ACEC California – Engineering a Better California

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) California is a statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the consulting engineering and land surveying professions and promoting the use of the private sector in the growth and development of state infrastructure. Members provide services for all phases of planning, designing and constructing projects, and strongly support large-scale public works projects like high-speed rail that seek to improve the daily lives of all Californians.

“Our members proudly work on solving problems for California communities,” said Brad Diede, ACEC California’s Executive Director. “From improving local and statewide water storage and delivery systems to finding innovative ways to integrate mass transit systems into rural and urban communities, our members focus on bringing innovative design concepts to life in many categories of infrastructure.”

The ACEC California family includes 22 chapters located throughout the state, a 55-member Board of Directors (elected by the 22 chapters), 24 committees, as well as an affiliated scholarship foundation that distributes scholarships to aspiring engineering and land surveying students. ACEC California is the largest member organization in the national American Council of Engineering Companies.

ACEC California’s members include large, global engineering firms, smaller, boutique design firms and everything in between. Each year, ACEC California recognizes its members’ exceptional engineering and surveying feats through its prestigious Engineering Excellence Awards. Winners include the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento and the innovative, seismically-sound air traffic control tower at San Francisco International Airport.

Arvin Chaudhary, President of the ACEC California Napa-Solano chapter, represents ACEC California on the Authority’s Business Advisory Council, a group of construction and professional business trade associations that advise the Authority on issues and practices that impact small businesses.

For more than 25 years, Chaudhary has run Chaudhary & Associates and worked in planning, permitting, surveying, designing and construction management of public and private projects. In 2014, his Napa-based firm, which is certified as a Small Business and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), won a right-of-way engineering contract with the high-speed rail program to provide professional land surveying services in the Central Valley.

“High-speed rail is a transformative project, not only for the State of California, but for the nation,” Chaudhary said. “It is having a direct, positive economic impact on local communities by creating jobs and spurring economic activity, and it is helping to fundamentally change the way Californians think about their travel options.”

In March, Chaudhary chaired the inaugural meeting of ACEC California’s Liaison Committee with the Authority where ACEC California members and high-speed rail engineers were able to discuss the project’s development and timeline. It was the first of many meetings envisioned where high-speed rail officials can brief ACEC California members on its progress and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

ACEC California keeps its members up to date on business opportunities, legislative analysis, and events with “Engineering and Surveying Business Review”, a business magazine published bi-annually; and through ACEC California’s white paper publications that research and analyze current public policy challenges facing California.

Karen Massie