

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

Vol. 13, Issue 12 <> March 23, 2020



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CALENDAR

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

*

EVENT POSTPONED:
Southern California Paving Contractor Mixer
Tuesday, March 31, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Brewheim, 1931 E. Wright Circle, Anaheim
Contact: Bill Knopf (442) 400-9697

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REGISTRATION CLOSED:
Annual Asphalt Pavement Conference
April 15-17, 2020
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, 1600 S.

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.

→ **SPECIAL REPORT:** Industry, agencies respond to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic to ensure protection of vital infrastructure

With breathtaking speed, impacts related to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic swept across California and the nation last week, with public works officials, elected representatives and the asphalt pavement industry racing to stay ahead of events and understand the potential threats to workers, their families and operations.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on March 19 issued a statewide "stay at home" order to slow down the rapid spread of the flu-like virus, coming on the heels of similar orders issued locally by public health officials in the San Francisco Bay Area, an early hot spot of COVID-19 cases, Orange County and elsewhere. The number of reported cases, and deaths, continued to rise exponentially and health officials worried that hospitals could soon be overwhelmed with COVID-19-related cases. The particularly virulent form of flu is highly contagious and can severely compromise the lung capacity of victims, particularly the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. As of Saturday at 2 p.m., the California Department of Public Health reported on its website that there were 1,468 positive cases and 27 deaths in California. The number was expected to rise substantially in the coming weeks as additional testing capacity comes on line. The CDPH central repository for COVID-19 information is [HERE](#).



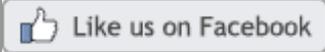
A Caltrans electronic message board in Sacramento.

Generally, the health orders issued last week carried exemptions for the preservation of essential services related to health, safety and the protection of vital infrastructure, such as utilities, transportation systems and housing, and supply chains critical to ensuring Californians continue to have access to food, medical care and other services during the emergency. Road construction, along with the upstream supply chain supporting it, was generally considered an essential activity so long as proper safety precautions, such as "social distancing" and other measures, were in place.

The construction industry, already accustomed to robust safety programs and use of personal protective equipment, moved quickly to

Disneyland Drive, Anaheim
Contact Sophie You at (916)
791-5044 for sponsorship and
exhibitor information.
Details [HERE](#).

SOCIALIZE



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CHOOSE ASPHALT

Asphalt is used on about 95 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.

implement revised training and protocols to protect workers. The same was true for upstream suppliers of construction materials, such as asphalt producers, binder suppliers and others.

CalAPA staff was in constant contact with Caltrans and local agency personnel to gain information and insight on the two major questions of the week: would projects continue? And if so, under what conditions? The answer to the first question was generally yes, although most acknowledged it was a very fluid situation. The answer to the second question, under what conditions would work continue, was evolving by week's end. Many other questions remained, however, including those related to operations, inspection and testing. Even a normally benign task, having a truck driver sign a weigh ticket upon receiving a load of asphalt, was re-evaluated and changes made. CalAPA continued to seek updated guidance on these and other questions that have been raised by members. Public agency officials agreed that flexibility would be required to ensure operations continued in a safe and secure manner.

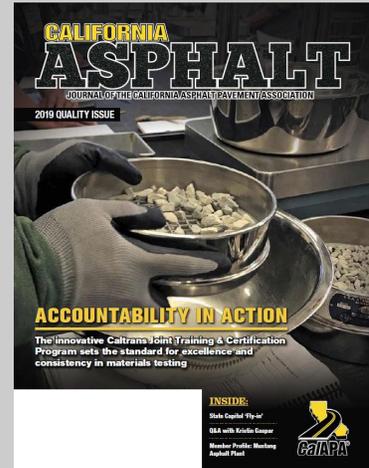
A quick survey of CalAPA producer and refiner members found that nearly all were continuing operations, with additional safety measures in place, and taking cues from health officials project owners.

Those companies contacted said operational changes have been implemented, and continue to be made. There was concern by some about future availability of workers and supplies, such as PPE, if the COVID-19 virus continues to spread rapidly, sickening workers or their family members. Availability of workers was already a strategic issue for the construction industry prior to the arrival of the pandemic.

Companies also worked to communicate with customers in an ever-changing environment. One asphalt producer in the San Francisco Bay Area announced it would cease production until April 7. A notice to customers posted on the company's website said "We will do our best to keep you informed of our operational status as the situation continues to develop nationally and in our immediate geographic area." Another company sent out an e-mail notice that it would continue operations, promising that "we're going to pour our talent and energy into taking care of our communities, our customers and our people." Yet another company posted on its website, "we remain committed to the health and safety of our team members, their families, and our business partners."

While construction activity related to road construction and housing was considered an essential activity, and public works employees generally remained working, "work" in many cases was being done in a vastly different way than had been the case just two weeks ago. Many non-field personnel were working from home or other remote locations, and normal response times to routine inquiries were strained.

The industry also looked for ways to assist those in need. An appeal went out to construction companies to donate N95 masks after



Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), like these gloves being utilized in a materials laboratory, are commonplace in the asphalt pavement industry.

CalAPA

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

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

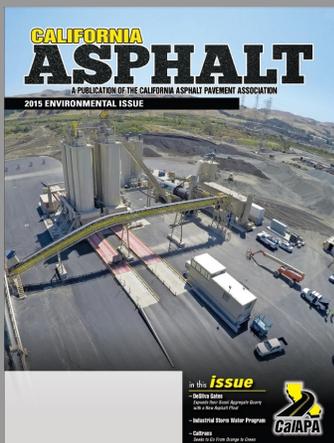
Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(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

hospitals and other first-responders reported the masks were in short supply. Donations by industry representatives were made to local charities, including those that operate emergency food banks and shelters.

