

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association
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CALENDAR

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

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SAVE THE DATE!

CalAPA 'Day at the Races' at Del Mar Race Track, Del Mar, CA.

Saturday, July 21.

Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044

Details soon!

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SAVE THE DATES!

Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference, Oct. 24-25
Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento.
For sponsorship and exhibitor

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.

→ Caltrans names Hopkins as deputy chief of construction; will also play role in revamped specification-development committee

Caltrans earlier this month announced Ramon "Ray" Hopkins will be the new Deputy Division Chief of Construction, and he will also assume a leadership position in a revamped industry-agency materials specification development committee.

Hopkins, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona, Tuscon, began his engineering career as a Combat Engineer Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps where he served on active duty for six years; most of which was overseas. Once returning to the United States, he continued his career in the Marine Corps Reserve for an additional six years and then resigned with the rank of Major.

Hopkins joined Caltrans in 1998 and started his career as a Design Engineer in Fresno. Soon after, he transferred to District 5 Construction and began working as an Assistant Resident Engineer, and obtained his Professional Engineering license in 2002. As a Construction Engineer, he managed several high-profile projects, including the widening of the Highway 46 corridor in San Luis Obispo County. Most recently, Hopkins was assigned as a Construction Field Coordinator for the Division of Construction, covering Central Region as well as Districts 8 and 9.



Ray Hopkins

"In addition to his Caltrans construction experience, Ray brings extensive leadership and management skills gained over 25 years of overseeing multifaceted engineering projects around the globe," said Caltrans Construction Division Chief Rachel Falsetti in announcing the appointment in an internal e-mail.

Hopkins takes over the position vacated by the retirement last year of John Stayton. Tom Pyle from the Division of Pavements has been filling the position on an interim basis since then. Hopkins will also move into a slot on the industry-agency Pavement & Materials Partnering Committee (PMPC), formerly known as the Rock Products Committee. The committee and its various subcommittees have been undergoing a reorganization over the past year. Several CalAPA members participate in the various subcommittees that are part of the PMPC, and the CalAPA and the California Construction & Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA) have seats on the PMPC

opportunities, contact Sophie
You at (916) 791-5044.

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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.



steering committee, representing a broad array of industry stakeholders.

"I am honored to have been selected to this new position and I look forward to working closely with our industry partners," Hopkins told *Asphalt Insider*. "My goal is to maintain strong relationships as we move forward to face the increased workload resulting from the passage of SB1. In order to be successful, we will have to look at innovative ways to deliver projects and address capacity issues that the construction industry faces. I am confident that by working together, we will be successful in delivering this robust construction program."

The department also officially began advertising last week for the vacant position of Chief of the Division of Pavements, known as the State Pavement Engineer. The position has essentially been vacant since September when Jesse Bhullar moved over to the Division of Traffic in an interim capacity. He later was named permanently to the position. His position overseeing the Division of Pavements was filled on an interim basis first by Pyle and then by Mark Suchanek from District 1.

The department has also been undergoing changes at the executive level, with the departure earlier this year of Director Malcolm Dougherty and Chief Deputy Director Kome Ajise. The new Director is Laurie Berman, formerly head of the San Diego regional office, and the new chief deputy director is Ryan Chamberlain, who most recently worked in the department's regional office in Orange County. At the governor's cabinet level, California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly departed to take over management of the state's High-Speed Rail Authority. He has been replaced by his former undersecretary, Brian Annis. A previous Feb. 26 *Asphalt Insider* article reporting some of these changes is [HERE](#).

→ Vintage trucking publication still contains valuable tips

Several years back the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), a CalAPA partner, produced a colorful publication about trucking and asphalt.

Although the publication, "Truck Driving Techniques," is out of print, thanks the miracle of computers and scanners it lives on in PDF format, packed with useful information that is still relevant today. To download it click [HERE](#).

Asphalt is a perishable product, and getting it to the jobsite quickly and safely depends on skilled truckers. With so many new to the industry this NAPA publication is a user-friendly refresher on key tips to working safely in our industry.

The vintage trucker guide is a nice companion to the recently updated Parking Lot Construction Checklist produced by CalAPA in partnership with the Asphalt Pavement Alliance. A PDF version of that pocket guide is [HERE](#).



→ Caltrans seeks feedback on new materials technician training & certification program

The Caltrans Joint Training & Certification Program (JTCP) for

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 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

materials technicians, which has begun holding classes in Northern and Southern California, is actively soliciting program feedback and suggestions for improvement.

A collaborative effort of Caltrans, industry and academia, the landmark program launched earlier this year and is being managed through an inter-agency agreement between the department and California State University, Long Beach. Classes also are being held on the campus of California State University, San Jose.

The program delivers training and certification for materials testing technicians in the specialties of Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA), Soils and Aggregates, and Portland Cement Concrete (PCC). After the initial start-up phase, the program is designed to be supported in perpetuity by fees charged for classes and certifications. An on-line feedback form to gather all comments and suggestions is [HERE](#).



Joint Training & Certification Program instructor Dave Aver (at white board) teaches an HMA certification class earlier this year at San Jose State University.

The foundational idea behind the program is that when all technicians, public and private, are trained and certified to the same professional standard, test results will be more uniform, reducing conflict and the potential for claims, which can delay and drive up the cost of projects. Similar public-private partnerships in numerous other states have been shown to improve tester competence and reduce test-result variability

The classes in PCC test methods utilize the well-established curriculum and standards set forth by the American Concrete Institute (ACI). The curriculum for HMA and soils and aggregate were developed by Long Beach State under the guidance of Caltrans, industry and other subject-matter experts. On the HMA side, the program offers an HMA1 and HMA 2 module, covering a variety of test methods unique to California (CTM), and also test methods promulgated by the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

With several classes now completed, and more scheduled, JTCP program managers are actively seeking program feedback to validate that the program is achieving its goals and to identify opportunities for improvement. All comments will be reviewed, categorized and evaluated by program managers, with guidance provided by a joint industry-agency steering committee.

The program arrives as SB1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, ushers in an estimated \$52 billion over 10 years for transportation improvements, with most of the money devoted to state and local road repairs. SB1 also calls for reforms and cost-savings on how the tax dollars are utilized -- a key goal of the JTCP initiative.

The program also continues to actively recruit prospective JTCP instructors, who will be independent contractors. Candidates are encouraged to visit a special recruitment web page [HERE](#) for details on expected qualifications and instructions on how to apply. The main JTCP web page is [HERE](#). CalAPA has also established a JTCP web page with links to these and other helpful resources [HERE](#). A Jan. 30 *Asphalt Insider* article about the program is [HERE](#).

SUBSCRIBE!

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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.

DESIGN!

PAVEExpress
Specify & Verify Pavement
Designs Online for Free
www.pavexpressdesign.com

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



Attendees at a Joint Training & Certification Program Steering Committee meeting April 27 in Long Beach.

→ Subscribe to *Asphalt Insider* for the news and views with a California emphasis

The award-winning *California Asphalt Insider* newsletter, an official publication of the California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA), is delivered free every Monday morning to thousands of industry and agency subscribers across the state and the nation, as well as several foreign countries. CalAPA is currently updating its newsletter database, which caused some people to miss last week's issue. If you did not receive this newsletter directly or have missed an issue, and would like to sign up, click [HERE](#). Feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested in asphalt pavements. An archive of past issues is [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.

SURFACE TEXTURE: The microscopic and macroscopic characteristics of the pavement surface that contribute to surface friction and noise.

→ 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

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

Muhammad Ali



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 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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