

# Focal Point

A publication of the Sacramento Chapter  
of the California Lands Surveyors Association



April 2024

**The next Chapter Meeting will be held at Logan's Roadhouse in North Natomas on April 4th!**

**Come join us for a presentation by Mark Counts, Chief of Office Surveying Systems at CalTrans on the Interoperability of Trimble Business Center, Civil3D and ESRI GIS Products**

## **President's Message**

**Annette Hovorka, PLS  
2024 Sacramento Chapter President**

### **Springing into Action: Surveyors Leading the Way**

As the seasons shift and nature begins its vibrant revival, surveyors emerge as crucial players in understanding and harnessing the transformative energy of spring. With Surveyors Week on the horizon, it's time to celebrate their indispensable contributions to mapping landscapes and shaping communities.

Spring brings with it the aftermath of winter's frolics, and surveyors are at the forefront of assessing its impact. Melting snow and rain can trigger significant changes in land elevation, water flow, and soil stability. Through measurements and analysis, surveyors offer vital insights into these transformations, guiding infrastructure planning, flood management, and conservation efforts.

Moreover, as construction projects and land development initiatives gain momentum during the spring months, surveyors play a pivotal role in laying the groundwork. From conducting detailed land surveys to establishing property boundaries and identifying environmental challenges, their expertise ensures the smooth progress of projects while maintaining ecological balance.

During Surveyors Week, we shine a well-deserved spotlight on these dedicated professionals who serve as stewards of the environment and advocates for sustainable development. Their commitment to excellence not only shapes our present landscape but also paves the way for a brighter future.

*Continued on page 3*

The **Focal Point** newsletter is a publication of the Sacramento Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association. Check us out at <https://www.sacramento-clsa.org>

### Who's Who in the Sacramento Chapter for 2024:

Annette Hovorka PLS	President
Kris Scott	Currently Vacant
Andrew Tapley PLS	Secretary
Laird Nelson	Treasurer
Cameron Clark PLS	Board of Directors Representative
Andrew Tapley PLS	Board of Directors Representative
Sherry Toutges PLS	State TrigStar Coordinator
Carl C.de Baca PLS	Editor Focal Point (He's back...)

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The Focal Point is offering advertisements to our business partners, suppliers and other supporters with the proceeds going to our education fund.

- Business Card \$100/year
- 1/4 page ad \$250/year
- 1/2 page ad \$325/year
- Full page ad \$400/year

You can post job ads in the Focal Point for \$100 and they will run for a maximum of 1 year. And, you can take home one of our attractive slate CLSA coasters for a \$10 donation!

Contact the Focal Point editor at [alidade.nv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alidade.nv@sbcglobal.net)

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Continued from Page 1

But our chapter is not just celebrating Surveyors Week; we're also springing into action ourselves. As we gear up for our annual conference, there's an air of excitement and anticipation. It's a time to reconnect with colleagues, learn from industry experts, and share knowledge.

In addition to our conference, we're exploring ways to engage our members and build community spirit. From reviving our night golf social event to organizing a chapter picnic, there's no shortage of opportunities for camaraderie and fun. Plus, we've introduced incentives for contributors to our newsletter, Focal Point, because we believe in recognizing and rewarding talent.

As we embrace the energy of spring, let's continue to support and celebrate the invaluable work of surveyors. Together, we can navigate the challenges, seize the opportunities, and chart a course towards a more sustainable future.

Annette Hovorka, PLS 2024 Sacramento Chapter President

*(PS. I wanted to play with ChatGPT and I asked it for a little assistance. It deserves credit here.)*

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### Editor's Message

*Ranting about the Rant Zone... It probably sounds like we spend a lot of time thinking of things to complain about. But every rant published so far started life as a conversation between surveyors venting various frustrations. It could be that more than one of these topics should get consideration for potential legislation some day, but closer to home, if they simply generate some discussion, then that's a good start. If you have a 'rant', an announcement, a story or an opinion piece, send it in. A free libation awaits at the next chapter meeting! -Ed.*

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# The Rant Zone

## Shortage...What Shortage?

Certain laws are immutable, making debate pointless. At least on Earth, the law of gravity is pretty reliable. Kepler's laws of planetary motion seem solid and borne out through observation, in our own solar system, anyway. Supply and demand is another proven law. Put simply, if a product (or a service) has a high demand and a low supply, the price will increase. That seems not only obvious, but well-demonstrated across our daily experience. Shortage of fuel leads to higher fuel costs. Shortage of kiwis leads to higher kiwi prices. Don't even get me started on the cost of Abalone. The causes of a shortage are never really the point. It is enough that there is a shortage, regardless of why that is so. And in America, attempts to resolve, change or outright cheat this economic reality always end in failure. As consumers, we want what we want. And that applies to services every bit as much as goods.

