Silver Lake Community Marks Completion of Closure of the Sunset Blvd. at Golden Gate Ave. Pedestrian Tunnel

On November 27, 2017 Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell and the Silver Lake community celebrated the completion of the Pedestrian Tunnel Closure - Sunset Boulevard at Golden Gate Avenue project.

The opening of a pedestrian tunnel underneath Sunset Boulevard at Golden Gate Avenue in 1924 was welcomed by Silver Lake residents, providing safe passage to children attending Micheltorena Elementary School. After several students were hit by cars while crossing Sunset, the City spent $10,400 to build a 75-foot-long tunnel, one of the first of many such underground passages built near schools in the 1920s and 1930s. But the eight-foot wide tunnel was fenced off and locked up years ago amid concerns about public safety. Instead of providing safe passage for children, the Micheltorena tunnel became a haven for drug users and the homeless, its trash-filled stairs easily viewed from the school playground above.

Local residents and the Police Department expressed concerns for the safety of students who attend Micheltorena Elementary School and the surrounding community. For these reasons, the City Council instructed the Bureau of Engineering to permanently close the pedestrian tunnel underneath Sunset Boulevard at Golden Gate Avenue. The work included:

- Removing trash from the tunnel.
- Demolishing the entrances to the pedestrian tunnel.
- Inserting six inches of a composite concrete slab and metal deck over existing stairways.

As part of the event, Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell presented a check to Friends of Micheltorena Elementary School.

- Constructing concrete sidewalk to provide full width access to pedestrians, and
- Upgrading two access ramps to be compliant with ADA requirements.

The design was done by Bureau of Engineering staff and the Department of General Services constructed the closure of the underground pedestrian tunnel.

City Engineer Gary Lee Moore thanked Mary Rodriguez and Marisol Rodriguez of Council District 13, the Board of Public Works, the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and the Bureau of Contract Administration for their continuous support on this project.

Congratulations go to Steve Chen, Street and Stormwater Division Manager; Gene Edwards, Street Program Manager; Michael Haddadin, Project Manager; Peter Blikian, Construction Manager; Shirish Mistry, Senior Structural Engineer; Steve Martinez, Structural Engineer, and everyone else who contributed to making this project a success.
The first Bureau of Engineering (BOE) Construction Management (CM) forum was held on October 24, 2017, at the LAPD Deaton Auditorium where over 80 construction management staff from various divisions attended the two hour session.

**Jose Fuentes**, BOE’s CM Committee Chair, welcomed the attendees and began the event with an overview of some of the “big picture” topics affecting the CM profession including BOE policies and procedures, CM core competencies and responsibilities, CM benchmarking and performance metrics, CM best practices, and recent enhancements to the e2020 system (BOE’s CM software application).

There were four additional presenters starting with **Naser El-Saheb** of the Bridge Improvement Division, who spoke about updates to the Project Delivery Manual (PDM). Specifically, the need for Construction Managers to review and submit comments on Chapters 15 through 25, which cover BOE’s CM approach and procedures, facility start-up, and project closeout. Naser encouraged attendees to volunteer and be part of the new CM Subcommittee that will be created to formally review and draft revisions to the CM chapters of the PDM.

Next up, was **Ethan Wong** of the Construction Management Division, who talked about BOE’s Master General Conditions and General Requirements Specifications and how Construction Managers can submit their comments on-line. Ethan also presented the 2017 California Construction Law update that included a discussion of current case law, legislative updates, and legal tips on managing a construction project through the claims and mediation process.

**Sean Kenney** of the Environmental Engineering Division followed, by covering BOE’s Safety Policy and Goals. He shared intranet links to construction safety related topics, and also provided insights on how CM personnel can help promote and maintain a safe work environment at construction sites.

Rounding out the presentation was **Pat Chang** of the Wastewater Conveyance Construction Division. Pat provided details on how to become a Certified Construction Manager.
(CCM), enrolling in BOE’s sponsored CCM examination preparation course, and registering with the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA). She also discussed the importance of maintaining the CCM certification and the process of filing for recertification.

All BOE Construction Managers are encouraged to sign up for the CCM review course offered by the Bureau and become a Certified Construction Manager. CCM is the only CM certification to be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

BOE conducts a CCM review course once a year to help BOE staff pass the exam - the next course will be offered in the summer of 2018. BOE already has 24 CCM’s, and expects to add to that total, after the current class of students takes the exam over the next couple of months.

The CM Forum provides a unique opportunity for BOE’s Construction Managers to share valuable experiences, concerns, and ideas to improve the Bureau’s CM policies and procedures. The first event had a very good turn out and participants provided input and suggestions for future forums. The next CM Forum will be held in late January 2018.

