

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

Jan. 2, 2017



www.calapa.net

IN THIS ISSUE

[A look ahead: Our predictions for the Top 10 stories that will impact the asphalt pavement industry in 2017](#)

[CalAPA technical training classes set for January in Bakersfield, Gardena, Rancho Cordova](#)

[Sign-up now for CalAPA's annual dinner Jan. 19 at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles](#)

[Tech Term of the Week: Flush Coat](#)

[Quote of the Week: Jonathan Lockwood Huier](#)

CALENDAR

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

"Essentials of HMA Pavement Smoothness" class
Tuesday, Jan. 17, 8 a.m. to noon

University of Phoenix, San Diego Campus,
9645 Granite Ridge Dr.
Building 9665, Room #301
San Diego

Contact: Ritha Nhorn (916) 791-5044

Click [HERE](#) to register.

*

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.

→ A look ahead: Our predictions for the Top 10 stories that will impact the asphalt pavement industry in California in 2017

Editor's Note: In last week's Asphalt Insider, we offered up our completely subjective picks for the Top 10 news stories that impacted the asphalt industry in 2016. You can read it [HERE](#). This week we are back with our predictions of the Top 10 stories that will be making headlines in 2017. If you're curious how our prognosticators fared with last year's predictions, you can read them [HERE](#). For more detailed information and analysis, sure to look for the 2017 annual forecast issue of CalAPA's official magazine, "California Asphalt," which will hit mailboxes later this month.

1. A flurry of activity in the first quarter of 2017 will give hope that the Legislature and the governor will finally come to an agreement on a long-term funding package for transportation, including an infusion of cash for neglected road maintenance and rehabilitation. However, other largely social issues will continue to distract the Legislature in 2017 tied to policy differences between liberal California politicians and a more conservative White House and U.S. Congress on social issues such as "sanctuary cities" and the Affordable Care Act known as "Obamacare." Campaign promises by the incoming president on massive infrastructure spending will never materialize. The year will come and go with no meaningful action on transportation at the state level, leaving the state, cities and counties to make due with existing funds and "self-help" tax measures endorsed by voters.

2. Finding and retaining qualified workers will be a top concern in 2017 for private construction companies and public works agencies. Accelerated retirements at public agencies and fierce competition for workers in the private sector will mean 2017 will be a seller's market for talent. At the massive California Department of Transportation, vacancies, personnel shuffling and managers holding down key positions on a temporary basis will be the "new normal" for the foreseeable future and set the stage for the wind-down of the Brown administration, which will usher in more leadership changes.



3. Speaking of "new normal," oil prices will continue to be the one of the top global business stories in 2017, with a worldwide glut in oil keeping prices down for most of the year, which is continued good news for consumers and businesses in California. Prices will drift slightly higher as the year progresses, but will be nowhere near the price spikes of 2010-13.

"Asphalt Pavement 101"
class

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 8 a.m.
to noon

National University, Rancho
Cordova Campus,
10901 Gold Center Drive
Room #118,

Rancho Cordova. Contact:
Ritha Nhorn (916) 791-5044
Click [HERE](#) to register.

*

"HMA Pavement Smoothness"
class

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 8 a.m.
to noon

University of Phoenix,
Gardena Campus,
1515 W. 190th St., Ste. 200,
Room #227, Gardena
Contact: Ritha Nhorn (916)
791-5044

Click [HERE](#) to register

*

CalAPA Annual Dinner

Thursday, Jan. 19,
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jonathan Club
545 S. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA
Contact Sophie You at (916)
791-5044 for sponsorship
information.
Details [HERE](#).

*

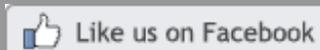
"HMA Pavement
Smoothness" class

Thursday, Jan. 19, 8 a.m. to
noon

University of Phoenix,
Bakersfield Campus, 4900
California Ave., Suite A300,
Room #111, Bakersfield
Contact: Ritha Nhorn (916)
791-5044

Click [HERE](#) to register.

SOCIALIZE



Follow us on [twitter](#)



4. Smoothing out the bumps in delivering smoother pavements will continue consume the time and attention in California in 2017. Caltrans spec-writers and industry advisers will continue to confer on lessons learned from tighter specifications and changing technology, and paving contractors and subcontractors will learn hard (costly) lessons as they continue to be challenged to consistently meet the new standards.

5. After some fits and starts, the first classes are held in 2017 as part of an ambitious Caltrans-industry Training and Certification program for asphalt technicians. Industry had pressed Caltrans for nearly two decades to go to the joint industry-agency training and certification model to reduce test variability and claims over materials test results. Caltrans, operating on an inter-agency agreement with a local academic institution, Cal State Long Beach, will roll out the first classes in 2017 utilizing American Concrete Institute curriculum followed by custom-designed asphalt and aggregate curriculum.

6. Political tussles will continue in 2017 over environmental regulations, particularly at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and at the state California Air Resources Board (CARB). The SCAQMD begins the new year with a governing board swinging back to a more pro-regulatory makeup after a year when the board flirted with a more business-friendly makeup. Industry will be on guard to engage bureaucrats on new regulations and new interpretations that could be harmful to business.

7. Public works agencies, particularly at the local level, will face increasing pressure to implement environmentally friendly practices in their operations and in their transportation improvement and maintenance programs. Citizen activism on this front becomes increasingly more sophisticated, and will require additional time and resources from companies and agencies to respond.



Construction companies will be required to invest increasing resources to respond to the various regulations and potential risk to the bottom line.

8. Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) specifications will continue to be debated in 2017 as the state fully implements a system where contractors must use blending charts to determine appropriate binder grade percentage adjustments during the mix design as well as RAP binder grade testing on "live" stockpiles on a regular basis. Project results will be closely monitored to gather performance data on the new specifications.

