

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

Feb. 6, 2017



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CALENDAR

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

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L.A. Area Technical Committee Meeting,
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 9:30 a.m. to noon
County of Orange, RDMD Conference Room, 1152 Fruit St., Santa Ana
Contact: Brandon Milar (916) 995-0086
Click [HERE](#) for details.

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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.

→ Commentary: Fixing a problem, and then unfixing it

By Brandon Milar, P.E., CalAPA Technical Director

Over the holiday break, the CalAPA staff embarked on an ambitious task which involved the consolidation of association files, the rearranging of the office, and the updating of the furniture. This effort resulted in an improved office flow and work-space, the inclusion of a meeting space, and the discovery of historical association documents. We'll take time in this space to share a piece of our history that may be instructive today.

In a box at our storage unit, I found copies of the "Asphalt Bulletin."

This was a monthly publication of our asphalt association providing the industry with current news and activities affecting the asphalt industry in California. I pulled an issue from Jan. 3, 2003, 14 years

ago. It was fascinating to once again read about the issues facing the asphalt industry. Yes, I wrote this newsletter and it was also distributed to stakeholders by snail mail, unlike today's weekly that arrives by email every Monday morning. So what were the main topics? Not enough Federal and State money for roadway construction and maintenance, development of new emission limits for diesel vehicles and asphalt fume exposure limits, Moisture Sensitivity, QC/QA, Smoothness, and Mix Stability.

TECH REPORT

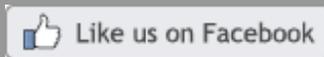
As we review this list, we realize that we are addressing all of these things today! However, there is one item that baffles this pavement engineer: Moisture Sensitivity. Moisture in asphalt pavements causing pavement failures is not new. This was identified way back when in the work by legendary Caltrans materials engineer Francis Hveem and other pavement experts. Caltrans and industry spent the 1990s and 2000s trying to figure out a way to address this concern.

In February of 2003, Caltrans hosted a workshop on Moisture Sensitivity that included presentations and discussions among an international group of pavement materials experts. The recommendations of this group were used by Caltrans and industry to develop a protocol to test materials and determine a treatment method for asphalt mixes. After many years of meetings, round-robins, expert testimony, research, and data analysis, we completed this task! Yes, that is right! WE did it! Caltrans and

SAVE THE DATES!
**CalAPA Spring Asphalt
Pavement Conference &
Equipment Expo**
April 12-13

Doubletree Hotel, 222 N.
Vineyard Ave., Ontario
Contact Sophie You at CalAPA
at (916) 791-5044 for
sponsorship and exhibitor
opportunities.
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 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

industry partnered together and completed a major task! A testing protocol was identified that included both AASHTO T 283 and AASHTO T 324. Also various treatment alternatives were identified and allowed with conditions based on aggregate properties (i.e. clay fines). While this was incorporated in projects in the late 2000s, it was codified in the 2010 and 2015 Caltrans Standard Specifications. Since the incorporation in the Standards, we no longer discuss this issue in our various technical meetings.



Brandon Milar, P.E.

Before we get too excited about this achievement, however, there is a hitch. Various Caltrans districts are not following this technically based protocol. They continue to require specific treatment methods, mostly Lime Slurry Marination. Why are engineers in parts of this State disregarding the painstaking technical work of Caltrans and industry, the recommendations of experts from a cross the country, and the data from established testing protocol?

It is imperative that we work together to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our pavements. It is also imperative that we work together to ensure a consistent application/implementation of the products from our efforts. Hopefully, Caltrans and industry can work with these districts to implement the moisture sensitivity protocols and allow the technical merits of the mixes determine appropriate treatments.

It's hard enough to thoroughly study a problem, and then to put in place a plan to fix it. It's a shame to then ignore all the work and "unfix" the problem. We can do better.

→ NAPA 'Back to Basics' webinar Feb. 16 to focus on asphalt binders; free for CalAPA members, agency personnel

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), a CalAPA partner, is offering a series of educational webinars dubbed "Back to Basics." The webinars are free to NAPA and CalAPA members and agency personnel. Non-members are \$129.

The next webinar will focus on asphalt binders and be held on Thursday, Feb. 16 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PST. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the webinars and to sign up.

The Feb. 16 webinar looks at the properties of asphalt binders, how binders are produced, and how to choose the right binder for the job, including considering modified binders. The presenter is Ron Corun, Axion Specialty Products LLC.