The BOE CM Committee Members are: Pat Cheng (WCCD), Gene Edwards (SSD-ST), Naser El-Saheb (BID), Jose Fuentes (CMD/Chair), Allan Kawaguchi (BPD), Sean Kenney (EED), Richard Louie (WCCD), Julia Moye (SIX), Reza Shahmirzadi (SCD), Susan Shu (SSD-SW), and Arsen Voskerchyan (SWD).

If you have any comments or suggestions related to construction management, please contact any of the CM Committee Members.

LAFCU Now Offers Emergency Savings Accounts

LAFCU press release:
Glendale, CA (November 29, 2017) – Los Angeles Federal Credit Union (LAFCU) recently rolled out a new product to assist their members with the challenges of saving money. Recent studies show that the average American does not have at least $500 saved in the event of an emergency and they decided to address the situation. The Emergency Savings Account is designed to help members save while the first $500 earns an Annual Percentage Yield 50 TIMES higher than the average 0.06% at other financial institutions.*

To get started, members must have a Share Savings account with LAFCU, and then open a separate “Emergency Savings” account with a minimum deposit of $25 to $100. The Emergency account must be set up to make a minimum $25 per month deposit into the account by automatic transfer, direct deposit or payroll deduction. If no withdrawals are made, after one year the member would save $300 (or $600 with $50 monthly deposits).

Emergency Savings account balances from $25 to $500 earn 3% APR,** balances $500.01 to $1,000 earn 1% APR, and balances $1000.01+ earn the regular Share Savings Account APR. To earn 3% APR, the member must be signed up for online statements and maintain a $25 monthly minimum deposit.

Only one free Emergency Savings account withdrawal is allowed per month and other withdrawals are $2 each.

Anyone who lives in most counties of Southern California can join LAFCU and take advantage of its financial services. For details, visit www.LAFCU.org, call (877) MY LAFCU (695-2328), or stop by one of their branches.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Average savings accounts in the USA earn 0.06% Annual Percentage Yield, according to GoBankingRates on 11-29-17 at https://www.gobankingrates.com/banking/what-average-savings-account-interest-rate, and this information is subject to change without notice.

**APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates subject to change without notice, ask for daily rate.
Julie Allen Named 2017 Los Angeles Woman of Distinction by Women’s Transportation Seminar-Los Angeles

Public Works Dept. press release:
LOS ANGELES (November 9, 2017) – Julie Allen, program manager for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering’s $482 million Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project, has been named the 2017 Los Angeles Woman of Distinction by the Women’s Transportation Seminar’s (WTS-LA) Los Angeles chapter. WTS-LA, an organization dedicated to building the future of transportation in Los Angeles through the advancement of women, selected Allen for this first-of-its-kind honor in recognition of her significant and sustained impact in the City of Los Angeles.

“The Sixth Street Viaduct is the largest bridge project in the history of the City of Los Angeles and Julie’s leadership has been critical to meeting the challenges of this complex project,” said City Engineer Gary Lee Moore. “She is not only technically skilled as an engineer, but she is a talented manager and mentor.”

Allen is only the second woman to hold the title of Project Manager III, the highest level of project manager at the Bureau of Engineering. When Allen took over the project, she was the only woman engineer on the Sixth Street Viaduct team. Through her leadership, the team has become more diverse and includes several other women in management roles. She also participates in Engineering’s mentoring program as a mentor to women engineers.

“I am incredibly honored to receive this award,” said Allen. “Providing recognition to women in our profession encourages other women to become engineers and architects, something that makes our projects better and our workplaces more diverse and relevant.”

In addition to her role as a mentor, Allen regularly coordinates tours for Los Angeles youth, exposing youth from low-income communities to the field of engineering. She has also volunteered in her local community as a member of the Planning Commission and a Citizens’ Oversight Committee for a school bond construction program.

About Bureau of Engineering
The Bureau of Engineering is the City’s lead agency for the planning, design and construction management of public buildings, infrastructure and open space projects. Projects include municipal buildings, such as police and fire stations, convention centers, and recreational and cultural facilities, as well as bridges, street and transit projects, and stormwater and wastewater systems. Open space projects include the development of parks and the restoration of wetlands. Engineering also manages permitting for construction in the public right-of-way, as well as the City’s state-of-the-art online mapping system. Engineering’s projects are nationally-recognized in the areas of environmental sustainability and design and fully support the City’s goals of creating a prosperous, livable and safe city for all residents and businesses. For more information, please visit http://eng.lacity.org.

About WTS-LA
Founded in 1977, Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation by fostering the global advancement of women. It has more than 6,500 members, consisting of both men and women, who help achieve the goal of furthering the recognition of and opportunities for women in transportation. WTS works to achieve these goals through its professional activities, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders.

See the next page for the article by the Women’s Transportation Seminar L.A. Chapter.

