

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association

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AADT

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CALENDAR

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

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'Asphalt Pavement 101' class
(WEBINAR ONLY)
Tuesday & Wednesday, May
19 & 20, 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Contact: Sophie You (916)
791-5044
Details [HERE](#).

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: Construction restrictions relaxed in the Bay Area as other parts of the state begin to ease pandemic restrictions; picture of wounded state economy emerges

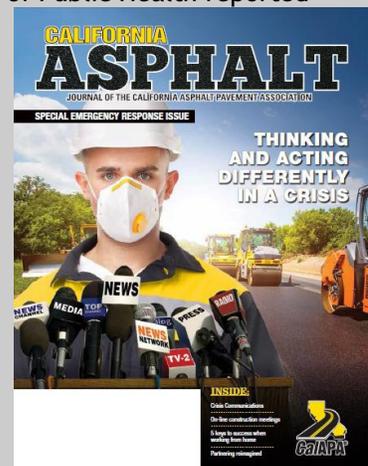
With Gov. Gavin Newsom promising a phased reopening of the California economy within days rather than weeks, and the San Francisco Bay Area relaxing restrictions on vertical construction, the next chapter of California's coronavirus pandemic response began to be written last week.

At the same time, a bleak picture was coming into view showing how the COVID-19 sickness, and the restrictions put in place by state and local governments to blunt its spread, have wounded the state's economy in unprecedented ways that will have far-reaching impacts on public works budgets and promised asphalt pavement repairs.

As of May 2, the California Department of Public Health reported there were 53,616 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 2,215 deaths in California. The CDPH central repository for COVID-19 information in California is [HERE](#). Los Angeles County continued to be a hot spot of COVID-19 cases, with a reported 24,955 people infected and 1,209 deaths as of May 2. Los Angeles County has about a quarter of the state's population but more than half of COVID-19 deaths.

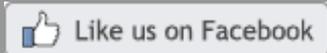
Population density and a lack of housing affordability may be a contributing factor to the high mortality rate in Los Angeles County. A recent *Los Angeles Times* analysis found five to the nation's 10 most crowded zip codes to be located in Los Angeles County, and the county's overall population of 10 million is greater than the population of 40 other states.

Although road construction largely has been allowed to continue in California since March 19, when the governor issued a statewide "stay at home" order, several San Francisco Bay Area counties later



The current issue of CalAPA's magazine, "California Asphalt," includes extensive COVID-19 coverage. It can be viewed on-line [HERE](#).

SOCIALIZE



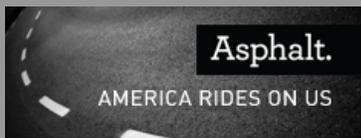
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CHOOSE ASPHALT

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.



CalAPA

imposed moratoriums on commercial construction. Those counties on April 29 announced an extension of "stay at home" orders through May, but also lifted the commercial construction restriction as long as certain safety guidelines are met. The Santa Clara County order and construction guidance, which was mirrored by neighboring counties, can be found [HERE](#).

The coronavirus is easily transmitted via airborne droplets expelled by those who have been infected, and the COVID-19 illness it brings about in some of those infected can lead to mild to severe flue-like symptoms in many of those infected, with hospitalization and death for some, particularly those with underlying health conditions. There is no known cure. To slow the spread of the virus, public health officials have issued a series of "social distancing" and other orders across the state and nation to slow the spread of the virus, which include banning large gatherings, keeping at least 6-feet apart and wearing of protective face coverings.

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 were in place.

At a press briefing, the governor on Friday promised that announcements would be forthcoming in a matter of days to begin relaxing various "stay at home" orders as a steady drumbeat of pressure and lawsuits, particularly from rural counties, sought to begin lifting restrictions. Although California has been largely viewed as a model state for taking early and aggressive action to slow the spread of the virus so as not to overwhelm the state's health care system, the economic toll to the state's economy continues to be painful and widespread. That impact extended to public works and, by extension, the asphalt pavement industry.



An asphalt paving operation in Los Angeles. CalAPA and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services were featured in media coverage last week.

