

CALIFORNIA CONSTRUCTOR

OWNERS' SHOWCASES SPOTLIGHT
BILLIONS IN UPCOMING WORK

12

TIPS FOR MANAGING RISKS
IN CONSTRUCTION

14

RECORD TURNOUT FOR
2025 CONSTRUCT

18

Honoring Safety Excellence

AGC of California
Recognizes Winners
of 2025 Construction
Safety Excellence
Awards Competition



TRENCH SHORING COMPANY LOCATIONS IN **SACRAMENTO & SAN LEANDRO**

Providing Northern California and the Bay Area Construction Industry
with Our Time-Tested Service, Experience & Inventory



"Commitment To Safety & Service"
Since 1973



TrenchShoring.com

Compton - Corporate Office - 310-327-5554

Bakersfield
661-396-9160

Banning
951-849-1611

Corona
951-734-4290

Fresno
559-691-4123

Fullerton
714-879-1005

Lake Forest
949-454-0858

Moorpark
805-528-4614

San Diego
858-530-2500

NEW
Sacramento
916-290-4020

San Leandro
510-900-0595

Las Vegas
702-651-0920



CALIFORNIA CONSTRUCTOR

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025



IN EVERY ISSUE

2 MOVING MOUNTAINS

Advocating for Safety in Our Industry

4 ADVOCATING FOR THE INDUSTRY

Antonio Villaraigosa joins the
Gubernatorial Field

16 INVESTING IN OUR INDUSTRY

AGC CEF Awarded \$2.5 Million ERiCA
Round 2 Grant

18 BUILDING YOUR NETWORK

Record Turnout for CONSTRUCT 2025

SHORT SUBJECTS

21 LEARN, ENGAGE & GROW

6 HONORING SAFETY EXCELLENCE

Construction Safety Excellence Awards Recognizes 2025 Winners

The 38th annual competition spotlights AGC of California
companies and individuals who lead the industry in safety.

BY CAROL EATON

8 CSEA'S HIGH HAZARD WINNER

Granite Recognized for LAX Runways Improvement Project

Managing extreme risks from taxiing aircraft, debris, hazardous
materials and other challenges, Granite successfully completed a
major project at LAX that delivered lasting improvements.

10 CSEA'S SUPERINTENDENT AWARD

ISEC Superintendent Armando Hernandez Honored

This ISEC, Inc. field leader has demonstrated an exceptional
commitment to safety through active engagement with team
members and a focus on continuous improvement.

12 BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND GROWING MARKETS:

Owners' Showcases Shine Spotlight on Billions in Upcoming Work for California Contractors

AGC of California brought together 35 owners and public
agencies for Showcases at 2025 CONSTRUCT, demonstrating
their commitment to fostering relationship-building and
dialogue between contractors and owners.

BY CHRIS SMITH

14 RISK MANAGEMENT

Beating the Odds: How to Identify and Oppose the Biggest Risks Facing Construction

From an uncertain economy to a rising number of weather-
related disasters to an explosion of cyber attacks, the California
construction industry is facing a wide variety of challenges.
Contractors must be prepared.

BY MARK WOODITCH, HUB INTERNATIONAL

Advocating for Safety in Our Industry

BY PETER TATEISHI, CEO

Advocating for our people and our industry is paramount to AGC of California. For 105 years, our association has been at the forefront of putting the industry first. We have led the charge to improve the way we protect our people and how we create work that sustains their livelihoods and secures the future of our industry.

If you talk to an AGC of California member about their company, they will tell you that safety comes first. This is not just a scripted response; it is a belief that they hold dear. Every year, the AGC of California hosts the Construction Safety Excellence Awards (CSEA), where we honor and recognize those companies that go above and beyond to support their people's physical safety.

Our construction jobsites come with serious risk, and it is imperative that we make every effort to mitigate those risks, train our people on how to be safe at work, and develop a culture of care where we ensure everyone feels like they belong. When our jobsite culture embodies safety, both physical and emotional, we have healthier workers who are more alert, look out for each other, and perform at their best.

The CSEA promotes a safety culture and recognizes companies whose efforts exemplify the highest standards. We had a record number of applicants this year, which speaks to the quality of companies that belong to AGC of California and their pride and passion in their safety efforts

and putting their people first.

While AGC of California member companies strive to be the best employers with the best safety records in the state, they also lean into using their voices to advocate for more and better opportunities to work and build in the state of California. Our members advocate year-round at the local, state, and federal levels, and they make sure our industry's interest are prioritized.

When construction is booming, our state is growing, our economy is growing, and our future is secure. The members at AGC of California work hard to educate our decision makers on the impacts they have on our industry, how they can best create more opportunities for building, and how they can support amazing construction careers that employ nearly one million people across the state.

When we use our voice to advocate for our people and our industry by prioritizing their safety on our jobsites, we all win. This year was a busy one across the state, and our advocacy efforts were in full swing. Congratulations to our CSEA winners – and thank you to all the members who stood up and let their voices be heard for their people and their projects. 🙌



Peter Tateishi

Kindest Regards,
Peter Tateishi, CEO



Published bi-monthly for members of the Associated General Contractors of California

3095 Beacon Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 371-2422
www.agc-ca.org

PUBLISHER

Al Rickard
Association Vision
(703) 402-9713
arickard@assocvision.com
www.associationvision.com

EDITOR

Carol A. Eaton
Eaton Communications
(707) 789-9520
carol@eatoncommunications.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Carolyn Ward
Association Vision
(704) 677-3051
cward@associationvision.com

DESIGNER

THOR Design Studio
Washington D.C. | Austin
info@thor-studio.com
www.thor.design

CORRESPONDENCE

Address editorial and circulation correspondence to:

California Constructor
AGC of California
3095 Beacon Blvd.,
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 371-2422
or call Carol Eaton at
(707) 789-9520
or eatonc@comcast.net



**2025 Apex
Award for
Publication
Excellence**



**2023 Silver
National
Award Winner
for Publication
Redesign**

COPYRIGHT 2025

We've got your back(side).



NATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION RENTALS®



800-352-5675 • rentnational.com

Product availability varies by region.



Villaraigosa's track record displays an ability to find creative solutions to California's fluctuating funding landscape, in particular for transportation infrastructure.



