

# CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

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Quote of the Week: Nelson Mandela

## CALENDAR

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

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REGISTRATION OPEN:  
CalAPA Statewide Technical Committee Meeting (CalAPA Members and agency personnel only)

## 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: Roundup of latest COVID-19 coronavirus-related impacts to the asphalt pavement industry in California

As grim tally of the sick and dying in California and across the United States from the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic continued to escalate last week, the asphalt pavement industry and public agencies pushed forward with vital transportation infrastructure work under ever-changing guidelines released by public health officials and others.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, additional restrictions were announced on March 31 with regard to what constitutes essential activities exempted under various "stay at home" orders, with commercial and residential construction specifically mentioned. The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara eventually released revised orders. The Santa Clara County order is [HERE](#).

In Riverside County, health officials on April 4 advised anyone leaving the house should wear some sort of facial covering to hinder the spread of the virus. That announcement is [HERE](#). A similar recommendation had been made earlier in the week by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

The construction industry and construction trade unions, meanwhile, ramped up aggressive deployment of training and personal protective equipment to ensure workers followed the safety protocols on job sites. The deployments included safety "stand downs," "zero-tolerance" campaigns and other high-profile safety-reinforcing activities.

The message to all was clear: working safety under new COVID-19 social-distancing guidelines and other safety protocols was not an option. To further emphasize the message, the Los Angeles City Department of Building and Safety notified contractors that permits may be withheld, and job sites ordered to shut down, if they did not comply with the health orders. The Los Angeles City Department of Building and Safety guidance can be viewed [HERE](#).



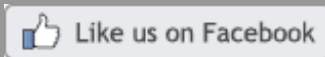
*A pre-COVID-19 paving operation on the state highway system. Caltrans is considering converting some night work to daylight hours due to the greatly reduced traffic*

Wednesday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
(On-line meeting only - pre-registration required)  
Contact: Brandon Milar (916) 791-5044  
Details [HERE](#).

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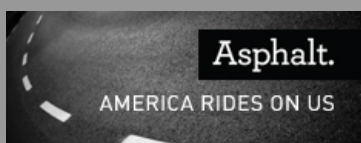
**REGISTRATION CLOSED:**  
Annual Asphalt Pavement Conference  
April 15-17, 2020  
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, 1600 S. Disneyland Drive, Anaheim  
Contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044 for sponsorship and exhibitor information.  
Details [HERE](#).

## SOCIALIZE



## 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.



At a Thursday news conference, Gov. Gavin

Newsom was asked specifically about construction activity continuing during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, and he responded that he was satisfied with previously-issued statewide restrictions, and that the industry was taking a proactive approach to protecting workers.

"We've been working very closely with the building construction trades," the governor said, adding that he "wanted to applaud them for their strict work force efforts and making sure that their own members are protected, and making sure their members are protecting the communities and those that they serve."

As of April 4, the California Department of Public Health reported there were 13,438 confirmed coronavirus cases and 319 deaths in California. That compared to 4,643 positive cases and 101 deaths reported by the department on March 27. The number was expected to continue to rise substantially in the coming weeks as additional testing capacity comes on line. The CDPH central repository for COVID-19 information in California is [HERE](#).

Generally, the health orders issued 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. That position was largely the case across the country, with a couple of notable exceptions.

The construction industry, already accustomed to robust safety programs and use of personal protective equipment, continued to 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 guidance during the week, which saw many projects delayed by rain. The association also stayed in contact with asphalt producers, some of whom reported a drop-off in private-sector work and some delayed payments from private customers.

**YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK  
REBUILDING CALIFORNIA**



[www.rebuildingca.ca.gov](http://www.rebuildingca.ca.gov)



**Road work funded by SB1 generally was continuing across California last week.**

As the week progressed, Caltrans issued revised general guidance to the construction industry on how the department intended to proceed with highway projects during the crisis. That guidance, dated April 1 and signed by Chief Engineer Mike Keever, can be viewed [HERE](#). The department released additional guidance on traffic management and inspections. Those and other Caltrans Policy Directives may be viewed [HERE](#).

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), a CalAPA partner, continued throughout the week to update its COVID-19 information

**volumes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.**

## 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)

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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

page [HERE](#).

Construction trade associations in California continued to coordinate in unprecedented fashion, and distributing information normally reserved for members to the wider public. The CalAPA COVID-19 "Member Alerts" continue to be sent out as periodically with new information and are posted on the CalAPA website [HERE](#). The April 2 "Member Alert" is [HERE](#).

An ongoing survey of CalAPA producer and refiner members found that nearly all were continuing operations, had plenty of raw materials on hand, and were implementing additional safety measures. The association also began to receive occasional reports of workers of member firms calling in sick or being sent home or to seek medical attention if they displayed symptoms of the coronavirus.

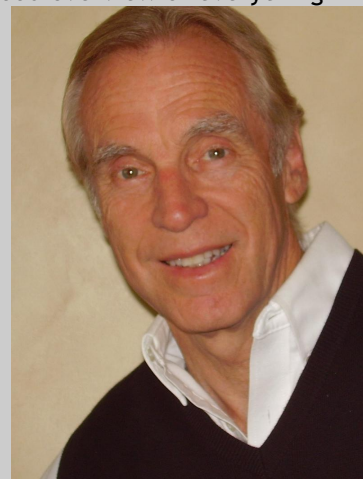
Caltrans and other agencies, noting the greatly reduced vehicular traffic due to the various shelter-in-place orders, told an industry conference call last week that they are working with maintenance personnel and contractors to expand work windows, with the intent of completing road repairs faster and more inexpensively while also ensuring all appropriate safety measures are in place.