With traffic congestion on freeways and highways greatly reduced due to the "stay at home" orders, discussions were happening between paving contractors and agencies with regard to possibly accelerating work, potentially finishing projects earlier and saving taxpayer dollars.

The full extent of the impacts from the pandemic are not fully known, but CalAPA will continue to keep the industry informed of pertinent information as it becomes available. For more information, contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044.

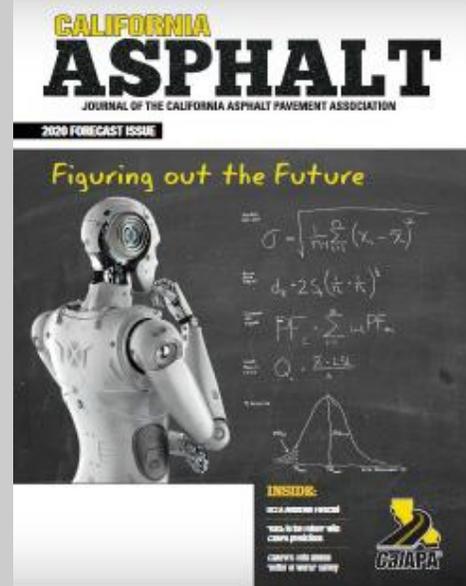
→ CalAPA implements operational changes in response to COVID-19 situation, posts resources on line

As reported last week, CalAPA has implemented contingency plans to ensure association operations continue with minimal disruptions, including greater use of remote working for staff and the use of virtual "GoToMeeting" technology for meetings.

The association altered the Safety page on the CalAPA website to include links to COVID-19 resources of particular interest to the asphalt pavement industry in California. In addition, CalAPA has posted on its public-facing website COVID-19-related "Member Alerts" to make information widely accessible to all. Those alerts are posted [HERE](#). The most recent Member Alert, published March 20, is [HERE](#).

All association publications will remain on their regular schedules and will be made available electronically on the CalAPA website. The CalAPA newsletter archive is [HERE](#). The magazine archive is [HERE](#). For the time being, association meetings will be conducted via phone and web technologies.

The association has received informal notice from Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa in Anaheim that the venue will not be able to accommodate the CalAPA Annual Asphalt Conference, which was scheduled for April 15-17. Registration for the event is closed, and a notice posted on the event website. CalAPA will send out an official notice to all event registrants, presenters and sponsors once the formal notification has been received by Disney.



A recent issue of CalAPA's official magazine, California Asphalt. The association magazine is distributed in print and in electronic format, and an archive of past issues is on the CalAPA website.

CalAPA continues to coordinate with other construction trade

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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!



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

associations in California, and across the country, to ensure a
consistent response to the COVID-19 situation. The National Asphalt
Pavement Association, a CalAPA partner, has created a COVID-19
response page with additional information and resources [HERE](#).

Announcements about future in-person CalAPA meetings, as well as
educational opportunities utilizing remote technologies, will be made
at a later date. For more information, contact CalAPA 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.*

AGGREGATE: Road materials composed of mineral substances, such as
gravel, crushed stone, slag, sand, or combinations of these, used for
various purposes in highway maintenance and construction.

→ 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](#).*

RECORD RETENTION AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION: Take a final
photograph of the site for your records and retain all records from
the project including: copies of all truck delivery tickets and record
of all the temperature recordings and compaction readings you took
during the project.

→ Safety Tip of the Week

*Each week we highlight a key tip or best practice to ensure that
asphalt plants and paving operations are safe, comply with
appropriate regulations and are accident-free. We welcome
suggestions. More tips can be found in our Safety Checklists posted
on our Safety Resources Page [HERE](#).*

EXERCISE COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: Simple precautions
include keeping your distance, staying home if you are sick, washing
hands frequently and seeking medical help if symptoms appear. A
California Department of Public Health Poster on the topic is [HERE](#).

→ Quote of the Week

"There is a humility that comes with realizing you're not the glorious
plans you made for your life. When the plans are upset, there's a
quieter, better you beneath them."

David Brooks

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, events and trends in California that

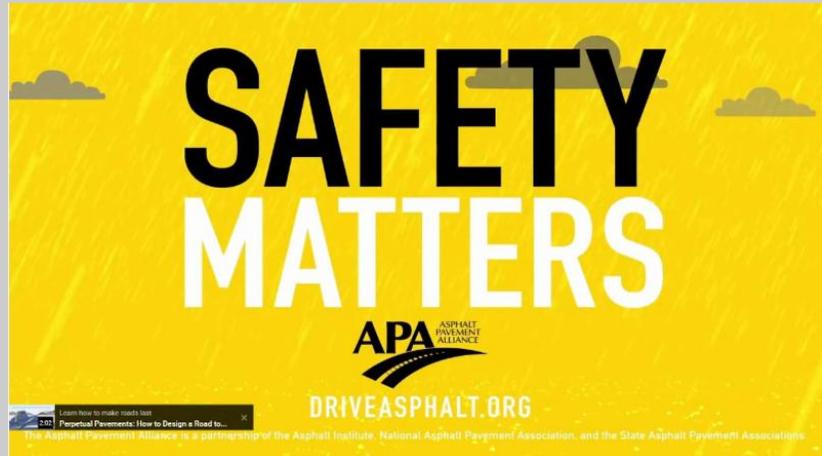
[HERE](#) to view our "hosted" training class flier, or contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044 for details. This service is available to public agencies and CalAPA members only.



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)®



Visit the CalAPA Safety resources page [HERE](#).

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