Antonio Villaraigosa joins the Gubernatorial Field

BY FELIPE FUENTES

Antonio Villaraigosa wants to be governor. After serving as both the mayor of Los Angeles, and Speaker of the California State Assembly, the 72-year-old has set his sights on the highest seat in the state ahead of the 2026 election. It will be Villaraigosa's second time in the gubernatorial race, having lost to current governor Gavin Newsom in 2018, and he's hoping to go the full distance this time around.

Born in City Terrace, East Los Angeles in 1953, Villaraigosa was raised by a single mother as one of three siblings. From the age of 15, he demonstrated interest in politics through volunteer work with the farmworkers' movement and their protest marches.

Young Villaraigosa took to activism in a way he didn't in education; he struggled in school, dropping out of high school in his junior year. Luckily, the encouragement of a teacher eventually inspired him to complete his GED and attend East Los Angeles College and then transfer to UCLA.

Villaraigosa obtained his bachelor's degree in history, later continuing on to get his degree in law at the People's College of Law, a night school specializing in public-interest law. After college he spent the beginning of his career as a union organizer; experience that aided his political ambition.

His political experience spans years. From attending protests as a youth to serving as the Mayor of Los Angeles, he's been involved in politics his entire life. His time in public office began in 1994 when he was elected to the Assembly, representing the 45th District.

Villaraigosa continued to serve his district and was chosen as the Assembly Speaker four years later. After leaving the Assembly, he ran for Mayor of Los Angeles, losing to James Hahn in 2001. After serving a term on the City Council, he unseated Hahn in 2005 to become the 41st mayor of Los Angeles, the first Latino mayor of Los Angeles in over a century.

After his eight-year tenure in the Los Angeles mayoral office, Villaraigosa is

most well-known for his improvements to education and public safety. By setting high standards, focusing on staff development, and enhancing teacher training, Villaraigosa was truly able to make a positive impact on the kids of Los Angeles.

In the Los Angeles Unified School District alone, graduation rates went from 44% at the beginning of his incumbency to a stunning 72% at the end. Also notable is how Villaraigosa significantly reduced crime by expanding the police force. Due to this investment, he decreased violence by 48%, a truly staggering amount for the metropolis that is Los Angeles.

Additionally, Villaraigosa's track record displays an ability to find creative solutions to California's fluctuating funding landscape, particularly for transportation infrastructure. In 2008, he championed Measure R, which raised \$35 billion in Los Angeles County by imposing a 0.5% sales tax hike over 30 years. Citing all this, Villaraigosa sees himself as the "problem solver" California

needs to “get things done.”

In this upcoming election, Villaraigosa is laser-focused on renewing the Californian Dream. Viewing himself as an example of it, having climbed his way out of his adverse circumstances growing up, he wants to support common people working and building their lives in the state. His key goals are to increase neighborhood safety, improve schools, and create jobs.

Since announcing his run for governor, Villaraigosa has been greeted with enthusiasm, receiving major endorsements from a variety of industries and entities. These range from fellow political figures such as Karen Bass, the current mayor of Los Angeles, to trade unions like the District Council of Ironworkers.

Some AGC of California members will recognize Villaraigosa: this year AGC’s Political Action Committee (AGC

While the vote for governor will be officially settled next November, voters should take note of the June 2026 primaries, where they’ll have the opportunity to influence who ends up on that November ballot. Every vote counts!

PAC) invited him alongside two other gubernatorial candidates, Xavier Becerra and Eleni Kounalakis (who has since dropped out of the race), to speak during AGC’s annual legislative day. AGC PAC is always looking for opportunities to keep our lawmakers informed of what our industry needs, whether it be matters at the state level or on the job site. And in mid-August, the AGC PAC made a decision to support Mayor Villaraigosa’s candidacy for governor.

While the vote for governor will be officially settled next November, voters should take note of the June 2026 primaries, where they’ll have the opportunity to influence who ends up on that November ballot. Every vote counts! 🗳️



Felipe Fuentes



Expert craftsmanship and a relationship you can count on.

Cement Masons Locals 500 & 600 signatory contractors are among the highest profile, reputable and successful firms in Southern California. Our workforce represents the most highly trained and competent craftspeople in the concrete industry. Our relationship together can assist in your company’s value and growth. If that doesn’t convince you, maybe this will.

We help level your playing field with:

- Prevailing Wage Compliance Program
- ADR Program - Joint Workers’ Comp
- Competitive Private Commercial & Residential Rates



Your workforce is trained in:

- CA State Accredited 4-Year Apprenticeship Program
- Journeyman Upgrade Certification • OSHA 10 / OSHA 30
- Confined Space • Shotcrete • Forming
- All Aspects of Concrete Placement, Finishing, Patching and Restoration

Contact us and we will show you how we have assisted others like you to create growth and value, just like we have been doing for 150 years.

Local 500 ~ 714-554-0730 ~ www.cementmasons500.org • Local 600 ~ 323-771-0991 ~ www.cementmasons600.org



Honoring Safety Excellence

AGC of California Recognizes Winners of 2025 Construction Safety Excellence Awards Competition

BY CAROL EATON

AGC of California recently recognized the best in safety in the California construction industry with the 38th annual Construction Safety Excellence Awards (CSEA), in partnership with HammerTech.

The prestigious annual awards event was held on October 9, 2025 at the Grand Hyatt Indian Wells in conjunction with CONSTRUCT 2025, AGC of California's annual networking and professional development conference. The CSEA luncheon drew a crowd of several hundred construction executives, safety professionals, and student chapter members to see leading California construction companies and individuals honored for safety excellence.

AGC of California President-Elect Ryan Aukerman, Griffith Company, helped kick off the safety awards and welcomed attendees while offering a few comments on safety in the industry.

"Our goal as an industry and as individuals will always be to ensure that every employee returns home safely to their family," Aukerman commented. "Together, AGC of California and our member

companies play a vital role in elevating the conversation about the importance of safety. We want every person on every job site to feel supported both mentally and physically. Because safety is more than just PPE and pre-task plans. It's about mental health too. The truth is we cannot fully achieve one without the other."

Aukerman added, "Over the past several years, AGC of California has launched multiple initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of mental health in the workplace. Year after year, these efforts have played a vital role in helping our industry recognize and address the very real mental health challenges connected to construction. And together, we can continue building an industry where safety means protecting the whole worker: body and mind."

