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CALIFORNIA SUMMER CAMPS

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025



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BY CAROL EATON

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BY CAROL EATON

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Over 170 construction industry professionals came together at the McClellan Conference Center this June for a day of education and networking in an event hosted by the AGC Construction Education Foundation (CEF) in partnership with the Sacramento Asian American Chamber of Commerce.

COVER PHOTO by RobinLori Photography, LLC, courtesy of Swinerton

# Building a Stronger Future Through Workforce Development

BY PAT KELLY, PRESIDENT, AGC OF CALIFORNIA

**A**s we approach the stretch run of another hectic construction season, I want to extend my best wishes to all our members for a safe and successful finish to 2025. Your dedication and perseverance continue to drive the strength and reputation of California's construction industry.

One of the most critical factors in sustaining that strength is the development of our workforce. Whether at the management level or in the construction trades, our industry's ability to deliver safe, high-quality projects on schedule depends on the people who plan, lead, and build them.

It's important to recognize that approximately 80% of the worker hours from our companies are performed by skilled tradespeople. These individuals are the backbone of our operations, and without a steady pipeline of trained, talented, and motivated workers, we cannot meet the growing demands of our projects or our clients.

Investing in the construction trades is not just a necessity; it's also a strategic advantage for your company. It ensures that you can build your work safely, efficiently, and with the highest standards of quality. Moreover, it enables your companies to grow, take on more ambitious projects, and contribute meaningfully to California's infrastructure and economy. Workforce development is not a one-time effort; it's a continuous commitment to the future of our industry.

That's why the training and education

programs offered by AGC of California are so valuable to the membership. Programs like the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) and the Construction Leadership Academy (CLA) are equipping the next generation of professionals with the tools, insights, and networks they need to thrive.

Additionally, Build California, the workforce development program developed by the AGC Construction Education Foundation (CEF), is helping to inspire the next generation of construction workers by shaping the perception of the construction trades as a viable and rewarding career and is connecting candidates with training opportunities provided by AGC of California.

These initiatives are helping to develop well-rounded leaders who understand both the technical and human aspects of construction management. They are also fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration that benefits all of us.

I invite you to join me at AGC of California's annual conference, CONSTRUCT, which will be held October 7-10 at the beautiful Grand Hyatt Indian Wells. It's a fantastic opportunity to network, learn, and celebrate the progress we've made at AGC over the past year. I look forward to seeing you there! ☺



*Pat Kelly*

Kindest Regards,  
Pat Kelly, President



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California Senate Democrats' monumental decision to elevate Monique Limón makes her the first Latina and only the second woman to ever hold the office of Pro Tem in California history.

# Introducing Monique Limón, 53rd President Pro Tempore of the California Senate

BY FELIPE FUENTES



**O**n Monday June 9, California Senate Democrats chose Monique Limón of the 21st district to be their next President Pro Tempore (Pro Tem). This monumental decision makes Limón the first Latina and second woman ever to hold the office of Pro Tem in California history.

Limón represents the 21st Senate District, encompassing Santa Barbara and a significant stretch of the central coast; the district extends from Oxnard and Camarillo on the southeastern border to Santa Maria in the north. Prior to her term as Senator, Limón was an elected Assemblymember and spent six years as a member of the Santa Barbara Unified School Board. She received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and her master's in education from Columbia.

Currently she serves as Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

She is also Vice Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus and the Central Coast Caucus.

Born and raised in the 21st district, Limón attributes her political success to her community. A daughter of immigrants and the first in her family to go to college, Limón found the nonprofits of her district — such as afterschool clubs, scholarship foundations, and the YMCA — integral to the development of her career and worldview.

She sees nonprofits for what they are: the fourth largest sector of employment in the state and key support systems that uplift and fund communities. Their pivotal role in her district spurred her to found the first-ever Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector. Today, Limón's community and family inspire her to keep going; she considers her involvement in the 21st district a great boon when advocating for them.

Starting out, Limón never thought she would go into politics, but 14 years of experience in education inspired her to pursue public office. As an educator, she worked directly with students and families, familiarizing herself with their diverse perspectives and the different things each needed to thrive. This bond led her to run for the Santa Barbara Unified School Board, where she then spent six years continuing to improve life in the classroom for students.

However, the longer she worked in education, the more she became aware of how outside issues could affect students inside the classroom, which put her on the path to the legislature. Since then, she remarks, all that's changed in transitioning from school board member to Senator is the magnitude of the problems faced: instead of being responsible for one family at a time, she now advocates for nearly a million people.



Despite her background on the school board, Limón's political career has not been as involved in educational issues as one might expect. During her tenure she's authored relevant legislation like SB 1061, which prevents medical debt from being reported to credit bureaus, and SB 1162, the Pay Transparency for Pay Equity Act that mandates employers include salary ranges in all job postings.

Elected to the Assembly in 2016 and the Senate in 2020, it's a point of pride to Limón that after eight years in the legislature more than 90% of her bills have had bipartisan support. Some of her other work focuses on issues involving the environment, health, consumer protection, gender equity, and natural disasters.

In a caucus vote in July 2025, Senate Democrats came together to vote Limón as their next Pro Tem, usurping

**Limón attributes her political success to her community. A daughter of immigrants and the first in her family to go to college, Limón found the nonprofits of her district — like afterschool clubs, scholarship foundations, and the YMCA — integral to the development of her career and worldview.**

other contenders such as Senators Lena Gonzalez and Angelique Ashby. The Pro Tem is one of the most influential positions in the state capitol behind the Governor, responsible for the Senate Rules Committee, assigning Senators to committees, and referring legislation to committees for hearings. Current Pro Tem Mike McGuire terms out at the end of 2026 and intends to serve until the end of his term. However Limón is expected

to begin serving as Pro Tem early 2026.

We look forward to Limón's leadership and hope to advance infrastructure and construction public policy successfully alongside her. ☘



Felipe Fuentes

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# First Annual Build California Summer Camps Deliver on Vision to Activate and Engage Next Generation

Dynamic and Immersive Curriculum Shines Light on Construction Career Options

BY CAROL EATON

**N**early 40 rising high school juniors and seniors spent a week this summer immersed in a dynamic, hands-on summer camp with a curriculum that offered 360-degree views of construction industry careers through a mix of jobsite tours, team building projects, career readiness workshops and interactive sessions with industry professionals.

The highly engaged and motivated students, the large majority of which are from underrepresented populations, came out of Build California's inaugural Northern and Southern California Summer Camps with plenty to show for their time: real skills, real connections, and a real vision for their future in construction.

To hear campers like Gia Bruzzone tell it, the impact and takeaways from the inaugural Build California camps were substantial.

"The most impactful part of camp was





Students presenting their work at the Northern California summer camp.

getting hands-on experience with real tools and working on actual projects – it made everything feel real and exciting,” said Bruzzone, a rising high school junior at St. Francis High School in Sacramento who attended the Northern California camp in June.

“I learned a lot about how much teamwork goes into construction, and I also realized I’m more confident and capable than I thought,” she added. “I’m leaving camp with a better idea of what I might want to do in the future, and now construction actually seems like a path I could see myself taking.”