Other "Back to Basics" webinars will include topics such as volumetrics, mix design, compaction, Quality Control/Quality Assurance and more. The full schedule of webinars can be found [HERE](#).

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

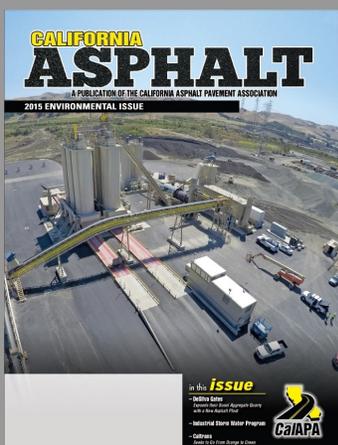
Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 791-5044 (phone)

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

→ CalAPA's legislative program highlighted at NAPA Annual Meeting in Florida

The ongoing campaign to press for a comprehensive road investment plan for California was highlighted last week at the annual meeting of the National Asphalt Pavement Association conference in Florida.

CalAPA Executive Director Russell Snyder presented on Jan. 31 on the unique challenges and opportunities in California for persuading the Legislature and the governor to agree on a long-term plan to improve and maintain the state's vast network of state and local roads. Many of the issues in California that have hindered progress mirror what is happening at the federal level, namely a lack of political will to address flagging sources of revenue devoted to pavements.



Will Wilkins (left), and Russell Snyder address a NAPA annual meeting session last week on state funding for transportation moderated by John Hay with Oldcastle Materials (standing).

Snyder also outlined California's high threshold for adopting new taxes, and the "self help" county phenomenon where more than 20 counties have taxed themselves to generate money for transportation improvements.

Snyder was joined on the panel by Will Wilkins, Executive Director of TRIP, a national transportation research organization, which has done numerous studies outlining the dire state of California's transportation network. An interview with Wilkins will be featured in an upcoming edition of *"California Asphalt,"* CalAPA's official magazine.

A roundup of the various events that have led up to this year's renewed push for state funding can be found in the 2017 forecast issue of *California Asphalt* magazine [HERE](#).

→ Former Assemblyman Dickenson named as head of Transportation California group

Former Assemblyman Roger Dickinson has been appointed as the Executive Director of Transportation California, a Sacramento-based construction industry organization supported by CalAPA and others dedicated to improving the state's transportation infrastructure.

Dickinson will replace long-time transportation advocate Will Kempton, who is retiring.

"We are very pleased to have someone of Roger's experience and acumen fill this position," said Transportation California Chairman John Franich. "With his background and passion for transportation, our organization will be able to continue its efforts to gain an additional funding and implement appropriate reforms for the program without skipping a beat."

Dickinson, an attorney for the Greenberg Traurig law firm, previously represented Sacramento in the State Assembly where he served for four years. Prior to his election to the

a 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.

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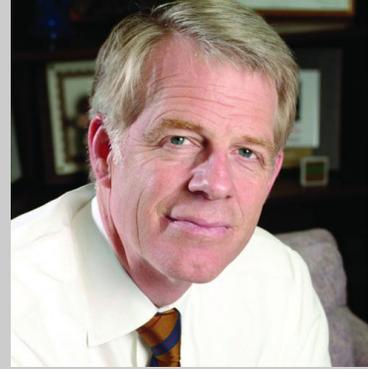


Click [HERE](#) to visit our video page.

DESIGN!



Assembly, he spent seventeen years on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors where he pursued his interest in transportation as a member of the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors and also served on the Board of the Sacramento Transportation Authority.



Roger Dickenson

"I am delighted to be returning to the field of transportation," Dickinson said, "and I look forward to working with the many stakeholders throughout California who are committed to repairing and restoring our State's transportation system."

As a member of the Fix Our Roads Coalition, Transportation California is working with the Administration and the Legislature to make transportation funding and reforms a priority this year. Dickinson sees his new role as a challenge, but points out that with highways, streets/roads, and transit/rail facilities in a state of decline, our transportation needs continue to grow. "The longer we wait to fix the problems, the bigger and more expensive they become," Dickinson said. "We have to take action now."

Dickinson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and earned his law degree from UCLA. He will assume his new role at Transportation California on February 16th.

→ Tech Term of the Week

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

JOINT: A pavement discontinuity made necessary by design or by interruption of a paving operation.

→ Quote of the Week

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

Winston Churchill

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 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.

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