2025 AGC of California Safety & Health Council Chair Devin Caringella, safety and health director with Clark Construction, provided opening remarks at the awards luncheon along with Doug Rubingh, chief sales officer with CSEA partner safety sponsor, HammerTech. Keynote speaker Deborah Ostreicher,

Some of the sponsors, winners, and finalists of AGC of California's 2025 Construction Safety Excellence Awards gathered at the 38th annual Awards Luncheon at the Grand Hyatt Indian Wells on October 9. Companies that are represented in this group include, left to right Blach, Granite, SKANSKA, NOVA Group, Field Control Analytics (Gold sponsor), Murray Company, ISEC Superintendent of the year, ISEC, Hensel Phelps, Hensel Phelps Foreman of the year, HammerTech (Presenting Sponsor), Clark Construction, and Aldridge Electric.



AGC of California President-Elect
Ryan Aukerman



Keynote speaker Deborah Ostreicher

founder of Distinguished Communications, delivered a compelling address on the importance of team building and equipping construction teams with better communication skills that will not only increase productivity but improve safety on jobsites.

AGC of California congratulates the 2025 CSEA Award winners!

2025 CSEA Award Winners

Main Category/Worker Hours

Building Division

Under 500,000 Worker Hours

1st place – **Blach Construction**

Finalists – **BNBuilders and Pinner Construction**

500,000 – 1 Million Worker Hours

1st place – **Clark Construction**

Company

Finalist – **Webcor Builders**

Over 1 Million Worker Hours

1st place – **Hensel Phelps**

Finalist – **DPR Construction**

Heavy, Civil and Highway Division

Under 275,000 Worker Hours

1st place – **NOVA Group, Inc.**

Finalist – **American Bridge Company**

275,000-1 Million Worker Hours

1st place – **SKANSKA**

Finalist – **Myers & Sons Construction and Sully-Miller Contracting Co.**

Over 1 Million Worker Hours

1st place – **Granite Construction**

Finalists – **Flatiron Dragados and Teichert Construction**

Specialty Contractor Division

Under 300,000 Worker Hours

1st place – **Aldridge Electric**

Finalists – **Silverado Contractors Inc. and Trademark Concrete Systems Inc.**

300,000-1 Million Worker Hours

1st place – **ISEC, Inc.**

Finalist – **Royal Electric Company**

Over 1 Million Worker Hours

1st place – **Murray Company**

Finalist – **ACCO Engineered Systems**

Specialized Awards

Individual Safety Effort of a

Frontline Foreman – Richard Castro, Hensel Phelps

Individual Safety Effort of a

Project Superintendent – Armando Hernandez, ISEC Inc.

Safety on a High Hazard Project

Granite Construction Company

LAX Runway 6L-24R North

Airfield Exit Taxiways and Runway Rehabilitation Project.

For the third year, the Safety Professional of the Year will be presented at the AGC of California Installation & Awards Gala on January 30, 2026 at the Fairmont in San Francisco.

Thank You to the Judges for the
2025 AGC of California CSEA Awards

- **Kate Crawford**
Stack Infrastructure
- **Mike Donlon**
MD Safety Service LLC
- **Lisa Prince**
The Prince Firm

For more information on AGC of California safety and health services or upcoming activities of the AGC of California Safety & Health Council, visit www.agc-ca.org/resources/safety-health/ or contact Tresten Keys, safety & regulatory manager, at KeysT@agc-ca.org.

Granite Wins CSEA High Hazard Award For LAX Runways Improvement Project

Managing extreme risks from taxiing aircraft, debris, hazardous materials and other challenges, Granite successfully completed a \$159.6 million project that delivered lasting improvements to airfield safety and efficiency at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), the nation's fifth-busiest airport.

The LAX Runway 6I-24R North Airfield Exit Taxiways and Runway Rehabilitation project represented a 25-month effort to upgrade two of the airport's busiest runways by adding four new exit taxiways, rehabilitating asphalt, and reconstructing concrete keel sections. Granite performed the work under double shifts in an active airfield, implementing strict safety planning to manage risks from the many hazards they encountered during the course of construction.

AGC of California awarded the project and Granite its Construction Safety Excellence Award for "Safety on a High Hazard Project" for 2025.

A few of the major safety challenges that Granite faced and solutions it delivered on this project included:

- **Individuals Driving on an Unfamiliar Active Airfield.** Throughout the project, the access and egress of the project changed, often requiring individuals to cross active taxiways. To mitigate any potential incursions, the project team successfully communicated haul routes through map



distributions, site-specific onboarding, refreshers about when work was to switch to a different part of the airport, use of signs and boards indicating travel paths, hard barricade protective measures, and more.

- **Foreign Object Debris (FOD).** Working on an active airfield requires an extreme and constant focus on housekeeping, as even a small piece of concrete from a demolished slab encroaching onto the apron of an active runway or taxiway posed a damage to the aircraft and those aboard. Granite created a culture that kept the space clean and free from FODs at all times.

- **Asbestos Handling Health Hazard.** Throughout the project, the team encountered various unforeseen sources of asbestos piping buried within excavations. Granite quickly implemented a communication and isolation procedure that was adhered to throughout the project. In addition to pulling expedited Procedure 5 permits with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the team also quickly moved to hire qualified subcontractors to abate the asbestos generated from the airport.
- **Silica Dust Protection.** Because the project required many concrete and asphalt chipping and hand-grinding efforts, silica dust hazards were prevalent. All individuals involved in these operations were properly trained and wore the appropriate PPE. Daily safety walks and reviews of task hazard analyses kept safety at the forefront.
- **Speed Hazards.** Although the schedule is extremely important on an airfield project, Granite worked hard to ensure this didn't come at the expense of safety. The company installed radar speed limit signs to actively encourage drivers to slow down on the jobsite, constantly reinforcing the importance of safety over speed.
- **Airfield Operational Planning and Logistics.** The closure of an active runway is no easy feat and posed a unique challenge at LAX. With approximately 24 active taxiways in the North Airfield and two of the most heavily utilized runways in the United States, everything was planned to the exact minute. Granite and the many project stakeholders collaborated through daily and weekly coordination meetings. They closely coordinated with key subcontractors, outlining specific details and work plans associated with necessary closures. Critically, they worked with stakeholders to detail how they would clean up and restore the work areas to a condition that would be extremely safe and satisfactory for approaching and departing aircraft after the construction team departed the work area.

Through these and other solutions, Granite successfully completed the project without any major incidents. The project recycled 80,000 tons of material, produced 75,000 cubic yards of FAA-certified concrete, and delivered lasting improvements to airfield safety and efficiency at LAX.