FLSA Work Schedules
This is a reminder that Mayor’s Executive Directive PE-5 9/80 Work Schedules states that for employees covered by the Fair Labor and Standards Act, “Employees are not permitted to change the 9/80 day off, unless the change is intended to be permanent. Any change to the 9/80 day off results in a change to an employee’s workweek. Any change to an employee’s workweek must be documented by completing the proper paperwork.” Permanent changes in FLSA work schedules must be submitted on a Personnel Action (PA) form.

You should know... If you ever need to dial 9-1-1, the most important thing you can do is know where you are. Do you know the address of your local supermarket? How about your dry cleaner? In Los Angeles, there are many like sounding places. There is a 2nd Street in Santa Monica; a 2nd Street in downtown LA; a 2nd Street in San Pedro - so be as specific as you can. Without reliable information from you, the 9-1-1 dispatcher and safety officer will have a difficult time getting resources to you in a timely fashion.

Overtime Reminder
This is reminder that per Bureau policy, employees are not allowed to earn overtime exceeding 15% of their annual salary, unless approved by their Program Manager. Overtime is a sensitive issue and care needs to be taken in its use and control.

Latest Letterhead
The latest version of the Bureau of Engineering letterhead template is always available from the Engineering Forms Library under the category Correspondence on the BOE intranet.
City of Los Angeles Engineer Julie Allen: Making a Distinct Impression

This article is from the Los Angeles chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar website.

Queen Elizabeth II said, “At its heart, engineering is about using science to find creative, practical solutions. It is a noble profession.” Decidedly, Queen Elizabeth is right. But there is also quite a bit more to the job. Requiring endless training, grit, sensitivity, and strategic and tactical thinking, being an engineer can be as challenging as being a monarch, maybe even more so at times. Yet there are some who master the profession, elevating it through selfless devotion, unwavering fairness, and an unyielding striving for excellence. For more than 25 years, City of Los Angeles principal civil engineer Julie Allen has done just that.

Her record is astounding. She’s managed numerous high-profile projects for the city’s Bureau of Engineering, including the $110 million Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation Project, the $42 million Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation project, as well as several fire stations and other municipal facilities. Though challenging projects all, none of them compare to her current assignment—the $482 million Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project.

The largest bridge project in the city’s history, the Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project is as challenging as an engineering project gets. Extending 3,500 feet from Boyle Heights to Downtown Los Angeles, the joint bridge replacement project with the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans spans 17 active railroad tracks (requiring participation from five different agencies) and a freeway. Built in 1932, the current bridge suffers from “concrete cancer,” deterioration due to a chemical effect known as Akali Silica Reaction. The new bridge, dubbed “The Ribbon of Light,” designed by HNTB and Michael Maltzan Architecture, features ten pairs of lit arches and will provide safer access for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. But most who use the new strikingly beautiful bridge will never know just how challenging it was to construct. Ms. Allen explains.

“In addition to 17 live railroad tracks, there are also a lot of businesses adjacent to the bridge, and we have to make sure that we limit our impacts to their operations as well. The bridge also goes over the 101 freeway, so we coordinate our work with our partners at Caltrans. With a project of this size, there are a lot of challenges and issues and constraints. Fortunately, we have an extraordinary team. From the planning on down to the construction in the field, everyone is focused and on the same page. The team effort across all of our organizations is what’s making this project so successful.”

But Ms. Allen points out an interesting fact about both the project and the Bureau of Engineering.

“When I first joined the project, there were very few women involved. Our project management team was mostly male. The Caltrans and FHWA staff were male. The contractor’s staff were male. And I would go to meetings and literally be the only woman there. Of course, that is not too uncommon in engineering or transportation. But now things have changed. We have quite a few women on the project, both on my team and on other teams. On our team alone we have six women, four of which are in leadership positions. And those changes are reflected on the other teams as well. It’s nice to have that exposure for women in the transportation field.”

Ms. Allen is about to gain more exposure for women in the field. She was recently named the 2017 WTS-LA Woman of Distinction. Honoring her rare blend of extreme professionalism, unique skill, and compassion and commitment to public service, WTS-LA sees Ms. Allen as an exemplary role model that defines the award. In addition to her outstanding professional contributions to the city and the Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project, Ms. Allen also serves as a mentor and a role model, providing selfless support to rising young engineers. In addition, she was recently a featured guest of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) at their Women Leading Innovation Panel & Reception, where she provided insight on how to overcome barriers to innovative thinking and career advancement. But perhaps the best way to learn of Ms. Allen’s value to future engineers is to ask one.

ASCE Student Chapter member and City of Los Angeles employee Joanne Zhang said this about her. “Julie is not only a supportive manager, but is also a leader who shares knowledge and creates opportunities for everyone around her to succeed. She is someone who values women’s professional achievements and personal successes. And although Julie is managing a project that needs her attention around the clock, she is always looking for opportunities to cultivate women engineers on her team and empower them to outreach to students in the neighboring community.”

Without question, Ms. Allen embodies the principles and mission of WTS-LA, as well as the criteria for the Woman of Distinction award. Surprisingly, though, Ms. Allen is new to WTS-LA.