9. All eyes will be on the federal courts as they continue to weigh in on implementation of AB219, an unprecedented expansion of California's prevailing wage laws to cover concrete deliveries on public works projects. The new law has already caused widespread confusion and conflict on construction projects statewide. The union-backed bill, sponsored by construction trade unions and opposed by employer groups, including CalAPA, was passed in 2015 and was scheduled to take effect in 2016 before it was temporarily halted by a federal lawsuit brought by several construction industry firms. Although references to asphalt were stripped from the bill before it was signed by the governor, no effort to expand the law to include asphalt will take place in 2017 until the legal issues are resolved.

10. The California economy, which has outpaced the nation in growth since the "Great Recession" and, if it was a separate country would be the world's sixth richest, will continue to grow in 2017, and rising home prices and lack of inventory will spur additional demand for

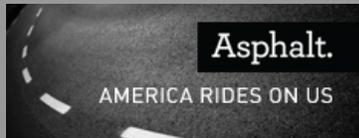


construction of single-family and multi-family housing in the state, which will help soften the blow from the lack of state road funding.

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.



CalAPA

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 981300
West Sacramento, CA 95798

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

(916) 791-5044 (phone)

→ CalAPA technical training classes set for January in Bakersfield, Gardena, Rancho Cordova

It's training time! Much is changing in the world of asphalt -- let CalAPA technical classes give your people the knowledge they need to deliver successful, problem-free projects.

Class curriculum is updated constantly so you are getting the latest practical and valuable information from our highly regarded industry experts. What you don't know can cost you! Investing in yourself and your people pays dividends all year long. Classes are a half-day long, and attendees receive a handy reference workbook and certificate of completion.

CalAPA classes are a great value! Early registration price for CalAPA members and agency representatives is just \$99. Click [HERE](#) to view our calendar of classes and events for January and to sign up.



CalAPA classes are a popular way to stay up to date.

CalAPA's enormously popular "Asphalt Pavement 101" class is a good overview of everything asphalt, touching on how asphalt pavements are constructed and maintained. It is taught by Roger Smith, a former senior materials engineer with Caltrans and the Asphalt Institute, as well as former executive director of CalAPA. The class is perfect for those new to the industry as well as experienced personnel looking for a refresher on what's new. The next class will be held Jan. 18 in Rancho Cordova. Click [HERE](#) to view a class flier. The sign-up page is [HERE](#).

In our fast-paced "Quality Asphalt Paving" class, onetime paving company owner turned asphalt pavement consultant Skip Brown will provide a practical, "boots on the ground" course for what makes for a high-quality paving operation, best practices as well as how to identify and avoid problems. This class is perfect for paving crews and other field personnel. Skip's lively and engaging style and colorful stories make for a memorable class experience. The class will be held Jan. 25 in Rancho Cordova. Click [HERE](#) to view the sign-up page. Click [HERE](#) to view a class flier.

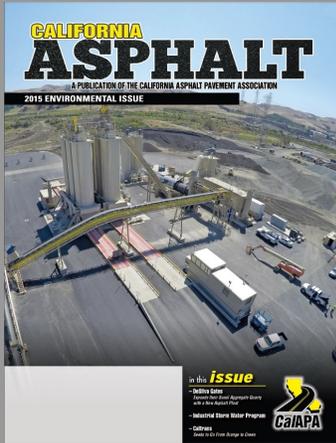
New pavement smoothness specifications and technology are changing faster than you can say "goodbye incentives, hello deductions." In our information-packed "Essentials of HMA Pavement Smoothness" class, engineer and noted pavement expert Mike Robinson will provide the latest information on new Caltrans smoothness specifications, the Inertial Profiler, the ProVAL software, paving best practices, tips on creating an effective grinding plan and more. Ideal for engineers, designers, inspectors and others. Click [HERE](#) to view a class flier. Click [HERE](#) to sign-up page for the Jan. 17 class in San Diego. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the Jan. 18 class in Gardena. Click [HERE](#) to sign-up for the Jan. 19 class in Bakersfield.

CalAPA can bring technical training classes to your location. Contact Ritha Nhorn at (916) 791-5044.

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



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

WATCH

→ Sign-up now for CalAPA's annual dinner Jan. 19 at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles

Seats are going fast for the CalAPA Annual Dinner, to take place Thursday, Jan. 19 at the elegant Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register on-line.

Assemblyman Jim Frazier, chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, will be the keynote speaker. He is backing a comprehensive transportation funding plan, AB1, that would result in \$6 billion more per year above current funding levels.



Jim Frazier

The festive evening will also recognize longtime leaders of the industry, and an installation of association officers for 2017.

The Jonathan Club is located at 545 S. Figueroa St. in downtown Los Angeles. The early-bird deadline to purchase discounted tickets is Jan. 12, and there are a limited number of rooms available at the historic venue. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044.

→ Tech Term of the Week

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

FLUSH COAT: An application of a fog seal and sand cover to the surface of a newly placed chip seal.

→ Quote of the Week

"Celebrate endings -- for they precede new beginnings."

Jonathan Lockwood Huier

→ CalAPA holiday hours

CalAPA offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2 to mark the New Year's Day holiday.

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 and events in California that may impact the asphalt pavement industry. Click [HERE](#) to contact us with any comments or



Click [HERE](#) to visit our video page.

DESIGN!



suggestions.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Snyder, CAE

Executive Director

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

The *California Asphalt Insider* is an official publication of the California Asphalt Pavement Association. For more information or to inquire about membership, call (916) 791-5044, or click [HERE](#) to send us an e-mail.

Copyright © 2017 California Asphalt Pavement Association - All Rights Reserved.

www.calapa.net