MAILBOXES





FACTORY DIRECT • LARGE INVENTORY • FAST SHIPPING • CUSTOMER SERVICE

Visit us at **mailboxes.com**

Salsbury Industries
 18300 Central Ave, Carson, CA 90746-4008
salsbury@lockers.com • www.lockers.com

SALSBRURY
INDUSTRIES

People Committed to Quality Since 1938



Hensel Phelps Foreman Richard Castro Recognized

Hensel Phelps foreman Richard Castro was recognized for his exceptional work with the “Individual Effort of a Frontline Foreman Award” by AGC of California this year.

Castro has had a 17-year career with Hensel Phelps, where he has gained recognition for his efforts to keep his team safe, engaged and continually improving.

He raised the bar on his job sites, helping build a strong safety culture by engaging crews in hazard recognition, planning, and ownership of safety. As both an equipment trainer and field instructor, he provides practical guidance to prepare teams for challenges while reinforcing a proactive community.

His leadership has resulted in more than 200,000 hours worked with zero lost-time incidents, earning widespread respect from peers, trade partners, and industry leaders.

“His approach to safety is not about meeting minimum requirements; it is about creating an environment where every worker is respected, heard and empowered to return home safely each day,” commented Damian Buessing, regional vice president for Hensel Phelps. “By modeling safety behaviors and engaging his teams in open dialogue, Richard transforms safety from a compliance task into a culture of shared responsibility.”

TOP RIGHT: CSEA award winner Armando Hernandez (second from right) accepted the award for Individual Safety Effort of a Project Superintendent from AGC of California President-Elect Ryan Aukerman (left), AGC of California Safety & Health Council Chair Devin Caringella, and AGC of California Safety & Regulatory Manager Tresten Keys.

TOP LEFT: CSEA award winner Richard Castro (second from right) accepted the award for Individual Safety Effort of a Frontline Foreman.



ISEC Superintendent Armando Hernandez Honored

As a field leader in the Northern California region for ISEC, Inc., Armando Hernandez has consistently demonstrated an exceptional commitment to safety and health through active engagement with team members and a focus on continuous improvement.

Hernandez was recognized with the 2025 AGC of California Construction Safety Excellence Award for Individual Safety Effort of a Project Superintendent.

Throughout his career, Hernandez has elevated safety by engaging crews in hazard recognition, open communication, and proactive planning, ensuring every task is completed with risk reduction in mind. Committed to leading by example, he integrates training, innovation, and hands-on oversight, from developing ergonomic tools to implementing safe installation methods that protect workers while improving efficiency. His leadership has fostered a strong culture of accountability and collaboration, resulting in safe, high-quality outcomes, even under accelerated project schedules.

Greg Timmerman, ISEC CEO, said Hernandez has had a big and positive impact on ISEC with his performance on complex projects such as the Santa Rosa Courthouse and Chase Arena, among others.

“Armando leads by example with his attainment of the Safety Trained Supervisor Construction certification and his constant presence providing coaching and mentoring to his crews on his projects,” Timmerman commented. “He is an inspirational leader who encourages all around him to step up. He is always innovating smart approaches to the execution of our diverse scopes of work, and his attention to the crew’s work makes for the highest quality product for our clients. This happens while never sacrificing the safety of our people in the process.” ☘



Northern California Chapter, NECA Presents **2025 Project Excellence Award Winners**

The Northern California Chapter, NECA represents the interests of union electrical contractors in nine Northern California counties, including Alameda, San Joaquin & Calaveras, Solano & Napa, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. NorCal NECA is a vital resource that brings programs and services to its members, which allows them to stay competitive and informed.

NorCal NECA's Project Excellence Awards are designed to recognize excellence in electrical/technology installations and the Northern California electrical contractors responsible for these outstanding achievements. The awards have been embraced by projects owners, general contractors, architects, engineers, NECA electrical contractors, and other project team members who have had the honor of receiving an award.

Congratulations to this Year's Winners!



norcalneca.org

For more information on these outstanding projects,
and to view the project photos
visit the NorCal NECA website at www.norcalneca.org.

1. **BEI Construction, Inc.**

Category: Energy Solutions
Project: City of Atwater Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer (Atwater, CA)

2. **Bockmon & Woody Electric Co., Inc.**

Category: Educational
Project: Stagg High School Livestock Facility (Stockton, CA)

3. **Bockmon & Woody Electric Co., Inc.**

Category: Industrial
Project: DSRSD Potable Water Pump Station Standby Generators / Emergency Response (Dublin, CA)

4. **Bockmon & Woody Electric Co., Inc.**

Category: Commercial / Institutional
Project: University of California, Berkeley Greek Theatre Upper Bowl Improvements (Berkeley, CA)

5. **Bockmon & Woody Electric Co., Inc.**

Category: Security/ Alarms
Project: Military Ocean Terminal Access Control Point (Concord, CA)

6. **Bockmon & Woody Electric Co., Inc.**

Category: Energy Solutions
Project: Aemetis Engineering Procurement and Construction (Ceres, CA)

7. **Collins Electrical Co., Inc.**

Category: Educational
Project: CSU East Bay Braddock Center for Science and Innovation (Hayward, CA)

8. **Collins Electrical Co., Inc.**

Category: Commercial/ Institutional
Project: Costco Wholesale (Riverbank, CA)

9. **Columbia Electric, Inc.**

Category: Educational
Project: Emerald High School Phase 1 Offsite Improvements (Dublin, CA)

10. **Columbia Electric, Inc.**

Category: Transportation/ Infrastructure
Project: Iron Horse Trail Bridge at Dublin Boulevard (Dublin, CA)

11. **Contra Costa Electric, Inc.**

Category: Commercial/ Institutional
Project: Washington Hospital UPS Installation (Fremont, CA)

12. **Del Monte Electric, Co., Inc.**

Category: Healthcare
Project: Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Emergency Department Modifications (Oakland, CA)

13. **Del Monte Electric, Co., Inc.**

Category: Educational
Project: George P. Shultz Building at Stanford University (Stanford, CA)

14. **Kenix Electric Inc.**

Category: Commercial/ Institutional
Project: Costco Wholesale (Napa, CA)

15. **Long Electric Company**

Category: Educational
Project: Sonoma Academy Performing Arts Center (Santa Rosa, CA)

16. **Morrow-Meadows Corporation**

Category: Commercial/ Institutional
Project: Alaska Airlines Lounge at SFO (San Francisco, CA)