Another camper, Gabriel Hernandez, a 16-year-old going into his senior year at Rancho Verde High School, said that connections and networking were among the many highlights that stood out from his attendance at the Southern California camp in July.

As a member of the Career Connections by Western States Carpenters, a pre-apprenticeship program designed to introduce high school students to the carpentry trade and prepare them for a career in construction, Hernandez

was extremely engaged and proactive in making connections with the speakers and participants. Leaving the camp, his eagerness to join the carpentry trade only grew.

“The most impactful part of the camp for me was the networking aspect. I feel really secure with my career since I now have people who I can go to if I ever need help or guidance,” he commented. “What I learned about the construction industry was that it’s a lot different and organized than it looks. Construction really isn’t all about boots on the ground but it’s more about the work that goes on behind the scenes.”

Hernandez added, “I also learned that I truly belong in this field of work because, since the first day of camp, everything was interesting to me, and I felt so motivated to go into this field of work. What I will take from this is experience is the people I know and the connections I now have.”

### Activating and Engaging the Next Generation

The newly launched Build California Summer Camps embody the natural

next step in Build California’s ongoing mission to engage and activate the next generation of construction workforce, according to Yuhi Aizawa Combatti, director, workforce development for AGC of California.

“In the last year through Build California, we’ve really doubled down on ways to engage with students and expose them to the construction industry outside of the classrooms and schools,” Combatti said. “So it was a natural progression for our program to create this truly immersive experience outside their schools that would offer them the space to explore construction careers in an intensive and intentional way.”

The two camps, held at Sacramento’s Cosumnes River College in Northern California this June and at Santa Ana’s Samueli Academy in Southern California in July, each drew a total of 19 rising 11th and 12th graders from more than a dozen high schools in their regions.

Students spent five full days at the camps engaged in a robust mix of activities that included team-building projects, career readiness workshops, interactive sessions with industry professionals, mentorship sessions, and jobsite and trades training center tours, to name just a few, enabling participants to explore a wide array of construction career paths up close.

At the conclusion of each camp, participants presented a final project in front of their fellow campers, proud family members, Build California staff, and, at the Southern California camp, nearly a dozen industry professionals who attended.

### Collaboration Continues

Although camps are now concluded for 2025, the collaboration continues. Build California is providing each camper with a full year of “career mapping” services that



“The most impactful part of the camp for me was the networking aspect. I feel really secure with my career since I now have people who I can go to if I ever need help or guidance. I learned that I truly belong in this field of work because, since the first day of camp, everything was interesting to me, and I felt so motivated to go into this field of work. What I will take from this is experience is the people I know and the connections I now have.”

Gabriel Hernandez, Southern California camp participant



Swinerton hosted students in the Southern California summer camp to a jobsite tour of the OCVibe project. PHOTO BY ROBINLORI PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC, COURTESY OF SWINERTON

includes a template of actionable items and next steps they can take monthly to actively continue their journey toward a career in construction, according to Combatti.

“This is where their career journey really starts, because we are going to walk alongside them and continue to guide and mentor them for the year following camp,” she said. “The career mapping and support is just one of the differentiators that makes the Build California camps stand apart.”

With a focus on serving underrepresented populations including girls, gender-expansive youth or at-risk/system impacted youths – a key objective as funding primarily came from the California Department of Industrial Relations’ Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA) grant – the camps were designed to be a transformative experience for participants. Some 84% of the campers in Northern California were from racially or ethnically underrepresented populations and 37% were female or nonbinary, while in Southern California those figures were 90% and 16%, respectively.

Daniel Dumke, senior director of Shawmut Design and Construction who serves as 2025 Chair of the AGC of California Construction Education Foundation (CEF), said the camps provided a fulfilling

experience not only for the students but also for the many industry professionals who had the chance to be involved.

### Industry Partnerships are Key

For its inaugural year, 14 different industry-based entities helped support the Build California camps either financially, and/or by providing volunteer speakers or hosting jobsite visits throughout the week.

“Our industry thrives when we bring in diverse voices and perspectives — and that’s exactly what Build California Summer Camp is all about,” Dumke commented. “These immersive camps provide young people from underrepresented communities with the access, exposure, and encouragement they need to see themselves in construction careers.”

“Having had the opportunity to personally participate was exceptionally rewarding and allowed me to see firsthand the positive influence the camp had not only on the participants, but for the parents as well,” Dumke added. “I want to extend my sincere thanks to our Presenting Sponsors, Turner and McCarthy, along with our many generous camp sponsors and grant funders, for making this life-changing experience possible for so many students across the state.”

Demonstrating their deep commitment and enthusiasm for the program, many students – and their parents –



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**Material Producer:**  
HC Muddox  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
John Jackson Masonry

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**Sunnylands Administration & Operations Campus**  
**Design Architect:**  
a2 Architecture  
**General Contractor:**  
Matt Construction Corporation  
**Material Producer:**  
Angelus Block  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Pro Structural

## MERIT IN BRICK + BEST IN SUSTAINABILITY



**UC Berkeley Anchor House Dormitory**  
**Design Architect:**  
Morris Adjmi Architects  
**General Contractor:**  
Build Group  
**Material Producer:**  
Interstate Brick  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
John Jackson Masonry

## BEST IN CONCRETE BLOCK



**Desert Palisades**  
**Design Architect:**  
Woods + Dangaran  
**General Contractor:**  
HJH Construction  
**Material Producer:**  
ORCO Block & Hardscape  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Velazquez Masonry

## BEST IN CONCRETE BLOCK



**Rubidoux High School Concert Hall**  
**Design Architect:**  
Architecture for Education (A4E)  
**General Contractor:**  
Neff Construction  
**Material Producer:**  
ORCO Block & Hardscape  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
New Dimension Masonry

## MERIT IN CONCRETE BLOCK



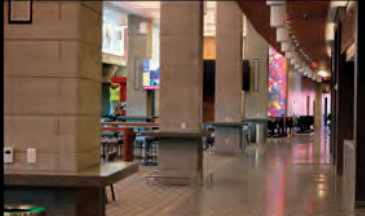
**Del Oro High School**  
**Design Architect:**  
HMC Architects  
**General Contractor:**  
Klassen Corporation  
**Material Producer:**  
Angelus Block  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Bratton Masonry

## MERIT IN CONCRETE BLOCK



**Oceanside Beach Facilities**  
**Design Architect:**  
Sadie Rabines Architects  
**Material Producer:**  
ORCO Block & Hardscape  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
New Dimension Masonry

## MERIT IN CONCRETE BLOCK



**Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Renovation & Modernization**  
**Design Architect:**  
DLR Group  
**General Contractor:**  
Hathaway Dinwiddie  
**Material Producer:**  
Angelus Block  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Frank S. Smith Masonry

## MERIT IN CONCRETE BLOCK



**Woodbridge High School Performing Arts Center**  
**Design Architect:**  
SVA Architects  
**General Contractor:**  
C.W. Driver  
**Material Producer:**  
Angelus Block  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Winegardner Masonry

