect the sub-base? Have you checked the site for possible safety issues?

## → Quote of the Week

"Everyone's broken by life, but sometimes people are stronger in the broken places."

Ernest Hemingway

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)