17. **NET Electric, Inc.**

Category: Security/ Alarms
Project: Vallejo Center Security Enhancement Project (Vallejo, CA)

18. **Prime Electric**

Category: Energy Solutions
Project: Gasket Specialties Photovoltaic Rooftop Installation (Richmond, CA)

19. **Ray's Electric**

Category: Street Lighting/ Traffic Signal
Project: AC Transit Zero Emission Bus Charging Infrastructure (Emeryville, CA)

20. **St. Francis Electric, LLC**

Category: Street Lighting/ Traffic Signal
Project: Monument Boulevard Signal Upgrade Project (Concord, CA)

21. **Taft Electric Company**

Category: Industrial
Project: Sitewide Mechanical Plant Upgrades B2U (Berkeley, CA)



Owners' Showcases Shine Spotlight on Billions in Upcoming Work for California Contractors

BY CHRIS SMITH

War Room, Rip and Read, Lowest Responsive Bidder. These were once the hall-

mark terms of big-dollar construction projects. But as project values soared and complexity increased, new terms entered the conversation: Points. Shortlist. RFQ.

Today, with owners embracing alternative delivery methods, simply being the lowest bidder isn't enough. A deep understanding of what an owner wants, and when, is just as critical as knowing what's going out to bid.

Face-to-face interactions have always been the cornerstone of our industry, be it at a partnering meeting, a dispute resolution session, or a mandatory pre-

job meeting. But COVID-19 shifted how we connect.

Virtual Launch Three Years Ago

In 2022, AGC of California launched its Virtual Owners' Showcases, a virtual platform helping contractors stay engaged and informed about upcoming capital projects. But returning to business as usual wasn't enough. We had to evolve.

Last year, AGC of California introduced Owners' Showcases at 2024 CONSTRUCT, a live, in-person version of our virtual platform. The event spotlighted billions of dollars in upcoming airport, rail, and water infrastructure projects from some of California's largest public owners. It

was a strong start, but we knew we could go even bigger.

This year, AGC of California brought together 35 owners and public agencies for the Showcases at CONSTRUCT, including a timely panel on transportation and procurement for the upcoming Olympics. While attendees got to see a sneak preview of advertised projects, many of these high-dollar projects will demand more than low bids to secure. These projects require more relationship-building and meaningful dialogue.

Our Education Showcase featured Fresno Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Riverside Community College District, who combined for nearly \$10 billion worth of capital construction. The Los Angeles Unified School District alone had 744 projects valued at \$5.1 billion, which are currently under pre-construction.

The Alameda County Transportation Commission, Valley Transportation Authority, and Sound Transit showed off a nearly \$1.8 billion program portfolio of upcoming projects for the Transportation Showcase. Additionally, Sound Transit kept AGC of California members updated on its ongoing System Expansion Program (ST3 Phase) valued at \$64 billion. Many of these projects would feature alternative delivery methods.

Airport Work Well Represented

Seven of the 11 largest airports in California presented at CONSTRUCT this year, where they showed off a combined upcoming project portfolio of over \$12 billion. Airports included Hollywood Burbank, Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA), Ontario Airport, Oakland International, Palm Springs, Sacramento International Airport, and San Diego International Airport.

Sacramento International Airport spoke in depth about its \$1.4 billion SMF

FORWARD capital program, and LAWA highlighted how it has nearly \$900 million worth of upcoming task order solicitation projects targeted for alternative delivery.

The Water and Utility Showcase featured Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Sites Reservoir, and Metropolitan Water District, which showed off capital program portfolio worth more than \$8 billion. Sites Reservoir, which has nearly \$6.5 billion in project dollars, highlighted its need for a team to help manage costs, schedule, and risks so it can provide an affordable water supply for five-plus generations.

The Maritime Showcase featured the Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles, and Port of San Diego, which have a future capital program of more than \$4.5 billion. The Port of Long Beach, which has \$3.2 billion in capital projects slated through 2035, spoke about how it is the “Green Port” and outlined some of the sustainability projects and initiatives it is planning that will help transport the ever-growing number of 20-foot equivalent (TEU) containers. In 2024, the Port of Long Beach had 9.6 million TEUs pass through the port, the largest number ever.

Many Projects Support 2028 LA Olympics

Lastly, the Rail Showcase featured LA Metro, Metrolink, and the Orange County Transportation Authority, showing off some of the more than \$22 billion in planned projects. Many of these projects focus on supporting the upcoming 2028 Olympic/Paralympic Games.

AGC of California is committed to expanding opportunities for contractor-owner interaction, both at CONSTRUCT and throughout its local districts. In today’s market, winning work takes more than numbers; it takes connection. If there’s an agency that you would like to connect with, contact a member of our team at (916) 371-2422. ☎



Beating the Odds

How to Identify and Oppose the Biggest Risks Facing Construction

BY MARK WOODITCH,
HUB INTERNATIONAL



The risks are everywhere.

From an uncertain economy to a rising number of weather-related disasters to an explosion of cyber attacks, the California construction industry is facing a wide variety of challenges. Only construction firms that face those risks head-on will still come out ahead – and only if they prepare adequately.

Identifying the Risks

- **Disappearing Talent.** Roughly 20% of construction workers are age 55, rapidly approaching retirement age. And with the ongoing labor shortage, firms are finding it harder than ever before to fill open positions. Despite growing popularity of apprenticeship programs and an infusion of cutting-edge technology, younger workers just aren't choosing construction as a career path. Business leaders will need to think creatively to attract new workers to their organizations.
- **Uncertain Economy.** With the population growing and a related jump

in home sales, there are many reasons to be optimistic about profitability of the construction industry in California. A persistent housing shortage has made residential building an attractive option, so many firms will be driven to new projects. Yet fluctuating materials costs, uncertain mortgage rates and maturing commercial real estate debt may lead to more defaults, which could be a real challenge to the industry's bottom line, *shrinking profits considerably.*

- **Climate Change.** California is particularly vulnerable to weather-related disasters, facing wildfires, flooding and even mudslides in early 2025 alone. During the summer months, workers in Southern California will face extreme heat, which is also the leading cause of death for workers laboring outside. And while schedules can be adjusted at times to protect workers from harm, this strategy also leads to construction delays and increased costs for firms.

Organizations will need to find solutions for managing the risks.