“This exposure [winning the award] is my first involvement with the organization. I didn’t even know they were submitting me for the award, but [City of Los Angeles City Engineer and Bureau of Engineering lead] Gary Lee Moore has been involved in the organization for a long time and he nominated me. I wasn’t aware of WTS-LA and all that it does, but it seems like a really great group and I want to be more involved. In fact, the more I learn about WTS-LA the more it seems like a natural fit for me.”

As Queen Elizabeth said, engineering is about using science to find creative and practical solutions. But it’s also quite a bit more, particularly in today’s complex world. Through her unbounded skill, determination, and selfless belief in fairness, City of Los Angeles principal civil engineer and 2017 WTS-LA Woman of Distinction Julie Allen raises the profession to nobility.
ACEC California 2018 Engineering Excellence Award

The “Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Middle Lanes” project has garnered yet more recognition. Psomas, the consultant hired by the City of Los Angeles (CLA) in 2011 to design the $13.5 million street project, won the 2018 Merit Award in the ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) California Engineering Excellence Award competition.

The “Wilshire BRT and Middle Lanes” project is essentially three projects over two segments of Wilshire Boulevard, the most heavily traveled bus corridor in the United States with more than 80,000 daily passenger boardings. Funded by a Federal Transit Authority Small Starts grant, the project was conceived to improve travel times and service reliability by dedicating the curb lanes for buses and right-turn only operation during peak periods on weekdays. The Wilshire Boulevard BRT lanes extend along three major sections between Western Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard as well as from Federal Avenue to Barrington Avenue. In addition to building integral concrete bus lanes and curbs, the City resurfaced the middle lanes, installed street lights, and planted trees.

Psomas was recognized for completing the preliminary and final design under budget while meeting an aggressive design and construction delivery schedule. Complicating the task was the extensive coordination required with Metro to avoid conflicts with the ongoing $4 billion Westside Subway Extension Project (i.e. Purple Line) underneath Wilshire Boulevard. In addition to the Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) and Metro, Psomas worked closely with other Public Works Bureaus, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the City of Beverly Hills, the prime contractor Griffith Company, subcontractors and 20 utility companies all while maintaining positive relations with four different Council District offices and local, sometimes vocal, community groups.

Engineering was previously honored with two other prestigious awards for the “Wilshire BRT and Middle Lanes” project: 2015 ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) Transportation Project of the Year and 2016 APWA (American Public Works Association) Project of the Year for Transportation. Representatives from Psomas and Engineering plan to attend the Thursday, February 8, 2018 Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Grand in downtown Los Angeles.
Sexual Harassment Prevention & Resources

The following message is from the General Manager of the Personnel Department:

Recent allegations of workplace sexual harassment and abuse in the entertainment industry and at academic institutions should serve as a reminder to us that we have an obligation to maintain a respectful, safe, and inclusive workplace for all employees. We must continuously reaffirm our commitment to our City family - that every employee is entitled to work in an environment free from sexual harassment, intimidation, or coercion.

In addition to existing discrimination complaint procedures and policies for a discrimination and harassment free workplace, the Personnel Department offers resources to support our employees through the Office of Discrimination Complaint Resolution (ODCR) and our Employee Benefits Division. The ODCR provides a safe means for individuals to file an internal complaint of discrimination or harassment, without going to a State or federal agency and, at the same time, not forfeiting any right to file a complaint with an outside agency. Employees and applicants for employment should be encouraged to report acts of sexual harassment and should be reassured that all investigations will be handled with discretion, sensitivity, and due concern for those involved.

Our Employee Benefits Division, labor organizations, and other City associations oversee benefit programs to enhance the health and well-being of City employees. These resources can be found within City-sponsored health plans and Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), the latter of which provide confidential counseling and access to resources on a wide variety of personal issues. I encourage employees to access these resources when they are needed. I would also like to note that additional resources both within the City and throughout our community can be accessed to ensure we maintain a safe and welcoming workplace. Some departments have found the support and training provided by City associations and community groups to be helpful. The Personnel Department can assist in providing training or other support.

We hope that these resources will prove valuable to you, as our employees’ well-being is of paramount importance to us.

KEEPING LAwell
City of Los Angeles Employee Benefits

The Personnel Department, through the Civilian Employee LAwell Benefits Program, is here to support the health and well-being of our members. One of the ways we do this is by providing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offering a broad range of informational and counseling services. Members can contact our EAP service provider 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is also open to your LAwell dependents. Please read below for additional information.

Employee Assistance Program Overview

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is designed to help you manage life challenges and improve your quality of life. This program, administered by Managed Health Network (MHN), is completely confidential and voluntary.