So, is there a shortage of surveyors, both professionals and technicians? How would this be rationally determined? What are the metrics, how reliable are the statistics? Whose statistics are they anyway? All statistics have built-in bias; what are the sources of bias at play here? Is the observational perspective from the front lines of the profession more, or less, valid than statistics that indicate there is no shortage?

I touched on some of this earlier. It seems beyond argument, at least in California, and probably Nevada, that there is shortage of people who perform surveying tasks. Salaries have seen significant increases, large signing bonuses are being thrown around willy-nilly. Lots of folks are going to "lunch" with former co-workers to explore opportunities outside their current position. We experience this every day. Ads on LinkedIn, ads on Craigslist, ads on Indeed... recruiters reaching out via calls and emails. This is offset by statistics that indicate that the profession is 'right-sizing' itself and the overall number of "licenses" is not in decline.

Oh really? Where is the graph that illustrates how long it takes to hire a qualified and interested PLS, compared to ten years ago? What about the graph that charts the salary of a junior LS against their education and experience, compared to 10 years ago? That is one I'd like to see. Where is the graph of signing bonuses, reduced to 2024 dollars, for now and for ten years ago? How about a nice easy to understand ratio of graduating survey students to firms/agencies attempting to hire them at events like the annual surveying conference at California State University, Fresno? Sadly, none of these statistical measurements actually exist, you must rely on observation to draw conclusions. I know what conclusion I have drawn as I craft up wording for ads that will hopefully bring in candidates for an interview.

Okay, I have set the table. In my humble estimation, a shortage of survey candidates exists. To what degree is open to debate but the bigger question is - will this shortage continue? What will the impact of a prolonged shortage do to the profession of Surveying? Will we hire more people with little or no experience and train them ourselves? Will we support community college survey programs with money, equipment, and by sending our young employees to matriculate? Will we serve on school advisory councils and volunteer to be adjunct teachers? Will we work toward making a sound future for our profession or just work on the stuff in our in-baskets and go home when we're done? The future of Surveying is, in large part, up to us.

# **Sacramento Chapter, CLSA**

## **Minutes for meeting of March 7, 2024**

The meeting of March 7, 2024, was held at Logans Roadhouse in Natomas. Annette Hovorka, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and provided instructions on how to order dinner and then asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

The following people were present:

Bob Makenzie, Jimmie Pallares, Carl C.de Baca, Spencer C.de Baca, Dan Beever, Jimmy Byrum, Roger Perez, Rob McMillan, David Veasey, Aundrea Tirapelle, Adam Foster, Annette Hovorka, Laird Nelson, Andrew Tapley, Sherrie Zimmerman, Russ Smith & Unknown.

President's report - President Annette Hovorka reported:

- 1) We had an executive team meeting 2 weeks ago (2/22/2024) and at the meeting, Carl C. de Baca, Editor of the Focal Point, said he would like to see more article submissions for inclusion in the newsletter, and the executive team decided we would like to see the chapter offer an incentive to those who contribute an article or something that enhances the newsletter.
  - a) A motion was made to offer a free drink or ten raffle tickets as an incentive to those who contribute an article or something that enhances the newsletter. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) The chapter received a thank-you email from the Fresno State University student recipient of the 2024 Bill Telling Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Sacramento CLSA Chapter.
- 3) We would normally have a report from our chapter vice president, but he isn't present, but if he was, he would say that we need speakers for future meetings and he would also say that our guest speaker next month will be Mark Counts from Caltrans, coming to talk to us about the upgrades to his Palms Project and the integration of Esri, Trimble Business Center and Civil 3D.

Vice President's report:

1. No report.

Secretary's report – Secretary Andrew Tapley reported:

1. The Sacramento Chapter's February meeting minutes can be found in the Focal Point newsletter, which has already been sent out.

*Continued on Page 6*



## Minutes for meeting of March 7, 2024 (continued from Page 5)

President Annette Hovorka asked if anyone had an announcement and 2021 CLSA President Rob McMillan announced that he attended the BPELSG Board Meeting today and it was decided that the California PLS exam will be based upon a new exam plan, so those providing LS exam review lectures should take these changes into account. These changes will likely be implemented in April of 2025.