- **Cyber Attacks.** In 2024, it was California that suffered the most from cyber crime, leading the country in number of complaints and the largest financial losses. In the construction industry, the situation is particularly challenging because of an increase in technology use coupled with firms that are shockingly unprepared for cyber attacks. Many firms haven't prioritized cybersecurity, despite the fact that these organizations store huge amounts of private and sensitive data, from project designs and intellectual property to company bank accounts.

Best Practices for Managing Risk

Awareness around the risks is just the first step. To achieve success, firms will have to learn to mitigate the risk effectively. Consider these best practices:

- **Adopt personalized benefits.** Standard, one-size-fits-all benefits are no longer enough. To attract and retain staff, it's critical to offer appropriate benefits coverage

– the benefits employees need to motivate them. Whether workers need financial education, mental health coverage or even childcare, the right kind of benefits will differentiate one construction firm from another, driving engagement and retention for employees who are already in-house. Data analytics can help leaders to determine the right mix of benefits for their employee base.

- **Consider alternatives.** For a construction business that has come up against weather-related challenges, it may be worthwhile to look into alternative building methods. With modular construction, for example, structures are built off-site and under controlled conditions. This means business leaders and workers won't have to stop work because of a storm or a heat wave, leading to greater accuracy of project timelines – as well as initial costing estimates. For those firms seeking to get into “mega” projects, modular construction creates an easy opening.

1. Opt-in to technology. Technological innovations are plentiful today, but they serve more than one purpose. Drones and robots not only perform tasks that can be challenging, and even dangerous, for workers, but adopting this solution demonstrates to workers that the leadership cares about their safety and understands that an older worker simply can't perform that task. Similarly, wearable technology offers data-driven proof that a worker is overheated and overtired and also offers GPS tracking to help find a worker who has fallen.

2. Create a culture of security. Choosing technology solutions isn't a choice to take lightly. The solutions also come with risk. As firms introduce these solutions, they must also plan ahead

to prevent cyber attacks. Develop a cyber response plan to protect the business from crimes, as well as a plan for managing the risks if the business is attacked. To make sure everyone is prepared to spot the warning signs, this plan should involve these principles:

- **Update software and other applications.** Cybercriminals often gain access to company data through outdated software. Be sure to perform regular updates and patch vulnerabilities to protect sensitive information.
- **Train employees in cybersecurity principles.** Teach all workers to handle sensitive or personal information appropriately, and introduce a formal process to confirm changes to plans. Finally, require workers to identify potential threats and report suspicious links, even if they aren't certain.
- **Limit exposures.** Successful firms expect the best of their employees; they must also expect the same of their vendors and suppliers. When creating a partnership, specify those standards in any contracts to be sure cybersecurity safeguards are in place for all parties and limit exposures that are beyond your control.
- **Adopt multi-factor authentication (MFA).** MFA – a security measure that requires the user to provide several methods of verification to access a system – should be used as an additional layer of security for all sensitive information, such as banking data or legal documents.
- **Create an incident response plan.** Prepare for the worst by developing a plan. Consult with IT experts, insurance consultants and other advisors to make the best possible incident response plan. Be sure all stakeholders know what to do – and

what *not* to do – in the event of a cyber attack. Finally, prepare all stakeholders by holding tabletop exercises to role-play specific scenarios.

- 3. Gather a team of advisors.** Everyone needs guidance from time to time. When it comes to risk, an experienced insurance broker is an invaluable tool. Brokers can help identify and secure sufficient insurance coverage for the business, both in terms of the right kinds of policies and appropriate limits. Be sure to include cyber coverage in your considerations. When insurance isn't enough, brokers are often well versed in alternative risk transfer options to mitigate the risk.

Note: Familiarize yourself with some of the lesser-known coverages, including parametric insurance, which offers a payout for a policyholder when a certain threshold is reached, such as a certain amount of rainfall within a short period of time or a certain number of days in a row with temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. For firms with “megadeal” projects, project-specific insurance can protect the rest of the business from a major incident on that one project.

Construction firms can no longer afford to ignore risk when planning a strategy for the future. Those that put risk management at the center of its strategy will be better able to beat the odds of success, easily identifying exposures and utilizing a plan to protect the business from incident – whether that incident comes from the weather, the economy, or even a cyber attack. ☒

Mark Wooditch is the Los Angeles Orange County construction practice leader for global insurance brokerage Hub International. He spent 30 years at The Wooditch Company, Insurance Services, Inc., with a focus on commercial contractors. In 2023, the practice was sold to HUB.

AGC CEF Awarded \$2.5 Million ERiCA Round 2 Grant

The grant from California DIR, in Partnership with the Northern and Southern California Laborers Training Programs, is Part of an Effort to Expand Construction Career Access Statewide

The AGC of California Construction Education Foundation (AGC CEF) was recently awarded a \$2.5 million Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA) Round 2 grant by the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards. This funding is part of a broader \$26 million statewide effort to expand access to construction careers for women, non-binary, and underrepresented Californians.

AGC CEF will execute its grant-funded scope in close partnership with the Northern California Laborers Training

& Retraining Center and the Southern California Laborers Training School, building on the success of its ERiCA Round 1 award, which concluded in June 2025.

The Round 2 grant supports AGC CEF's Build California initiative in three key areas:

- **Recruitment:** In collaboration with the Laborers Training Centers and BuildIT, AGC CEF will scale outreach efforts through partnerships with schools, community organizations, social and digital media campaigns, and in-person events to engage women and individuals from historically

underrepresented populations. The goal is to reach 20,000 Californians and provide career navigation and apprenticeship entry support to hundreds each year.

- **Childcare:** This funding will enable AGC CEF to administer \$1.2 million in direct childcare stipends to support female and underrepresented pre-apprentices and apprentices, helping to remove caregiving as a barrier to participation and retention. It will also support the staffing and infrastructure needed to deliver wraparound supportive services—including referrals, case management, and coordination with training and employer partners—to eligible individuals statewide.
- **Workplace Culture:** The grant will support efforts to foster more inclusive, respectful, and supportive jobsite environments for pre-apprentices and apprentices. AGC CEF will partner with Alteristic Inc. to deliver bystander intervention training to a range of stakeholders, including apprentices, apprenticeship staff, contractor executives, human resources and safety leaders, and public and private owners and agencies, to promote safe, accountable, and respectful work environments.

In parallel, the Northern and Southern California Laborers Training Centers will provide apprentices with specialized training on mental health awareness,



Adele Burnes, Chief, California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, spoke at an AGC of California's Women in Construction Summit that took place in Newport Beach on March 31, 2025. The ERiCA grant focuses specifically on serving and uplifting women and underrepresented groups in construction.



assertive communication, mentoring, psychological safety, and stress management—equipping them with essential tools for success and long-term retention in the industry.