## BEST IN BRICK



**Brickline Flats**  
**Design Architect:**  
WRNS Studio  
**General Contractor:**  
Build Group  
**Material Producer:**  
The Belden Brick Company  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Creative Masonry

## BEST IN BRICK



**UCR School of Medicine Educational Building II**  
**Design Architect:**  
CO Architects  
**General Contractor:**  
Hensel Phelps  
**Material Producer:**  
Pacific Clay Products  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Masonry Concepts

## MERIT IN BRICK



**Pixar Animation Studios Brooklyn Building**  
**Design Architect:**  
Allied Works and Perkins + Will  
**General Contractor:**  
Hathaway Dinwiddie  
**Material Producer:**  
Endicott Clay Products and Pacific Clay Products  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
E&S Masonry Corporation

## MERIT IN BRICK



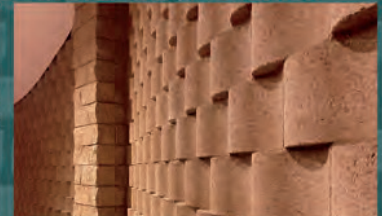
**Cal Poly SATRC Complex**  
**Design Architect:**  
ZGF Architects  
**General Contractor:**  
Gilbane Construction  
**Material Producer:**  
Pacific Clay Products  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
Winegardner Masonry

## MERIT IN SUSTAINABILITY



**Great Whittier Regional Aquatic Center**  
**Design Architect:**  
Arcadis (IBI Group)  
**General Contractor:**  
Morillo Construction  
**Material Producer:**  
ORCO Block & Hardscape  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
R&R Masonry

## JURY SPECIAL RECOGNITION



**Bishop Amat Performing Arts Center**  
**Design Architect:**  
JP Darling & Associates  
**General Contractor:**  
EPI Construction  
**Material Producer:**  
Angelus Block  
**Masonry Contractor:**  
FMasonry Constructors



“The most impactful part of camp was getting hands-on with real tools and working on actual projects—it made everything feel real and exciting. I learned a lot about how much teamwork goes into construction, and I also realized I’m more confident and capable than I thought. I’m leaving camp with a better idea of what I might want to do in the future, and now construction actually seems like a path I could see myself taking.”

Gia Bruzzone,  
Northern  
California  
camp  
participant



traveled long distances every day for the full week of camp. Some students drove themselves from as far as San Francisco to Sacramento, while others others relied on parents who made multi-hour round trips twice per day – like those who drove from San Bernardino to Santa Ana and back – to ensure their high schooler could participate. The level of family support speaks volumes about the program’s impact and the belief in what it offers.

Lyn Sam, workforce outreach manager for AGC of California, pointed out that many of the students were already familiar with Build California due to its ongoing outreach and engagement in their schools and through social media. “Many of them follow us on Instagram or Tik Tok and already had their Build California shirts, so they already knew the value of what we’re doing and how they could benefit from this camp,” Sam said.

### Essential Sponsorships Drive Success

Two companies served as presenting sponsors of the Build California 2025 camps: McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. for Southern California, and Turner Construction for the Northern California camp, which was also sponsored by the ERiCA grant.

“McCarthy is proud to support AGC California’s mission to inspire and culti-

vate the next generation of construction professionals through initiatives like the Build California Summer Camp - Southern California,” commented Jim Madrid, region president, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. “As a builder and community partner, we believe early exposure and education are key to shaping the industry’s future. Through our partnership with AGC CEF, we are helping to shape our future workforce, strengthen communities, and ensure the continued growth and success of the construction industry.”

Bianca Johnson, community and citizenship director, Turner Construction Company, had this to say: “At Turner Construction, we believe that investing in the future of our industry means investing in the young people who will build it. Partnering with Build California’s Summer Camp aligns perfectly with our commitment to education, access, and opportunity. Most importantly, for students who may not have previously seen themselves in this field.”

Johnson added, “We’re proud to support programs that open doors, spark curiosity, and help shape a more inclusive, innovative, and resilient construction workforce for generations to come. And if you ask us, we may have already spotted a few future Turner builders in the mix this summer!” 🌟



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# Newly Launched ELA, CLA and Upcoming SLA Programs Empower and Equip Construction Leaders at All Levels

BY CAROL EATON

**W**hether they are just starting out in project leadership roles or have years of experience overseeing multiple project teams or departments in their companies, construction leaders at all levels tend to have at least one thing in common: a drive to continuously learn and grow, both personally and professionally.

AGC of California understands this shared goal and is uniquely equipped to address it through an array of industry-leading continuing education and training programs that specifically target construction professionals. In 2025, the AGC of California Construction Education Foundation (CEF) launched two much-anticipated leadership development programs that are already eliciting plenty of positive feedback.

The newly minted Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA), designed for ear-

ly career path professionals, and the Construction Leaders Academy (CLA), focused on the professional development needs of mid-level construction leaders, are providing in-depth skills and knowledge-based training designed to help participants develop and grow, no matter what stage of their career.

## Building Connections and Fostering Growth

Participants in the 30-person ELA and CLA cohorts were specially selected for the programs that kicked off earlier this year, with many eligible for grant funding that underwrites the program. Capping enrollment at 30 has allowed deeper connections and relationship building over the year, as participants engage with one another and with the tailored program content designed to leverage idea sharing and foster growth.

"As we created the programs, we knew

[Read profiles of ELA and CLA participants on pages 14 and 16. The main article continues on page 17.](#)

2025 CLA cohort



2025 ELA cohort









# Otto Construction's Charlie Munns Takes Lessons from ELA Back to Work



Just halfway through his participation in the first cohort of AGC of California Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA), Charlie Munns has already been able to apply some of the insights and lessons learned to his work as an estimator for Sacramento-based Otto Construction.

From the DiSC® assessment tool, which helps users understand their personality styles and how they interact with others, to “state of mind” and “navigating the hijack” tools that emphasize positive mindset, the program offers participants an array of tools and techniques that are easily applied to a variety of situations, according to Munns.

Now in his sixth year at Otto Construction, he was motivated to join the ELA program to advance his career development and hone his leadership skills.

“I’m really enjoying the opportunity that Otto has given to me to be part of it,” he commented. “Everybody (in the cohort) brings something to the table and offers different perspectives that can challenge what you previously thought before about certain topics.”

## Biggest Takeaway

Of the many insights he has already gleaned so far from the program (which continues to run through the end of 2025), Munns said his single biggest takeaway to date has been this: “You truly are in control of what you do or say, in spite of what others do or how difficult it may be.”

“This program is going to make you think introspectively and reflect a lot,” he added. “It helped me realize that while it can be hard not to get affected by conflict, often it is outside your control. At the end of the day the only thing you have 100% control of is yourself and how you act on the emotions you feel.”

Munns relates many of the lessons he is learning in the program to one of his lifelong passions, baseball, which he played competitively throughout his youth and as a pitcher on an athletic and academic scholarship during college.