Treasurer's report - Treasurer Laird Nelson reported:

1. The chapter checking account currently has \$7,187.85 and chapter has about \$100 in cash.
2. The chapter currently has 30 members: 18 are PLS members, 9 are LSIT members and 3 are student members.

Sacramento City College Curriculum Advisory Committee member Carl C. de Baca reported:

1. Had a meeting last week for a couple hours, discussing the curriculum for the 2-year program. They now have all the classes identified, with a few details to work out on what some of the classes are going to consist of.
  - a. Drone flying is currently a part of their GIS program so further discussions and negotiations remain on that front.
  - b. They have a series of AutoCAD classes but nothing for Civil 3D because licenses for Civil 3D are likely too expensive for the school to afford, so alternatives like Carlson are being considered. The school says they aren't getting any discounts on licenses for student versions of Civil 3D, but they're looking into it.
2. The school has five or six Trimble S6 total stations, but they don't have any survey controllers for them. If anyone has any old TSC2 or TSC3 controllers that they can donate to the program, it's a tax-deductible donation and it will help develop the future crop of surveyors we will all eventually need to hire.

*(Continued on page 7)*

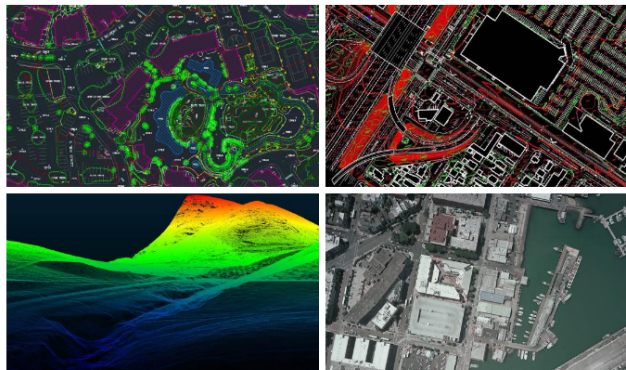
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## Minutes for meeting of March 7, 2024 (continued from Page 6)

President Annette Hovorka asked if there were any other announcements or questions.

1. Jimmy Byrum, Senior Land Surveyor at Sacramento County, announced that Sacramento County Surveyor Jon Scarpa asked him to ask the chapter “what are two things we are doing right at the County (survey wise) and what are two things we could improve upon?”
  - a. It was recommended that Jon Scarpa be the guest speaker in May of 2024 when he will likely have a large crowd to provide answers to any questions for which he seeks feedback.
2. Carl C. de Baca announced that the last time he spoke to Jon Scarpa, he reminded him that something he had requested, but the Chapter hasn’t done yet, is to send another letter of support to the County Board of Supervisors requesting money to go to a monument preservation fund. Sacramento doesn’t really have a monument preservation fund.
3. Carl C. de Baca made a motion that the Sacramento Chapter write a letter of support for the creation of a Monument Preservation Fund, to go to the Sacramento Board of Supervisors. The motion passed.

A Round Table Discussion was held In lieu of a monthly guest speaker. President Annette Hovorka asked that we go around the room and everyone share how it was that they got into the field of surveying.

### 50/50 Raffle

1. Total raffle pot is \$782 (\$391 take-home for a winner) with 40 cards left. Two tickets were selected, and two more cards chosen from the partial deck, but neither was the Joker, so there were no winners this month.

Meeting was adjourned by President Annette Hovorka.



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# Announcements!










**Congratulations to Leva Cefola and Phoenix Kanada of Sacramento City College and Connor Lanz of Santa Rosa Junior College!**

**2024 recipients of CLSA Sacramento Chapter scholarships!**

**These students are invited to attend our April chapter meeting to receive their scholarship checks in person and for a free dinner!**

**Thanks to Laird Nelson for putting Sacramento City College in touch with the right people at Autodesk's Educational Support Team in the interest of getting their survey students set up with student versions of Civil3D!**

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*Hurry up, Spring!*



# A Rare Bit of Good News From Congress

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. CON. RES. 96

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the public health, safety and welfare implications of licensure of design professionals.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2024

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania submitted the following concurrent resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the public health, safety, and welfare implications of licensure of design professionals.