EAP provides help and assistance in the following areas:

- Legal concerns (e.g., divorce, estate planning, wills, personal injury, etc)
- Financial and credit issues
- Marriage, family, and relationship problems (including domestic violence)
- Stress and anxiety
- Alcohol and drug dependency
- Depression
- Grief or Loss
- Counseling, planning, or referral assistance in many additional areas

Make an appointment or learn about your EAP benefits online. You or your dependents can log into or create your account at members.mhn.com. Enter “cityoflosangeles” as the Company Code (as shown to the left) to get started.

The City’s Civilian LAwell Benefits EAP program is accessible online (Code “cityoflosangeles”) or via phone at 800-213-5813 (TTY 711) and is available to you and your dependents at anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Other Employee Assistance Programs are available to City employees of the Harbor Department, Department of Water & Power, and Sworn Fire and Police officers. Contact phone lines for these programs are listed below (hours and services may vary by program):

- Harbor Department Employees: (800) 367-7474
- Los Angeles Police Protective League Members: (877) 646-5275
- United Firefighters of Los Angeles Members: (800) 252-8352 ext. 3 After Hours: (213) 250-1212
- Department of Water and Power Employees: (888) 439-7327

Celebrate the Season
CMAA So Cal Chapter Seminars

Seminars offered by the Construction Management Association of America, Southern California Chapter. For additional information on these seminars please go to www.cmaasc.org.

Bid Protest

on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at the Riverside Marriott, 3400 Market St., Riverside, CA 92501, 8:00 am Registration, 8:30 am Seminar. What to do when your client receives a Bid Protest. How to ensure the Contract Award will survive post-Protest challenges. How to advise your client about Bid Protests. In its 9th highly acclaimed year, updated with the most recent “ripped from the headlines” actual Bid Protest case studies, this seminar provides you, the Construction Manager, with the tools and Best Practices to advise your agency clients when they receive a Bid Protest. Each case study is presented with experienced attorneys role playing as Agency Counsel, Protesting Bidder, and Defending Bidder. Audience questions are requested and encouraged.

Panel: John Scherck, CCM, Senior Project Manager, inland Empire Utilities Agency; Keith Smith, Wood, Smith Henning & Berman; Ashley Beagle, Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman.

Moderator: Chip Ossman, Ossman Project Management Consulting, Inc.

Cost: Register by Friday, January 19, $70/member, $140/non-member. After January 19 $85/member, $170/non-member.

Is Your Project Healthy? 5 Questions That Every Manager Should Ask Their Scheduler

on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at the Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815, 8:00 am Registration, 8:30 am Seminar. Today’s trend of delivering more data does not always mean our industry makes smarter decisions. This trend is flooding the industry with unusable information that masks or hides important key indicators. We learn more from well asked questions than gigabytes of reports from P6 or Microsoft Project. Understanding a project’s time performance issues are only further complicated by ever increasing demands of managers and increasing project complexity. This session will provide managers the questions they need to ask on a regular basis. The answers to those questions will help them better understand what is happening in the schedule, identify risks before they cost the project time and money, and help in balancing all of their job responsibilities. Learn about:

- The ability to identify common issues and risks that often adversely affect the accuracy of schedule forecasts.
- Technical skills that help owners and construction managers concentrate on the most important scheduling subjects and items when evaluating a project’s time performance.
- Professional skills that will help managers strike a balance between scheduling and planning responsibilities with their other day-to-day job responsibilities.

Seminar Leaders: John Armstrong, PMP, Scheduling Manager, Kitchell CEM, Inc.; Husein Ahag, MSCE, PMP, CCM, LEED DB+C, Director of Facilities Planning and Construction, San Bernardino CCD; Wendy Cohen, CCM, Vice President, Kitchell CEM, Inc.

Cost: Register by Friday, January 19, $70/member, $140/non-member. After January 19 $85/member, $170/non-member.

Mayor Appoints Chief of State & Federal Affairs

Mayor’s press release:

LOS ANGELES (November 13, 2017) - Mayor Eric Garcetti today announced the appointment of Breeilyn Pete as his administration’s Chief of State and Federal Affairs.

Pete, a native of Los Angeles, will oversee efforts to advance the Mayor’s state and federal legislative priorities.

“Moving Los Angeles forward is about working together, and that means creating and maintaining strong relationships with our state and federal partners,” said Mayor Garcetti. “Breeilyn brings a unique wealth of experience in the executive, legislative, and federal branches of government and a deep understanding of the important issues our city and our country face. I am confident that her forward-thinking leadership will be an asset to my team.”

Before joining the administration, Pete served as Senior Advisor and Director of External Affairs for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in the Obama administration — where she led the agency’s outreach to external stakeholders, congressional and intergovernmental offices, and media.

“I am grateful to Mayor Garcetti for the opportunity to lead his state and national legislative agenda as we tackle the critical challenges facing our city and country,” said Pete. “It’s a tremendous honor to come back to my hometown, and join this administration at such a special time in the City’s history.”