“Baseball is such a mental game,” he commented. “If I’ve faced a batter, and say I throw three balls in a row, I might step off the mound, take a breath to reset and then get back in and try to win the next pitch. At work, when you get frustrated, you can choose to stop for a moment, pause, and try to under-

stand the perspective of the person or situation that might have triggered you in some way. That is the essence of navigating the hijack, something we’ve explored in this program.”

Similarly, understanding his own personality and having insight into his peers and supervisors with the help of the DiSC® assessment tool (something every participant completed early on) has already had direct application at his work. “Having the DiSC™ method and being able to understand my peers and supervisors really as people who have different personalities enables me to approach them in a way that I think will get them to be the most responsive and receptive,” he said.

**Of the many insights he has already gleaned so far from the program, Munns said his single biggest takeaway to date has been this: “You truly are in control of what you do or say, in spite of what others do or how difficult it may be.”**

## Strengthening Industry Connections

Building strong peer connections in the construction industry has been another key benefit of the program, Munns said. In addition to becoming closer with his coworker Nick Clark, a project engineer from Otto who is also in the ELA cohort, he has forged new bonds with other young professionals not only during meetings and networking events but also during collaborations on class “homework” that requires participants to team up with professionals from other companies.

“That enables us to not only get out of our shells and talk to other people in class, but also to engage in discussion and work to reach a common solution or understanding if I am seeing or interpreting something differently from my partner,” he noted.

What would he tell someone in the industry who is thinking about applying to be part of the next cohort of ELA?

“You are going to meet and see people in this program that are your counterparts at other companies, who you will grow alongside you in the industry,” Munns said. “Developing a good understanding of what it means to be a leader, and seeing other people like that across the table at other companies, is going to be super beneficial not only in your personal development but in moving our industry forward.”





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# Stephanie Osbahr, The Boldt Company, Shares Insights on CLA



Stephanie Osbahr, workforce development & community relations manager for The Boldt Company, is no stranger to professional development programs.

Throughout her career, which has included the last 12 years with Boldt, preceded by three years in facilities planning with Kaiser and several years in the technology industry, she has participated in a variety of leadership training programs and initiatives.

But she said her experience in the first cohort of the AGC of California Construction Leaders Academy has offered something different, including insights and take-aways she has already found useful both personally and professionally. She recently discussed with *California Constructor* some of the program highlights she has found most useful (excerpts below).

**California Constructor:** What inspired you to join the Construction Leaders Academy, and how has the experience shaped your approach to leadership so far?

**Stephanie Osbahr:** I've long been interested in AGC of California educational offerings, and joining the Construction Leaders Academy felt like a natural step. In my role, I often connect team members with professional development opportunities, and I wanted first-hand insight into what AGC has to offer. Experiencing CLA personally gave me a deeper understanding of how powerful and practical these programs are. It's helped me grow not only as a leader — but also as a mentor and advocate for learning within my organization.

**California Constructor:** Can you describe a moment or insight from the program that significantly changed how you lead or work with your team?

**Stephanie Osbahr:** One of the most meaningful shifts I've experienced during the program has been in how I listen — not just hearing words, but truly understanding what's behind them. An exercise we did around practicing intentional conversations, paired with a compelling video about the power of asking the right questions, really stood out.

Since then, I've made a conscious effort to slow down, ask better questions, and listen with the intent to connect rather than just respond. It's significantly shifted the ener-

gy in my interactions.

**California Constructor:** How is the program helping you strengthen critical leadership skills like conflict resolution, negotiation, or business acumen?

**Stephanie Osbahr:** One concept that truly reshaped how I lead was the Ladder of Inference. Before the program, I wasn't always aware of how quickly I could jump to conclusions, especially in high-stakes situations. But learning about this framework helped me recognize my own internal biases and assumptions — and how easily they can distort decision-making or escalate conflict unnecessarily.

Now, I am more likely to pause and reflect before reacting. Instead of assuming intent or rushing into negotiation tactics, I will take time to validate what I'm seeing, hearing, and feeling, and I engage in more open dialogue. This shift has significantly improved my conflict resolution skills; I'm able to de-escalate tension and find more collaborative solutions by first understanding perspectives more clearly.

**California Constructor:** Have you applied any tools or strategies from the program to a real-world challenge on a project or in your workplace?

**Stephanie Osbahr:** In my workplace, this shift has changed how I engage with colleagues. By recognizing my own limited perspective and being open to challenging my assumptions, I'm creating stronger trust and more open communication. Conversations are more collaborative, and I am learning to resolve conflicts more easily.

At home, the same tools have helped me show up more thoughtfully. I'm more present, more curious, and more connected to my family and friends. It's helping me build relationships that feel secure and supported.

**California Constructor:** How has CLA changed your vision for your career or influenced how you contribute to your company and the construction industry?

**Stephanie Osbahr:** In a word: confidence. CLA profoundly expanded my sense of self-assurance through its dynamic blend of training, open dialogue, and powerful shared insights. Being part of such an engaged cohort offered a space to grow, challenge ideas, and build genuine leadership muscles. The experience empowered me to step up, guide my team with clarity, and contribute more boldly to both my company and the broader construction industry.



**California Constructor:** What would you tell someone considering the program who may feel unsure about stepping into a leadership development opportunity?

**Stephanie Osbahr:** To anyone feeling hesitant about stepping into leadership development, I'd say this: it's one of the simplest steps you can take, with some of the most

transformative results. CLA offers an environment where learning feels inspiring, not intimidating. The instructor is not only knowledgeable but also deeply passionate and sincere, which fosters a space where you're genuinely excited to grow. You don't have to be "ready" — you just need to be willing. The rest will follow.

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

it was important to create an environment in which people can really get to know each other and build lasting relationships with their peers," commented Kendra Bilo, director of training & education at AGC of California. "In this industry, it's not uncommon to cross paths with the same people again and again — whether on job sites, joint ventures, or at the leadership table. By fostering these connections early, we're helping participants build a professional network that will support

them for years to come."

The secret sauce that makes the ELA and CLA programs unique? "They are by the construction industry, for the construction industry," Bilo noted. "There are certainly other leadership programs out there — including some tailored to construction — but what sets ours apart is the dual focus: leadership development and construction business acumen, taught side by side. Our curriculum is shaped by HR leaders and executives from across the industry, ensuring it reflects

what companies actually need from their emerging and future leaders. We're not just teaching skills — we're building the next generation of decision-makers."

#### Programs Target Different Career Stages

The ELA targets emerging professionals in early construction career stages with responsibilities that are gradually increasing. Programming components include leadership curriculum focused on strategies and frameworks for increasing



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self-awareness, learning effective communication methods, creating positive accountability, managing priorities and providing constructive feedback.

In addition to leadership training, the program includes an industry-specific curriculum designed to build the business acumen today's construction leaders need. Segments are taught by UC Davis-affiliated instructors and cover critical topics like construction accounting, project planning and scheduling, cost controls, bidding, and project management — equipping participants with the operational insight and strategic skills required to lead on the business side of construction, not just manage teams.

“Many of our [AGC of California member] executives were telling us that their young professionals are getting promoted so quickly that a lot of the knowledge around business acumen in the construction industry that traditionally people used to get on the job they may not have yet because they are moving up the ranks so quickly,” Bilo noted. “So we are focusing a lot with this ELA group on that education component as well as the leadership curriculum.”