A report released by UC Davis estimated that the travel reduction in California related to the COVID-19 emergency has resulted in a 75 percent reduction in fuel-tax revenue in California, potentially costing the state about \$370 million in lost transportation revenues that would have expected to be generated by SB1, the landmark road repair bill that passed in 2017. More information on that report is [HERE](#).

The California Legislature returns to Sacramento this week to a truncated schedule and awaits the arrival of a revised state budget to be delivered by the Governor covering the 2020-21 fiscal year that begins on July 1. It is expected to be vastly smaller than the \$212 billion spending plan the governor released back in January. During the governor's May 1 briefing, he promoted a state website devoted to COVID-19 resources [HERE](#). A video of the governor's briefing is [HERE](#).

The state Department of Finance gave a preview of budget-cutting to

California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

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

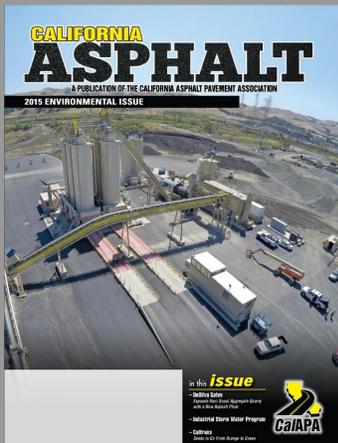
Main office:
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 211
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(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

come is an April 30 memo sent to various state agencies that warned "the state anticipates significant economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic" and further warned that "revenue decreases and cost increases are expected to last for several years." The memo can be viewed [HERE](#).

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), a CalAPA partner, continued throughout the week to update its COVID-19 information page [HERE](#). CalAPA COVID-19 "Member Alerts" continue to be posted on the CalAPA website [HERE](#).

With less vehicles on the road during the crisis, media reports of accelerated highway repairs continued to circulate last week. Once such report that quotes CalAPA and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services is [HERE](#).

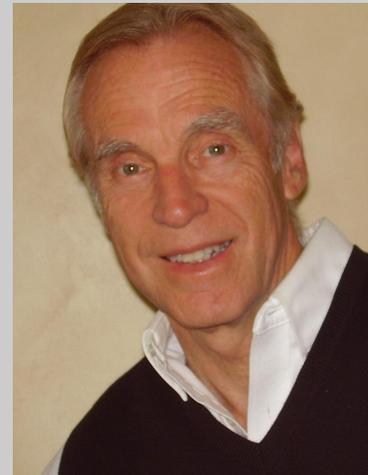
As the full extent of the impacts from the pandemic continue to unfold, CalAPA will continue to keep the industry informed of pertinent information as it becomes available. For more information, contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044, or visit the CalAPA Safety page on the association's website [HERE](#).

→ New web-only offering of CalAPA's "Asphalt Pavement 101" class set for May 19 & 20

Due to popular demand, CalAPA will reprise its most popular technical training class, "Asphalt Pavement 101," during special split-day sessions set for May 19 & 20. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Because of restrictions related to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the classes will be presented in on-line "webinar" format only. Two "Asphalt Pavement 101" classes held last month were filled to capacity. Based on participant feedback, the next offering will be broken into two sessions on consecutive days from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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 pavements 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 "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.

SUBSCRIBE!

SUBSCRIBE!

Click [HERE](#) to receive *California Asphalt Insider* each week via e-mail FREE!
Or visit our website at:
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!

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

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.



CalAPA on-line classes can be completed from the convenience of your own desk.

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. An interactive educational experience is a hallmark of the in-person CalAPA classes, and that same goal extends to on-line offerings. For example, in the on-line version of his class, Smith will answer all questions from participants via an on-line "chat" box in webinar web platform. Live polls of class participants also will be conducted.

For more information on CalAPA training classes, contact Sophie You of 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.

AADT: Average Annual Daily Traffic.

→ 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](#).

ASPHALT MIXTURE: Ask yourself: Is this the correct mix type for the project and the layer you are constructing? Verify that the truck delivery ticket matches the approved mix design.

→ 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](#).

HEAT ILLNESS PROTECTION: California employers are required to take four steps to prevent heat illness on the job, including training, providing adequate access to water and shade, and conducting proper planning. Learn more [HERE](#).

→ Quote of the Week

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King Jr.

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](#).

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