

# 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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**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
CalAPA 'Day at the Races' at  
Del Mar Race Track, Del  
Mar, CA.

Saturday, July 21.  
Contact: Sophie You (916)  
791-5044  
Details [HERE](#)

\*

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
Fall Asphalt Pavement  
Conference, Oct. 24-25

## 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.

## → SB1 author touts Joint Training & Certification program as key to accountability for road funds

The Joint Training & Certification Program for materials technicians in California was highlighted recently as an example accountability in how tax dollars are spent on fixing the state's roadways.

As work is ramping up in response to the passage last year of SB1, the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, officials stressed the importance of accurate and verifiable tests to confirm the quality of materials being purchased by the state as well as the expertise of those performing those tests.

The Joint Training and Certification Program (JTCP) was established by Caltrans Materials Engineering and Testing Services along with industry and academia to ensure consistent quality of materials being used in transportation construction projects. Classes are offered at California State Universities Long Beach and San Jose. An influx of projects is expected from Senate Bill 1 (SB1), which raised fuel taxes by 12 cents a gallon to pay for more than \$5 billion per year of transportation improvements at the state and local level.



*Participants in a recent Joint Training & Certification Program class on the campus of San Jose State University.*

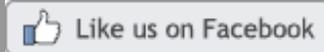
"The Joint Caltrans/CSU Training Program is a partnership that helps guarantee SB1's funding is spent wisely by preparing qualified technicians who are capable of testing and evaluating the materials we use to repair roads to ensure they meet the exacting standards we expect for quality, durability, and safety," said state Sen. Jim Beall, D-San Jose, SB1 author and chairman of the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee.

In a joint announcement June 13, Caltrans Director Laurie Berman added: "Materials quality is essential as we work to deliver the projects funded by SB1. This training program benefits the public, Caltrans and its transportation partners by developing a capable work force."

The JTCP will train and certify technicians for work on SB1 projects, which should also lead to fewer claims related to the types of material used in transportation projects.

Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. For sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044.

## SOCIALIZE



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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.

Supported by a \$1.3 million grant from Caltrans, the program delivers training and certification for materials-testing technicians in the specialties of Hot-Mix Asphalt, Soils and Aggregates and Portland Cement Concrete. Technicians earn certification by taking a prerequisite test in an area of specialization, followed by in-person class, laboratory and written/practical examination sessions.

SB1, which was passed by a two-thirds majority of the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2017, will generate an estimated \$54 billion in funding over the next decade, split between state and local agencies. It will double the transportation dollars for local communities and double the maintenance dollars for highways.



**Joint Training & Certification Program instructor Dave Aver (at white board) makes a point during a recent materials technician class.**

The JTCP was developed in partnership with CSULB's College of Engineering. Caltrans, contractor, and local government personnel attend the same classes, work together, and receive equivalent training. This practice fosters respect within the industry, while generating consistency. The program also enables individuals and agencies to verify progress and certifications held by others. Eight construction trade associations, including CalAPA, signed a letter in 2014 to then California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly endorsing concept of at JTCP in California, noting that similar programs in more than 20 other states have proven successful in raising the level of expertise of technicians, ensuring tests are performed properly, and reducing test variability that often leads to claims and project delay.

"The highway construction industry, including private companies, local government agencies, and Caltrans, has had a longstanding interest in a joint materials testing certification program. The strong response to the classes indicates that the industry is embracing this new program, which will allow them to become certified in four different sets of construction materials tests," said CSU Long Beach Associate Professor in civil engineering, Shadi Saadeh, JTCP Program Manager.

Approximately 80 classes are planned to be offered over the next fiscal year with new classes opened as the offered classes are filled. For more information, visit the Joint Training & Certification website [HERE](#). A previous *Asphalt Insider* article about the program is [HERE](#).

## → Special workforce development-themed issue of *California Asphalt* magazine is hitting mailboxes, posted on-line

A special workforce development-themed issue of *California Asphalt* magazine, the journal of the California Asphalt Pavement Association, is now on-line.

The issue features an in-depth look at "Project Cornerstone," an impressive effort to educate students and teachers of the many careers in the construction materials industry and the underlying science, engineering, technology and mathematics that serves as the foundation for those careers. The program was inspired by CalAPA associate member EnviroMINE with the support of numerous other CalAPA member firms under the dedicated leadership of its indefatigable program director, Crystal Howard. To learn more about

## CalAPA

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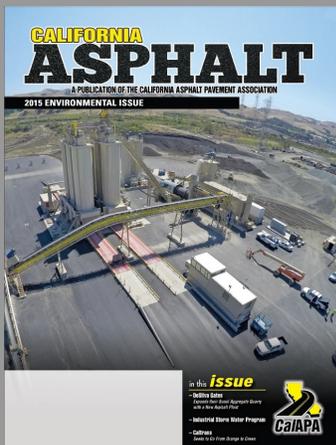
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## BACK ISSUES

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



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.

Project Cornerstone, click [HERE](#).