On the next rung of the training ladder, the CLA targets established managers who are seeking personal growth and construc-

tion specific business tools. Curriculum in this program includes strategies for coaching others more effectively, how to navigate conflicts and negotiations, manage budgets and develop strategic plans aligned with organization goals, and more.

### 2026 Launch for Strategic Leaders Academy

To round out AGC of California's professional development training, in 2026 the association will launch its all-new Strategic Leaders Academy (SLA). Envisioned as a much smaller cohort with fewer than a dozen participants, SLA will offer training for established leaders looking to drive innovation, collaboration and excellence in the industry and their own companies. Curriculum will focus on setting vision and cultivating organizational culture, driving change and innovation, strategic decision-making and more.



**“In this industry, it’s not uncommon to cross paths with the same people again and again – whether on job sites, joint ventures, or at the leadership table. By fostering these connections early, we’re helping participants build a professional network that will support them for years to come.”**

– Kendra Bilo, director of training & education, AGC of California

## Leadership Training Signups Underway



Signups for next year's ELA, CLA and SLA cohorts are happening now, and grant

funding is available for qualified participants. To find out more, visit [AGC Training information online](#).

“Our new Strategic Leaders Academy is designed to support high-potential professionals who are ready to take on enterprise-wide leadership roles,” Bilo commented. “We’re especially excited to offer grant-funded financial support so members can access this next-level development experience at little to no cost. It’s an incredible opportunity for both individuals and their employers to invest in long-term leadership capacity.”

This summer *California Constructor* spoke to two participants in the 2025 ELA and CLA cohorts to learn what their experience has been like so far, approximately halfway through the first year of these programs. See sidebars on pages 14 and 16 for some of the insights shared by Stephanie Osbahr with The Boldt Company and Charlie Munns with Otto Construction and some of their biggest takeaways to date. ☘



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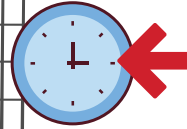
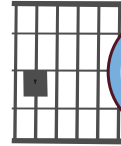
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A Marvella Steel Placers project above Cal Poly.

# Marvella Steel Placers Shows Power of Perseverance, Industry Partnerships

BY CAROL EATON

**G**rit, determination, and a willingness to learn and to hustle – not just for contracts but also for industry resources and support – are some of the qualities that helped Jacqueline “Jacque” Pruitt successfully grow her small business, Marvella Steel Placers, over the past nine years.

Pruitt first entered the construction industry in 2008-09, when she participated in the Century Freeway Pre-apprenticeship Program. She had been inspired to pursue a career in the construction trades by a friend who was working in the

industry and making five or six times the money Pruitt was at that time as a drug and alcohol counselor.

“I said, where do I sign up?” she recalled. During her eight-week pre-apprenticeship program, Pruitt discovered she had a knack for tying rebar. Not knowing much else about it, but willing to learn, she decided to specialize in iron work – a choice that put her squarely in the minority of the typical worker in that trade sector, as an African American female.

Finding a company that was willing to sponsor her into the ironworker’s union

and onto her first job took four months of full-time outreach to local contractors and countless rejections. “I was getting hung up on, being told that women don’t belong, literally every day,” Pruitt said.

But finally, someone took a chance on Pruitt and sponsored her to work on a bridge project in Southern California. She began her apprenticeship with Ironworkers Local 416 in the fall of 2009 and completed it five years later.

She quickly showed herself to be more than capable. By the third year of her apprenticeship Pruitt was being given the



# AGC CEF, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce Launch Partnership to Empower Small Construction Businesses

BY TERESA KENT

In May 2025, AGC of California and the AGC Construction Education Foundation (AGC CEF) announced a new partnership with the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce and its Regional Small Business Utilization Center (RSBUC). This collaboration is designed to strengthen and expand support for small, underrepresented, and diverse construction businesses across the Greater Sacramento region.

Through the joint initiative, AGC CEF and RSBUC is providing small construction businesses with comprehensive resources tailored to the unique demands of the industry. These include targeted education and training, mentorship and technical assistance, access to matchmaking opportunities with AGC of California general contractors, and ongoing business development support. By focusing on practical, high-impact programming, the partnership aims to increase procurement readiness and help diverse contractors compete for — and secure — major construction contracts.

"This partnership reflects our shared commitment to creating more inclusive and equitable economic opportunities within the construction industry," said Erin Volk, executive director of AGC CEF and senior vice president, workforce and community development at AGC of California. "Together with the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber and RSBUC, we are equipping small and underrepresented businesses with the tools, knowledge, and connections they need to succeed."

"Partnering with AGC CEF enables the RSBUC to deliver sector-specific support that directly addresses the needs of our local small and diverse businesses," said Pat Fong Kushi-



da, president & CEO of the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. "Construction is a critical economic engine, and through this partnership, we're ensuring our businesses are not only included, but positioned to thrive."

This project is funded in part through a grant from the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), which includes a \$100,000 subgrant from RSBUC to AGC CEF in recognition of the Foundation's subject matter expertise and capacity to deliver construction-specific training and support.

opportunity to serve as a lead ironworker on such notable projects as the Wilshire Grand Center high-rise, Berth 200 in the Port of Los Angeles, the Automated Container Movers in the Port of Long Beach, and others.

## Building a Viable Business

Journeying out in 2013, Pruitt saw the opportunities for certified small and minority business enterprises in the

local Southern California construction market and decided to obtain her own contractor's license. In 2016, with that license in hand, she officially opened the doors of Marvella Steel Placers. Today, the company is certified as a small, disadvantaged, woman, minority, local community, and LGBT-owned company.

Pruitt named the Signal Hill-based steel placing and erecting company in honor of her mom, Marvella, who had

passed away a few years earlier but had always been a strong and positive influence on her even during many challenging times in her younger years.

"She was always my inspiration, my supporter, my cheerleader," Pruitt said. A picture of Jacque and Marvella continues to be prominently displayed on her desk today.

When she first opened her business, Pruitt knew she had a lot to learn. She



quickly found out just how much – and how different it is to run a construction company with its many administrative demands than it is to “punk” iron on a jobsite.

As she began pursuing bid opportunities for Marvella Steel, Pruitt came across a contractor development and bonding program offered by Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services that targeted new contractors like her, and she quickly signed up. She began learning many of the fundamentals of what it takes to run a small construction business, including bonding, insurance, certification, and certified payroll, while also taking advantage of the chance to meet and interact with prime contractors in the region.

Marvella Steel was awarded its first \$3,700 contract about six months after Pruitt opened the doors. The next contract was \$81,000, as Pruitt recalls. And then the company qualified for a \$9 million Purple Line 3 contract as a disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) contractor.