Whereas the several States have traditionally licensed individuals in the practice of certain design occupations, with California having passed the first surveying licensure law in 1891, Illinois having passed the first architecture licensing law in 1897, and Wyoming having passed the first engineering licensure law in 1907;

Whereas all 50 States, as well as territories and possessions, license individuals in the design profession disciplines; Whereas the National Transportation Safety Board has recognized the importance of professional licensing among certain design professions, most recently in NTSB/PSR– 18/02, an incident safety report regarding a natural gas distribution system in the northeast region of the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts;

Whereas, more than 30 years ago, Congress recognized the importance of professional licensing in design disciplines in its report titled “Structural Failures in Public Facilities” (H. Rept. 98–61), which recommended “all necessary architectural and engineering design and on-site services in public construction projects are furnished by licensed professionals who are qualified and experienced to assure the construction of safe structures”; and

Whereas many States are reducing requirements for, or eliminating the licensing of, certain occupations due to concerns over competition, market entry, and overregulation that do not serve the public interest, but in many cases the aforementioned State actions do not distinguish those professional design occupations in which licensing has a significant benefit to public health, safety, and welfare: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

*Continued on Page 10*

## House Resolution *(Continued from Page 9)*

(1) occupations in design professions, including but not limited to

architecture, engineering, surveying, and mapping, are essential to the integrity of the built and natural environment and critical to the successful research, planning, design, construction, development, alteration, repair, operation, and maintenance of real property, the Nation's physical infrastructure, and resource planning activities, including 11 the assessment, location, and development of critical materials, that contribute to maintaining the country's economic prosperity, national security, and environmental protection; and

(2) continuation of licensure of such occupations and professions by the several States is in the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare.

*The conspiracy against professional licensing is finally starting to see some pushback!*

### More Good News

*In a Brief filed on March 7, 2024, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Affirmed the lower courts ruling in the Crownholm v Moore, et al.*

The Plaintiffs-Appellants, Ryan Crownholm; Crown Capital Adventures, Inc DBA mysiteplan.com filed an appeal on December 14, 2023. The appeal was heard before a three judge panel, who were limited to ruling only on the matters of appeal and not on the broader points of the original superior court case. Here's an excerpt:

*"Plaintiffs filed file suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, raising constitutional challenges to the California Professional Land Surveyors' Act ("the Act"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 8700 et seq. the district court denied Palintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction and subsequently granted Defendants' motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). Plaintiffs timely appealed. We have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, **and we affirm.**" (emphasis added by editor)*

*This should put an end to the Crownholm suit, allow Mr. Moore and the rest of the Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists to rest easier and allow them to continue to protect the public from the unlicensed practice of Land Surveying. But... there is at least one more level of judicial review available to Crownholm and the Institute for Justice, if they have the fiscal resources...*

-ED

# Regulations We Know, (But Might Have Forgotten)

## *Pre and Post Construction Corner Records*

California Business and Professions Code - BPC

DIVISION 3 - PROFESSIONS AND VOCATIONS

CHAPTER 15 - Land Surveyors

ARTICLE 5 - Surveying Practice

Section 8771

(a) Monuments set shall be sufficient in number and durability and efficiently placed so as not to be readily disturbed, to ensure, together with monuments already existing, the perpetuation or facile reestablishment of any point or line of the survey.

(b) When monuments exist that control the location of subdivisions, tracts, boundaries, roads, streets, or highways, or provide horizontal or vertical survey control, the monuments shall be located and referenced by or under the direction of a licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying, prior to the time **when any streets, highways, other rights-of-way, or easements are improved, constructed, reconstructed, maintained, resurfaced, or relocated**, and a corner record or record of survey of the references **shall be filed** with the county surveyor.

(c) A permanent monument shall be reset in the surface of the new construction or a witness monument or monuments set to perpetuate the location if any monument could be destroyed, damaged, covered, disturbed, or otherwise obliterated, and a corner record or record of survey shall be filed with the county surveyor prior to the recording of a certificate of completion for the project. **Sufficient controlling monuments shall be retained or replaced in their original positions to enable property, right-of-way and easement lines, property corners, and subdivision and tract boundaries to be reestablished** without devious surveys necessarily originating on monuments differing from those that currently control the area.

(d) **The governmental agency performing or permitting construction or maintenance work is responsible for ensuring that either the governmental agency or landowner performing the construction or maintenance work provides for monument perpetuation required by this section.**

(e) It shall be the duty of every licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying to assist the governmental agency in matters of maps, field notes, and other pertinent records. Monuments set to mark the limiting lines of highways, roads, streets or right-of-way or easement lines shall not be deemed adequate for this purpose, unless specifically noted on the corner record or record of survey of the improvement works with direct ties in bearing or azimuth and distance between these and other monuments of record.

(f) The decision to file either a corner record or a record of survey as required by subdivision (b) or (c) shall be at the election of the licensed land surveyor or the licensed civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying submitting the document.



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