Partnership with Laborers is Key

“Our partnership with the Laborers Training Centers is the backbone of this work,” said Peter Tateishi, Chief Executive Officer of AGC of California. “By aligning Build California’s outreach with the Laborers’ exemplary training infrastructure, we can welcome far more women and underrepresented Californians into apprenticeships and make sure they thrive once they’re on the job. Together, we’re building an industry culture where every apprentice is supported and set up to succeed.”

“We’re incredibly grateful to be selected for this ERICA Round 2 funding, which will deepen our existing collaboration with the Laborers, and together we will lead the industry toward real, lasting change,” said Erin Volk, Senior Vice President, Workforce & Community Development at AGC of California, and Executive Director of the AGC CEF. “Too often, women and underrepresented individuals start down a path into construction only to exit when basic needs like childcare support or a respectful jobsite culture are unmet. This investment



Grant Funding Supports Otto Jobsite Tour

Build California students from Rosemont High School toured Otto Construction’s Folsom Lake College Science Building project jobsite in early 2025. The tour was part of a series of student jobsite tours that took place across the state as a result of the first round of ERICA grant funding to the AGC CEF.

Otto Construction President Allison Otto, who is President-Elect of AGC of California in 2026, commented on the visit: “Bringing young people, especially young women, onto construction jobsites and letting them see and experience the work firsthand is one of the most effective ways to challenge outdated perceptions and spark real interest in this field. By creating these early exposure opportunities through our partnership with AGC CEF, we’re opening doors to rewarding, high-demand careers that many students might never have considered.”

allows us to take on those challenges head-on and build a more supportive and resilient pipeline into construction careers.”

“This grant is about practical solutions that change real lives,” said Daniel R. Dumke, Chair of the AGC Construction Education Foundation and Senior Director at Shawmut Design and Construction, “When a job seeker, especially a mom,

can count on childcare support and clear navigation into apprenticeship, everything shifts. Families gain stability, contractors gain dedicated talent, and communities see lasting economic mobility. By coordinating across employers, training providers, and community partners, we’re opening doors and helping people stay in the careers they worked so hard to enter.” ☘



Record Turnout for CONSTRUCT 2025

AGC of California Conference Engages Industry Professionals in Educational, Business and Networking Events

A record turnout of 670 construction industry professionals and guests gathered at the Grand Hyatt Indian Wells October 7-10, 2025 for AGC of California's annual networking and professional development conference, CONSTRUCT 2025, presented by Autodesk.

The much-anticipated annual event drew top construction industry leaders from across California as well as 90 students representing all 13 AGC of California student chapters. They participated in a variety of business, educational and networking sessions and meetings and spent time with industry solution providers and vendors at the related Construction Expo.

One of the highlights of this year's conference programming was the focus on fostering collaboration between owners and contractors, as highlighted by 2025 President Pat Kelly in the welcome session. "Strengthening collaboration between owners and contractors continues to be a central part of our program this

year," he commented. "CONSTRUCT is about looking ahead — adapting to change, embracing innovation, and shaping the future of construction. Together, we'll learn from one another and leave with insights that will guide how we continue building California."

Dynamic General Session Speakers

Opening session speaker James Spellos, president of Meeting U., offered a thought-provoking keynote address that put the spotlight on the latest emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI). Drawing on his 25 years of experience helping professionals embrace technology, Spellos illustrated a variety of ways that construction companies can use AI to boost productivity, reduce risk and build stronger, more efficient organizations.

During the October 8 general session, AGC of America Chief Economist Ken Simonson offered insights into the national

1 Opening Session keynote speaker James Spellos, Meeting U.

2 General Session speaker Ken Simonson, AGC of America

3 A general session panel discussed politics and policy-related issues.

4 An education session panel featured some of AGC of California's top leadership, including 2022-23 President Dina Kimble, Royal Electric; 2026 President Ryan Aukerman, Griffith Company; and 2026 President-Elect Allison Otto, Otto Construction.

5 Student Chapter career fair

6 Construction Expo

7 Students from Sacramento State represented one of 13 AGC of California student chapters in attendance.

8 Partnering Showcase

construction trends and market forces at play today. His address set the stage for the series of owner showcases that were a centerpiece of day 2 of CONSTRUCT. A total of 10 different owner showcase sessions previewed current and upcoming work opportunities in sectors including airport, transportation, private work,



Olympics work, water and utility, rail, education and maritime sectors, offering attendees the chance to hear from and interact with owners and leaders from an array of California's top public and private agencies.

The closing session for CONSTRUCT 2025 featured a panel discussion on upcoming election predictions, political analysis, incoming laws and regulations impacting California contractors. Moderated by AGC of California advocate Felipe Fuentes, CEO of Pacific Coast Capitol Advisors Inc., the session featured insights from panelists Jon Switalski, executive director of Rebuild Together Partnership, Leah Pilconis, general counsel for AGC of America, and Michael Quigley, executive director of California Alliance for Jobs.

Opportunity to Learn, Grow and Connect

CONSTRUCT 2025 offered ample opportunities for participants to learn and connect across all generations and industry roles and sectors.

In addition to the owner showcase sessions, there were over a dozen educational sessions over three days that provided student and general attendees valuable information on everything from building a future-ready workforce - what motivates Gen Z, to leadership in strategic decision making, retention strategies in a changing California, and more.

Several social and networking events provided additional opportunities to connect. These included a welcome reception, Expo with over two dozen exhibitors, Thursday Night Bash complete with Karaoke and Friday golf. Plans are already underway for CONSTRUCT 2026, slated for October 6-9, 2026 again at the Grand Hyatt Indian Wells. Visit AGC of California's website at www.agc-ca.org for more on additional upcoming events in 2026. 🌟



Accepting the 2025 Chapter of the Year of Award on behalf of AGC of California are, from left, Juliana Almanza, chief of staff; Peter Tateishi, CEO; 2025 President Pat Kelly, Granite Construction; 2024 President Steve Rule, Turner Construction; 2026 President Ryan Aukerman, Griffith Company; Justin Ross; and AGC of America 2025 President Todd Roberts, ERS Inc.

AGC of CA Wins 2025 National Chapter of the Year

AGC of California was honored to receive the 2025 Large Chapter of the Year award from AGC of America for the second year in a row. The award recognizes chapters that have made a significant impact at both the state and regional levels.

