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.

Mike Keever named chief engineer of Caltrans; will continue to play prominent role in joint Caltrans-industry spec review

Mike Keever was recently named to the top engineering position at the California Department of Transportation.

A familiar name to the asphalt pavement industry, Keever previously was the head of the Engineering Service Center and participated in oversight of the Caltrans-industry Pavement & Materials Partnering Committee that reviews and updates Caltrans specifications, test methods and construction standards as they pertain to pavements.

New Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin announced the promotion for Keever in an internal e-mail distributed to Caltrans employees on Jan. 24.

“I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Keever as Chief Engineer and Deputy Director of Project Delivery, effective today,” Omishakin said in the announcement. “Mike has over 30 years at Caltrans with a wide range of assignments including his current position managing the multi-billion dollar capital program as the Chief of the Division of Project Management.

“While in this role, Mike oversaw major changes with the passage of SB1, the role of the California Transportation Commission in allocating project resources, the implementation of asset management, and a major hiring effort to deliver the SB1 program, while doubling the value of projects delivered to construction, and working to align the program with the priorities of the administration,” Omishakin wrote.

Previously, Keever was chief of the Division of Engineering Services, a massive division at Caltrans headquarters that oversees a wide array of civil engineering functions for the 20,000-employee department, including the Materials Engineering & Testing Services.
The appointment of Keever is the latest in a series of executive-management changes that have occurred at Caltrans in the first year of the administration of Gov. Gavin Newsom. The expected wave of retirements of senior-level positions has been come to be known within the department as the “silver tsunami,” and more appointments are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

The previous permanent Chief Engineer was Karla Sutliff, the first woman to hold the position in the 100-year history of Caltrans. As chief engineer, Keever will be one of two co-sponsors of the Pavement & Materials Partnering Committee. The other co-sponsor is Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director for Maintenance & Operations, who has announced he will be retiring in the Spring. A recruitment for his replacement is already underway.

In his announcement, Omishakin thanked Cory Binns for serving as acting Chief Engineer until a permanent replacement for Sutliff could be found.

CalAPA-sponsored IRF Fellow, from Cal State Long Beach, participates in national TRB conference in Washington, D.C.

This year’s CalAPA-sponsored participant in the International Road Federation “Road Scholar” fellowship program is Omer Eliairi, a graduate student of engineering at California State University, Long Beach.

As part of the “Road Scholar” fellowship, Eliairi and other IRF fellows traveled to Washington, D.C., for events last month coinciding with a national Transportation Research Board conference, and had the opportunity to meet with numerous officials.

This is the sixth year CalAPA has sponsored an IRF “Road Scholar” Fellow. The sponsorship is made possible in part by CalAPA member dues and support of various CalAPA events, such as the annual golf tournament. It is an outgrowth of the workforce development component of CalAPA’s strategic plan.

“I am so honored to be named CalAPA “Road Scholar” IRF fellow for 2020,” Eliairi told California Asphalt Insider. “By participating in the IRF fellowship program 2020, I was able to strengthening...
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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.

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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

Promoting asphalt at pavement preservation workshop in Sacramento
CalAPA staff and members were on hand last week to promote dollar-stretching attributes of asphalt pavements at a pavement preservation workshop in Sacramento.

Thin-lift asphalt pavement overlays are gaining increasing attention as a choice for many pavement-preservation strategies because they extend the life of pavements and also add strength and structure to extend the time between scheduled maintenance. Also known as “ThinLays,” more information about that pavement-preservation strategy can be found on the National Asphalt Pavement Association ThinLay page HERE.
CalAPA's Brandon Milar (left) with Erik Updyke, recently retired from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and a CalAPA "Honorary Member."

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

CalAPA partnered with the Western Regional Pavement Maintenance Association in an information exchange between the CalAPA Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference last year and the WRAPP workshop Jan. 29-30. Numerous CalAPA members who also work in the pavement-preservation space were among the more than 100 workshop attendees.

CalAPA's Technical Engineer, Brandon Milar, and Member Service Manager Sophie You staffed the CalAPA booth at the event and distributed copies of CalAPA's "California Asphalt" magazine as well as information on the upcoming CalAPA Spring Asphalt Pavement Conference, which will take place April 15-17 at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel & Spa in Anaheim. In addition to another strong lineup of technical and practical presentations, the invited keynote speaker for the conference will be new California State Transportation Secretary David Kim. Details on the conference can be found [HERE](#).

Partnering and coordinating with other associations on areas of mutual interest is a strategy that is prominently featured in CalAPA’s recently updated strategic plan. An overview of the plan will be featured in the next issue of CalAPA’s official magazine, *California Asphalt*, due out later this month.

The CalAPA member Reed & Graham staffed a booth at the pavement preservation workshop. Pictured, from left: Shawn Parry and Cliff Clowers.

International Symposium on Pavement, Roadway and Bridge Life Cycle Assessment will be held June 3-6 in Sacramento

Early-bird registration ends on March 1 for the International
A “webinar” broadcast live from CalAPA offices last year on Environmental Product Declarations featured presenters from NAPA, Caltrans and the University of California Pavement Research Center.

For more information and to register, go to the event website [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.

**SUBBASE**: The course in the asphalt pavement structure immediately below the base course is the sub-base. If the sub-grade soil is of adequate quality, it may serve as the sub-base.

### 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](#).

**SUBSOIL**: Is the base layer/subsoil firm and unyielding under the pressure of repeated construction trucks? Is the soil dry enough to support heavy construction? Can the soil hold its shape under loaded trucks? If the site is wet, postpone until the site is sufficiently dry and can be proof rolled and uniform stability is obtained.

### Quote of the Week

“Information overload occurs when the amount of input to a system exceeds its processing capacity … consequently, when information overload occurs, it is likely that a reduction in decision quality will occur.”

Alvin Toffler
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)®