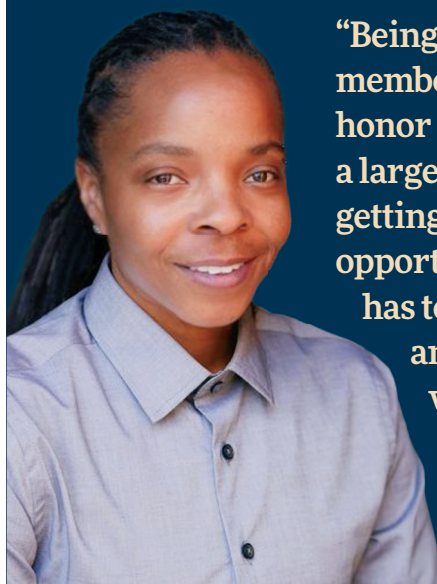
“That was a very big resume builder for us and opened up a whole bunch of new opportunities with other Los Angeles Metro projects,” Pruitt noted. She is proud that Marvella Steel Placers has completed over 70 projects and employed well over 400 union ironworkers since she opened the doors, all while maintaining a focus on safely delivering quality rebar work.

### Tapping Industry Mentorships and Resources

As Pruitt built the business, she focused on learning everything she could through critical mentorships with large contractors including Skanska, Frontier Kemper, Griffith Company and others. The company also actively sought out involvement and partnerships with organizations and associations that could provide critical resources and support. One key connection is BuildOUT, where Pruitt had



This photo of Marvella and Jacquie Pruitt has been displayed on Jacquie's desk since Marvella Steel Placers opened for business.



**“Being on the CEF Board and a member of AGC of California is an honor and a privilege. It touches a large part of my heart, which is getting other people exposed to the opportunities that construction has to offer. I like to be a mentor and share my experiences with young people.”**

– Jacqueline Pruitt,  
Marvella Steel Placers

the opportunity to sit with a CEO coach who helped her understand more about leadership styles, processes, procedures, and company branding, among other things. It was through BuildOUT that she was introduced to AGC of California approximately two years ago.

Pruitt and her company have leaned into the small and underrepresented

business (SUB) trainings and resources that AGC of California offers, participating in the SUB Forum, SUB Basics Academy, and a host of networking events including AGC of California's Hot Summer Nights, conferences in Long Beach, and more.

Additionally, this year the AGC of California Construction Education Foun-





## Inaugural SUB Summit a Success

**T**he inaugural Small and Underrepresented Business (SUB) Summit brought together 174 construction industry professionals at the McClellan Conference Center on June 3, 2025 for a day of education and networking. Hosted by the AGC Construction Education Foundation (CEF) in partnership with the Sacramento Asian American Chamber of Commerce, the event attracted 107 small and underrepresented businesses and 15 major agencies and general contractors.

Participating organizations included Caltrans, County of Sacramento, DGS, Granite Construction, Hensel Phelps, Otto Construction, Pride Industries, S+B James, Shimmick Corporation, Southland Industries, SUNDT, Vantis Construction, Small Business Transportation Resource Center, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, and SMUD.

The day featured four educational sessions covering leadership development, government contracting strategies, business sustainability, and innovative partnership approaches. Throughout multiple marketplace networking sessions, small businesses connected directly with prime contractors seeking trade partners for projects happening within the next 19 months.

The summit successfully created meaningful connections between diverse businesses and major contractors while providing practical tools for business growth and development.

dation (CEF) invited Pruitt to join its board of directors, which she was happy to do.

“Being on the CEF Board and a member of AGC of California is an honor and a privilege,” she noted. “It touches a large part of my heart, which is getting other people exposed to the opportunities that construction has to offer. I like to be a mentor and share my experiences

with young people. We’ve done a lot of work since I’ve been on the board, and there’s so much more to be done that I’m looking forward to!”

During AGC of California’s inaugural Small/Underrepresented Business Summit in Sacramento this year, Pruitt participated on a small business panel in which she shared her insights on

what small businesses need from general contractors and the challenges they face. Kayla Montgomery, senior industry advancement manager for AGC of California, said that her message about the need for partnerships and mentorships resonated with many who heard the panel discussion.

### Sharing Her Insights with Others

“Jacque talked about how small businesses thrive when everyone gets on board with supporting them, giving them the resources they need at the right time,” Montgomery said. “One thing that stood out that Jacque said on the panel is, ‘I’ve had to realize that I needed to be more than just a boss; I needed to learn how to lead my company.’ Jacque is an example of someone who really hustled to find the support and partnerships that her business needed to get a foothold.”

Pruitt is quick to acknowledge the importance that industry relationships and external resources made in her journey to build up her small business. “I’ve grown so much by being part of organizations like BuildOUT and AGC of California,” she said.

While recent years have brought a few growing pains, from some unprofitable jobs to challenging insurance costs, among others, Marvella Steel Placers is now focused on growth and restructuring, and on track to generate \$10 million in annual revenue within the year. The company is expanding into new project types and into other parts of the state.

“Now I need to look beyond just ‘one foot in front of the other’ to, what is 10 steps ahead?” Pruitt noted. “We need to be innovative in the way we deliver services and show customers why they should choose Marvella Steel Placers. There are challenges, but I don’t take that as a negative thing. I am always up for a good challenge.” ☘



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## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

### 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Construction Education Foundation Board Meeting

### 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

State Board & Annual Membership Meeting  
(AGC-CA MEMBERS ONLY)

### 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Student Chapter Registration & Lunch (STUDENTS ONLY)

### 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

AGC Student Chapter Education Seminar  
(STUDENTS ONLY)

### 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

AGC Student Chapter Education Seminars  
(STUDENTS ONLY)

### 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Kick-off Reception in the Expo

### 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Opening General Session: *Speaker: James Spellos, President, Meeting U*

### 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Welcome Reception Sponsored by HCSS

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

### 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM

AGC Student Chapter Education Seminar & Breakfast (STUDENTS ONLY)

### 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Networking Breakfast in Expo

### 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

General Session

### 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Northern California Ballot Measures 2026 presented by California Alliance for Jobs. *Speaker: Michael Quigley, Executive Director, California Alliance for Jobs*

### 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

#### Airport Showcase

Hollywood-Burbank International Airport (BUR).  
*Speaker: Stephanie Gunawan-Piraner, Deputy Executive Director for Hollywood Burbank Airport*

### 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

#### Transportation Showcase

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).  
*Speaker: Jim Beil, Executive Director of Capital Programs; Sound Transit – Speaker: Terri Mestas, Deputy Chief Executive Officer*

### 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

#### Private Owners Showcase

- Clean Arc Data Centers – *Speaker: Matthew Englert, Chief Development Officer*
- Providence Health & Services – *Speakers: Ryan Berry, Executive Director of Design & Construction Management & Justin Montoya, South Division Chief Real Estate Officer*

### 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Networking Lunch in Expo

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

#### Olympics Showcase

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

#### Water & Utility Showcase

Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LCS&D)

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

#### Rail Showcase

- Metrolink – *Speakers: Andrew Althorp, Assistant Director of Construction & Aaron Azevedo, Director for State of Good Repair*
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) – *Speaker: Casey Emoto, Chief Engineering & Program Delivery Officer*

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

#### Education Showcase

Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) – *Speaker: Hussain Agah, Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Hussain Agah, Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Development, Riverside Community College District*