Other reports in this month's magazine include an upswing in apprenticeship programs in California serving the construction trades, an update on SB1 transportation funding, and a profile of a pavement preservation project at iconic Yosemite National Park. To view an interactive, 3-D version of the issue, click [HERE](#).

To view previous issues of *California Asphalt* magazine, click [HERE](#). For advertising inquiries, contact Kerry Hoover at (909) 772-3121. Information on advertising in the magazine can be found [HERE](#).



## → Well-wishers salute noted industry expert Jack Van Kirk on the occasion of his retirement

A few of the tales grew a bit taller in the re-telling, but there was no disputing the many contributions made over the years by Jack Van Kirk during his illustrious career at Caltrans and later at George Reed Inc./Basic Resources.

Family, friends, colleagues and well-wishers gathered on Friday in West Sacramento to mark the retirement of Van Kirk, a materials engineer without peer whose career touched so many across California, the nation and even internationally.

His incredible work ethic and encyclopedic knowledge about asphalt pavements, mix design, construction and test methods were, of course, well-known to everyone in the room. But perhaps less well-known were a few of his quirky travel habits, penchant for accumulating research papers that would make the state fire marshal take notice, and other endearing traits that were woven into the luncheon testimonials at a West Sacramento restaurant.

Sri Balasubramanian, former chief of the Caltrans Office of Asphalt Pavements, paid tribute to Van Kirk's vast knowledge and passion for improvement and integrity, and stated that Van Kirk unquestionably made Caltrans and the construction industry better.

Jeff Reed, president and CEO of George Reed / Basic Resources, joked that Van Kirk worked so closely with the state transportation department that it was almost as if he never left. Numerous others noted how they were mentored by Van Kirk over the years and are richer for the experience. His family also expressed appreciation to those in the room for giving them a greater appreciation of Van Kirk's respected standing in the industry.

A registered civil engineer in California, Van Kirk served as the Director for Asphalt Technology for George Reed / Basic Resources



**Jack Van Kirk (right) receives well-wishes from co-worker Sallie Houston of George Reed / Basic Resources at his retirement luncheon last week in West Sacramento.**

## STAY INFORMED

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SUBSCRIBE!

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 our JTCP resource page to learn more.

## DESIGN!

**PAVE**Express  
Specify & Verify Pavement  
Designs Online for Free  
[www.pavexpressdesign.com](http://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.

Inc. for 20 years, providing internal consulting regarding materials engineering for the Reed Group of companies. Prior to joining Basic Resources, Van Kirk worked for Caltrans for almost 20 years. He was the departmental expert in the area of flexible pavement. Van Kirk has authored many papers, research reports, specifications and test methods in

the area of Materials Engineering. He has also made numerous presentations on related subjects across the United States and in other countries. He was instrumental in bringing the first Heavy Vehicle Simulator to California from South Africa to test the durability of pavements, and the hulking machine remains in service to this day.

He is a longtime participant in the Caltrans-industry Pavement & Materials Partnering Committee (formerly called the Rock Product Committee), where he most recently served as co-chair of the Asphalt Task Group, as well as serving on numerous other technical committees, including the CalAPA Technical Advisory Committee. His technical presentations at CalAPA conferences have ranked among the highest-rated ever by conference attendees. He will be inducted into the association's "Hall of Fame" at the CalAPA Annual Meeting & Dinner to be held in Jan. 10, 2019 at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles.

When it was his turn to speak on Friday, Van Kirk noted wryly, "I didn't remember these stories quite the same as they were told." He offered heart-felt thanks to those in attendance, as well as his family, friends, colleagues and others who have guided and supported him over his long and storied career.

To view more photos from the luncheon, click [HERE](#) to visit CalAPA's Facebook page.



*Jeff Reed, president & CEO of George Reed Inc. / Basic Resources (left) with Dave Jones of the University of California Pavement Research Center at last week's retirement luncheon for Jack Van Kirk.*



*Jack Van Kirk (second from left) was on hand to recognize Caltrans Director Will Kempton (right) at Kempton's retirement from the department in 2009. Also pictured, from left, are CalAPA members Skip Brown with Delta Construction (now Asphalt*



*Consulting Services), Tony Limas with Granite Construction and Ken Kayser with Teichert Aggregates.*

## → Tech Term of the Week

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

**POTHOLE(S):** A pit or hole extending into the wearing surface. Potholes are created by collapse of the pavement surface. This is caused by water ingress into the pavement layers reducing stiffness and increasing flexing. Loss of HMA surface fines and matrix will lead to a reduction in integrity of the top pavement layer and formation of a hole. Loss of surface material in the HMA pavement requires a patch to restore pavement rideability. Potholes are typically bowl shaped holes of various sizes.

## → 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](#).*

**DURING COMPACTION:** Ask yourself: Is the proper type and number of compaction equipment being used to achieve specified density? Has adequate time been allowed to ensure proper compaction given the current weather?

## → Quote of the Week

"Don't depend too much on anyone in this world, because even your own shadow leaves you when you are in darkness."

Ibn Taymiyyah

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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