Prior to joining the Commerce Department, Pete served as Communications Director for then-U.S. Representative Janice Hahn (D-CA), where she developed messaging strategies to advance legislative priorities relating to transportation, economic development, and small businesses. Her wide-ranging public affairs experience includes working as Managing Director of Communications with the public affairs firm Ian Reid LLC, Vice President with the Chicago Children’s Museum, and Communications Director for former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

Mayor Announces Retirement of Ebrahimian & Sauceda

Mayor’s press release:

LOS ANGELES (November 17, 2017) - Mayor Eric Garcetti announced today that Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) Director Ed Ebrahimian and Bureau of Street Services (BSS) Director Nazario Sauceda are both retiring after decades of service to the Department of Public Works. The leaders will leave their posts in the coming months, after a combined 61 years of dedicated service and an extraordinary record of achievements.

Ebrahimian, who served 31 years, implemented the world’s largest LED street light conversion program, which has received recognition from the C40 network of cities fighting climate change and the U.S. Department of Energy. Ebrahimian has also helped pioneer the use of street lights as host locations for smart city applications, such as telecom infrastructure and EV charging.

Sauceda, who served 30 years, halted the 40-year decline in city-wide road quality and raised the City’s Pavement Condition Index — an effort that won the prestigious Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation in 2015. He also helped make the City more sustainable by expanding the use of cool pavement, and incorporating the use of recycled, environmentally friendly materials into street maintenance.

“Ed and Nazario are true public servants — their passion and dedication have made Los Angeles more efficient and sustainable, and helped us improve some of our most important services to Angelenos,” said Mayor Garcetti.

“I wish them well, and look forward to building on their success as the City continues to find new opportunities to fix our streets and modernize our infrastructure.”

When Ebrahimian steps down at the end of 2017, 28-year BSL veteran Norma Isahakian will assume the post of acting director. She will be the first woman in City history to lead the Bureau.

Sauceda will stay on into the new year to assist with a nationwide search for a new BSS director, led by executive search firm Ralph Andersen & Associates. Once appointed, the new head of BSS will take a lead role in the City’s unprecedented street and sidewalk reconstruction and repair program. That effort will be backed by billions of dollars in new transportation funding generated by Measure M and SB 1, which have put the City in a position to fund and execute transportation and mobility improvement projects on an unprecedented scale.

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Mayor Appoints Director of Communications

Mayor’s press release:
LOS ANGELES (November 13, 2017) - Mayor Eric Garcetti today named Suzi Emmerling as his new Director of Communications.

Emmerling comes to the Garcetti Administration with a wide range of experience in campaigns, progressive causes, and in the federal government. Emmerling served most recently as an appointee of President Barack Obama as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation, after serving for two years as Director of Public Affairs and advisor to Secretary Anthony Foxx.

“Suzi is a proven leader with experience and skills that will be tremendous assets to my administration,” said Mayor Garcetti. “I look forward to working with her to advance my agenda for a city that makes a difference in the lives of Angelenos. I am proud to welcome her back to L.A. and onto my team.”

Prior to her time at USDOT, Emmerling worked as a regional press secretary on the 2012 Obama for America campaign and as press secretary for the Host Committee for the 2012 Democratic National Convention. She has also worked to advance progressive policies at the local, state and federal levels during her time on the press team at the Center for American Progress and, here in Los Angeles.

Emmerling holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Political Science from UCLA, and a Certificate in Political Science from L’Institut d’Etudes Politiques at the Université de Bordeaux, France.

Emmerling starts her new position effective today. She succeeds Naomi Seligman, who left the Garcetti Administration in September and is now working on strategic communications and social impact advocacy in the private sector.

L.A. Named #1 Digital City for 2nd Consecutive Year

Mayor’s press release:
LOS ANGELES (November 10, 2017) - Los Angeles is America’s leader in the work to “make government more efficient, more effective and more responsive to citizen needs” through digital technology and innovation, according to the Center for Digital Government - which has named L.A. as America’s top digital city for a second consecutive year.

L.A. took first place among cities with a population over 500,000 in the 2017 Digital Cities Survey - an honor the City also received in 2016. The Center, a national research and advisory institute on best practices and policies for information technology, commended L.A. for leadership in “digital inclusion.”

“We integrate technology into everything we do to serve our communities better and create new opportunities in the lives of Angelenos,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “L.A. is a center of innovation - and our commitment to digital technology and open data is bringing more democracy, more efficiency and better service to neighborhoods across the city.”