As the full extent of the impacts from the pandemic continue to unfold, CalAPA will continue to keep the industry informed of pertinent information as it becomes available. For more information, contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044, or visit the CalAPA Safety page on the association's website [HERE](#).

## → CalAPA 'Asphalt Pavement 101' classes to be held on-line on April 23 & April 28

CalAPA will hold its most popular technical training class, "Asphalt Pavement 101," on April 23 and again on April 28. Because of health restrictions related to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the classes will be presented in on-line "webinar" format only. To register for the April 23 class click [HERE](#). To register for the April 28 class click [HERE](#).

The "Asphalt Pavement 101" class is a good overview of everything asphalt, touching on how asphalt pavements are designed, constructed and maintained. It is taught by Roger Smith, a former senior materials engineer with Caltrans and the Asphalt Institute, as well as a former executive director of CalAPA. Although the class is just a half-day it is packed with loads of useful information for contractor and agency paving crews, quality control specialists, lab personnel and others who interact with asphalt pavements.



**Roger Smith**

The class will cover pavement structure and terminologies, asphalt binders, aggregates, asphalt mixes, plant operations and mix delivery, paving and rolling, acceptance specifications and testing. Because so much is changing in the world of asphalt pavements, the class is an excellent refresher course for veterans in the industry as well as providing a good overview for those new or just returning to asphalt pavements. The class has been updated to add a summary of





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](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

"Superpave"-inspired elements recently added to Caltrans asphalt specifications.

The cost of the class is \$139 for CalAPA members and agency personnel, and \$169 for all others. Shortly after completing the on-line registration and payment process, each attendee will be sent a link to participate in the webinar. "Asphalt Pavement 101" is a recommended prerequisite for other CalAPA technical classes, such as "Caltrans Section 39 Specifications," "Essentials of Pavement Smoothness," "Understanding the Job Mix Formula" and "Quality HMA Paving."

All class attendees will receive a digital copy of our handy reference booklet that includes copies of the slide presentation, key acronyms, glossary and other essential information for future reference.

Attendees will also receive an electronic certificate of completion, suitable for printing and framing, documenting that they have completed four (4) Professional Development Hours (PDH) of technical instruction.

While the COVID-19 pandemic response discourages face-to-face meetings and classes, CalAPA will utilize internet technology to continue the sharing of technical information related to asphalt pavements. Therefore, this in-person class is temporarily being converted to a "webinar" offering, which can help reduce travel time and costs to participate over a traditional in-person class.

For more information on CalAPA training classes, contact Sophie You of CalAPA at (916) 791-5044.



***Roger Smith (center) chats in person with City of Sacramento trainees during a break in a previous "Asphalt Pavement 101" class. In the on-line version of his class, Roger will answer all questions from participants via an on-line "chat" box in webinar web platform.***

## ➔ 'California Asphalt' magazine available on-line; COVID-19-relevant articles cover crisis communications, tele-work, partnering

The latest issue of CalAPA's official magazine, "*California Asphalt*," will be arriving in mailboxes soon. If getting access to your mail is a challenge right now, not to worry! The magazine is also available online [HERE](#).

The issue contains timely COVID-19-relevant articles on crisis communications, tips on effective tele-work and remote meetings, as well as a commentary on rethinking our approach to partnering.

California Asphalt magazine is the go-to source for exclusive, in-depth analysis of issues, trends and leaders impacting the asphalt industry in California now and in the future, with a special emphasis on "news you can use."

To view an archive of past issues of the magazine, click [HERE](#). One of the best ways for companies to build and strengthen brand identity for the industry is to advertise in the magazine, which is distributed

our JTCP resource page to learn more.

## DESIGN!

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

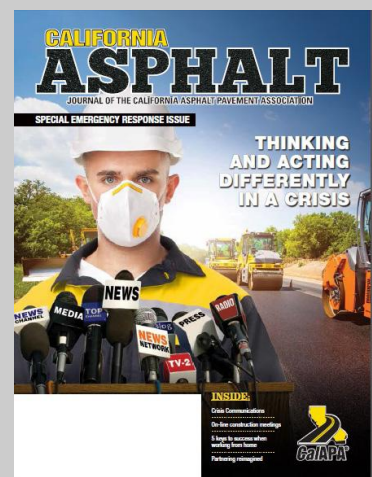
To visit the PAVEExpress website, click [HERE](#). To view the companion website, PavelInstruct, click [HERE](#).

## 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.



to nearly 5,000 readers in California and across the United States, including CalAPA members, public works agency directors, engineers, contractors and other influencers. For an advertisement rate sheet, click [HERE](#), or contact Kerry Hoover with Construction Marketing Services at (909) 772-3121.



## For the record

A photo that appeared in last week's *Asphalt insider* newsletter (below), depicting an asphalt paving operation, misidentified the company. It was a Teichert paving operation. Our special thanks to our many eagle-eyed readers who, unlike the newsletter editor, noticed the big blue "T" on the side of the paving machine.



## Tech Term of the Week

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

**BIDDER INQUIRY**: A process by which a bidder on a public works contract can make an inquiry of the project owner to clarify language or plans that are part of the bid documents.



## 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?

## → 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](#).

**FIRST AID:** Post the names of First-Aid responders. Check First Aid kit weekly. Make sure all First-Aid equipment is on site and in good working order.

## → Quote of the Week

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it."

**Nelson Mandela**

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 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](#).