### 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Networking Snack Break in Expo

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Southern California Revenue Measures 2026 presented by Rebuild SoCal Partnership  
*Speakers: Jon Switalski, Executive Director, Rebuild SoCal Partnership, Aaron Hake, Executive Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)*

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

#### Airport Showcase

Oakland International Airport (OAK) – *Speaker: Joan Zapotek, Aviation & Planning Development Manager*

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

#### Maritime Showcase

Port of Long Beach – *Speaker: Darrin Lambrigger, Director, Construction Management Division*

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

#### Rail Showcase

- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) – *Speaker: Mat Antonelli, Chief Program Management Officer*
- Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) – *Speaker: Jim Beil, Executive Director of Capital Programs*

### 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM

Owners Reception & Expo Booth Crawl

### 8:30 PM

After Party at the NEST

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

### 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Networking Breakfast in Expo

### 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

AGC Student Chapter Career Fair (STUDENTS AND EXHIBITORS ONLY)

### 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Partnering Showcase

### 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Education Seminar | Presented by Autodesk

### 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Education Seminar | Presented by CxORE

### 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Education Seminar: Future-Proofing Your Company: Retention Strategies for a Changing California

### 10:15 AM - 5:15 PM

Student Chapter Interview Rooms

### 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Networking Coffee Break in Expo

### 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

AGC of California Construction Safety Excellence Awards Luncheon

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Education Seminar | Presented by Autodesk

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Education Seminar - Unlocking Profitability Through Equipment Economics presented by Tenna. Speaker: Will Hipp, Project Analyst, Tenna.

### 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Education Seminar - Leading at the Edge: What It Takes to Make Strategic Decisions That Shape the Future. Speaker: Leslie Whatley, Founder, People & Change Consulting

### 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Networking Snack Break in Expo

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Education Seminar | Presented by Autodesk

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Education Seminar: Why Are We Not Effectively Managing Risk? Speakers: Bill Lawrence, Trainer/Facilitator/Coach, Excel-Erate & Ian Robinson, Trainer/Facilitator/Coach, Excel-Erate.

### 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Education Seminar: Future-Ready Workforce: What Motivates Gen Z and How to Deliver It. Speaker: Brenda He, AGC Student Chapter Co-President, University of Southern California & Yuhi Aizawa Combatti, AGC of California

### 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

General Session: Industry Politics and Policy: Annual Recap and Look Forward

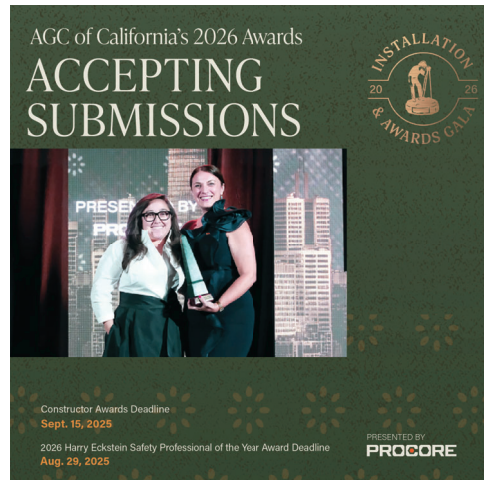
### 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

AGC-CA Thursday Night Bash

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

### 8:50 AM - 11:10 AM

Golf Tee Times - While AGC is not hosting a formal golf tournament this year, we're keeping the networking alive! Join us for tee times at Indian Wells Golf Resort nearby.



# Submit Your Nominations for AGC of California's 2026 Annual Awards!

**A**GC of California is accepting submissions for the Constructor Awards, Achievement Awards, Construction Education Friend Award, Harry Eckstein Safety Professional of the Year Award, and Owner of the Year Award.

This is your chance to celebrate your company's top projects and honor the industry's brightest leaders for their exceptional contributions. Awards will be honored at the AGC of California Installation & Awards Gala, presented by Procore, on January 30, 2026, at the Fairmont San Francisco.

- **Constructor Awards:** Apply to recognize your company's project accomplishments, showcasing skill, unique projects, and the ability to tackle the most challenging contractor tasks.
- **Achievement Awards:** Nominate outstanding individuals in the construction industry for the Associate Achievement Award, Contractor Achievement Award, S.I.R. Achievement Award, and Specialty Contractor Achievement Award.

- **Construction Education Friend Award:** Nominate individuals who have made significant contributions to construction education and workforce development.
- **Harry Eckstein 2026 Safety Professional of the Year Award:** Submit an application to highlight your company's exceptional safety program and dedication to maintaining safe jobsites across the Building, Heavy/Civil/Highway, and Specialty Contractor divisions.
- **Owner of the Year Award:** Nominate a public or private owner who exemplifies an outstanding commitment to fostering strong, cooperative relationships with contractors and prioritizes excellence through partnership, collaboration, and industry advancements.

All association members are encouraged to participate. Submissions for the Harry Eckstein 2026 Safety Professional of the Year Award are due by August 29, 2025, and Constructor Awards submissions are due by September 15, 2025. ☎





# ‘Building a Safer Tomorrow’ Focus of 2025 Safety & Health Conference

BY TRESTEN KEYS, AGC OF CALIFORNIA SAFETY & REGULATORY MANAGER

In July safety leaders from across California came together for the 2025 Safety & Health Conference — an energizing day dedicated to advancing construction safety, promoting worker well-being, and tackling some of the industry’s most pressing challenges.

Hosted by AGC of California in partnership with AGC San Diego, the free, in-person event featured a full agenda of expert-led sessions, a dynamic vendor showcase, and powerful peer-to-peer networking.

The day kicked off with a networking breakfast before diving into three engaging sessions:

- **Session One** tackled the evolving regulatory landscape, with updates on Cal/OSHA’s proposed indoor heat rule, workplace violence prevention standards, and more.
- **Session Two** explored the intersection of safety and technology, featuring real-world case studies on how contractors are using AI and digital tools to improve jobsite safety.



- **Session Three** brought together award-winning safety managers from both California and national programs for a compelling panel on leadership, innovation, and what it takes to build a truly world-class safety culture.

More than 100 safety professionals attended the event at AGC San Diego’s East County headquarters, creating a powerful atmosphere of shared learning, practical insight, and collaboration.

Whether it was swapping strategies over lunch, engaging with new products at the vendor tables, or asking thoughtful questions during breakout discussions, one thing was clear: California’s construction industry continues to push the boundaries of what’s possible when it comes to protecting our workforce.

As we look ahead, the momentum generated by this conference will continue to shape our collective efforts to create safer, healthier job sites across the state. 🌟



McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. recently helped complete construction of Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, Tower II



### McCarthy Completes Scripps Hospital Tower II Project

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., in partnership with Scripps Health and HGA Architects, recently completed construction of Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, Tower II — a state-of-the-art, 418,500-square-foot, 10-story acute care tower designed to meet the region's growing demand for healthcare.

With a total construction cost of \$664 million, the project employed a unique bolted side plate structural steel system, a unique approach that significantly reduced

welding time and labor demands. McCarthy said in a release that the approach is the first of its kind to be active in construction for the California Department of Health Care Access and Information. The exterior features precast paneling, improving efficiency and reducing the building enclosure timeline.