Los Angeles’ digital accomplishments include:

- Free devices and WiFi to assist the most vulnerable Angelenos through OurCycle LA - which allows people in need to connect with their friends and families, and access information on emergency housing, job training, education, and services.
- The LA CyberLab, a public-private partnership that helps to thwart cyber criminals by disseminating information and intelligence based on analysis of more than one billion security-related events and over four million attempted intrusions into City networks per day.
- A partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and others to deploy Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) technology through smartphones and other technologies by the end of 2018.
- An effort to boost civic engagement by integrating public meeting information into Alexa.
- The Data Science Federation, a partnership with colleges and universities to tackle tough challenges in Los Angeles and expand data-driven decision making in City Hall.
- “Special congratulations go out to Los Angeles, which has been recognized with multiple awards from the Center for Digital Government this year for a broad range of technology-enhanced efforts,” said Teri Takai, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Government. “L.A. is truly setting the bar when it comes to how cities can employ technology to improve civic engagement and citizens’ standard of living.”

About the Center for Digital Government

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute focused on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. CDG is a division of e.Republic, the nation’s only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

Mayor Launches City Cyber Lab

Mayor’s press release:
LOS ANGELES (November 21, 2017) - Mayor Eric Garcetti is strengthening cybersecurity for L.A. businesses and residents with the launch of America’s first city-based Cyber Lab. The lab is a public-private partnership that will disseminate information and intelligence based on analysis of more than one billion security-related events and over four million attempted intrusions into City networks per day.

The Los Angeles Cyber Lab - formed in partnership with Cisco - builds on the Mayor’s second Executive Directive, which created a Cyber Intrusion Command Center to lead cybersecurity preparation and response across City departments. The lab will alert small and medium-sized business partners to attacks as they occur, and larger businesses can receive automated updates to their own cyber defense systems. There is no cost or obligation of membership.

Over time, the platform will evolve into a mutual exchange of threat information with private sector partners, further fortifying L.A.’s capacity to thwart cyber criminals. Businesses and residents can find more information at https://www.lacyberlab.org/.

“The security of our financial, business and personal information depends on aggressive, proactive cyber defense - and the LA Cyber Lab will help tilt the balance in Angelenos’ favor against evolving threats from criminal hackers,” said Mayor Garcetti. “L.A. is a leader in this area, because we are constantly sharing information and using new technology to strengthen cybersecurity within City government. We’re expanding that capacity to protect Angelenos’ online safety, privacy, and property.”

Los Angeles is one of the first cities in the nation to share its cyber threat data with the public, helping businesses and residents to secure their own networks and devices from hacking attempts that are not caught by traditional antivirus programs and defense systems.

The LA Cyber Lab was launched with capital equipment funded by the Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles’ Spark grant program, which provides resources that support innovative approaches to civic issues.

The Mayor also announced the formation of the LA Cyber Lab Advisory Board to be led by Mayor Garcetti and Chuck Robbins, CEO of Cisco Systems, Inc. It will convene regularly to further develop the platform and help residents and businesses better protect their online communications and data from cyberattacks.

Abano Commended

This e-mail was sent to the City Engineer:
Date: Mon, Nov 27, 2017 at 9:51 AM
Subject: Rebecca Abano

Gary,
As I mentioned the other day, I wanted to give a shout out to Rebecca’s work on siting homeless facilities.

We all are feeling pressed to do more and do it quickly. It is impossible not to feel pressure when one sees all of the tents every day.

Rebecca has been a tremendous partner in this effort. She is calm and helpful – and still turns her work around quickly! We couldn’t do it without her and we appreciate it. And I know the Mayor’s Office appreciates her work as well.

Thanks!
Talk soon.
Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr.
Interim City Administrative Officer
Arrivals
Walter Carrera, CE Associate I, MTD; Jessica Yang, CE Associate I, EED; Anthony Gabriel, Title Examiner, RED; Dohee Kim, Geographic Information Specialist, LDG; Daniel Bauder, Field Engineering Aide, SUP; Sayaka Meguri, Admin Intern II, RED; Linda Him, Admin Intern II, WCC; Priscilla Mendoza, Secretary, WCC; Paula Bambo, Secretary, SED; Armen Sarkisian, Mourad Aziz and Roshanak Varjavan, Sr Engineering Associate III, SED.

Promotions
Zafardokht Zassai, Building Mechanical Engineer I, EED; Steven Lane, Architectural Associate II, ARCH; Lorena Matos and Gregory Moeser, Landscape Arch Associate II, ARCH; Fabiola De Santiago, Systems Analyst, SYS; Easton Forcier, Geotechnical Engineer II, GEO; Jon Delkhaste, Senior Civil Engineer, CMD; Mary Marcus, Senior Civil Engineer, VAL; Essam Amarragy, Senior Civil Engineer, LDG; Matthew Masuda, Senior Civil Engineer, CEN; Zohra Akter, Arch Associate IV, ARCH.

Departures
Michelle Chow, Management Analyst, transfer to LAPD, SSD; Courtney Smith, Admin Intern II, resigned, PAC; John Florance, CEDT, re-tired, WCE; Dung Tong, Mech Engr Associate IV, retired, EED. Robert Castillo, Real Estate Officer, resigned, RED; Ripsime Ter-Galstyan, Management Analyst, transfer to LAPD, ADM; John Sosa, Management Assistant, Promoted to LAPD, PAC; Garland Jamison, Management Assistant, Promoted to DWP, Prop-O; Mahendra Amin, CE Associate II, retired, Stormwater.