A video from AGC of America presented during the recent awards gala in Washington, D.C. noted that the award is one of the highest honors a chapter can receive: "It recognizes chapters that demonstrate outstanding leadership, innovative programming, strong membership growth and meaningful impact on the construction industry."

2025 AGC of California President Pat Kelly commented, "I am incredibly proud of the work the AGC of California members and staff do to drive opportunities to build and strengthen California. It is very exciting to be recognized for our amazing work. Great job and congratulations to the AGC of California!"

Calendar

January 30, 2026

AGC of California 2026 Installation & Awards Gala at the Fairmont San Francisco

February 12, 2026

Shasta District Crab Feed & Public Officials Night at Shasta District Fair & Event Center, Anderson

February 19, 2026

Southern California Region Wine & Beer Social at the Summit House, Fullerton

March 25, 2026

AGC of California President's Reception at AGC of America Convention – Hyatt Regency, Orlando, FL

April 9, 2026

San Joaquin District BBQ at the Poindexter Residence, Fresno

April 10, 2026

Southern California Region Golf Classic at Pacific Palms Resort, City of Industry

April 17, 2026

Shasta District Golf Tournament at Gold Hills Golf Club, Redding

May 5-6, 2026

AGC of California Legislative Day & PAC Fundraising Dinner at The Sutter Club, Sacramento

May 15, 2026

Build California Golf Tournament at Lincoln Hills Golf Club, Lincoln

June 1, 2026

Bay Area Region Golf Tournament at Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton

June 11, 2026

Delta-Sierra District Mixer at Swabbies on the River Mixer, Sacramento

July 23, 2026

"Hackers & Slackers" Golf Tournament at Birch Hills Golf Course, Brea

August 28, 2026

Small Business Construction Expo (SBCX) at the Hilton Anaheim

August TBD, 2026

Southern California Region Hot Summer Night at location TBD

August 31, 2026

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

September 11-13, 2026

Legal Advisory Committee Retreat at The Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla

September 21, 2026

Delta Sierra District Golf Tournament at Granite Bay Golf Club, Granite Bay

October 6-9, 2026

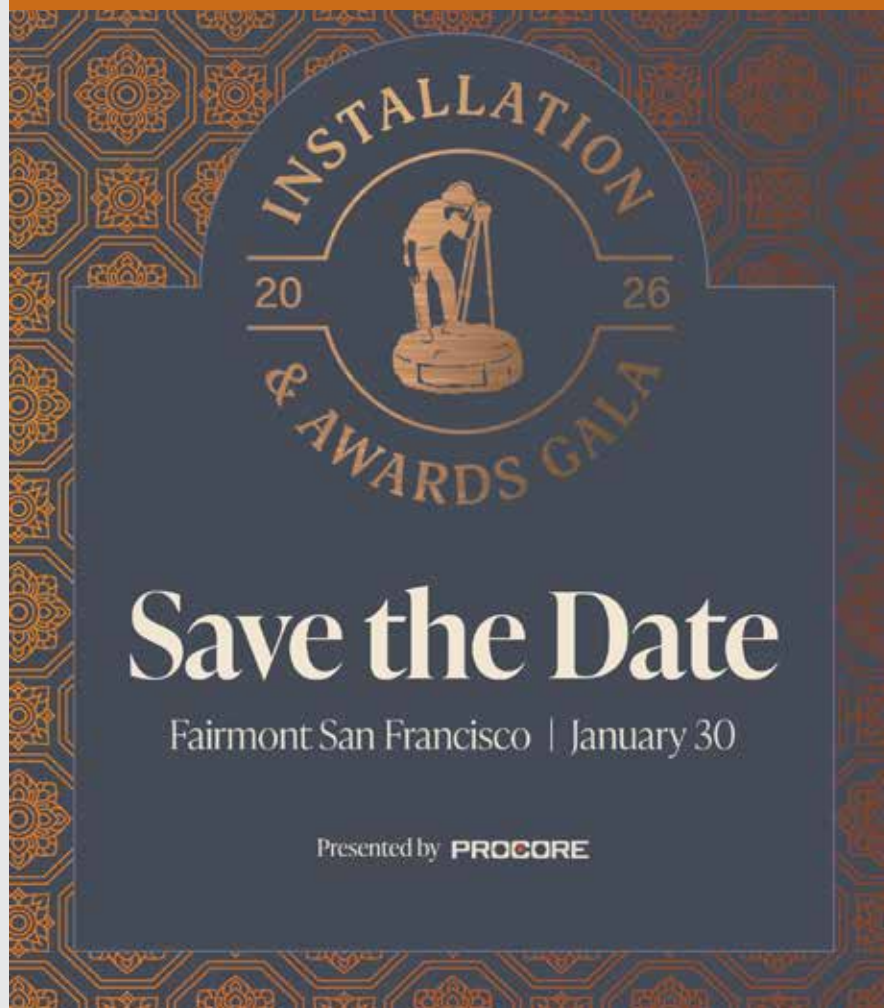
CONSTRUCT Annual Conference at Grand Hyatt Indian Wells

A Night Honoring the Best in Construction

Join us for a night of celebration and excellence at the AGC of California's 2026 Installations & Awards Gala! Presented by Procore Technologies, this prestigious black-tie event will be held on January 30, 2026 at the historic Fairmont San Francisco.

We will be unveiling the 2026 Constructor Award Winners, honoring the Achievement Award recipients and the Owner of the Year, and welcoming the new leadership of AGC of California. Enjoy an elegant dinner, followed by an unforgettable after-party where you can connect with fellow industry leaders and embrace the innovations shaping the future of construction.

We can't wait to celebrate with you and honor our industry's achievements! Register now and explore exclusive sponsorship opportunities to enhance your engagement at this remarkable event.





Safety, Service, & Stewardship Since 1968
Serving All of California & Arizona

Celebrating Over 55 Years In Business!

Southern California
800.522.0282

Northern California
800.734.3053

San Diego
800.266.2837

Coachella Valley
866.923.4772

Arizona
855.522.0282

- Construction Aggregate
- Environmental & Clean Dirt Import/Export
- Sports Field Products
- Decorative Stone Products
- Commodity Freight Services

www.wcsg.com

GET A QUOTE!



Buena Park, Corona, San Diego, Palm Springs, Visalia, Sacramento, Modesto, Ventura, SF Bay Area, Arizona