The new tower is directly connected to the original Tower I that was completed by McCarthy in 2014, reflecting more than a decade of trusted partnership between

Scripps Health and the construction team. The new facility includes 170 licensed inpatient beds, a rooftop helistop, nine operating rooms, three interventional radiology suites, and expanded imaging, emergency department (ED) and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) services. In early June, labor and delivery, postpartum, and NICU units transitioned staff to the new facility, establishing Tower II as a premier destination for women's and infant care in the region.

### Trench Shoring Plays Key Role in Successful Purple Line Project

A complex, multifaceted project to extend Phase 2 of the Purple Line Los Angeles Metro Expansion was completed two days ahead of an aggressive 21-day target date this spring due to an all-hands-on-deck effort between AGC of California member company Trench Shoring Company (TSC) and the project contractor, Tutor Perini (TPOG).

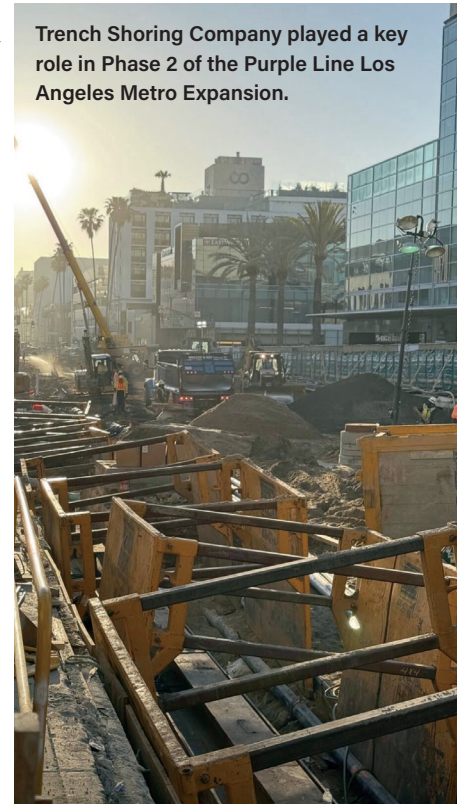
Although TPOG had initially received approval for a 21-day closure, the 24-hour, 7 days/week schedule made the 19-day completion possible with zero recordable or lost time incidents.

The Wilshire/Rodeo Road Station is constructed under the footprint of Wilshire Blvd., a main thoroughfare through downtown Los Angeles. The project necessitated closure of a busy four-block stretch of Wilshire and involved deck removal and restoration, as well as moving and restoring water and utility lines.

Trench Shoring Company supported TPOG throughout the project, delivering approximately 1,500 linear feet of speed shores and street plates to provide an 8-foot-deep excavation around the station. This created access to the deck beam ends ahead of the closure. During the closure, TSC provided a series of 10-foot-wide shields to protect the workers from removing the bearing seat (cap beam) for the temporary decking system and the soldier piles. TSC's equipment deliveries took place on a 24-hour and weekend delivery schedule to keep the project moving.

This construction project was yet another phase of the \$10 billion D (Purple) Line Subway Extension project, which has been underway since 2014. Designed to connect downtown Los Angeles to West Los Angeles, this key transit project is scheduled for completion before the 2028 Olympics. 🌟

Trench Shoring Company played a key role in Phase 2 of the Purple Line Los Angeles Metro Expansion.





## California Constructor Wins 2025 Apex Award



California Constructor magazine, the official publication of AGC of California, was honored to receive a 2025 Apex Award for Publication Excellence! The nationally recognized Apex Awards annually recognize the best in editorial, design, and online achievement for media in the corporate, nonprofit, and independent settings. The publication previously received a Regional Silver and National Silver 2023 Azbee Award of Excellence.

## Editorial and Advertising Opportunities in California Constructor

Do you have a story about a new project, program, staff announcement or noteworthy company initiative you'd like to highlight in the *California Constructor* magazine? Please contact *California Constructor* Editor Carol Eaton at [carol@eatoncommunications.com](mailto:carol@eatoncommunications.com) or AGC of California Senior Communications and Marketing Manager Teresa Kent at [KentT@agc-ca.org](mailto:KentT@agc-ca.org).

For information on advertising in *California Constructor*, reach out to Publisher Al Rickard of Association Vision at [arickard@associationvision.com](mailto:arickard@associationvision.com) or Advertising Director Carolyn Ward at [cward@associationvision.com](mailto:cward@associationvision.com).



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## Calendar

### September 8, 2025

Bay Area Region Clay Shoot at Birds Landing Shooting Sports, Birds Landing

### September 12-14, 2025

Legal Advisory Committee Retreat at Everline Resort and Spa, Olympic Valley

### September 17, 2025

AGC Q3 HR Forum, virtual

### September 22, 2025

Delta Sierra District Golf Tournament at Granite Bay Golf Club

### September 25, 2025

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Forum, virtual

### September 26, 2025

Tri-Counties District Golf Classic at River Course at Alisal, Solvang

### October 7-10, 2025

AGC of California 2025 CONSTRUCT Annual Conference at Grand Hyatt Indian Wells

### October 30, 2025

Small/Underrepresented Business (SUB) Forum, virtual

### November 20, 2025

AGC of California Emerging Leaders Forum – Building Tomorrow's Leaders, virtual

### November 20, 2025

San Joaquin District Forecast Dinner at Sunnyside Country Club, Fresno

### December 5, 2025

Eureka/Shasta Holiday Gathering & Meeting at LuLu's Eating & Drinking Establishment, Redding

### December 5, 2025

Riverside/San Bernardino Holiday Dinner at Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, Riverside

### December 8, 2025

Delta Sierra Holiday Happy Hour

### December 11, 2025

Bay Area Region Holiday Party at Topgolf San Jose

### December 12, 2025

SoCal Holiday Party & Toy Drive at House of Blues Gardenwalk, Anaheim

# Turn RFIs into ROI !

Research shows that contractors receive about 10 RFIs for every \$1 million spent on a project. They cost money, delay projects, and cause legal and other risks.

What if you could get a 5X-10X return on investment by reviewing construction documents in advance?

Catch mistakes, omissions, and other potential problems before they reach the field. You'll save money, eliminate hassles, sleep better at night, and achieve that ROI on your next project.

How? With an independent third-party Design and Coordination Review. It's easy to set up and the reasonable cost is recouped many times over.

## What Construction Stakeholders Say About Design and Coordination Reviews

### **Contractors:**

"You are going into a project blind without proper design coordination."

### **Construction Consultants for Developers:**

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

"These reviews help all parties – the owner, contractor, design team, architect, and engineers."

### **Architects:**

"We know what we want in our heads when we communicate that idea in our drawings. Another set of eyes helps evaluate if we made it clear."

### **Engineers:**

"An additional set of eyes reviewing the plans is always valuable."

"We are often so rushed that we don't have time to do all the quality control we would like. But we are so close to it we probably wouldn't see all the errors."

**Contact us for a free estimate on an independent third-party  
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