New Year's Eve at the Zoo
Family New Year's Eve at L.A. Zoo Lights celebrates the coming of 2018 with an evening of fun on Sunday, December 31, 6 to 10 pm. The special all-ages party features “skip-the-line” express entry to L.A. Zoo Lights, dinner buffet, dessert, a ride on the Conservation Carousel, a festive photo booth, a DJ dance party, soft drinks and a cash bar. At 9 pm, party-goers can enjoy a glass of complimentary bubbly - champagne for adults, sparkling apple cider for kids - along with a live broadcast of New York's Times Square ball drop, after which guests are welcome to experience L.A. Zoo Lights until closing. Family New Year's Eve tickets, which are limited and sell out quickly, are $69 for adults and $45 for children. Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association members save $5. The Los Angeles Zoo is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways, at 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 323-644-4200. Free parking is available. For additional information about L.A. Zoo Lights, call 866-949-8007; call center hours are 8 am to 8 pm. For tickets visit LAZoolights.org

Public Works Blankets & Jackets Drive 2017
“When different talents come together, beautiful things happen.”
Each year, our generous Public Works family at 1149 South Broadway distributes blankets and jackets to less fortunate residents in Downtown Los Angeles. This effort keeps many people warm during the holidays and throughout the year. We need everyone’s help this year.

Donation Deadline: Wednesday, December 20th, 2017, 4:00 pm. Please donate checks, cash, new blankets and jackets by Wednesday, December 20th at 4:00 pm.

How to Donate: Checks should be made payable to the Mid-night Mission Homeless Shelter. Please keep the return checks for tax deduction. To make a donation of cash, checks, or items, please drop them off with the following team members:

- Adel Hagekhali 213-485-2210
- Michael Sarullo 310-648-6120
- Mary Nemick 213-485-5085
- Ali Poosti 323-342-4664
- Talya Jones 310-575-8640
- Selena Aguilar 310-732-4664
- Juliet Gagar 213-847-4813
- Maryam Azarbajani (Chair) 310-575-8651

Distribution of Donations: Thursday, December 21, 2017 - 4:00 pm.
We will distribute the goods purchased by your donations at the Midnight Mission Homeless Shelter at 4:00 pm on December 21st. Please join us!

100 Percent Giving: There is absolutely no administration fee. All donations are spent buying blankets and jackets for the homeless.
(Friendly reminder, this is a volunteer effort and not to be done during your regular working hours.)

The first year of this effort, donations allowed us to buy 10 jackets/blanks. Since then, donations have soared, allowing us to purchase thousands of jackets, shampoos, bags, beauty supplies, and blankets to help many people who are in need.
Don’t forget that “A Candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.”
We thank you in advance for helping those in need!

Xmas - New Year Holidays
Monday, December 25, 2017, and Monday January 1, 2018 are City holidays. Remember to mark your timesheet for each day as HO 8.0. Since the holiday is only for eight hours, those of you on the 9/80 schedule must adjust your hours accordingly within the same pay period. (Non-FLSA exempt employees can only adjust their hours within their defined work week.) There is a chance for confusion when two holidays fall within the same pay period. Check with your division timekeeper if you have any questions.

M.L. King Day Holiday
Monday, January 15, 2018, is a City holiday. Remember to mark your timesheet for that day as HO 8.0. Since the holiday is only for eight hours, those of you on the 9/80 schedule must adjust your hours accordingly within the same pay period. (Non-FLSA exempt employees can only adjust their hours within their defined work week.) Check with your division timekeeper if you have any questions.

No January Newsletter
Due to the holidays, there will not be a January 3, 2018 BOE Newsletter. The next Newsletter will be published on February 14, 2018.

City Council Recess
The City Council will be on winter recess from December 15-29, 2017.

Floating Holiday Reminder
Have you taken your Floating Holiday yet? Floating Holidays not taken by December 31, 2017 will be lost. A Floating Holiday is only 8 hours so if you are on the 9/80 schedule you must make up the time by: Working an extra hour in the same pay period; using vacation hours so if you are on the 9/80 schedule you must make up the time by: Working an extra hour in the same pay period; using vacation time; or, for 9/80 employees, making the Floating Holiday your short day. (Note: Non-FLSA exempt employees can only adjust their hours within their defined work week.) A Floating Holiday is only 8 hours and must be taken in a full 8 hour increment. For example, if an employee tries to charge 4 hours on two separate occasions, the first instance removes the entire Floating Holiday credit and then the second instance of 4 hours will default to a No Pay condition.

We’d Like to Hear from You
If you have any articles for the Newsletter, please e-mail them to BOENewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, February 8, 2018.

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