

## **2024 Annual Conference Uncorking Innovation and Harvesting Growth for Women Construction Owners & Executives California (WCOE)**

This was a two-day conference in Napa, CA on June 17-18, 2024. WCOE hit the mark with the name of the conference “Uncorking Innovation and Harvesting Growth”.

### **Panel Discussions:**

#### **Protecting yourself – Risk Management**

They discussed how understanding risk management is important in the construction industry. The key is to read your contract and if you do not understand something make sure you bring others in that have expertise in reading specific contract language. Companies try to Control risk by placing it on others, they also need to make informed decisions by taking advantage of your resources like your Insurance Brokers, attorneys, CPAs, Safety Consultants, and Designers. Make sure you have a key successful safety program, that is adopted by the company culture. If any safety incidents happen you have to document the situation thoroughly and make sure you have a corrective action plan in place.

#### **Succession Planning Preparing The Next Generation And Your Exit Strategy:**

One of the key takeaways was find your successors and make sure you stay out of their way when it comes to making decisions, don't try to step back in the role. You will compromise their authority. You should train your successor to know and understand your company and the business. This will help them earn the respect of other employees, clients, and vendors.

#### **The Market Outlook: Developer, Owner, and GC Planned and Upcoming Projects:**

This Panel of Ladies are very dynamic and authentic professionals in their companies. Currently infrastructure markets are growing at 8%-10% increases every year in the last 3-4 years. The transition spaces into housing are growing in our market along with wastewater, highways, infrastructure water treatment plans, and affordable housing. Aviation infrastructure is also growing all Airports have funding to update their infrastructure. The Federal investments in California is \$30 Billion just this year alone. The Private sector is slow right now, other than data centers which are growing to help in the AI sector.

#### **California Legislation and Its Impacts On Health care:**

California hospitals are subject to stringent seismic safety standards. By January 1, 2030, all hospital buildings providing acute care services must be fully functional to provide care following an earthquake. It is being tracked that 90% of the Hospitals will not be in compliance and could be subject to close. This is an ongoing issue and Hospitals are trying but the requirements are very stringent.

There were several more panel discussions and workshops but these ones stood out to me.

The 2024 WCOE Annual Conference provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, relationship-building, and empowerment within the construction community. Attendees left with actionable takeaways and a strengthened network.

Angie Ramos, NAWIC Silicon Valley Immediate Past President